

4/16/15
Week 16 Mission: Rescue Life - last week
Katherine and Jay Wolf

Betty: We're so glad that you could join us today on *LIFE Today*! I'm Betty, and this is James Robison.

James: I was teasing her. I always say, "Welcome to *LIFE Today*, I'm James Robison; this is my wife Betty."

And she says, when she opens she says, "I'm Betty and this is James."

I was saying to her we have a last name. So you went ahead and let them know we do have one. We have had this last name 52 years, if you didn't know that. Don't you think that's good that we've been married 52 years?

I know all of you are saying, "That is some kind of a woman!"

I understand that. I know that you love her and you wish she would say more.

Do I ask you to say more?

Betty: You do!

James: Why don't you say more?

Betty: Because I don't want to.

[Laughter]

James: There you go. She says, "If I want to say something, I'll say it."

But some of you think, well, you just talk over her. I really don't. When you can't see I'm over here saying, "Go ahead."

You can't see that because it is below the camera. I'm trying to go, "Come on."

Well, we have got a special blessing. A young lady had an interruption in her life that was unexpected, a stroke. She is too young to have a stroke. It was a brain stem stroke. The story is incredible -- it is a love story; it is Katherine's story and Jay Wolf's story. And I want you to welcome them to *LIFE Today*. You are going to be blessed.

Jay, good to see you, buddy.

Jay: Good to see you guys.

James: Kathy, good to see you.

Kathy: Hey there!

James: Tell us about what happened because she says she is just going to watch and she is going to listen because she says if you're coming from this side she said this side of my face still moves properly. So you're going to see that; later you'll see what the stroke did. But boy, is he great -- our God!

Jay, tell us what's going on and what happened.

Jay: So Katherine and I have been married 10 years. We're close behind you.

[Laughter]

We'll really get to 52 one day.

James: You'll get there.

Jay: But Katherine and I are from Deep South Alabama and Georgia and we met at Stanford University in Alabama. We married right after college at 22 and thought we knew it all. We really had an understanding of life at 22. We decided to move out to L.A. on a big adventure. Katherine was in the entertainment industry and I was going to go to Pepperdine Law School.

James: What kind of entertainment industry? What was she doing?

Jay: Oh, she is going to let me talk every now and then. Katherine was doing some commercial print modeling they say. So it is like Target ads and things. It was a really unique season to be able to just go pursue our dreams. Really, in retrospect we knew God was drawing us to L.A. for a really different reason -- for a community, a church community that would be everything.

James: And you didn't know that when you went there; right?

Jay: No! We didn't know that. Then further, we didn't know that we would need the care of U.C.L.A. Medical Center, which is one of the top hospitals in the world to intervene and help save Katherine's life.

James: So what were you doing there though?

Jay: I went to law school at Pepperdine.

James: So you were in law school and she's making a good income, doing well.

Jay: Right! So we were living -- we say we were living the dream on the beach in Malibu, from a married housing dorm. You can see the ocean if you look just the right way out the window.

[Laughter]

But it was a really precious time and it was such a gift to have those first three years of marriage. We thought, oh, when we're 30 we'll have kids. We're 32 right now, and we have a seven year old so you can do that math. But we sort of unexpectedly had our son James when I was sort of finishing up law school. And when James was six months old, on April 21st, 2008 everything in our lives changed.

Everybody has probably one of those days when they got that diagnosis or when they got the phone call that sort of made a dividing line down the course of their lives -- for us, that day was April 21st. Katherine, out of the blue suffered a massive brain stem stroke due to this, basically, very, very rare birth defect that she never knew she had, there was no symptoms.

But it exploded, basically, one day as our six month old son slept in the other room. I was finishing up law school, literally, about to prepare for one of my last finals. And I just happened to go back up to our dorm and it was within that window that Katherine suffered her stroke.

James: What did you see?

Jay: So I was in the other room and I heard Katherine cry out. She was kind of in the kitchen. She was preparing a meal. I ran in there and she was literally collapsed onto the floor. She began vomiting, her arms and her legs went numb, and so quickly we knew something really

wrong was happening. So I called 911 and the paramedics came and they rushed her to the hospital.

James: Tell me what you found out.

