

3/17/15
Week 12
Mission: Rescue Life
Anne Lobert

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*! I'm Betty and this is James.

James: I'm smiling because our guest was here about five years ago. She had come to Christ out of a pretty rough life –

By the way, I want to mention something. Would you write this down? Stream Like a River. A stream! Stream.org Go there every day. Get everybody you know going there because we're going to seek to lead you and everybody in this country out of the ditch of despair and defeat and debt and bondage and go into light and glory and see an incredible happen in this land that should be the land of the free because it is the home of the brave. Stream.org Okay? Go there!

Several years ago this incredible girl came in here who had been transformed by the power of God. We just loved her. Anne Lobert! And she brought Betty a tee-shirt and it said Hookers for Jesus. Now, can you just imagine her wearing that right now to Gateway Church? Hookers for Jesus! What did you do with that tee-shirt? I think you wore it at the house for me.

Betty: I did. [Laughing]

James: And I said, "You need to wear it on television!" What did you do with the shirt? Do you know where it is?

Betty: It's still there. [Laughing]

James: It's in one of the drawers in a hidden place.

Listen, this girl is a special, special gift from God. Here's her book. It's called *Fallen: Out of the Sex Industry and into the Arms of the Savior*. But when she talks about fallen and defeated and being trapped and being an instrument to, perhaps, hurt others and yet trying to make a way, she really did find a new life in Christ. As a result of that she wanted to reach out to everyone who had ever been trapped or been

hooking for the wrong way and I think saying, “We’re going to hook fish for Jesus. We’re going to love people.”

And she ministers in Las Vegas. Her web site is hookersforjesus.net. Would you welcome Anne Lobert to *LIFE Today*?

[Cheers & Applause]

Anne, I’m glad to see you!

Anne: Me too! Thank you!

James: And you are based in Las Vegas?

Anne: Yes, in Las Vegas. I’m from Minnesota originally.

James: But you say that what you’re doing and what you share even online and here, you could actually help people reach out to people trapped in the sex trade industry, trafficked – whatever. And you can actually show them how to be a real source of help and healing and life. Is that correct?

Anne: That’s right. I’m really for survivor led agencies and non-profits or whoever wants to reach out to these ladies that have been where we have all been together because it’s like a sisterhood. I think that when we bind together and we come together in unity with the church and others that have been broken like us, and we come out of the shadows and we let our skeletons fall out of the closet and say, “Yeah, that skeleton did this, this skeleton –” And we use it and we let Ezekiel’s bones live. We can actually save people and shine God’s light on their heart and let them know that they’re not alone and they don’t need to hide anymore.

I think that’s what actually God truly called me to do is to just try to reach out and help the ladies that felt like they were so alone.

When I first started doing this in 2005 there was no word that I had ever heard called sex trafficking. I didn’t know that I was sex trafficked. I thought it was a choice... that I got into the sex trade, because I did! Got into it out of my own free choice because I wanted to go to college. But I met a boyfriend at a club that I was dancing at and he’s the one that lured me into the pimp game. Not realizing a pimp is a sex trafficker, you know, he told me he loved me. He said he was my boyfriend and we were going to get married and then my big idea was to move from Minnesota and go to Las Vegas. And

the first night that I worked in Las Vegas I had the beat down of my life, basically. I was beat to a pulp, knocked out. He choked me to death, literally. I woke up in a dark room without any identification and I couldn't believe that something like this happened to me because it was my choice to get into it.

So this is why I want to portray and to spread the message about this. In America we have this on every corner and every city. I don't care if it's a small little town. If you have Craig's List, if you have a cell phone – smart phone – sex trafficking is going on.

James: Alright, what are we to do? Because obviously the attraction is there, the market is there, the product is being offered or either being pedaled. So what do you do? What happened to you? What turned you around?

Anne: What turned me around was I'm a girl of faith. I went to a Sunday school when I was a little girl so I never forgot the teachings I learned about Jesus being our friend, being the son of God.

But I didn't really understand the correlation that God was no longer angry at me. The message that I know that God wanted me to spread among the ladies is that you can come to church. You are loved. You are God's daughter, you're royalty. You are an inheritor of everything that he has and there's no reason you should be doing this, honestly. There's so much more things that are better for your life than what you are doing right now and do you realize that you're actually a slave to what you're doing?

See, a lot of my friends, they didn't know that they were in slavery. Now they know. And I think what our society needs to do is like we are doing and I think it's a great movement that's going on, by the way, the past five years, is shine a light on what's going on with these girls and the boys in our society in the United States. That yes, we understand it happens overseas but it's happening here too because, of course, most of our buyers overseas are Americans. Not to put down our American citizens but our problem, I believe, is based on our family structure. The children are missing either the mother or the father.

