

2/16/16
Week 8: Rescue Life
Bianca Olthoff

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

James: We have a last name Robison; so we welcome you to the program.

We have a really vivacious woman with us, Bianca, and it is Olthoff. She is Hispanic. She comes from Mexico and she's married a German. So you've got to wonder what is going on right here.

Bianca: Pray for our marriage.

James: Right! Exactly! And she lives in California. Here she is in Texas and she actually says she likes the place. That's really great. See she is talking over me excited!

[Laughter]

And everybody told me, you've got to meet Bianca. You're going to really like Bianca!

And Bianca, really, kind of got outgoing in effective ministry when she became a friend with Christine Caine. Christine is pretty -- I had one big Baptist preacher say, "Don't tell anybody, but Christine Caine is the greatest preacher I've ever heard!" Baptist preachers are not real excited about women preachers. But he said, "Christine is great."

Then a lot of people, "Bianca! Whoo! She is just really a communicator." I could tell because we had dinner and man, she is a blessing! Would you welcome Bianca to *LIFE Today*? Bianca, we're glad to have you.

Bianca: Thank you!

James: And you like Christine? Are y'all real friends?

Bianca: Well, you're putting me on the spot. Can I be honest with you? Okay! No, I do! I love Nick and Chris. It's been such an adventure to be with them. They love the fact that I'm

Mexirican and crazy because Chris is Greek and loud; and so you put two loud women together, no one gets a word in edgewise. You've got to pray for our husbands!

James: Do y'all talk over each other or do you have to -- the other person has to agree to...

Bianca: We just get incrementally louder -- louder and louder and louder.

James: And you talk as fast as she does.

Bianca: I do! So between the both of us oh!

James: It is tough for Texans to keep up with that.

Bianca: I don't talk fast, you listen slow.

[Laughter]

James: We're a little slow; that's true!

[Laughter]

Tell me what are you doing as far as not just with Christine but what is your journey right now? And tell me about your own life story because I've heard that you've had some challenges. It hasn't just been all grins and smiley time. You've been through some challenges.

Bianca: Yes, sir. This season of life has been a wonderful adventure. It feels like a roller coaster with the highs and the lows.

What I get to do at A21, what I get to do with project Europe and some of the initiatives that we have going on, behalf of Nick and Chris at Equip & Empower is amazing.

But I think if we take an isolated look maybe at even your life or my life, or anyone of our lives, we can kind of conjure up a story that fits within this paradigm. But we are who we are today because of our history. So I'm excited. I think one of the things that God is just revealing now in this season is what it looks like to own who God has called me to be and be fine and okay with that.

I'm Mexirican which means my thighs are always going to touch. It means I'm loud and I talk fast. It means that I'm passionate and I talk with my hands. But it means that I am moving so fast that God is going to equip me and give me an anointing to carry out his Words. In this

season of life, I'm so grateful for that.

I think when you had shared a little bit of your story, I resonated with hearing your story of being a young kid growing up poor, not knowing kind of where our means were going to come from; I resonate with that. I like to joke around with my dad and I said, "Dad, I actually look back with fond memories on being poor."

And my dad with his thick Mexican accent, "What do you mean poor? We were never poor!"

I said, "Oh, you're right, dad. We're just po." We were like so poor we couldn't afford the O-R - it was just po. So like you know you're po when your neighbors give you government-issued food. Or when lovely church folk bring their gently used clothes to our porch or Thanksgiving turkeys. But it was in those moments that we saw the faithfulness of God, the goodness of God, the provision of God and how God used other people to build into our story.

So in this season of life and the work that I get to do and advocate for 27 million slaves across the globe, I get to allow my story to penetrate their stories and it is a ripple effect of what God is doing in the streams of my life.

James: Where were you when you were a child? Where were you living?

Bianca: In the hood, my friend. East L.A. Represent?

[Laughter]

Yes, Los Angeles area born and raised. I like to say that God was so faithful. I grew up next to a crack addict; who we called them "hypes." One of the most tragic memories, I think for my mother and father, and even I remember being six years old and having our house broken into by some hypes and stealing the Christmas gifts underneath the tree. And for a low income family, Christmas is kind of like -- this is the time to celebrate. And the door was busted in, the table and chairs were all turned over, the Christmas gifts were gone, the turkey in the refrigerator was gone, my mother's wedding ring was gone. And just looking at the depravity of where we lived and what we had to face.

But my parents still believed in the goodness of humanity, and building a church that would be an oasis in the midst of a concrete jungle.