Jay: So they took us to U.C.L.A. hospital. I mean we didn't even have a doctor; we're 26, this is not on the radar that we would even -- we have insurance, it was that kind of situation. So we were taken to U.C.L.A. which at that time was the number three hospital in the country.

There was this surgeon named Dr. Nester Gonzales who is double board-certified; pretty much the most perfect specialist neurosurgeon; and also, the type of man who would take on the hardest cases who just happened to be on call that day. He really had to consider, do I want to take this risk of taking a patient who will likely die. If I save her life, put her in even a worse position, vegetative, or what should I do here?

When I rushed into the E.R. with my six-month-old baby, I think he knew that this young mom, there was something that he had to do to try to intervene and save her life. I know it was the Lord just touching his heart to say, "I need you to take a chance on this young woman and give her a chance to live again."

And he did. It was very uncertain. He needed me to know that she might not survive the surgery.

James: Did she go into a coma? Was she comatose?

Jay: She was basically unconscious and they did a 16-hour micro brain surgery; removed this malformation which was the largest he'd ever seen. Basically, her brain was being squeezed down into her spinal column because of all the pressure -- that's really unsurvivable. So they did everything they could and removed portions of her brain, over half of her cerebellum and a lot of the nerves that give function to a lot of the things in the face and the swallow and the vision and the hearing. They had to come alongside the brain stem to remove the malformation.

So really, when he came out that next morning, April 22nd, which we now call "Katherine Lived Day," it is sort of the Easter to the Good Friday, that's the day we celebrate this sort of second chance at life. He said, "She's alive but we don't know what the deficits will be or if she'll wake up even ever."

In that moment there was this spark of hope, and it's just a gift, I think kind of like grace that I felt, Lord, I don't know what you're doing here but I know you've given us a second chance.

James: Okay, Katherine. What are you aware of and tell us when you came back and just tell us what's going on?

Kathy: So essentially after surviving the initial brain surgery, which I have no memory of a long time even after that. So I've heard stories that I basically lived after the initial 16 hours of brain surgery, and then was transferred to the I.C.U. where I would stay for another 40 days, which we feel like is very biblically significant that I was sort of wandering in the wilderness for 40 days. Then left there, thank goodness, kind of, and went into a different part of the hospital.

Jay: It was the Promised Land.

Kathy: Yeah, not as promising. And I stayed there another two and a half months, and then transitioned to a brain rehab to learn to walk again and eat food again, I couldn't swallow after my surgery, and learn to speak again and smile with half my face again. And really just began the process of relearning everything.

I was taken down to basically zero and started, in that brain rehab time, was able to come back, so to speak. It was over two months of nothing, that I have no memory of nothing, it was like overnight. So I'm seeing my baby who looks different now two months later after waking up. And he's gained weight because he's now on formula and I'm not feeding him and things are so different; he's not my baby anymore hardly, it felt like. It was, you can imagine the most traumatic event, almost, a person can go through and yet it was just wild.

I think thankfully, the Lord just allowed kind of a slow period of coming to so it wasn't so much shock all at once. There was a sense of, I wasn't fully conscious, which is probably a blessing because I probably wouldn't have been okay. I mean I had moments of not okay for sure, but by and large, I was able to take this on. And huge credit to our families, to Jay for really just coming around me, all our friends, and saying, "You're going to get well."

No one knew then probably that well, would look how it does today; that would be very much not well to the world but I'm well. There's no denying that the Lord has healed my soul, which was the only place that was ever truly broken. Now I have some major brokenness in my body, and likely will for life. It's not like I'm probably going to drive a car in the next couple of years or run a marathon or smile with both sides of my mouth for that matter, and yet, what was really broken was my heart. It was so sad. Why would God let this happen to me? How could this be my life and really questioning wait, so I'm just newly 26 years old, I've heard of a stroke I think but its people who are 86 years old. What does this mean? How do I move on from something like this?

So there was a delirium that was probably a good thing in some ways. It took a while to get to the reality of what we were dealing with which I'm thankful for because my ultimate cheerleader the whole time was just defeating all the dragons and putting out the fires and step forward. It really made a dramatic difference in my recovery. They didn't think I'd ever eat food again, for instance. They thought my swallowing muscles were shot and I wasn't going to swallow. He never believed that. He never told me that they told him that, but he just knew that -- Jay had the faith and the belief in miracles, as his spiritual inventory test told him years ago; he just rejected that. Yes, she will and I'm not going to tell her they said she won't. And he never did! And after failing how many, total of ten swallowing tests, yeah, ten, I ate food again. It's not normal today. There's nothing normal about my life and yet I fully, I eat a lot of good stuff.

