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Week 42: Rescue life

Christine Caine: Host

Chad and Julia Veach

Chris: Hey everyone! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Thanks for joining us today. Obviously, as you can tell, I'm neither James nor Betty. My name is Christine Caine from the land down under. It is my honor and privilege to be your host today. I'm just part of the *LIFE Today* extended family; I'm so much part of the *LIFE Outreach* missions and just love James and Betty and honor them so much.

I know you're going to love today. I've got two of my great friends, Chad and Julia Veach joining us. So why don't we welcome them?

We love you guys so much! Thanks so much for coming.

Chad: Thank you so much for having us.

Chris: All the way from sunny L.A.

Chad: From Los Angeles, California.

Chris: Is that the Promised Land?

Chad: It is the Promised Land. God lives there. I have been looking for where he has landed. He has landed in L.A. He lives there. Jesus lives there.

Chris: I love that. You guys have got just a fantastic story, and I really, really would love if you would share just some of your journey with us today.

Chad: Absolutely! Well, part of our story is we're in Los Angeles but what God's done through our life and what God's been doing as far as giving us an ability to

communicate hope and life that is in Jesus is really through our daughter. Our daughter is almost three years old. Her name is Georgia Estelle. But we call her G.G. She's got a little nickname.

When she was four months old we received a diagnosis that her brain did not develop when Julia was pregnant with her. All the emotions, it is your firstborn; we didn't know anything was wrong; there was no hint of anything being wrong. So a few months into her coming home with us we started noticing that her eyes were crossing and something wasn't right. So we took her in for some tests and we thought, maybe, he could put a corrective lens on her or patch. We never thought what we would receive as far as this diagnosis. I'll never forget that day as long as I live. It changed us.

Julia: Yeah.

Chris: Tell me what happened. How the doctor told you.

Julia: April 10th, 2012 and I was just telling him this today. I remember the day before was Easter Sunday and I had gotten my firstborn daughter all dressed up. We were on staff at a church in Washington at the time. I had stood in the back of that service and Chad was in the front row and just feeling so overwhelmed in worship; just knowing God's peace that whatever the outcome was tomorrow with the doctor that we were going to trust in God.

As a mother, you start to prepare for things and what could be. I remember praying faith and speaking life over my daughter but going through different scenarios. That day that we sat in the doctor's office, we had no idea the severity that it was. A lot of times, sickness, disease, we can contend for healing but there are also a lot of treatments and specialists and medical attention. But for the doctor to say there is no cure and there is no solution, there is no surgery; this is not a disease, this is a disorder. For us to feel just so struck with that shocking news, it was an unforgettable day.

Chad: It is amazing when doctors -- you just came out of this yourself and so you know this journey. When the doctors use the word never it stirs something in me because the doctors say she'll never walk, she'll never talk, she will never crawl, she'll

never roll over. He told us, she will never live to this many years and she will never develop to this many months. I'm just glad that doctors don't have the last say.

[Laughter]

I just believe that Jesus, his Word has the last say. So we're -- we learned through this that we can't let our circumstance determine our faith. We're going to let our faith determine our circumstance.

So right away we drove home from the hospital. There were tears but I'll never forget -
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Julia: We had worship music on.

Chad: Yeah, I'll never forget just faith filled our home. You start to contend and say, "Well, if I'm going to fight, I'm not going to fight alone." Start ringing, people, and getting the church to pray. I'll tell you, and for us, and this has been a couple year journey, we've never seen Jesus more clearly. We've never had more hope, more faith, and we've never...

I understand what Paul said. Paul said, "God comforts us so that we can comfort others." We've been able to rally alongside people and fill them with faith and hope. I've watched what the enemy intended for harm, God has turned it around for the good.

Chris: I think that's so powerful what you said; and particularly, you said this has been a couple year journey thus far, which is powerful because a lot of times we want to be delivered from something immediately. We want an instantaneous healing. I love that right in this room there is just such a spirit of faith knowing that we're still fighting -- fighting the good fight of faith and you've had to journey through.

Tell me, two years, it can't be easy going through this with your daughter. What are perhaps some of the challenges that you've had to endure during this time and still have a spirit of faith while you're doing that?

