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Week 13: Mission: Rescue Life

Brandon Heath

James: I wish all of you were here with us! If you are in our area, come to one of the tapings. We tape several programs and you'll be, I think, in the presence of the Lord.

Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty, my wife and I, 52 years married! Can you believe it? She doesn't even look 52, does she? But we've been married 52 years. It's been an incredible journey, a lot of challenges. Has it been pretty tough to handle the situation?

Betty: I think we've balanced each other out pretty good.

James: You're so sweet! I wish they could hear you coaching the Mavericks when they are playing bad.

[Laughter]

Because she will get so on those Mavericks. I'll say, "They can't hear." But then she'll turn... I'll just ask her a simple question and she's on me like I'm out there making a mistake. Stay sweet, darling!

Betty: Okay, I'll try.

James: Listen. Go to STREAM.org. Have you written that down? STREAM.org because every day we're going to be pouring life and light, and enlightenment. You'll get the news but when you get the news, a lot of it is not good. We're going to show you good news; what you do for the good news to correct the bad news. Okay, STREAM.org.

Here is a young man that has an amazing gift. I wish I had a gift like this. I've already told him, in heaven he is going to listen to me sing.

[Laughter]

But he is a singer. His name is Brandon Heath, and he is very popular and gifted. He's got the new, beautiful CD that is *No Turning Back*. Just looking at the titles of the songs, it's just incredible. It's real, real ministry. He is going to sing. I would like for you to welcome Brandon Heath to *LIFE Today*. Would do you that? Good to see you!

Brandon: Thanks so much for having me.

James: Well, I want to hear your story. You've got a guitar over there. You know what to do with it; right?

Brandon: I try. I try to play, yeah.

James: Tell us your story because you have a little bit of a rocky point or two in your life and yet God did something pretty special. Tell us about it.

Brandon: Yeah, I feel like maybe we all have rocky points in our life. I grew up in Nashville. My mom is a hairdresser. My dad is a retired police officer. So it's not like I come from a music family but I just happened to be born in music city. And it was just any other town, honestly, growing up there until I was in high school; actually, it was in middle school and had a crush on a girl who played the guitar. She and her sisters would sing together; that's when I saw what you could do with an instrument and write songs and express your feelings. There are a lot of feelings in middle school.

[Laughter]

James: There are a lot of feelings when you're 71 too, I'll just tell you that.

Brandon: Well, my first songs were pretty melodramatic but as soon as I got a guitar I

started writing. It was like I'd found a connection; I never really had expressed myself that way before. I didn't grow up in church. When I was in high school, I got involved in a ministry called Young Life. Young Life is an outreach to high school kids.

James: I'm very familiar with it.

Brandon: I was one of those high school kids walking through the front hallway; and again, a couple of girls invited me to go to Young Life camp.

James: Did they have guitars?

Brandon: They did not! They did not have guitars.

James: They probably had a pretty smile.

Brandon: They did! They did indeed.

So I went to this Young Life club is what they call it. Club is where they meet once a week and we talk about the gospel, we sing songs, we play games. It was the first time that I'd ever heard the gospel. Nashville is kind of known as the belt buckle of the Bible belt, yet I had never heard the gospel. So it just shows you, there are kids everywhere that just need to know who their creator is, who their savior is.

James: So you made a commitment to Christ in the club? Or is somebody witnessing to you personally that's there or what happened?

Brandon: It wasn't in club. They invited me to a camp called Malibu; and Malibu is in Canada, not California. I'd never been west of the Mississippi but we got on a plane and we flew to Seattle, went up the coast and got on a boat. The only way to get to Malibu is by boat. There are no roads. It is very secluded. That is where I heard most of the gospel for the first time.

James: So it was a Young Life camp?

Brandon: Young Life camp. On the fifth day of camp, I remember very vividly walking with my Young Life leader who is a college student at the time, so they traveled with us to camp and lived in Nashville. So that's what's kind of cool about Young Life; they go to camp and come home with us. So we were walking out onto the Frisbee golf course and we sat down on the 9th hole and we had a conversation about Jesus. For the first time I had a conversation about Jesus; that's where I prayed him into my life. My life got better.