Like, for instance, my father and I didn't get along. Harsh discipline, I was abused, couldn't feel the love. And if our family structure could somehow get some healing we wouldn't have men calling escorts, getting addicted to pornography, women. Women are doing it too, now. We wouldn't have sex traffickers and pimps out there from broken homes trying to take advantage of little girls and little boys and selling them. And then we wouldn't have girls like me that had a bad family life, reach out to someone that we think loves us but really doesn't, they're just trying to exploit us.

So it starts with our families. And obviously, the other thing is God is not on the throne when this is happening. He's not!

Betty: Do you think most of the girls that get into this think there's no way out so they just stay there until they're just worn out?

Anne: I do. [Crying] Sorry! I was that girl for so many years, you guys. So many years I thought there is no way that I could ever be anyone, do anything good. Because the sexual sin that comes along with trafficking, it's so deep and so shameful that you don't want anyone to know what you used to do.

I like to talk about it like this because I like to let people know that we are given a scarlet letter, not just from the church, but from society as a whole. Once a whore, always a whore. And we all know that that is a lie from the enemy. And if I would have known what I know now I would have gotten out of it so much quicker. And, in fact, if there was awareness, if there was even sex trafficking education going on when I was a teenager in the 80s, I might not have ever chosen it as a profession.

So, I think that the more people know about this and the more people that are aware and the more people that are trying to help, like all the great orgs that are popping up now, that I think that the problem has a great light shined on it and now we have to deal with the other issues. And I think that that will shine the other lights on the other issues that are causing it. So it's going to be a domino effect. And I'm actually very happy right now with what's going on.

James: We've got to get people to God the father and you get to God the father through Jesus. Now, this is what you're trying to show the girls, right? It's what you're trying to train people to do and that's why they go to your website. Tell us the website again?

Anne: hookersforjesus.net

James: And don't let that throw you because you're going to start fishing and hooking people for Christ so just go there. But this book will help you and we will gladly send it to you but she can help train you.

Now tell me what effect you're having. Someone has given you, I think, a possibility of getting a house in Vegas where you can take care of a lot of girls and do a lot of things. You're doing the best you can with whatever you can do now but if people want to go

on your website and say, "How can we help you?" Be sure you're able to fund that. They go to the website, you'd be able to tell them. And I pray you'll do that because some of you will be specifically led. And then you'll be able to do what she's doing in other areas.

How do the girls respond now, when you reach out to them? And where do you go to reach out to the girls that are either being trafficked or they're selling themselves?

Anne: Well, we have a house that's called Destiny House and we've reopened, we have a new property. So there are five girls there right now, but it can hold up to 25 to 30. And where we get the girls is they come to us, I get texts, I get emailed on the website.

James: They've heard about you or they've seen your website.

Anne: Right! So I think there's a lot of publicity which is awesome but where it first started was tangibly, I went out on the strip, the Las Vegas strip where everyone parties it up and throws the crap dice and played 21 Roulette, whatever. And they go to the high class hotels and there's girls being trafficked in these hotels – hundreds per hotel! I had the security guard that's Christian come up to me in a very nice hotel (I can't say the name of it) but he said, "Anne! I've already kicked out a hundred girls tonight! Where were you when I needed you?"

I'm like, look, here's a stack of my cards. Just – you know – when you find a girl just call me.

So that's what we do and there's –

James: And do they call you?

Anne: They do! They do! A lot of girls, it takes them a while to call because they're entrapped in this relationship where they really truly believe this man is not a sex trafficker.

See, when we fall in love, the dopamine level in our brain goes way up. And it's true what they say about love being blind. We are blinded to the abuse. We are blinded to the coercion fraud, you know, the pushing, the threats, the beatings that happened because we love that person. It's domestic violence with a very sick twist, trafficking. So, some of these girls, until they hear another girl like them, like me, or another girl

with a similar story, the light bulb goes off and they read the story and they're like, "Wait a second! He's a trafficker! He's taking advantage of me!"

And the girls call and we have a Bible study that we do called Ladies of Destiny.

James: These guys can probably be dangerous, right?

Anne: Very much dangerous. Not probably. Not every pimp is what they call a gorilla pimp but we've got Romeo pimps, we've got Simp pimps, gorilla pimps... The gorilla pimps are the most violent and they use guns, they use beatings. There's different situations that I wrote about in the book that have happened to my friends that are absolutely atrociously disgusting, what they've done to my friends. And any minute that you're with a minute, every minute, you can fear for your life. You're full of anxiety because you fear that that thing that he did to that girl that was called your wife-in-law-- Has anyone seen the show Sister Wives? Well, it's Sister Wives with a twist. You have a pimp for your husband. That's what it is. And you get beat down.