[Laughter]

Right now I'm eating a whole lot of good stuff and I'm loving it.

James: Well, you probably weren't supposed to be able to have another baby; right?

Kathy: Oh, gosh, please! It's really cute to now be showing a little bit.

James: And you're going to have a baby.

Kathy: Right and be in a wheelchair. You don't see a whole lot of women in wheelchairs pregnant. Most women in wheelchairs are not in their childbearing years, of course, so it is very unique to now have this baby bump and be in a wheelchair. It's a real blessing that truly –

A dear friend of mine, after I was pregnant said, "You know, you were basically dead. You were on your death bed, you are now in a wheelchair. There could be a lot of death surrounding your story. Instead you have new life coming out of your story." That is the picture of the gospel.

James: You have it coming out of every pore in your being. Don't you believe she's just got life flowing? And Jay, is just -- I told him when we were spending a little time together before we came out here to see you and I just said watching Jay look at her is as much looking like Jesus looking at somebody and you are too. You are absolutely a beautiful, beautiful couple. I can't even begin to describe what a joy it is to just see what God is doing.

What do you think God wants to do with your life now? Because I want every viewer to know what you feel God wants you to do.

One thing I know you're doing is you're trying to help people that are trafficked. We didn't even know this but in business for freedom, this is a free set. We have trained many of the women that we've set free to make these bags and to do other work like that.

Kathy: I didn't know that! That's so cool!

James: Yeah, we have. It's one of the things we're doing in Nepal and some of the other areas. I think this came from Calcutta, which we work there too. But see, hope heals.

Kathy: Hope Heals is our ministry.

James: It is! And that's it.

Kathy: And from those women, that's so cool! I had no idea!

James: And that's what we're actually talking about this week. They did not know that when they came in, and they're saying this is such a good thing to do. I want to know your web site, is it Hope Heals? Because I want everybody watching to know several things that they might be able to get you to come and share in some kind of a setting that you would be sensitive to working with them effectively -- and take care of them. Don't invite somebody to come in and you not take real good care of them. You understand what I'm saying? Don't tell them somebody will love you down the road. You bring them, you love them!

Kathy: Thanks, James!

James: If you can help them with what they're doing, you do it. But how would they find you online or see things that you're sharing?

Jay: So we jumped into full-time ministry together. We created a 51c3 called Hope Heals -- HopeHeals.com is our web site.

James: If they wanted you to come and speak or share or do something with them is it Hope Heals?

Jay: All of that is on there.

James: We've got it on the screen now where people can see it.

Jay: We really have felt that God has left in our story, in our lives, embodied in us the message that really is all of our message and all of our story.

Kathy: And the very physical brokenness of my body is this beautiful representation of all of our brokenness on the inside. Everybody just doesn't showcase their junk but we all have got junk. I happen to have a lot of mine on the outside but most people have plenty. I do too on the inside of my body. In a way it is so freeing to -- I mean who would think that? Freeing to be in a wheelchair and be totally -- I mean my hand doesn't work, my face is paralyzed, everything is kind of messed up and all.

James: I think you're beautiful!

Kathy: Well, thank you! But it is the condition of all of us deep down is just not okay.

James: I just really wish that everybody watching could realize that we are not only in need of healing... I shared with them earlier something that Sheila Walsh had said when we were just talking about the pain people go through. She said there is a difference in being bad and being broken. You know we all have a brokenness and we're not necessarily trying to live in rebellion but we need that hope to heal and the grace to heal. That's what this beautiful couple has talked about and just seeing them is healing.

Would you agree that it is a healing process just to watch what God is doing in them? Do you see the glory of God? I want all of you who are watching to know that the hope we have in Christ and the grace that he freely offers begins a healing process we all need.

Here's what I'd like you to do; not only receive that healing, but pray that God will enable you to freely release it to others where you could really be a safe shoulder, that you could be someone who would comfort not condemn but would try to help offer the healing.

Father, I pray that for every person who needs to receive it, to receive it, but I also pray for everyone watching to begin to release it, really like Jay and Katherine have in such a beautiful fashion; in Jesus' name.

