

2/18/16
Week 8: Rescue life
Bianca Olthoff

James: Thank you very much! Thank you. Welcome! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison; Betty and I are thrilled to have our guest Bianca back. This is the Mexican that is married to this German, Olthoff. So I'm having to learn how to speak Spanish and German all at once. It's a challenge.

Bianca is a blessing. She is a good friend and co-laborer with Christine Caine. They work in a ministry that is committed to rescuing -- well, not only raising people up in awakening in revival but rescuing people that have been caught in sexual trafficking in the sexual trade; it's total slavery and bondage. It is awful.

As we did a program earlier in the week, I really was just moved to pray for the men that not only exploit these girls and hold them captive, but the men that are in such bondage that they would be able to go in and use this for their own selfish attempt at gratification. What kind of bondage is that? It is almost indescribable; it's unfathomable that they're there but they're there. I think while we're praying and reaching out to rescue those trapped, we need to pray for those who are trapped by what makes it possible and profitable, that God would set them free.

I want you to welcome back Bianca. What a blessing she is. Would you give a welcome to Bianca?

Bianca: Thank you!

James: How did you get involved in working alongside Christine Caine in this particular, let's say, emphasis in the ministry that y'all have together?

Bianca: I think a couple of years, because I've been on team for five years. And yes, I am married to a German man, but we're like chips and salsa because you think, white and salty, and I'm fiery and we need both of them, they're good mixes. And we're both in the ministry together.

So he was the one that pushed me to say, "I think you've been in your comfort zone a little too long or long too long." So I had a conversation with Christine... actually first heard Christine preach about the travesty of human trafficking which is the fact...

James: So was she in your church or in your community or where?

Bianca: I was at a conference. I was at a conference and...

James: Did you know about her before?

Bianca: No! No, I didn't. Once you hear Christine for the first time, you just don't really forget her. We're sitting in the audience.

James: I think some of her got on you.

Bianca: Do you think so? I think some of me got on her though.

James: She actually got more fired up.

Bianca: Exactly! So I heard her at a conference speaking about this travesty that is affecting anywhere from 27 million to 35 million slaves across the globe.

I remember feeling very comfortable in my Christianity, very safe as an American. Feeling like wow, that's really sad that that's going around the world. Surely that's not happening here.

James: These are actual slaves. They're in sexual slavery, bondage, to be trafficked and used by these predators that take them prisoner and treat them in the most abusive, unimaginable fashion for their own exploitation of the monetary gain.

Bianca: Absolutely. Sex trafficking starts as young as three. The average age of sex trafficking in the United States is 11; that is the age of entry.

James: In the U.S.?

Bianca: In the U.S. And I'm hearing these statistics: Every 30 seconds someone is sucked into the slave trade. This is affecting every continent, every country, every economic social system. It is generating anywhere from \$30 billion-\$35 billion of revenue every single year. The numbers are so overwhelming.

But I think it hit home when my husband, who was on staff at a church... it's a long round of events but to keep it short there was a social worker from Orange County that happened to get this case in her docket and happened to call a church and it happened to go to my husband who happened to be married to his Mexican wife who loves to tell stories and loves to write. The promise I made to God, if you give me words, I will give you my voice. Now translating her story into a beautiful story of redemption that was featured on C.N.N. in their heroes section.

Her story was she was trafficked at the age of 11 and brought over to the United States with the family that had trafficked her, and she was living 3.2 miles from my house. I live in one of the safest zip codes in California. I'm thinking surely! I was raised in the hood, I got out of danger and now I'm thinking, this is happening so close to me. I was gob smacked. I was flabbergasted. How could this exist?

We met with her one-on-one. We were able to connect with a local organization there to help repatriate this girl and get her story documented. But it was a firsthand account of what was going on in my own backyard.

So couple this with meeting Christine shortly thereafter and realizing that this is not a problem that's on faraway countries with poor economic structures. This is happening here, literally, in my own backyard.

So Christine, if you know Christine, she is gentle as a flower and she's very docile.

James: Pssh! I didn't meet that girl.

Bianca: She's the antithesis of that; right? And she just very candidly said, "What are you doing with your life?"

I said, "I want to change the world for Jesus."

She said, "Are you doing that talking on your blog and doing your little Bible studies?"

In my mind, I wanted to say, absolutely! But I think there was something, just a conviction of the Holy Spirit that said, "I know I should and could be doing more. Am I called to build the kingdom unto myself or am I called to build the kingdom?"

So there's this great opportunity; I kind of felt like the mantle was thrown. It was kind of like, "I double-dog dare you!"

I was like, "I'll show you!"

We partner with amazing people like you guys who believe in freedom, believe in A21, believe not just in our organization, but the call of freedom, the mandate on freedom.