So, every minute that you're in the relationship with this man and with the other girls, you're afraid she's going to snitch on you and get you in trouble because she's jealous or you're afraid that you're not going to do something to please your pimp so you're on the edge of being beat. And a lot of the times the pimps threaten us and they tell us that the next time I'm going to kill you. And the last time I was with him, one of the last times anyway, he had a body bag and a shovel, gloves, everything. You know, he played the role very well. And I completely believe that I was going to be six foot under in the Mojave Desert. So, it was hard.

James: Well, all I can say is that I know you're on a mission. You know, we try to do Rescue Life, which we're doing right now. How do you feel about what we're trying to do all over the world?

Anne: I think it's absolutely inspiring and wonderful. I'm begging you to never stop! Because these girls and these boys need all of us. All of our hands are part of Jesus' body. Not everyone can do everything that we're doing but hey, if I can be a finger you can be a toe. If you can be the hair, I'll be the nose! Okay? If you can be the eyes, I'll be the mouth. I'll be a big mouth, by the way, because I have a big mouth!

[Laughter]

And if we can just all work together and remember that we're all connected, that that's the only way we're going to end this problem. And if we fight about this, if we

compete for money, if we have disagreements about how to reach his women – Look, there's a way to reach these women that might not work for everyone and maybe for another type of population, they might be able to reach the ladies in a different way. We just need to all work together as we do this.

James: Honey, what do you feel when you listen to Anne talk, Betty?

Betty: Well, I think it's wonderful what God's got you doing because I feel like a lot of these women get into this because they are looking for love. They're looking for that father image in a lot of ways, for someone to care about them and to make them feel secure. And yet, it gives them financial income too. They're desperate a lot of times and maybe they're hooked on something else and they need to feed that addiction, whatever it might be. And they can get into it not really knowing what they're getting into.

So I'm so thankful that you're one of the many that are out there doing something about it and loving on them. Because, you're right, you have to start with love. They've got to see the realness of what God's done in your life. It has to be genuine. Because they can tell a fake, can't they?

Anne: Pretty quick! Listen, okay, that is – people always say, well what do I need to do to reach the women? Do I need to have a psychology degree? I have a lot of psychologists come to us, blessed everyone's heart for that. Getting the education is awesome! But listen, if you're going to learn about the brain and about how we have social skills and how we relate to each other, please learn about love. What you said touches a chord in me because the girls can see fake. And someone could have ten years of education, Betty, but if they don't have the love I've seen them completely get a girl in a place where she goes back. You don't need a special education to do this. You just need to love. It's so simple. But for some people so hard.

James: Well, it's what he puts in us. And love that never fails is his love. He's the only one that can love unconditionally.

Would you say thanks to God and thanks to Anne.

Anne: Thank you!

James: So you're working in Vegas. You've got a place. There's the website. You see it on the screen right now. If you're inclined to help her very directly, or you want to

learn how you can do something in your own area, I know she would want to help you.

And Father, I pray you multiply what she's doing and I pray you give her the resources to do what you've called her to do. You raise up the people to stand with her. I pray that with all my heart.

Here is her book. I will be happy to send it to you. We're going to ask you to rescue people in the sex trafficking issues. You're going to hear an incredibly touching story where we just – it's just so tragic what's happening. We really do have the answer. I want you to watch this very prayerfully. But I really want you to watch it with just a real desire to be the answer to the challenge and the need, and you can be.

On the mission field

[Open captions]

>> My name is Sophina. When I was 11 or 12 years old, I was brought from Bangladesh and sold to a brothel. They used to scare me so I would work. They would beat me with broomsticks and force me to have sex with customers.

There was a girl who lived next to me in the brothel. She once threatened our owner that she'd go to the police if they forced her to serve customers. When the ring leader heard, he killed her by burning her alive.

When I saw those things happen, I was so scared. The brothel owners would strip me naked and beat me throughout the day so that I would be ready for customers. I have accepted this as my fate.

I have 2 young girls. They've tried to take them. I'm afraid I might lose them any day.

I want to live. I want my mom.

[Closed captions]

>> You should be able to see her. You should be able to see her. I'm so sorry.

Giselle: She was taken as a little girl from her village and she's sitting here now today, so many years later, saying, "I still want my mommy. I want to go back to my mom."

And all of those horrible things that we just heard her say that happened to her as a child is exactly what's going to happen to her daughters. She doesn't want this for her daughters. She wants to run away right now. We need to do something about this and get these little girls out now!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, we can't get her to her mom but we can get her to the father that loves her and we can show her the love of a father and a mother through an expression of his heart on our part.

Betty, I want to put God's arms around her. That was Giselle that was holding her who was trafficked. When she was set free she went on to become a beautiful model. But she went back to India and to Nepal and she went back over where we built – you did it, you built it. We asked you to. We've got an incredible *LIFE* Center right now where we're able to take these precious children and girls and women and then train them in a skill where they can make a living and care for them.