James: So they were actually were being witnesses themselves in the difficult...

Bianca: Yes, sir! And they're still serving in east Los Angeles, California.

James: So you work with... tell everyone what the Acts 21, what it is with you and Christine?

Bianca: A21 is a global antihuman trafficking organization. We have an audacious goal of abolishing the injustice of slavery in the 21st century. What we are excited about is this isn't just about a theoretical concept. We are on the ground and we believe firmly that this isn't just about rescue, this is about rehabilitation as well. And not just about rehabilitation, but it's about redemption because ultimately, that comes straight from our father so we're excited that we get to do that.

James: See, if you don't know, they're talking about getting people out of the sexually trafficked situation that they're trapped in. We've been working with them in supporting what they're doing.

I think you know that we have the rescue life, that we are actually emphasizing right now where our target goal for the next months is 5,000 to literally rescue them. That's what we'll do.

You may want to talk about that a little bit. I know that you've seen the stories of the miracles that have happened. You really like to share with people. I don't know what you want to say to this audience and the viewers but what's on your heart that you wish everybody watching would hear that would first of all make a difference in their life? But having the difference made in their life, they could then effectively make a difference, perhaps, in many lives? What do you want them to hear? If you say, "If you would just listen today to something that I think is very important from God the Father to you as part of his family," what do you want our viewers and the people here to take on?

Bianca: In this season of life, I think that I get to see what God is doing around the globe and it is an honor and a privilege that I do not take lightly. But I feel like God has entrusted my husband and I to go out to the ends of the earth, to not just see the perils of humanity but to also see the hope within humanity that Christ brings, that's what gets me excited.

Because we have traveled quite a bit around the states and around the globe, I see something, an awakening, and a revival of sorts. One of the things I'm super passionate about is when we communicate whether it is raising children, whether it is working in the corporate sector, whether it is leading a church or whether it is rescuing slaves, wherever we are, and every season we are, God has fashioned us and empowering us through the power of his Holy Spirit. I think there is this awakening, especially in the next generation, we're hungry for God to move in our lives.

So you might be sitting there at your desk, watching online, you might be watching in your living room, folding laundry. You might be stumbling across this on the web, but I firmly believe that God has a plan for you; and not that it's this cosmic plan, but he has a plan that he's fashioned specifically for you and he's empowering us, the power of his Holy Spirit to accomplish the things that only we can accomplish.

So what is audacious? Is it freeing slaves? What is an audacious goal? Raising children who love the Lord? What is an audacious goal? Giving \$2 million to the kingdom? Nothing is impossible for our God.

I was just reading and we were discussing earlier in the book of John, you actually read a scripture earlier, but one of the scriptures that was like a stream of thoughts that connected was Jesus said, "I'm not going to leave you as orphans. I'm going to leave with you an advocate, I'm going to leave with you a comforter. And the things that you have seen me do, you will do these and greater." And in this season of life, for the things that I have seen, I get to herald and tell people that there is an amazing God who is looking to pour out "greater" in your life.

And I don't know -- I love the width and the breadth of the church, the conservative and the charismatic, I love the breadth of the church, and I understand that people may not believe that God is on the move supernaturally but I am a witness today, I'm about to -- somebody give me a praise hankie or something! I'm going to be a witness because I have seen God do the impossible.

And so if we want to talk about God doing greater, we could do things supernaturally and if you don't agree with that, that's okay, I love you, Jesus loves you too. But let's just talk about the greater in the natural. What did Jesus do in the natural here on earth? He provided for people. He loved his enemies. He took care of the forgotten. He loved the unlovable. And if God is calling us to do that and greater, by all means pour out the greater on a nation who is slumbering in the doldrums of contentment with what is here in front of us in the temporal, in the here and now. And God is saying, "Wake up, you sleeper! I've got a boatload in heaven waiting to pour out on you, gifts in the natural, and dare I say, even the supernatural." What does God want to do in our lives? I'm so excited about what I see.

Betty: What I really like about what you're saying too is what is the purpose of God in our lives? Because like you said, I like the ripple effect that you shared because sometimes our life might be the only one that will reflect another person's life that will find their purpose in God.

So it's not just being out there in the front all the time but it's what you do day-by-day to express the love of God and his freedom that can come in someone's life by just being kind,

being considerate, loving someone that doesn't seem very lovable, forgiving someone and going out and just day-to-day contact with people.