James: Your mother had an effect on your confidence to play the guitar, though; didn't she?

Brandon: She did! Yeah! My mom and my dad divorced when I was three so I don't have many memories of them being together. But I lived with my mom; she took care of me for most of those young years. And in the second grade it was my turn for show-and-tell and I had nothing to take to school. My room was always a wreck. I was looking for something to take for show-and-tell. I couldn't find anything. But my mom knew that I loved to sing because she played Dolly Parton constantly in our house.

[Laughter]

It was Dolly or Willie or Waylon; so I grew up with good country music. I've never told this story in public until right now. Seriously! There is a Dolly Parton song that I love to sing. It was almost like a children's song that I would sing all the time.

My mom was like, "Well, if you can't find anything in your room, why don't you go sing for them?"

I was like, "Are you crazy?"

And I did it. So I took my Fisher-Price tape player to school and I sang with Dolly.

[Laughter]

-- In front of everybody. It's a song called, "Me and Little Andy."

You can Google it. Thankfully, you can't Google me. There was no YouTube back then.

[Laughter]

But that was the first time that I ever sang in front of people. Mom has always been super encouraging to me in music. She bought me my first guitar and got me lessons. So I'm really thankful for her.

James: Did the kids act like they liked you or were they just listening to Dolly?

Brandon: Yeah. Well, I think I was a spectacle, if nothing else. But you know, what's funny is my teacher really liked it, Miss Roland. I would love to find Miss Roland. Miss Roland, if you're watching wherever -- if you're watching, Miss Roland, e-mail me because I would love to see you and I would love to thank her.

James: Do you have an e-mail address she can check you out on? Maybe she can get a handful of the CD's herself?

Brandon: I will give her a lifetime supply of CD's.

James: Where would she find you on an e-mail or something? Are you comfortable giving that out?

Brandon: I don't have one I can give out. But you can find me on Facebook. Brandon Heath on Facebook is where you can find me. But I've always wanted to thank her because she was the one that kind of gave me the bravery.

James: That's really good that you want to thank her; it really is. Now you've got a song you want to sing. Do you want to tell us about it after you sing it or before you sing it?

Brandon: Well, I've kind of already told you about it a little bit.

James: You told me but you haven't told our viewers. We've got a secret see.

Brandon: Well, we do have a secret. What I mean is the song is about my mom. I wanted to thank her for her support in my life. And her birthday was coming up, and I didn't know what to get her so I wrote her a song.

James: And you see it on the CD here.

Brandon: It is the last song on the record called "Sing Brave."

James: "Sing Brave." Would you like to hear him sing it? Let's do it!

[Brandon Heath singing "Sing Brave"]

I remember the first time I heard my own voice
Wasn't quite music just a fumbling noise
The sound sneaking out in my very own words
Momma said was the prettiest song she'd heard
Second grade home room, I remember it well
It was my turn to share for the class show-and-tell
I couldn't find something from my room to bring
Momma said, Darling, why don't you sing?
Sing them a song you feel deep in your heart

Sing it with everything that you are
Sing 'til your voice echoes all through the room
Pick a good one, whatever you do
Sing brave
Sing brave

My teenaged soap box was a Gibson guitar
I played that old axle on the back of my car
There must have been thousands of songs hid inside
I just kept digging to see what I'd find
His name was Jesus, I heard from a friend
Seemed all of my life I'd been looking for him
My voice was changing and now my heart was too
This boy was singing a different tune
Sing every song you feel deep in your heart
Sing it with everything that you are
Sing 'til your voice echoes all through the room
Pick a good one, whatever you do

Sing brave
Sing brave

Every night before I go on stage
All of my butterflies just fly away
'Cause Jesus is listening

Yeah, I know he is here
When love's in the room you've got nothing to fear
He says sing me a song you feel deep in your heart
Sing it with everything that you are
Sing 'til your voice dances all through the room
Pick a good one, whatever you do
Sing brave
Sing brave
Sing brave
Sing brave

James: Wow! Oh, boy! I want to thank you, Lord. I'm looking out at people crying all

over the place and what a wonderful gift! What a beautiful voice. Thanks mom!
Thanks mom! And teacher, what's her name?

