

7/23/15
Week 30 WFL
Isik Abia

James: Thank you! We love the opportunity of sharing with you. I'm James Robison; my wife Betty and are I thrilled to have this privilege of spending a little time with you.

This beautiful woman, I love the title: *I Dreamed Freedom*. Let me tell you someone else who dreamed freedom, his name was Jesus. But he did more than dream freedom, he purchased it. And he was raised from the grave to live in us to provide the only true source of freedom -- freedom that you can experience when you're in prison! If you just understand that; that it is a relationship with the one who sets us free.

This abused girl has become a real miracle worker. Her name is Isik Abia. I said I'm going to have to practice that. She said she would have to practice Robison.

[Laughter]

But would you welcome this beautiful woman to *LIFE Today*? Isik, I'm glad to see you.

Isik: Thank you so much.

James: We're so glad to have you!

[Applause]

I want you to tell our viewers all over the world because you had found out that if we use social media, which I'm trying to get all of our viewers to use what Ravi Zacharias says is the new Roman road; it is the stream, stream.org. But you can go there every day. You can take something you see that you think everybody needs to hear that because it was really from God; brilliant young people, people from all walks of life and they have the proper worldview and they can share it through social media. How many Facebook followers do you have?

Isik: One point seven million.

James: Did you hear what she said? -- One point seven million! Where are most of these people who are being impacted through social media, communication, where are they?

Isik: Most of my followers are from Egypt. We've received 3.5 million hits a day on our Facebook and over 200 million followers reach every month we have; so the Muslim world and Egypt, Morocco, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Oman -- some of those countries.

James: And how many languages?

Isik: In five languages. In Turkish, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, and English, we minister to them.

James: So you're taking the commission of Jesus to go into all the world and make disciples to be witnesses starting at home and then to the outer regions and then to the ends of the earth, you're taking it seriously.

Isik: Yes. Yes, we are taking it very seriously. We have 40 online missionaries, every day, full-time writing to those people in their languages sharing the gospel, in addition to my TV programs to the Middle East.

James: Do you like what you're hearing? Would you just say thank you, God! Thank you, Isik. I want to know and I want to hear your story but I want you to do something right up front because I believe we ought to support those outreaches that are effective. If someone wanted to support what you're doing and know more about it, what is the web site?

Isik: They go to our web site, IsikAbla.com. We have a donate button there and they can support our ministry.

James: There it is. You don't have to be able to say it and pronounce it perfectly, there it is. You can just type it in. We encourage you to find out about outreaches. We don't try to protect our supporters and our friends, we want you to do what God directs you to do. We believe that he is capable of directing and overseeing what he's entrusted to your watch care. So there is how you can contact them.

Isik, you had your own story, tell us about it.

Isik: Well, I was born in Turkey -- Istanbul, Turkey in a devout Muslim family. I have secular Muslims in my family; I have radical Muslims, Jihadists in my family. My family legacy is my

father's family received a gold medal from Turkish government for burning 15 Armenians to death. So I have still pretty fanatical Muslim people in my family.

I grew up in a home that was very dysfunctional. There was so much abuse. My father was a brilliant economist. My mother was a homemaker. He was a womanizer. My mother used to have nervous breakdowns and physically would become very abusive towards me. So I grew up with an umbrella of abuse, hatred, anger, slamming the doors, cursing, breaking things -- a lot of hostility.

I grew up as a very bitter, very insecure individual. I went to Koran courses to memorize Koran and practice Islam so I could be closer to my God and he could end my pain and hurt. At age 12, I finished Koran course but I was praying five times a day, fasting during the month of Ramadan since seven years old but I had no personal relationship with my God. He was angry. He was impersonal and hateful. I felt lost and invisible.

I felt like I had a lot of dreams. I had a dream to change my mother's misery. I had a dream to make a difference but also, I felt inferior as a woman in my culture and everybody told me, "You cannot change anything. You're only a girl. You cannot do anything." I went to college, studied Islamic literature and then studied more, post studies in business administration.

But during college years I met my perfect match, a Muslim man who had an idea about Jihads. We really were, our ideologies and everything just matched to each other. We believed in educational Jihads. We got married. I was a teenager when I married him. We started supporting educational Jihad in America and in the western world sending students to Harvard, Princeton, Yale, to big universities so they can become in power to Islamize western world. I also believed in physical Jihad as well.