Bianca: Absolutely! An early church father once said, "Preach the gospel and when necessary use words." I love that I get to help free slaves, but on an every-day basis I think what we get to do is tell people about Jesus, and when necessary use words wherever we are, whatever station or season in life that you are, whether married or single, whether young or old, whether tall or short, whether thin or fluffy, God wants to use -- I love fluffy! Don't judge -- I love fluffy! I was a fluffy kid, fluffy adult. It's okay, praise God. God loves fluffy people too! God wants and can use all of us and that's what I'm really excited about. I see it! I see it.

James: I feel like when you just said that it made me want to reach out. One thing about television, there is kind of a sense of closeness and yet there is so much distance. But I feel like sometimes I wish I could just hold a broken heart, try to be a shoulder. And if me, a man with children and grandchildren and a great grandson, if I could care about you and want to be able to help you, how much more would the one who loves beyond measure, boundless love, infinite love and who can meet your need, would you give him a chance? Would you just ask him to do it right where you are?

The telephone number there on the screen, if you want to call someone and say, "I just asked for his help." Somebody will agree with you. I'll send you a little book *Knowing God as Father* because I didn't have a father and I came to know God as Father. It's a beautiful introduction but then it has simple Bible studies. Be glad to send it to you because we love you.

Bianca, I just felt impressed while you were talking there to be sure people know that we are not talking above them or around them but that God is really reaching out to them wanting to help them. I think if they can receive that and will receive it then they can begin to release it. And to all of you here in the studio audience that you receive, release that river.

Do you not agree with what Betty and I have experienced because we fell in love as teenagers and the cool thing is we're married 53 years, and we went together several years and behaved ourselves because she was strong, probably. Sometimes I put a move on her now and she says, "I'm still strong!"

[Laughter]

The thing is that we really committed to Jesus to lose our life for his sake. And boy, sometimes it's rough in the journey because we face so many things in life. But I think if people will realize, if you'll just really commit it's like this revival, this awakening spirit is beginning to happen all over the world. I believe we're going to see a great visitation of God.

Bianca: I love it! I see what God is doing across the globe and I know that there's people that says the church is in decline and that this is a generation that is furthest away from God. I know what statistics say and I know what numbers say but they're dehumanizing, and numbers do not have names.

I think that what you just did and what you cultivated in the spirit of honesty and vulnerability is welcome people to lean upon the shoulder of God. And that is the invitation: "Come to me all you who are weary and tired, depressed, hurting, and I will take your burden." When God takes our burden he replaces it with a yoke that is easy, a burden that is easy, something that we could be excited about.

God, you take my brokenness. You take the stupid, dumb, brown fat girl from the hood. Because I made a promise to God; I said if you -- I didn't know how to read. I was special... and not in a good way. That was funny -- you could laugh.

[Laughter]

I can make fun of myself, it's fine. So I said, "God, if you could take this girl, if you give me words, I will give you my voice." And I feel like when I can lean upon the shoulder of God, when I can call out to him, "Daddy!" then he takes my brokenness, he takes my failure, he takes my sin, he takes my shame, he takes my unrighteousness, and he gives me the antithesis to that. He gives me the "greater" and I'm excited about that across the globe.

James: And that's what you're sharing. Do you appreciate this beautiful girl's testimony? It's wonderful! Christine Caine, I'm glad you were an encouragement to Bianca, I know she is to you.

I want you to do another program with us. I want us to talk about because we're trying to rescue people from sexual trafficking where they're held as a slave, literally a slave, and you said millions -- millions of them! Now we want to set them free one life at a time with love. I want you to tell some of the stories of what you've seen. Would you do that in another program?

Bianca: Absolutely! What an honor.

James: And to all of you here and at home, listen to me. We have an opportunity to save the lives of precious children and women that are captured. You actually helped us build a rescue center in the largest sexually trafficked place in the world where we can get them out and they are kept safe. It is like a miracle place. You built Destiny House, which is perhaps the largest center for children.

And even now when we have these hundreds of children singing praises to God and getting an education, we're no longer able to show their faces; we have to show them from behind because somebody might find them there and try to target them. We have to be careful. And much of what we do we do with hidden cameras.

One of our best friends, since she was a girl, I did their wedding and she is a grandmother, been to the mission field many times; got very sick on the mission field, she just went back. Listen to Kyrie. She is talking to a girl that's been trafficked and trapped. Watch.

On the mission field

>> My name is Kirie. What is your name?

Open captions: Pao.

>> I'm so honored to meet you. Do you mind sharing your story with me?

Open captions: My father was always drunk and violent to our family. So when a lady said I could leave and get a good job I went with her to the city. But she locked me in a room and said I had been sold. I was really scared and afraid. I was so young and I did not know anything.

