

9/15/16
Week 38: WFL
James and Betty Robison
Jen Bricker

James: Oh, you're great! Thank all of you. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have you. We have got really and truly the demonstration of the God of the impossible because our guest, Jen Bricker was born without legs. You know we had a guest Nick Vujicic here that said, "Nothing is impossible." He had no limbs and the miracle and they're very good friends. He's endorsed this incredible book.

But I just want to show you something before I actually -- go ahead and welcome Jen. I want you to welcome this beautiful girl.

Jen: Thank you.

James: But I've got to show you because her book is titled, *Everything is Possible*. I want you to just watch this. Just take a look. Watch!

[Cheers & Applause]

James: Isn't that amazing? Well, Jen we are absolutely thrilled to have you. I got the opportunity of being introduced to you and then seeing the impossible with what you did. And you actually won a state championship in -- how did you refer to it? It was gymnastics --

Jen: In power tumbling.

James: Power tumbling and you were like junior high school and you won a state championship.

Jen: Yep, yep! Did state championship, nationals, and then Junior Olympics within power tumbling. It's such a blessing. Yes!

James: I want you to tell our viewers all over the world and here in our studio audience because they're so excited to meet you, how life began; I think Romanian parents, right? Tell us what happened in your journey because it is amazing.

Jen: God has just shown himself throughout my entire life. I was born without legs, left in the hospital, put up for adoption, and I was given no name. I spent the first three months of my life in a foster home with really amazing foster parents.

My parents were the least likely couple in southern Illinois, corn fields and cows. They heard about me. My mom had a hysterectomy after my three brothers; couldn't have kids anymore and wanted a baby girl. She prayed for ten years for a baby girl. Heard about there is a baby girl needs adoption, born without legs. "She must be mine. That's must be who I want."

[Laughter]

So they got me at three months old, at record time. Everything was against them. My mom was 40, my dad was 42, they had never adopted. Never fostered and yet, they got me at three months old. And the social worker said, "I've never seen an adoption go through that quickly." It was just God the whole time.

The first set of doctors said I'll never be able to sit up on my own. I'll be confined to this device called "a bucket" that's going to hold me upright for the rest of my life. My dad said, "I don't think so. That's not her future. That's not what we want for her." They got a second opinion. Shriner's hospital and the doctor looked at my dad and said, "Mr. Bricker, she is going to do things that are beyond your wildest imagination."

James: Isn't that great?

[Cheers & Applause]

Can you tell us how in the world you would go from the challenges that you had without legs, that's a pretty serious challenge when you suddenly realized that you could do difficult things that people would have considered impossible. When did this start happening in your life that you knew, and what inside of you caused you to say, "I'm going for it." What was going on in your mind?

Jen: I came out an athlete. That's what I always say: Volleyball, basketball, softball, and power tumbling were all against able-bodied athletes as well. I didn't understand the fact that I was disabled and so I never was, never acted like it, never was treated that way. So I just did the sports with everyone else. I was good at sports. I was good at all these sports and gymnastics was my favorite. And I watched it on TV and I saw Dominique Moceanu. And I knew she was Romanian and I was Romanian and I just thought, man, this is so cool.

My parents never put a limit on my dreams. There was no ceiling to what I could become. I could do anything I wanted. I was their answered prayer, I was their miracle. So I was not sad about not having legs.

Betty: So they challenged you to do whatever you wanted to do.

Jen: They gave me the freedom to be who I was meant to be; who I was created to be. They didn't tell me who to be, they allowed me to be who God made me to be. So if I came to them, and said, "I want to go roller skating." And I did. "And I want to win the limbo." And I did! So I put the skates on my hands and I won that limbo every single time.

[Laughter]

James: How old were you then when that happened?

Jen: I was probably in junior high, very young. That was my goal as a kid to win the limbo. My parents said, "All right, we'll just put the skates on your hands then." That was just how they did everything. It was just, "We might have to do it a little different; tweak a little thing or two but you're going to do whatever you want to do and that's just how it is."

It was just so God putting me in the right place, being in the right community, in the right family with the right teachers and coaches and peers so that I could be who I am today and handle my destiny, what he has for me. It's just like how have you seen God's hand in your life? When have I not?