Galatians 5:1 says: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

You take that seriously. And all of the supporters who are watching online, who donate generously to what is going on here and now for this wonderful year of donation to free slaves, we say thank you. You have made this possible. Your supporters, our supporters are coming and rallying around this cry of freedom and it's nothing short of an honor.

James: Have you seen any specific things happen with some of the ones that have been trafficked when you watch them set free?

We have built a center, this is very interesting, from California. We went and found our ministry had inspired them and other ministries to be an outreach to those trafficked. And the couple, we met them the first time in California in the area of Los Angeles, and they had served Hollywood by giving them the power plants for all their production. The lady had a 7 carat diamond ring. They sold everything. All their equipment, she sold the ring and they moved to Thailand.

By the way, that's now more than 10 years, maybe 15 years ago and we found them there. I also saw them back in California. But because they had come back to get help, and lo and behold, here we are. And here's help. And we helped them build the largest incredible house of outreach and hope and Destiny's house. And we gave them a place where they can give people a new future. And now we've built a rescue center there; it literally takes people who are in it out and keep them safe where they can't get them back. This all happened because of love.

But it started because a couple went over there, sold everything they had, they've not come back. They literally began to rent houses that's all they could get to take care of trafficked people. So it's an incredible story. The lives changed is unbelievable.

Have you seen some things happen that are miracles with individuals who were trapped and set free?

Bianca: Yes! -- A number of wonderful stories of redemption. I think one thing before we go into more stories is you have a fingerprint all over Thailand. Not just with Destiny's House but we're launching a nationwide hotline to prevent and educate and also give tips in Thailand and that's because of your generosity.

James: It is the sex capital of the world.

Bianca: So thank you so much for that. The stories yet to be told are the ones that I'm most excited about.

I think one of my favorite stories and I've shared this a number of times. It just never gets old because I had never met a survivor of human trafficking. Some people are called to be freedom fighters, I just knew that I was called to be a freedom writer. I was not going to be Liam Neeson, bust down brothel doors, rescuing women. In my mind, I kind of thought I could do that but I love high heels and fake eyelashes, so that's just not happening.

But I was going to go visit some co-workers in our Greece office, which is our flagship of Europe and we have a shelter there as well as a transition home. I kind of had hopes of maybe going to the shelter, meeting some of our survivors, gathering some real lifetime stories or stories of their life in the moment, we were really excited about.

Then I got a co-worker who e-mailed me and said, "We have, we believe, a victim of human trafficking in a detention center," which is basically like a prison, "here in Greece. But we can't communicate with her because she only speaks Spanish. We told our lawyers that you'd be able to translate. See you in 17 hours."

Hold up! Wait a minute! I may be brown but like I grew up -- the Spanish I learned was watching novellas with my grandmother. Like that's not real Spanish. It is just dramatics about who shot who. It's just crazy! So I, the woman of faith that I am, the Bible teacher that I am, I e-mail her back and I said, "I don't think I could do this. I'm not your girl."

She said, "You're our only option."

To which I e-mailed back, "Well, then I'm your best option."

I hopped on Twitter, on Facebook, on Instagram, on my blog. I called my mom, my dad, my cousin's neighbor's dog walking babysitter and I'm just like, "I need a miracle. I need to get the tongues in Spanish. I don't even care. At this point, Jesus give me something."

I literally was in the plane, I still have this journal. I was writing out phrases in Spanish. I was trying to remember like, "Oh, Jesus! Jesus, be a miracle right now."

I landed. The lawyers picked me up and took me to the detention center. And when we got to the detention center, think, it's a prison. There are barbed wires, there are chain links, it's in a

big secure building. And the Greek guard, there is some communication between our lawyer and the guard and the guard asked me in English like, "Do you speak Spanish?"

I said, "Si!"

[Laughter]

So we were ushered in. I remember -- I'm not even kidding -- I was walking up the stairwell and it is so vivid in my mind, mint colored walls, mint stairwell. There was a haze of cigarette smoke from the Greek guards with hairy forearms and hairy knuckles talking like Greeks do and smoking cigarettes. I remember praying this big bold audacious prayer, "God, you took the dumb, stupid, fat brown girl from the hood who couldn't read because you are going to use her today. So I beg you to give me words."

The guard had ushered me over to a cell. And the cell was concrete floors, concrete walls, concrete ceiling. It was cold, bitterly cold and there were thick steel bars. And in my mind it's separating the free from the unfree. In this small cell there were 14-15 girls lying side by side on dingy thin mats. They covered themselves with burlap blankets and they laid in a state of comatose. It was like I stared into the faces of dead people. They were watching a 12-inch television monitor screen of Dancing with the Stars. I remember looking at the situation saying, "How is this going on?"