Brandon: Miss Roland.

James: Find him. You know something? Any time you encourage someone and you just kind of give them that little boost, you have no idea. I think Thoreau wrote the words, "Who knows how much healing we set in motion when we simply smile one upon the other?"

There's so much room for us today to reach out and touch someone with love. That's what people felt here. It's what people need to feel when they get around you, is love. The world is looking for the father, they're looking for the father's love.

You saw the father's love in your mother. You saw it in those young people, those girls that invited you and you saw it in a teacher, and you see it in these people. You've just got a wonderful gift. Brandon, I just pray God will continue to use you to take his love to the ends of the earth.

Will you pray that for him? Would you just tell him thank you very much?

[Applause]

Anything else you want to say? I want everyone to get your CD. It's in the stores and you can get it online. We'll send it to you if you'll help us rescue a child from sexual predation just to say thank you for rescuing someone.

Anything you want to say? Brandon, it's a privilege and honor to have you here. We thank you for coming.

Brandon: Thanks for having me. I thanked my mom, I need to thank my dad too because my dad and I, even though my mom and dad divorced when I was really young, my dad and I are reconciled with each other. And that summer when I made that decision I really needed to forgive him for mistakes that he had made in my past.

We sat out in my truck that same truck that I played my guitar on. When I was in college we had a conversation and I just told him that I forgave him. And we didn't really talk about the details of what I was forgiving him for but I just needed him to know that I forgave him. And I never would have been brave enough to say that had I not accepted Jesus' forgiveness. You know what? It is a daily practice to accept his forgiveness because I see how sinful I am at times.

James: We all are!

Brandon: Right! He has already forgiven me. And I'm learning that I don't need to even pray, "Lord, please forgive me" because he has forgiven me. He did it on a hill, on a cross. So I don't have to pray that anymore.

James: You don't have to beg for what he paid for.

Brandon: That's right! It's mine. What I have to work on is accepting it. Once you accept forgiveness, you want to start giving it out. So a theme in my music from the beginning has always been about forgiveness because that's the thing that has transformed me.

And the power -- and you said it many times on the show today -- the power behind forgiveness is love. That was love -- that was an expression, the ultimate expression of love, one's life laid down for a friend. And that he calls me friend is a big deal.

So I really want people to know that. If I can reach people with my music, outside of the Christian culture, anybody who just loves music, music has a way of delivering a message to somebody's heart. That's always been my goal.

James: Well, let's all be witnesses for Christ. Don't you want to be a better witness? Don't you want to be? Thanks so much Brandon. I want to show you and I know you'll love this, Brandon, when you see people that have a need to just be loved and held, and rescued -- and we can do it. Let me tell you. I think you're going to get very excited about what you see because you're going to get to do something about it. A lot

of times you see a problem, you say, "I don't know what we can do." We know what we can do. And you're going to want to do it. Watch!

On the mission field

Announcer: For the wicked men and women working as modern day slave traders, neighborhoods like this are the perfect hunting grounds. Using deceit and threats of violence they prey on the innocent, the poor, and the most vulnerable. Human traffickers rob the hopes and dreams of their victims just to make a small profit.

Open captions:

>>My name is Pinky Das. I come from a poor family. But I had dreams of getting an education. But that didn't happen. A year ago, when my baby was six months old, there was a lady who claimed she could give me work. But I was tricked and sold to a brothel.

When I tried to leave they said, "We bought you for this amount."

When I couldn't pay them, they refused to release me.

Announcer: The emotional and physical abuse these women face every day prove to be an effective prison. Even though sometimes they aren't behind actual cell bars, the victims in a brothel are held captive nonetheless.

Open captions:

>> I thought of running away, but I always got caught. And I was threatened that my son would be sold to somebody else. Now I'm scared that my son will be taken away from me.

Announcer: *LIFE Outreach* and its mission partners know that God has not forgotten about the victims of human trafficking. Together, we can reach, rescue, and restore Pinky Das as well as the lives of thousands of other women around the world.