Julia: Seizure management is a big part of our daily life, to be honest; aspiration, feeding issues, severe developmental delays, low muscle tone. But with that comes a day-by-day mentality. We have hope for her healing and faith for the future. But we really do enjoy the today and we make her life the most comfortable we can. We love people and we love God and we love his church but we love life too. We are passionate about the abundant life that God's spoken over us. I remember having an argument with a doctor about her life, what the enemy intended for harm. I just really believe that God's plan was for her to have an abundant life and I spoke that over her. We've just done our best with what we can to give her the best life possible.

Chris: I love what you're saying. The fact is a lot of people miss the life they have wishing they had another life. You're not missing any moment because you're in this moment. At the end of the day, I love what you said, we have today, we all only have today. Life is but a vapor. James says none of us know what is going to happen tomorrow. You're not wishing your life away.

In fact, you're about to undertake possibly one of the greatest adventures of your life, or your married life thus far. You've left the stability of family support and growing up in Washington state to move to California to plant a church, in the midst of all this where perhaps logic would say, "Stay where all your support is, take it easy, pull back while you're in the midst of a battle, while you're fighting with one hand the fight of faith over here, you're about to launch a church to help other people. Tell us a bit about how that's all come about.

Chad: Well, I think it's so much... life is an attitude; the premise that you're living life from the perspective that you have. And we just from the very day that we got the diagnosis, we said, "We're not going to stop serving God, we're not going to stop building the church, we're not going to stop preaching."

People look at me and say, "I don't know how you preach and I don't know how you smile." I thought, we've got Jesus! We've got joy! I'll tell you exactly why I'm preaching. We can go verse by verse, line by line. I think God is able to use you when you, no matter what your situation is, you just offer it before him and say, "God, you

can use my weakness, you can use my testimony, you can use my pain." I've learned that God will actually give you even a larger reach.

I saw a tweet the other day. It said, "People will admire your gifting but they can relate with your pain." We've seen just doors open with people that are not saved that don't go to church. We've watched -- it was amazing when Julia was pregnant, I used to lay hands on her stomach and pray that God would use our firstborn daughter around the world. I kept praying that God would give her a global grace.

So I thought, 18, 19 years old, she's going to look like her mom -- hello! Thank you, Jesus! And she's going to preach around the world. I had no idea that God could use my daughter at four months -- at six months -- nine months! So I think when you step out in faith and just say, "God, we're not perfect. We don't have it all together, but I'm going to forget the past, I'm going to press on to the future, I'm going to lay hold of what you already laid hold of for me."

So God called us to L.A. to plant a church. In the natural, it doesn't make sense at all. But we don't serve the God of the natural -- He's a supernatural. So you have a Zoe church, we're planting Zoe L.A.; the abundant life that is in Christ. There are over 10 million people in the city of Los Angeles. I think that's a city where we want people from every background, from every socio-economic background to understand the life that is in Jesus. And if God is going to use us and our daughter, our struggles, our victories, to bring life to people, that's what we're there to do. So I think the enemy would love to see us retreat and play it safe.

But I heard Judah say, our pastor, Judah Smith, he said, "A man with a savior is willing to take a risk." We're willing to risk it all -- Jesus already risked it all for us. Why wouldn't we risk it all for other people?

Chris: I think that's powerful! Even that you're calling your church Zoe, in terms of abundant life; that abundant life is not determined on your circumstances because you'd love to have different circumstances. I think all of us in this room, everyone watching this program today, there's at least one area of our life that we wish was different and some people are undergoing great suffering, great challenge, great trials.

Chad, I'm going to ask you in a moment to really perhaps minister to people that right now perhaps got some kind of diagnosis that they weren't expecting. I always say the children of Israel after 430 years in slavery, 40 years in the wilderness, they finally get into the Promised Land and the first thing when they walk into the Promised Land is the walls of Jericho. So sometimes when you're about to go into the Promised Land, you're having your child, you're thinking, this is awesome. This is what I've been believing God for!

And then the last thing you thought you were going to see was a 30 foot thick impenetrable wall. And it is easy to think, I'm still in the wilderness but you're actually in the Promised Land. It's just that the wall of Jericho is there; the promise is on the other side so you've got to see beyond the wall to the promise.

There are people watching this right now, this program, and they've either had a very negative medical diagnosis, perhaps their spouse has walked out on them, perhaps their business has gone bankrupt. There is a myriad of issues, a dream has been deferred or a hope has been deferred and that's just part of life. We live in a fallen world. Bad things happen to good people but Jesus is still our hope.