I want all of you to know that we have a chance right now to do the very thing I just shared when they talked about wanting to offer hope to people who have been trafficked. And this was actually made, this little carry bag by girls that have been trafficked. We're doing the same thing. We're teaching them to weave, we're teaching them trades, teaching them how to make jewelry, all these things to do and you're the ones that make it happen.

I want you to listen and see if you don't want to be the answer. In this last week that we're asking you now to help us reach out to over 5,000 that we've located, that we believe we can rescue if you'll help us. Listen closely. And above all, listen to God, his spirit.

On the mission field

>> There are a lot of things I dreamt I'd become. This was never one of them, but it is who I am now. They tell me I deserve it. They say my parents never want to see me again. I'm never alone here for long but alone is all I feel.

I can't keep them out because my door locks from the outside. I hear they've got my sister now. She's about the age they took me. She'll fetch a good price like I did. And of course, they say we're worthless anyway. There's no reason to smile here but I'm forced to. I hate this place but it's like we were meant for each other, filth for filth.

If I was worth anything, worth anything at all surely someone would have come for me. And though I'm all alone, I know there are many. I've seen too many come and disappear. Maybe they're the lucky ones.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I don't think that you need any prompting to want to set that girl free, and several thousand like her that the most dedicated, committed relief workers and missionaries have found by literally moving in to the very pit of hell, to rescue the perishing and care for the dying, to snatch them in love and pity from the snare and from the grave. That's literally what these mission workers are doing.

But here's the thing, we're the enablers. See the predators that take them and put them in bondage enable people to prey on them and use them and they get the money and other people, quote, supposedly satisfy their unquenchable desires in unfathomable fashion in the horror of their life. But they can be free and they can be free because of someone like you who connects with another member of the body of Christ, like this part of the arm with this part so that the hand of God, the body of Christ functions effectively to rescue them. Now these mission workers are incomplete without us giving them the resources to care for them. They can get them out. We, with your help, have built places to restore them, homes.

Would you right now enable us to literally reach out and rescue a target number of over 5,000 that we have found? When I say "we" that's the mission workers, that's the relief workers that are right there on the scene, right there in the midst of the pain and the suffering. Here's the average cost: \$128 to rescue them, to restore them for a year, to begin training them so that they can have a future; little children, begin educating them. We have many we rescued years ago

who have now graduated from college, who are themselves teachers, some of them themselves are working in the mission outreach as a missionary themselves. It is a program of outreach that works. We're truly rescuing the perishing.

This is the last week now we're asking you to help. Would you go to LifeToday.org and take your bankcard and use it like a check, please? I pray if you've never made a gift, you'll do it because you'll be giving them freedom -- you'll be setting them free. The keys to their freedom is in your hand as you connect with the mission workers. Would you do it? Or would you dial the number and take your bankcard? And there on the phone say, "Here's the gift I want to make." Use those cards like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*, but call us and tell us what you're mailing. We need to know because like I said it's the last week.

We have some special gifts to send you to bless you: The Songs of Freedom, these worship and praise songs are going to bless you, and you'll know you've set people free. We're going to help you see how we can help walk our nation out of the darkness we're in with a book that will help you see that. And the beautiful Thomas Kinkade painting, "Forest Chapel."

Would you do what God put on your heart? Please do it right now. Just go online or make the call. Thank you during this last week for reaching out with an expression of love and freedom. 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.

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online today..

End of clip

In the studio

James: Please, I mean we just got such a short time now this last week, please make the greatest love gift you can and know that you're going to truly set captives free. We will send you the *Songs of Freedom* and the book that will bless you, as well as the beautiful Kinkade painting, "Forest Chapel."

I want to remind you, go to stream.org. Go there for your daily news, inspiration, and insight on how we can make the necessary difference. This is going to be a go-to place for you because it can literally change the course of this nation through you, through the kingdom of God effect -- stream.org.

Would you join me and Betty in saying to Jay and Katherine how much we appreciate the glory of God in them? And there, even as we applaud and say thanks, there on the screen is their web site. You see it? -- Hope Heals. I want you to go there and get them to come to your area. Bless them. Help them do what God put on their heart.

Thank you so much! Thank you for watching *LIFE Today* and for sharing life with others!

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