Open captions:

>> I want to still have hope that my dream will come true. If I get a chance, I'm going to learn things and I'm going to work for myself. And I want my son to have a better future.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, I tell you what, I literally find myself feeling inadequate to effectively share the need in a way that you would just reach out and do what you've just heard. The precious women are concerned about their own children. They've been in bondage and misery, and now they're -- what's going to happen?

But we can change that. We can take those children, Betty, and we can actually put them in a safe situation. And you did see people we couldn't let you see their faces. We have actually reached a place now in some of the centers where we've got hundreds of children. We could cut right now and you could see children in this incredible *LIFE Center*; it is beautiful! It is magnificent. You built it. Love built it. You'll see little children singing. We used to show you their faces and their smiles; now we have to show them from the back. Because when we show them now, we've been finding out that they'll target those kids and try to get those kids. And we can't show the missionaries.

And we do most of the footage by hidden cameras; not all of it, but a lot of it is. So you're actually seeing into the very pit of hell. Those mission workers, they do risk their lives.

You say, "Why would they do that?"

Because Jesus gave his life. I can't explain that love. I know when I said to them, "I will stay here." And there's not been a single mission place that Betty and I have been that when I said, "We'll stay."

They said, "Please don't stay."

It wasn't that they didn't care for us. They said, "Go back and get people to help us so we can stay, so we can just do this. We've been doing it."

You have made those hopes and dreams come alive for those women, and for us and the missionaries. So would you reach out today again and touch with love? Would you dial the number that's always there as a prayer line for you if you have a broken heart? Would you reach out today and say, "I'm going to rescue, I'm going to relieve, I've going to restore."

\$128 is the average gift it takes to rescue one person from sex trafficking, and literally begin to rebuild their lives. Would you please make that gift?

I'm praying that many of you would help us rescue ten; we ask for \$1280. I know for some that's a huge amount. For some of you, "You know what? I could even do more than that." And I believe you will! I believe people that have been blessed love to bless.

But at whatever level you can help, please do it. Reach out and touch someone with love today. A \$64 gift doubled, somebody matches it with you, we've got another victim or child that we've been able to rescue.

So you can go to LifeToday.org. Would you do that? Many people are doing it this way and it is an instant gift. Use your bankcard like a check.

If you want to call, please do. If you get a busy, people may be calling because they need someone to pray with them. You be persistent. While others are being prayed for you can be an answer to their prayer. And you take your bankcard and you make the gift; if you write a check, call us and tell us what you're mailing.

We want to send you the beautiful praise music, *Songs of Freedom*. You'll love it! Nobody gives to help us to get a gift, I know that. We want to send you understanding of the times in the book, *Indivisible*: Restoring faith, family, and freedom before it is too late. And we can do that; so give us an opportunity to bless you.

We want to say thank you; the beautiful "Forest Chapel" by Thomas Kinkade, it will be a beautiful... a point of looking at the glory of God in a gifted man, beautiful scenery. Thank you so much for making the gift God put on your heart today. Thank you for calling or going online. Thank you for rescuing, restoring a broken life, a precious life.

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

In the studio

James: We want to say thank you. We're going to be sending you the book, *Indivisible* and *Songs of Freedom* for any gift; and the Thomas Kinkade, a beautiful, beautiful painting. If today, you just say, "I just want to help; I want to do something. I sure would like to have the CD, Brandon Heath's No Turning Back." The song you heard is on it, many of others; we'll send it to you to say thank you.

I do want to remind you go to STREAM.org -- go there every day in prayer. Pray that when people read their lives will be changed. There is inspiration, there is the information, the news, and what we can do to make things better, good news. We've got the best news. We can look at what's happening but we know how to address it: STREAM.org.

But I want all of you here to remember, we'll send this to you to say thanks when you help us rescue and restore. Would you say thanks to Brandon Heath again? Our prayers are with you. Thank you a lot! Thank you all! It's in the bookstores. We love you. Thank you for helping! STREAM.org. All your friends go there.

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