But that marriage turned into a torment in my life because he was beating me up every other day. He could slap me and kick me on the floors in public, on the streets. I had no self-worth. I didn't think that I deserved anything better. I believed that I deserved his treatment because it was in the Koran that he could beat me up, he could discipline me to be a better Muslim woman. Then I fled to America for my life because he put a knife on my throat and told me to jump from an eighth floor of a building.

I fled to America for freedom but it doesn't matter wherever you go, there you are. Unless God comes and changes your inner man, you can't change your surroundings. But I came to America as much in chains as I was in Turkey and I ended up in another abusive marriage to a drug dealer and abuser.

But to make a long story short, on the day I was going to kill myself, it was year 2000, my Christian boss at the workplace in Miami let me to Jesus Christ.

[Applause]

James: When you met him, did you then realize you had someone very personal that was actually now in reality a part of your life?

Isik: Yes, yes! When I met my boss?

Betty: When you met God.

Isik: Oh, yes! I mean he was --

James: But you thought your boss had something different about him too.

Isik: Oh, yes, absolutely!

James: So that's why you were able to listen. But then when you met Jesus, he was real, personal.

Isik: He was real because it was out of the question for me to become a Christian. Christians were infidels we were told. They were evildoers. They were Satan's seed. So there was no way I could become a Christian my own. Today, when I go on TV, I tell people, "I am not here to convert you because it is the Holy Spirit's job. But Jesus Christ is real."

That day when I was planning my suicide because I felt like I failed Allah in every way and there was no hope for me, and my boss called me to his office and he told me, "Jesus revealed your plans to me. He spoke to me and told me about your childhood and he wants me to tell you, you are not forsaken or abandoned. He loves you so much, Isik. He died on the cross for you. And if you want to receive him as your Lord and savior today, He will take all your mess."

At that moment, I knew Jesus Christ was real because he was in that room and I could feel it.

Betty: And that's the God you were looking for all along; wasn't it? He is real.

James: That's the freedom you dreamed of and this is the story. You tell all of this in the book. You tell your whole journey. Tell us what happened after that. Tell us something about the rest of the journey and then where God has taken you and what he is doing.

Isik: Well, I started going to church so you can appreciate, I'm not churched; right? I ran to church. The first time in my life I heard "Amazing Grace" and "Great is Thy Faithfulness." And I felt like angels in heaven were singing. I was just crying.

And after three months of going to church, I went to my pastor. I said, "Pastor, I want to serve Jesus. Give me the things that nobody wants to do this in church. I want to clean the restrooms, take the trash out, and take care of the babies."

He looked at me and smiled. He said, "I want you to come next Sunday and give your testimony."

I said, "Okay!" I went home and I opened the Webster dictionary to find out what testimony meant.

[Laughter]

Then I said, "I am going to speak! I can't believe it."

James: Did they understand you?

Isik: And they would understand me with my heavy accent.

[Laughter]

My Boston accent, you know?

Betty: Boston accent!

[Laughter]

James: Take this on past that testimony and tell me what all has been happening because this is has been an amazing journey.

Isik: Yes. Then I started going to little places giving my testimony to two people or to 2,000. One day a missionary from the Middle East heard my testimony, and in Europe, there was a Christian conference. They met with TV evangelist and they told them about me. They were praying for someone from Muslim background who could risk her life to show her face on TV

to speak to Muslim world about her journey and how they can have hope and redemption through Jesus Christ. It took me two years to say yes to that call.

James: What happened to your father?

Isik: Well, my father, two years ago, I was going to a church, Armenian church in Istanbul, because I was going to speak in the church two days later. Sunday morning I said, "Let me go to the church to honor the pastor first before I speak there."

So I saw my father early in the morning dressed up and ready to go with me. He's a very arrogant, very outspoken man. I said to him, "No! I don't want you to go with me to church."

He said, "No, I'm going with you because they know you from TV programs and I don't want them to hurt you."

I said, "Dad, you don't know which church I'm going."

He said, "Which church are you going to?"

"I'm going to an Armenian church." And he stopped.

You imagine, he was the most racist man I had ever known in my life. He said some degrading words. He said, "I'm still going with you."