And what it takes, if you'll understand we built the largest *LIFE* Center in Thailand which is the sex trafficking and sex capital of the world. These men come in on 747s all through the day to find little children. And we're setting them free. And it's a very dangerous thing. We have to do what we do with hidden cameras. The missionaries are risking their lives and all they're asking us to do is just let them stay and help the children and help the women and be an answer to their heart cry. We are the ones that not only build the centers but we keep them functional and we keep the mission workers and relief workers working.

Betty, it costs an average of \$128 a year to save one of these children, one of these women. I think it's worth it.

Betty: It really is, James. And as I was watching that I thought that precious woman, there she is, a young woman now, and she didn't get to grow up in the arms of her mother. And she still longs for that. But she can be in the arms of Jesus, knowing him and a relationship with him. But she's concerned for her two daughters now, that they will be taken away from her. She's just one example of what's happening, how they're being degraded, how they're being put in prison, how they're being beaten and treated

like animals, worse than animals! We have to reach out and do something to help them! And we have the opportunity so I hope you will join us.

James: Well, you've been such a blessing when you watch and you see something because sometimes we think we're going to show you something and you'll just turn your head but you don't. You reach out with loving hands and that's what we're asking you to do today.

I said a moment ago that it takes \$128 a year to rescue and care for those children and those women and to restore them and train them. Would you dial the number and take your bankcard or would you go to lifetoday.org. So many are going now just immediately because the gift comes right now. Or you can call and take the bankcard either way and use it like a check. And if you could make a gift of \$128 you'd turn it around but if you make a gift of \$32 or \$64 and pray others join you. There is no level too small or too large because what we're doing is just huge. We are putting the arms of a loving father.

Did you see Giselle showing her what a mother felt like? I mean, there she was. She felt, I want that so bad. Well, we can give it to them. Would you do that? We want to send you a beautiful praise tape with Integrity Music called Freedom. It is absolutely an incredible CD. We want you to have it.

And the book Indivisible which I wrote with Jay Richards to help you have understanding of what we do to heal our nation.

The Thomas Kinkade Forest Chapel painting, it hangs here in our studios. It's beautiful; we want you to have it. If you help us rescue ten, \$1280, we would have rescued ten. And we want to send you that beautiful painting.

And again, I know why you give. You give to give life. Would you make that call? If you want to write a check make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. And please do it. Please reach out and put God's arms around those who are suffering like that precious woman you saw and her children. Thank you for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Innocent children created to be happy, loved, and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators, their spirit and bodies broken under horrific emotional and physical abuse. Through *Mission: Rescue Life* you can

reach out to save children vulnerable to sex traffickers. You can help rescue those already enslaved and you can restore their lives with hope for a 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 sexual slavery.

With your gift of any amount we will send you the *Songs of Freedom* CD, a collection of ten uplifting worship songs that are sure to become a favorite for your quiet time, drive time, or personal worship.

In addition to the CD, you'll receive *Indivisible*, a powerful soul-stirring book by James Robison and Jay Richards.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children and you may request this beautifully framed canvas print of the "Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light TM, Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

On the mission field

Lisa: Human trafficking is a sin against humanity. We want to actually stop it before it starts by reaching out, going into the villages, educating the people there. But we're also going to rescue girls that have been trapped in the darkness that are desperate to come out.

But you don't just rescue because we want to restore these girls. We want to give them job opportunities. We want to make them whole again through the love of Jesus Christ. Can't do it without you -- we can't do it without your commitment, we can't do it without your prayers! But we also need you to go to the phone, go online, and be generous because we know that you want to be part of rescuing life.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, from the depth of our heart, thank you for reaching out. You talk about rescuing the perishing and caring for the dying and lifting them in pity from sin and the grave. That's what we're doing as Fanny Crosby's song says.

We'll gladly send you Anne's book, *Fallen: Out of the Sex Industry into the Arms of a Savior*. And she wants to put his arms around so many others. If you would like to have the book we'll send it to you, sending *Songs of Freedom and Indivisible* to help you understand the time so we can do something about it.

I will remind you to go to Stream – stream.org. By the way, if you're calling or online to make a gift don't let anything distract that. If you ever call and you get a busy because people are calling to accept Christ, we're praying with them. You be persistent and say, "I'm going to get through and make a gift or I'm going to go online, lifetoday.org, and do it."

But I want you to go to stream.org. We're going to stream rivers of life and love and wisdom and insight to show us the way out of the darkness. We're going to do that together. You're going to love what you'll see there.

Join Betty and me in saying thanks so much to Anne for her witness.

Anne, we love you. Praise God for you!

I'll be happy to send you the book! It's in the bookstores. But let's put arms around the broken. Alright? Thank you so much!

Announcer: Be sure to visit stream.org, a rich and lively source for breaking news, analysis, and entertainment! Stream.org