So our hope in him is not dependent on our circumstances. He gives us a grace in the midst of that. I think you guys are modeling that more than anything. That makes me so excited about the church you're going to plant. But what would you say to people that are coming through that?

Chad: I think you said it, Jesus is the hope. So our hope is not even in my moral standards, it's not in my ethics, it is not in my behaviors. My hope has been totally placed in a person, Jesus Christ. I think no matter what I face I have just found him to be faithful, I found him to be true.

So our home, people are looking at us saying, "You're dealing with this and how do you deal with it?" The sympathy and the compassion is overwhelming but we're living the abundant life. We've got joy, we've got... I always think about Ephesians 3:20. It says: "God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, far above anything we could ask, think, or even our minds could imagine." And we never dreamt life could be this

good. We never thought of it. We never asked God for all the blessings we've received, including our daughter.

So I think again it goes back to no matter what you're facing, I don't know your situation but Jesus is a reality. The reality of who he is in your world, is in your situation.

All you have to do, the Bible says, that all those who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. And all you have to do, whatever you're facing, is call upon that name. I guarantee you -- money back guarantee that when you call upon that name, Jesus himself, he will come. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your heart and will guard your mind.

Chris: I think that's beautiful! It sort of defies logic, even your joy in the midst of, and yet the scripture tells us it is in the midst of. And Paul says, "Be anxious for nothing but in everything with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving make your request known to God and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding" -- I think that's what sets believers apart in times of adversity and challenge.

You also have a son, Winston; tell us a little bit about him.

Julia: He's 11 months old. His name means joyful stone. He is strong and joyful at the same time. We bring him in bed with us in the morning and he's a violent cuddler. I have a finger up my nose and a finger in my eyeball. He has truly brought such joy to our home.

When I was pregnant with him, a lot of doctors wanted me to do some invasive testing and we just had peace and we stood by the promise to have more children in our home, is what we felt God had spoke to us. He's just been -- perfect bill of health. He loves Georgia so much. He crawls in to see her every day and gives her an open mouth kiss and tries to attack her.

Chris: Such a picture of grace; isn't it? Right there -- that's just so beautiful!

Chad: He makes me think of "grace abounds." Grace doesn't wait for us to come to it. Jesus doesn't wait for -- I love that he is patient in some regards but really, he's going to come and bless us and take care of us even before we ask for it. So the gift that he's - he's been healing to our home.

So there's been -- I have to be honest, there's been nights, it's been tearful. It's been hard. It hasn't been easy. But the moment that we got pregnant, the moment that he entered our home, he is a gift. I think that's so God. With God there is always more -- there is always more with God. Just when you think this is all I get or I don't know if it gets better from here, the best is always yet to come. I just found that with God... he is a living example that with God, he is not done. Sometimes you think that he's done, he is not done. He's got more up his sleeve, he's got more planned. I just think if we can get a glimpse of the heart of God for us, that God loves us so much he gives us gifts; he is a God that is unchanging and he gives us beautiful gifts -- the gift of children. It is amazing!

Chris: It really is and he obviously gives you the grace to be able to not just sustain but overcome and live victoriously in the midst of anything. That's a God -- would you believe that he's graced you both to be Georgia's parents?

Chad: Hundred percent! Yeah, the strength.

Chris: Very much, I think, in that kind of strength. We'll just kind of go here because I think some people will be watching and you just mentioned some nights are so hard and tearful.

As a mother watching your daughter have seizures, I love that you said that it is a daily thing so that people know that we're not making up anything here. It is hard work. It is every day. There is that in your home. In those moments, in those dark moments, what do you practically do that enables you to continue to endure, to continue to have hope and against all hope, in hope still believe.

Julia: Well, to be honest I've tried a lot of practical things. I think with every journey

there are seasons. There have been dark seasons and seasons where we have felt adrenalized in the faith and the prayers of others and the community surrounding us. And there are seasons where you feel like it's just you and Jesus. And in those moments, my prayer specifically has been, just like David in Psalm 23, God restore my soul; identifying that he's the shepherd. If I can be dependent on him and not try to figure everything out, I just think for our home and as a mother of another son, I have to maintain a healthy soul.

So identifying not just making an attractive spirituality or contending for her healing, but really guarding the health of my soul has been a huge part of my season, when I feel alone and on the floor, not asking, "Why, God," but definitely saying, "Where is the strength that I need?"

