

6/27/16
Week 27: Medical Cure Partnership
Sheila Walsh
Pat Smith

Sheila: Hello and welcome to *LIFE Today*! My name is Sheila Walsh. And we decided that James and Betty have been working really hard so we would give them the day off.

I'm so thrilled to be able to introduce my guest to you. I remember the very first time I met her. She walked into the room and I was literally stunned by her beauty. But the more I got to know her I realized that actually her true beauty is within. She is a remarkable woman and she's written a fantastic book called *Second Chances*. Would you please welcome my guest Pat Smith?

Pat: Oh man! My girl!

Sheila: I cannot tell you how thrilled I was, Pat, when I saw that you'd actually put your story down on paper because I know some of your story, although I'm probably a little behind. But your book, *Second Chances*: Finding healing for your pain, regaining your strength and celebrating your new life.

Why now and why this title?

Pat: You know, you've been a great part of my journey. Actually you're in here, and your husband, and my journey with Women of Faith. It was God's timing. My biggest struggle in life was that as a little girl I had my whole life planned out. You know how you just know I'm going to do this, I'm going to do this, and I'm going to do this and it was just set. So my frustrations came when those dreams and those desires didn't line up. To me, they were losses, they were failures. It created in me a sense of disgrace and shame.

So God's timing, I've learned over the years, now that I'm 45, it took me a little while, that his timing is perfect. So the timing is now. It is all about how God will take all of what you think could be the worst of situations in your life and turn them into something really wonderful and perfect because it's really about him and not about us.

Sheila: I remember the very first time that we met. You were joining our speaking team at Women of Faith and we were having a retreat at a ranch somewhere. I remember you walking

in and just being so captivated by -- although you have a beautiful face there is a beauty in your eyes, there is a tenderness in your eyes. What I didn't realize was how much we were throwing you in at the deep end.

Pat: Girl, I was scared to death. That's why I said, I thought you were about to say like I looked in your eyes and just saw like this fear. Right?

[Laughter]

Literally, you have to remember I attended a Women of Faith event supporting Brenda Warner the year before. At that time I was just at a very low place of self-esteem in my own life. So I went to support my girlfriend. I'm just there to support Brenda.

I remember telling Emmitt, "Okay, I'm going to go. I'm going to go watch Brenda and then I promise I'll be right back." Because Saturdays for us is like soccer and football practice, and cheerleading. I said, "I promise I'll be right back."

Well, I get there and I'm captivated. I can't -- I'm crying. I'm praising the Lord. I'm just into all of these stories. And so I remember saying, "Okay, babe, it is going to be a little bit longer. Can you keep the kids?"

He's like, "Yeah. I'm good."

So you go from that kind of a moment and I got to meet all of the speakers at lunch. Like maybe a month or so later I'm having lunch with a group of people from the team saying, "We'd like for you to join our tour."

The first thing I thought was, oh, my God, this is amazing! I get to have that experience.

Then the next moment the enemy goes, "Girl, you ain't ready! How you going to do that? You're going to make a fool of yourself. You're not worthy! You're a loser. You can't speak in front of all those people. No way! You'll never do it." So the enemy, he's tricky and he knows how to get us off track.

So you have to remember from that moment of excitement and then the moment of joy and then, oh, my God, I'm here at the retreat and I'm with Sheila Walsh and we were paired together. And I've watched, and of course, been captivated by your ministry, and then we're paired together and I'm going, "Why am I here? I'm not worthy. These people are selling books! These are speakers and ministers." I just did not feel like I belonged.

Sheila: You know what's really interesting, Pat? If most of our viewers would look at you, we would never believe you ever struggle with any kind of self-esteem issues. I have to just let people in a little. I'm a huge Cowboys fan. Can I just tell you that?

Pat: Cowboy nation!

[Laughter]

Sheila: I'm a complete football fanatic -- not just Cowboy. I mean I follow everything. I have the Red Zone on my iPad. Yeah! -- College football, everything! So let's just let people know that your husband is of course, Emmitt Smith. And you mentioned Brenda Warner, her husband, Kurt Warner, big football. So when you and Emmitt met, were you at a good place in your life or a difficult place in your life?

Pat: I was in a very difficult place in my life. So I was married before; I was married to an actor and comedian, Martin Lawrence. We had a really challenging marriage. We got married in I think it was '95 and then within four months we were expecting our first child who is now 20 years old in college, which is unbelievable to me. But the 18 months that we were married were very challenging.

We were young. I was coming off the loss of my mother who died of breast cancer at 55; and that left a huge void in me that I didn't even recognize. I'd learned to put a mask on to pretend I was okay. I had just competed in the Miss U.S.A. Pageant, which was a huge dream. I didn't win. I was first runner-up. I call that "second loser."