And he went to the church, he was very arrogant, very outspoken. Pastor was preaching and he was saying, "Yeah right!"

[Laughter]

It was really embarrassing for me. People were taking out their cell phones, taking my pictures because they knew me from TV programs. But I was embarrassed that they were taking my father's pictures.

But something happened to him after a few minutes. I was so engaged with the message the pastor was giving about the persecution that he'd been through and his family and everything, and people started pointing to my dad. When I turned, he buried his face with his hands and he was weeping. After two days when he went with me to the church, when I made an altar call for salvation, he just threw himself forward.

[Applause]

James: Boy!

Isik: In an Armenian church and now nobody can speak against Armenians in our family.

[Laughter]

James: What do you want to see happen today? What is your prayer for America now here as you look at this country because there's great hatred in the world and it isn't just hatred for America it is hatred for the freedom we have. And it's really a hatred for really, Christianity and Jesus; more than probably any other thing in the world there is a hatred for Christ, for Jesus. And there's a liberal mindset here in America even building. It's working ignorantly, foolishly in harmony with that hatred, that hostility, to destroy the very name of Jesus and impact. What's your hope? What's your prayer?

Isik: My hope is a big awakening will happen in America; revival will come to America. America needs to wake up because America is under a great threat of Islam. This great country that I found freedom, I found Jesus Christ, will not be the same great country in the future. I want to invite people to really fight, maybe on their knees for freedom. Maybe with their walk in Christ for freedom but fight for your freedom in America and wake up America!

James: That is the invitation Jesus gave us when he said, "I want you to come like chicks to the wings of the hen" over Jerusalem that would be leveled in ruins but yet he is inviting.

Do you believe that we will either come to him or fall on our knees before him or be knocked on our face? We have a choice. Do you believe that?

Isik: Absolutely! I believe if you don't go on your knees right now there will be times coming to America people will be going on their knees because God will be shaking America. But we will be grateful and saying like David said, "I am glad that you inflicted me so I could turn to you."

James: Here's the thing you need to understand. Don't lay what happens on God. He said, "If you leave the shelter and shadow, if you leave the hedge of my protection and that hedge is trampled or overlooked then you're going to be vulnerable to the consequences of changing my truth into a lie." And the wrath and the effect of that foolishness will be manifest and it is in the fact that people are controlled by their appetites, they're out of control, they're under the control of evil forces and mind-changing and mind-altering drugs and alcohol -- anything to try to escape the pain. When he says, "I am asking you to come to the shelter, come on in to my presence."

We really have a choice of coming into the shelter and shadow of the almighty or being knocked down by the consequences of leaving the shelter and shadow apart from our own life and our own nation. God is inviting us to come to his shelter. He is inviting us to allow him to make up for the years the locusts and the poor decisions have eaten away at all of our blessings. "Come and I'll make it up." This is the cry. If we don't come, we're going to be knocked flat and I believe we'll cry out then. We could come and be spared the misery, that's his invitation, it was Christ's invitation. It is the same today because Christ is the same.

Do you appreciate this wonderful woman and her testimony?

[Applause]

There's her web site again. You can go to LifeToday.org and you can find it there. If you'd like to have the book, it's in the bookstores, you can get it online but if you'd like to have it, we'll send it to you.

You know what we're doing right now? And I know you can appreciate this -- we're giving fresh water to people who have never had clean water, and it is one of the most beautiful things you've ever seen. I want you to listen, I want you to listen and see if you hear God and then just say, "Okay, God, what can I do that would please you and be a miracle?" You can be a part of a miracle. Watch prayerfully.

On the mission field

Announcer: This is Phoung Mao. Her two boys Vannak and Dang are inseparable. They do everything with their mother. Even when she is laboring, chopping this root to sell in the market. Phoung will basically work around the clock knowing she has to fill 13 large bags just to earn \$2.50.

Thinking about the hardship of her labor does not seem to affect Phoung because it allows her to provide life in the form of food for her children. But when it comes to the only water available to them there's something she constantly thinks about -- death -- the death of her seven year old son Dorn who died from a waterborne illness caused by this very same water.

>> Because I didn't have the money the doctor said I couldn't bring my son's body home.