Chris: That is so powerful! What a story! What a story of hope. What a story of just grace -- God's amazing grace.

You know your mother's heart certainly just kind of really softens my heart as well. I love how you guys are contending for your daughter. All of us would love to contend for children that have absolutely no hope or had their dreams shattered.

Just like Chad and Julia have really stood in the gap for their own daughter, we at *LIFE Outreach* are so committed to helping to restore the broken dreams of young women and children that have been sold into the horrors of sex trafficking across the world. And we are serious about helping to reach, to rescue, and to restore these children and to be able, just as you've loved your daughter, for us to be able to step in and love these children.

I want to tell you in a moment how we together are going to be able to reach, rescue, and restore the lives of broken, broken children sold into sex trafficking. I want you to watch this next piece with me as we see how beautiful dreams have turned into nightmares. And then I'm going to give you an opportunity, how we're going to turn those nightmares back into dreams for these children.

Begin video clip

[Children playing]

Announcer: It began with a dream for a mother like this; it was the dream of a prosperous future for her daughter. Then hope for that dream came as a promise from a stranger. An honorable start to a new life. An opportunity for a child to escape a world of poverty and to pursue her destiny.

But in reality this dream-come-true was a mother's worst nightmare. Promise became betrayal. This daughter was kidnapped and sold into the sex slave trade. Once a picture of innocence, her body was violated as she was submitted to the unbridled lust of countless men.

With her humanity stripped from her, and her spirit broken, it seemed all hope was lost. It's not too late for daughters like this to be rescued. But time is running out.

End of clip

In the studio

Chris: Wow! As a mother, it breaks my heart watching that. I've got two girls of my own and they could have been any one of those girls. What mother wouldn't want to do something? Who wouldn't want to do something?

What I'm grateful for and as a partner with *LIFE Outreach*, every single one of us can do something. For only \$128 we can literally reach, rescue, and restore the lives of these young women. We can help to turn that nightmare back into a dream.

Imagine how that mother felt, she gave that child up to a dream thinking that she was going to fulfill her potential and she was taken. And I've held those girls; I know what it feels like to look into their eyes and to see the hopelessness. You and I are the hands and feet of Jesus.

For only \$128 -- really? What is that? We can help to reach and rescue and restore their lives. We can see those nightmares turned back into dreams and they can fulfill

their God-given destiny and their God-given potential. I've seen the difference that it can make.

I wonder if you could help maybe ten girls. For \$1280 we can help restore the lives of ten girls; ten human beings created in the image of God. What wouldn't I do if it was my own daughter? The thing is these girls have become just like my daughters. I love working with *LIFE Outreach* because we are there in the trenches, on the coal face, every cent of this money goes in to literally reach these girls in the darkest places, to help to rescue them out of the pit literally, and to restore every part of their lives spiritually, emotionally, physically.

And the other side of it is that the enemy doesn't win. These girls' nightmares are turned back into dreams and they fulfill the purpose and the destiny for which God has placed them on the earth. We can't do everything but we can all do something.

Would you do something? \$128 to rescue a life? Perhaps you could do it for 10 lives: \$1280? Why don't you pick up the phone now? Why don't you go online right now? Partner with us; help us to continue to reach and rescue and restore these lives. God bless you as you bless others.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Human trafficking -- it is impossible to believe but at this very moment innocent children, many very young, are being sold and forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable. And someone must save them.

With your help today, we can reach, rescue, and restore their hope for a better future. Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their destiny forever! With gifts of \$64 or \$32 we will combine your support with others to help rescue one more child from the shame and pain of this existence.

Today with your gift of any amount, we'll send you Lisa Bevere's powerful new series, *See It*, on audio CD, along with her companion book, *It's Not How You Look, It's What You See*. In this new series, Lisa equips you to see a new perspective for your life, one

of great possibilities, not limited by the world but defined by God who sees your future and created you to be a unique blessing to those around you.

With your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child, you may request the book along with *See It* on CD and DVD or choose U.S.B. flash drive, which includes all of the messages in both audio and video.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children and you may request our 2014 commemorative glass sculpture, "The Blessing."

Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio

Chris: I sure hope you're going to pick up that phone, go online, and help us to reach, rescue, and restore these children. Together we're going to make a huge difference!

Well, everyone, why don't we just thank our guests, Chad and Julia?

Thank you guys! We love you so much!

Thank you so much for joining us at *LIFE Today*. Bless you!