[Laughter]

So that whole first runner-up thing, I don't know why -- look, if you don't win the pageant you lost. Okay? So to me, instead of having the perspective of okay, this is great, I'm even in the pageant, I looked at it as another failure.

So here I am. I go into a marriage very soon, very quick, very young, still hurting. And then we were passionately in love. Like I loved my husband and I know my ex-husband loved me. We had a beautiful baby girl but we just did not get along. It was just not a safe or constructive position or place for any of us.

Sheila: So you got out.

Pat: I got out. One night, it was the first time I ever heard God speak to me and he said, "I need you to pack one suitcase and I need you to leave." I grabbed my baby girl who was in her crib at the time, she was nine months old, and I remember being so scared. I'm in Los Angeles. I'm a small town Virginia girl from Chesapeake. I'm in L.A., this huge city with not a lot of family, not a lot of friends. I remember picking her up and I remember whispering in her ear, "Honey, baby, I'm sorry. I'm sorry! We'll be okay." But I didn't know if we really were going to be okay.

A lot of people think oh, you're married to a movie star so you're in a great position. But because I loved him so much, I signed a prenup. So I didn't leave the way people thought I left.

So I left, not thinking that I was going to divorce but that okay, we just need some space for a moment for safety, for peace for both of us and for our baby especially. Within a day or so he filed for divorce. I found myself as a single mother trying to make it and get it together in L.A. and rebuild my life.

So when I met Emmet I was just in a place of, I started going to church. I gave my life to the Lord. I refocused on my career. But when you've been through things like that in life, through losses, I'd been in a relationship with a past boyfriend that was very abusive physically, emotionally; so I tell people all the time, you can look at somebody on the outside and it can appear one way but you never know what's going on in somebody's heart and their mind. And abuse has a way of tearing and pulling things away from you that only God can put back together.

So at that time I was a new, new -- like a new woman seeking the Lord; did not have a lot of word in me yet. I remember some friends inviting me on a trip. At that time, of course, I did not want a man in my life. Okay? I did not want a man.

Sheila: Okay, we got that! No man!

Pat: No man -- unless he was from Idaho.

Sheila: Idaho? You're a potato girl!

Pat: No, girl! Like Idaho is like drama-free.

Sheila: Oh, safe! Yes! Yes!

Pat: It's safe! Right? I'm in L.A. you're dealing with like.. I'm talking Chesapeake-small-town girl, I'm in a Ralph's grocery store seeing myself on a tabloid. That just didn't add up to me. So when I finally got out of that I thought, I just want a sweet safe guy from Idaho -- like no drama.

Sheila: Like Emmit Smith.

Pat: Hello? Right? That's how God gives you what you need, not what you want. People think I'm crazy for that by the way. They're like, "Really? I would have taken Emmit Smith."

I'm in Aruba and a mutual friend introduced us. It's so funny because I said, "Okay, I wanted a guy from Idaho." He was a guy from Florida but he was the kindest, the sweetest, gentle man when I met him. There was just something special about him.

Sheila: I remember when Emmit came to one of the Women of Faith conferences to support you and my son, who was maybe, I don't know 14 or something at that time, Emmit was so sweet. He let him sit beside him. I thought, that is so kind because he is such a huge -- particularly in Dallas, (it was a Dallas conference,) he's such a huge hero.

There's tons about your story that I want to talk about but you're just going to have to get the book, people because I want to move on to a part of your story because one of the things that I've noticed, Pat, I remember, when I first met you I thought, there is something profound in this woman if she can find her voice. I see that God has done something remarkable in you but now he's doing through you in the lives of other women. Talk about that hope that you found and that you've now become like a floodgate of hope to other women.

Pat: Well, thank you. When we met, you're right, I absolutely, I was so disconnected from that voice and I think a lot of women are. Again, it doesn't matter what you go through, whether it is abuse, whether it is divorce, whether it's I've been through depression and anxiety issues, whatever it is you go through, I think it just has a way of tearing down on the inside of who you are. And the only who can rebuild that is Christ. So Christ over the years has done a lot of work in me even since you and I were together at Women of Faith.

So I have developed this heart for women. I just have. I love what First Lady Serita Jakes taught me. She said, "Your misery can become your ministry."

So with all the misery that I've had over the years with women, as a woman, it's given me a real heart to minister to women because there is power in us. So many of us fight each other and it's like, well, I'm not going to fight you. When God created Sheila Walsh to do exactly what Sheila

Walsh is doing, he created Pat Smith to do exactly what I'm doing. If we come together, that thing is huge. The enemy knows that. So my heart is to bring us together.

So with my organization, Treasure You, it is a ministry, a nonprofit that allows women to come together in a safe place. So I have retreats, I have events where we can come together and it's safe and it's loving and inspire one another, and learn and fellowship with Christ and build ourselves back up.