The guard had motioned to a girl. She had caramel-colored skin and chocolate brown eyes and I will never forget her. I will never forget her name. He motioned to her; she stood to her feet and she very fearfully, trepidatiously came towards the bars.

The moment I said, "Hola. Mi el nombre, Bianca. Nosotros aqui a ayudar." ("Hello, my name is Bianca. We're here to help you.") She stuck her hands out, and this is the first time she had communicated with anyone in 18 days. She said, "Ayudame! Ayudame, por favor." (Help me! Help me, please!) And she began to cry and cry and cry.

And in this moment -- it was nothing more than a second -- but in this moment it was as if her cries of, "Help me! Help me please!" were the reverberated cries of men, women, and children across the globe who are enslaved through labor trafficking, through sex trafficking, through organ trafficking, who are crying out, "Ayudame! Ayudame, por favor." (Help me! Help me please!)

We were able to get this girl out. And by the grace of God, we were able to translate her story, communicate to the legal officials. And our legal team, we were able to represent this girl,

bring her to our shelter. We were able to provide for her clean clothes and legal representation because everything had been taken from her.

This girl was a very bright girl; a third year medical student in a communist Hispanic country. She had saved for two years to find passage to Europe with a promise of a job as a waitress in a restaurant. Unfortunately, a two-year dream turned into a nightmare when she was trafficked. She was trafficked to a number of brothels and we were able to intervene, not only rescue this girl but repatriate her with family members.

And for the first time in, I can't even remember how long, she was able to pick up a phone and call her parents to communicate her safety. And in that moment, I realized, I'm so ill-equipped. I'm so undereducated to handle what God has just dropped in my lap. But he was so faithful. And on that day we were able to see tangible freedom in the name of Jesus.

James: Do you rejoice? I do! And Bianca, keep it up because God did miraculously help you. And what he put on your heart and Christine's heart, it's on his heart. Now when we share his heart, then we can share his love effectively.

I feel like it is very important for you to understand the story she's just told. Since we've been doing this, we have literally seen it happen tens of thousands of times.

In the areas, you must understand, we've gotten so many now you'll remember when we've been working in parts of India, and the remote areas, and then getting them in the Nepal where there is so much poverty that many of them are taken captive there and taken into India and trafficked -- all over the place, whether it is Cambodia, whether it is Greece, whether it is Thailand, the sex capital of the world, Bangkok, all those areas, we have been able to rescue them and teach them a trade. Many of you have seen them learning to weave, learning to make things, learning to sew, learning how to do something. And many of these children that came through Destiny House are now teachers themselves, and many have gone back to their home from which they were taken, to go back and help their families. It's a miracle that's wonderful.

Mark Rutland has been doing that. We helped him with House of Grace there in Thailand. He was president of Oral Roberts University, and now he is working in Georgia and doing a tremendous job as an associate pastor there and preacher. What a great preacher Mark is.

But the love that has been sown, it's been miracle after miracle but it's all happened because of people who make it possible. You couldn't have even been there, you couldn't have had attorneys, you couldn't have had anybody working had it not been for what you were trying to do with ministry. And ministry wouldn't have happened had it not been for people just like you.

And I actually told our audience here just a moment ago, that the missionaries never feel like they're sacrificing, the relief workers don't. They feel like they're on a divine assignment.

I often have told them, "You're the greatest Christians I've ever seen."

They say, "No! The greatest Christians we know are the people who watch *LIFE Today* and enable us to stay here." The people who see the need and they help us meet that need.

So we want to say to you right now, you have the opportunity of literally helping put God's arms around a hurting, suffering desperate world. And one of the most specific ways that you can set captives free, literally, in sexual bondage is to help us in the Rescue Life to redeem the people who have been rescued and restore them to a future.

I want you to look in right now on a scene that is going to move you, I believe, to reach out and put God's arms of love around some who desperately need and you're the only one -- the only one who can meet a specific need God has placed before you. I want you to watch very prayerfully.

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

In the studio

James: Well, Betty and I say from the depth of our heart, thank you because you're putting God's arms of love around those who so desperately need it. We express our thanks.

I'd love to send you the "Light of the World" candle that will be a blessing. This is beautiful. You will treasure it and it will be a conversation piece and remind you to pray. And then the beautiful bronze. Could you help us rescue 100? 10? One? Could you give toward that? No gift too small because we're giving the greatest gift, we're giving life and love. Thank you for doing it.

Join us in saying thanks to this very dynamic gifted woman.

Bianca, thank you. Bless Christine Caine. Bless all you're doing! All your outreaches!

Thank you for watching. Thank you for helping us rescue others.