Announcer: After hearing Phoung's sorrowful story our team surrounded her to offer as much comfort as we could. Phoung had expressed to us that her two boys now are always sick from drinking the water and she could not bear losing another child. We don't want to see that

happen ever again to Phoung. And it won't if the resources needed can be secured so that we can drill a water well in her village.

End of clip

In the studio

James: And we can because we know there is water there. And viewers like you, over the last years, have bought numerous drilling rigs costing as much as \$300,000 to \$500,000. You gave them. So they are ready to go to the site but what we need to be able to do is support the movement, the petrol, all of the pipes, the drilling equipment in order to get them in each one of those locations.

We have located five regions, Betty, where we can drill and we need \$4800, the average cost of a well. I believe that here in this audience and all over the world that there are individuals who can drill a well and that everyone watching can at least give toward a well; \$48 is what comes in to pay for most of the drilling. You can break it out and say that gives 10 people water the rest of their life but there are some who can give \$1200, \$2400, or \$4800 and pay for part of a well or an entire well.

I'm believing our viewers are going to be an answer to the heart cry of that precious mother.

Betty: James, she was working very, very hard to provide food for her children. She would do anything. She worked hours on hours just to get food for them for two dollars a day! And yet, she can't do anything about the water that she has to offer them because that's all that they have; knowing that that water will possibly kill her children. That heart of that mother is broken because she sees what is coming if something is not done.

Will you please join with us and let's give life to that little precious family and those many others just like them that do all they can do but they can do nothing more without our help? Please join with us and let's drill these water wells.

James: Father, I want to join my heart and my hands with Betty because she so well expresses the heart of a mother, a grandmother, someone who cares so deeply and understands. Father, I believe there are viewers who understand what that mother feels. So I pray today you will answer with an outpouring of love, undeniable expression of your love through the act of giving and helping; in Jesus' name.

There is a phone number there on the screen. You can go immediately to LifeToday.org. Many, many of our friends now are going there and immediately using your bankcard, you make a

gift. Or you can call and make a gift using your bankcard or if you want to, you can write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're sending it in. It is very important that we allow our drilling teams and our mission workers to know we can come to your area -- we can go to that area.

We've got 12 countries, 500 sites to drill a well. Could you drill one of them? You might be able to drill more than one. I believe if you can, you will. If you can give a portion of a well, \$1200, \$2400, pray for three to join you or one to join you and we've got a well. If you can give an entire well \$4800, do it. But those of you who give \$48 or let's take the example of \$144, you've given 10 people or 30 people basically water the rest of their life, a single gift that keeps giving.

So would you right now make that gift? Go online, or call the number. We have some gifts to send you to say thank you but I know you're giving to bless and that in itself is blessing enough. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice: drink filthy, polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

The good news is there is a solution! *Mission Water for Life* is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today we can establish and drill 500 water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people; \$72 will impact 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh, clean, disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift you'll receive the "Every Day a New Day" devotional broken out into the four seasons of the year. This daily devotional features scriptures, inspirational thoughts, a Bible reading plan, and a place for you to journal each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request "The Names of Jesus" pen set; one inscribed with the names of Jesus found in scripture and the other reflecting the gifts of the spirit.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well.

And request this beautifully framed canvas print of “The Forest Chapel” by Thomas Kinkade.

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio

James: We're anxious to send *Every Day a New Day* because in Christ it can be with all the challenges. This has not only the scriptures and the inspiration but a place for you to journal; and the "Names of Jesus" pens or the Thomas Kinkade forest chapel canvas, it is beautiful! If you'd like to have *I Dreamed Freedom* and just simply say, "I'm helping you with the water" and we'll say thank you, "I would like to have the book," we'll send it to you.

You may want to visit online and say, "You know what? I'm going to help." Imagine reaching out to so many people. Thank you so much for watching.

Isik, thank you for being here. Would you say thanks to Isik? What a blessing -- what a great testimony -- what a great witness -- what a great ministry! God keep you safe and you keep exalting Jesus.

Bless you! And God bless our nation and help us to bless others. Thank you!

Announcer: Introducing stream.org, a rich and lively source for breaking news, analysis, and entertainment. Stream.org is a new information stream where those concerned about our nation's course can now gather for news, wisdom, and inspiration. Working together we will see the promise declared in Psalm 46:4, “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.” Be sure to visit stream.org, a news site to unite us!