I also with this have started a nonprofit because the night I left my house, I called a girlfriend; right? I could have been in a shelter in L.A. but I called a girlfriend and she was my shelter. Her name is Sheree Fletcher and she said, "Oh, my gosh! I want you to come. You and jasmine come here and it's safe. You don't have to worry about anything and you stay as long as you need to."

So I see myself as a Sheree to other women; women who are just like right in the middle of a crisis. I'm not the answer, only God is the answer. But I can be the bridge.

Sheila: I love that!

Pat: So we're the bridge. Treasure is the bridge for women and so we host events where we just recently did one at The Potter's House where we had women that were in transition. There were women who were leaving shelters, they were leaving transitional housing, we had women who had just been affected by the tornado situation here in Dallas in December who are trying to start their lives again and we provided household goods. We furnished two women's homes through the support of people that have just been giving and helping.

Sheila: That's the body of Christ in action. I remember having the privilege of having coffee one morning with Bono from U2. And he said something to me that was...

Pat: Hello? I heard that! Come back here! Come back here!

Pat: She goes uh-oh! I'm like ooh!

Sheila: He said something to me that really, I've never forgotten. He said, "A woman who understands her worth in Christ can change the world." I really believe that.

Pat: I believe it too.

Sheila: That's what I think is beautiful about what God is doing in your life. You can sit back in your nice house with your kids and just get your nails done all day but you have found a purpose in giving hope to other women that I think is just stunningly beautiful.

Pat: Let me tell you. It is so funny because I will tell you my husband would be so fine if I stayed home. He is a provider. Emmet was built to provide and he would be fine if I stayed home and every day met him at the door with his slippers, and he came home to a great cooked meal.

Sheila: Don't know a man who wouldn't be!

Pat: Right? You know? I can't do it because God purposed in me something other than that. Now I do like -- I've got to take care of my man. I believe in taking care of my husband. We have five beautiful kids. I believe in that because the home is so important. But God definitely purposed me for more than shopping all day, eating all day and getting my nails done.

Sheila: And is Emmet supportive of that? Does he understand that passion of yours?

Pat: It's taken a minute. It really has. For him, he got kind of comfortable when I was in a place of not knowing what my purpose was. So it was really funny because there was a season, of course, when he was playing with the Cowboys, there was a season of when he did Dancing with the Stars where I was really forced and made the choice to support our family. We're a blended family so I thought I need to make sure home is okay.

But once we made it through Dancing with the Stars and I thought I was going to absolutely die because as the world thought, it was the most wonderful thing in the world -- and it was wonderful -- people did not realize that during that whole season I was wearing a mask. I was struggling on the inside and okay, God. This is great for him but what did you purpose me to do? Right? What am I supposed to be doing?

I found myself being very resentful and very angry and very jealous because not only is he dancing with this amazingly beautiful woman, right? -- Cheryl Burke who rocks and who I adore now, but back then, I'm like wait a minute! Like God, this has got to be a joke. You've got a very insecure woman here, and I'm watching my husband, week after week dancing and building this camaraderie with this other person and I was struggling.

I tell people all the time, it's much harder to fake it than it is to be who you are. So every week I'd put the makeup on and I'd curl my hair and wear the dresses and smile and pretend I was okay but on the inside I was dying. So after Dancing with the Stars and going through really a bout of depression, seeing a therapist, and then of course, I remember being at church one

Sunday and God spoke to me again through Bishop Jakes and he said, "You know what? I don't know what God's told you to do but whatever it is you need to do it." That's when I felt that strong call for God from God that you know what? My calling is to minister to hurting women.

And ever since then, it's like I have been -- not that life is easy because you know when you're working your purpose the enemy is doing as much as work to get you away from it; right? So it's always a struggle. But let me tell you, when I'm doing what God's called me to do, I feel like I'm rocking -- I'm rocking the world for him. That's amazing!

Sheila: I love that, Pat. I love what you said about your heart for hurting women. That's very much the heart of our audience here. Recently I had this incredible privilege to travel overseas to the Dominican Republic. There is nothing quite like one mom sitting down with another mom and listening to a story. It was a story that quite honestly continues to change my life. I'll tell you a little bit more about that in a moment but would you please just watch this?

On the mission field

Open Captions: I discovered when I got home and undressed him. I told my mom, "My baby's foot is deformed!"

I don't know what we are going to do. I called out to God and I began to cry. "Lord, you gave me my child this way and I almost died giving birth."

Every day when I wake up I pray to God for my baby. That he would give him a good life and restore his health.