The men forced me to do bad things. And I could not find any help. Sometimes the men hit me. My body is broken. My heart is broken. I need to hug my mother. I need her. But I do not have a way out of this.

>> You are precious.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, you just look at a girl with a broken heart and yet when somebody gave her the shoulder to lean on, she had the smile on her face in that painful situation. That's what love can do. What goes on in your heart as a mom and a grandmother and a person that loves deeply?

Betty: I feel like that as you watched this along with us, your heart feels broken as mine does.

As a mother of two daughters, five granddaughters, my heart would be crushed if I knew that was happening to them. I would do everything I could to get them out of that situation.

She wants her mother to hold her as I would hold my children and always have. But she doesn't know -- I don't even think if she knows she will ever see her mother again.

She is a child and her body has been broken like she said and just abused. She's been beaten and just felt worthless and doesn't have any hope. We want to offer these precious children some hope. We need your help to do that. I hope you will join us and say, "We care. We want to hold you through our caring and giving and loving. We want you to have a safe place to be."

Will you join with us and help these girls just like this one. There are so many of them. Please join with us and let's reach out and love these girls as the Lord Jesus would want us to.

James: My emotions are so torn, Betty that I feel like I may not be able to do a very adequate job of just asking you to help us.

But I've got to be honest, my heart also, I'm praying for the men that are trapped in such bondage that they would use girls like that and even younger, and little children. That's got to be a horrible bondage. God break it!

And then those that exploit the children, the girls for the money. God change their hearts!

And then to those of you who are watching, would you just help us rescue her? You don't have to wonder, is anybody doing there what they can to try to get that girl out? You better believe it! It's very dangerous. And it's really simply a love mission. And missionaries are there and they don't feel like they're sacrificing to be there. But I'm asking you to help keep them there in the rescue areas. And then give us the resources to get them out.

It costs an average of \$128 to rescue one. We ask people, would you help us rescue ten with a gift of \$1280? Could you help us with one? -- \$128. Our viewers say, "Yes, I want to." So I'm asking you to say that.

Go to LifeToday.org right now and say, "We'll reach out to girls like her." We'll reach out to children that are being taken there and we'll give them a safe place where they actually have somebody care for them and not lock them up and abuse them and use them and waste them and destroy them. We're going to rescue them and we're going to redeem them. We're going to restore them. Would you do that?

LifeToday.org or dial the number there. It's always there for people to call who need help. Now you're going to call to help. It's a lifeline now, not just a prayer line -- it's a lifeline. So would you call, take a bankcard, use it like a check; that's how you should always use them. Make the largest gift you can.

We have some gifts to send you to say thank you that will remind you of the light of your love when you share it; and the majesty of God and his creation. So please, LifeToday.org, make the gift God puts on your heart, a redemptive gift of love, to set captives free. Would you do that? Help us rescue as many as possible.

Please make that call. You call, you want to write a check? Make it to LIFE but call us and tell us you're mailing it, tell us what you're sending. We need to know that because we've already targeted 5,000 to rescue and we need your help to do 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'll send you the "Light of the World" scented candle. This beautiful encased in a frosted glass burns with a wonderful scent. Its flame is a reminder of your part in being a light to the world, especially to young women trapped in the darkness of human trafficking. Your gift helps provide them with hope and a way out.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children and you may request our beautiful new "Majesty" bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

On the mission field

Kirie: I'm standing in the middle of a slum area in Cambodia where the homes are actually built on top of floating garbage. I've been told that people will come here and offer the mothers hope for their children in the way of a job; giving them some type of work trade so that they can send money here and help their family.

But in reality, they're sold into trafficking, they become slaves somewhere. We're asking you to consider helping us to educate these families so they know how to say no. We're asking you to help us rescue those children that have already been sold into trafficking.

Please, go to the phone or go online and make the very best gift you can.

End of clip

In the studio

James: This is a city set on a hill, this is the "Light of the World" candle. It's just beautiful. It's a wonderful thank you gift. A beautiful bronze, "Majesty," what God does; what art God does! Artists try to copy it. What God makes is living bronzes by God. And we can show you when he does and say thank you. Help us rescue ten if you can or as many as possible.

Betty, I believe God is going to answer our prayer, your heart concern and the missionary's.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Bianca? She is going to be back in another program.

Don't you appreciate that? Don't you love her?

Bianca: Thank you. Thank you so much!

James: Thank you! Hey! We all need a shoulder but we can become a shoulder for someone; can't we? Let's do it.