James: Well, your book is absolutely captivating. With God all things are possible, *Everything is Possible*. She certainly knows that's a reference to the God of the impossible who makes these miracles take place. But I found myself really captivated by your desire.

We have an adopted son; and one of our three children is adopted. And at a point in his life, I think probably he was pretty close to 20, late teens at least he wanted to see if he could find his birth...

Betty: He was married.

James: He had already gotten married. He wanted to find his birth parent. It was quite a process but it became very, very interesting and it was remarkable.

You wanted to find out something about you heard that you had a sister or sisters. You heard something or what made you decide that you wanted to find out something about the family?

Jen: This is totally God too. I knew I was adopted my entire life. I knew my biological family was from Romania. So there were no secrets about anything. And one day, my whole life I just really didn't have a concern to know who my biological family was. I just didn't. The day before I turned 16 my best friend she was also adopted and she found out what her biological last name was. I thought, man, that's kind of cool. And something just snapped. God just put this thought in my brain. Hey! I wonder if there is anything mom and dad know about my biological family.

Now time out for a minute. The fact that I even thought that given the fact that there were no secrets, why on earth would I think for a second my parents would know anything about my biological family. That's God right there. I went home and asked and my mom was like, "Well, yep. I actually do know something."

I'm thinking, what are you talking about? How do you know something about my biological family? What do you mean?

She says, "Well, we should probably wait until your dad gets home."

I'm like, "Have you met your daughter? Wait? No! We are not waiting. You're dropping this bomb on me and then you're going to tell me to wait? Nope!"

She's like, "You're never going to believe this."

She goes and get this big manila envelope full of just these papers sticking out that you can tell they're old because they've turned yellowish brown on the ends. She lays it on the table and she's like, "Your biological last name is Moceanu."

There's not a lot of Moceanu going around there; right? I knew exactly what she meant by that. So this person that I watched on TV that I looked up to was my biological sister.

James: The one that was the gymnast?

Jen: The one that was the gymnast, an Olympic gold medalist. Yep!

James: Won a gold medal in the Olympics is her sister.

[Applause]

So she is admiring this incredibly gifted champion that wins the Olympic gold medal and the one she looked up to and was inspiring so much of what you did. You believed for the impossible because you're watching these things happen and there is no limit. And the beautiful thing is that's her sister. When you all met, what did she think about what her sister was doing?

Jen: I think she -- on our first phone conversation... When I wrote her a letter and reached out, I have a younger sister Christina as well, and so I thought, okay, they're already finding out that they have a sister they didn't know about. I'm just going to leave the fact that I don't have legs out. I'll give it to them in two doses.

[Laughter]

Make it easy on them.

So the first conversation it dawned on me oh, I haven't told her I don't have legs yet. Probably should. I'll just slip it in there real quick. No big deal.

James: By the way, did you tell her that you had won the state championship?

Jen: I did. Right? So I had just told her all of the physical activities and all the sports that I did. And then I'm like, "You know? I'm sure you know this." I know she didn't know. "But you know, I don't have legs but it's no big deal!"

[Laughter]

And she just was silent for a minute on the other end of the phone. I was just kind of laughing/feeling really bad. And she was, "Oh, well! I didn't know that."

And she was really trying to be totally P.C. and beautiful about it. I think she was just really surprised, obviously. Was like, "How did you all these things? You don't have legs. I don't understand?"

I was like, "Oh, girl. It's no big deal. It's all good! I can do all these sports. My parents are awesome. It's totally fine!"

But really, it is in our D.N.A. and that's really what's fascinating. We were raised polar opposites. She was raised in very much old school eastern European Romanian household and I was raised in middle America, doors open policy with three older brothers. And so the incredible part is the similarities of all three of us is in our D.N.A. It can only be D.N.A.

because we were raised so differently. And our differences primarily come in the way we were raised. So it's really a very fascinating nature versus nurture.

Betty: Did they know about you at all?

Jen: No. No. My biological parents kept it a secret. At that point, 20 years; I was 20 when we finally all reunited.

James: Is she pleased with what she sees you doing?