[Sheila Walsh singing: Jesus Loves Me]

Sheila: There is nothing a mother wants more than to be able to take care of her child. Nothing! You wait nine months and you can't wait to see that little face. You can't wait to count those fingers and toes. And when Rosario got to do that everything that she had been hoping and praying for fell apart in that moment. That's why we're here -- that's why *LIFE* exists to be able to say, "We care for you. We care for you. We stand with you; we stand together. You're not alone in this. You are not alone! We're going to be there for you."

I know that you, our viewers care about moms like this. Isn't it interesting that the little one's name is Angel? I'm asking you, would you be like an angel right now and answer this mom's prayer?

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: Her name was Rosario and she just walked into the hospital that morning, and we happened to be there with our team. You could tell the desperation in her eyes. She'd been sent home and told, "Your baby is fine." She went to her mom's house and unwrapped the blanket and there was this little one with a clubfoot.

You know that this is a new thing for us. We've never done clubfoot surgeries before but getting to see with my own eyes, A, the desperation in that mother's eyes and she was a beautiful believer. She told me through the interpreter, her husband is not a believer yet, although she and I joined hands and we prayed for her husband's salvation. But she said she's got two older boys and when they saw their little brother they said, and Rosario was weeping, they said, "Mom, ever since we've been little you've told us to pray and you've told us that God answers prayers. So let's just pray that God will send an answer for this little one, Angel Davie. I was able to say to her, to look in her eyes and say, "Because of you and your help and support, here we are! Here we are. We're the answer to your prayers."

I wish I could have taken you because if you had sat there in that hospital with that mom and saw the agony. But then what I got to do was walk upstairs with her to where she could get the very first thing for little Angel Davie. I saw them putting the cast on him the very first time. It was amazing! And because of this help it will mean that this little boy will be able to run and play baseball, play soccer, but only if you will help us! One in every 1,000 live births there the baby is born with clubfoot and they have no hope and no help unless we do something; because if we don't do something, their future is very bleak. I saw what their future looks like. I saw two or three darling men that we stopped and spoke to but they were in wheelchairs along the side of the road. Their only destiny was to be a beggar. So would you help?

It's our privilege -- this is our very last week of clubfoot, raising money for that. We want to be able to offer 10,000 sets of little shoes for little ones -- 10,000! And all it is, they're \$17 for one set; so that's \$34 for a pair; \$68 if you did four. Maybe you've got four children, and even as you're looking down at them now they're all running free. Maybe you could do four?

What we also want to do is we want to do 400 surgeries because some of children, when the deformity is a little more extreme, they need surgery. You know the whole surgery only costs \$400 and we want to do 400 of those because so many of these children are desperate. When I think of that mom on her knees sobbing saying, "God, hear my prayer." I couldn't wait to get back and say to you, "Listen, we can do this. We can change the life."

Please would you call that number on your screen? Would you go to LifeToday.org and make the best gift possible for these little ones! Thank you!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Children born with birth defects in underdeveloped nations are often overlooked, uncared for, and even abandoned. For tens of thousands every year born with a condition known as clubfoot, their deformity leads to a struggle to just survive. The good news is there is a simple and life-changing solution. This summer with your support, *LIFE Outreach* will provide 10,000 children with corrective braces that will give them a chance to walk like any normal child.

With the cost of \$17 per brace your gift of \$34 will help provide two children with corrective braces, \$68 will provide for four children, and \$102 will help give six children braces and the opportunity to walk. And for children with a much more severe need gifts of \$400, \$800, or even \$1200 will help provide life-changing corrective surgery for one, two, or three children in need.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you Beth Moore's devotional, *Blessed Mornings and Restful Nights*. With your gift of \$102 or more to provide six children with corrective braces you'll also receive the journal edition N.I.V. Bible.

Finally with your gift of \$1200 or more, you may receive "Majesty," our 2016 commemorative bronze sculpture. This summer join with us to give children hope for a future. Let's give them a chance to walk.

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

End of clip

On the mission field

Sheila: Did you know that one out of every 750 live births the children have clubfeet? But the amazing thing is fixing it is really simple. Our darling Nelsario will have to wear a plastic cast for a time. Then he'll have to wear braces for a time. But all of those simple things are non-invasive; will mean that this boy, this beautiful boy will grow up to have a normal life. And it's not just here in the Dominican Republic but we're working in 18 countries with children just like Nelsario who need help.

So would you call that number on your screen? Or would you go to LifeToday.org and make the best possible gift so that all around the world there will be boys and girls that finally are

able to kick off those braces and run? And it's our prayer that because of your love they will be running into the arms of Jesus.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: That's what they look like: \$17, \$34 for two pairs, \$68 for four. Would do you it? It makes such a difference, Pat!

Pat: We believe in second chances; we're going to give these babies second chances and please count us in for our five kids.

Sheila: Awesome! We're changing the world. Please would you help me thank Pat Smith? Amazing book -- *Second Chances*! Thanks for being with us. We love you! We'll see you next time!