Jen: Yes. That strong D.N.A. Our strong genes that we sound alike and look alike and then we all do the same thing. [Laughing].

James: Right now you're performing in a different way. Tell our viewers what you're doing now.

Jen: Yes. So the same year in 2008 when I met my sisters, my performing career started as well as an acrobat and an aerialist. So I was performing all over the world. I toured with Brittny Spears; featured act on a trampoline with my old partner Nate, and then also doing aerial fabric, the silk fabric that hangs in the air like Cirque du Soleil. So that's what I've been doing for Jesus almost nine years. It's taken to me over 14 countries and speaking.

God wanted me to be a speaker. I said, "You know what? That's my retirement plan. I don't know what you're talking about."

[Laughter]

"When I have gray hair I will speak and write a book. When I get done performing that's what I'll do."

And God's like, "Oh, you're speaking."

I'm like, "I'm good! I'm good right now. I'm just performing, doing my thing."

I was resistant for awhile. And then he floods me with all these speaking opportunities. I'm like, "All right! I give up. Fine, I'll speak."

But what's amazing is that my resistance turned into such an enriching part of my life. Being a speaker I understand why he wants me to also in addition to performing speak. It's so powerful for people to hear my voice and just to see God's light shining through, is my prayer, that

people see him even if I don't get to say his name, people will see him when I speak and do anything. That has been amazing no matter what country I'm in; whether it is communist China or a Muslim country, it doesn't matter, a Buddhist country, he always has my back.

James: Do you believe that we see Jesus in her, just in her countenance and her gifts? If you could change anything, you know sometimes when you have challenges you'll be asked, "Is there anything you'd like to change about your life?" Would there be anything you would want to change?

Jen: Honestly, people asked me a lot when I was younger if I could have legs would I? And I really thought about it. As a kid, I actually sat there and thought, to give a legitimate answer. There is no way I could say yes to that because the reason -- God clearly created me physically for this purpose and my life. He created this life and this person for such a reason and such a purpose. God is purposeful for everybody. He is a purposeful God. I know that I could never have the platform to touch millions of people if I were not born without legs. No. There is no way I would change my childhood or being adopted. That's the story that's meant to be shared. That's why I do this. That's why I'm here. That's why I have the book. That's why I speak and that's why I perform.

James: We know you're telling the story in the book but if somebody wanted you to come and speak in their area or their church or some special event, how would they find you? A web site?

Jen: Yeah. You can go to my web site: www.JenBricker.com. There's a contact form, very easy. So I love it. I'm very enriched, like I said by speaking and also doing my aerial performing. It is such a gift and I get to see the world and meet so many beautiful people doing that.

James: Do you have a hope and a prayer for how God will take your story and the reality of everything in Christ through God is possible; do you have a prayer that you're praying when somebody reads the book, something that will take place in their life? How would you see that?

Jen: Absolutely. I pray that there's a heartbeat, that that book is alive when you touch it and that everyone realizes that every single person in here has a gift and a talent and an ability that's for you and only for you -- that God gave specifically for you. It's what you're passionate about, what you love.

And it is equal in significance. It matters equally and you can touch and change somebody's life. That's not something that I just believe, it's something I know and I see all over the world. So you are significant, you do matter, and what you bring to the table is just as equal as what I bring and what they bring to the table and it can change a life.

James: Don't you love her story? Thank you so much, Jen. Powerful! The book is in the bookstores. Or you can go online and get it. There's perhaps someone that just needs to see the beauty of the Lord like you can see it in Jen and the impossible, in what God does and the joy that is flowing from her. I highly suggest you get it.

As a matter of fact, we are, Jen, drilling water wells. We will by the grace of God, with your help, drill the number 5,000 water well this year, that's what our viewers have done. We will gladly send -- I'm sending the book that I've written. It's called *The Stream*, which is just a shepherd's heart to the people all over this nation and around the world who really want to find the shelter, the shadow, the still water, the green pasture, so to speak, that the Lord provides. I pointed the way to that very clearly. With this book, I think these are two things that could be a tremendous blessing to you.

Jen now had the impossible and above all it is not just the awards or the incredible feats that she's able to do that couldn't be done, so to speak but it is her witness. It is what she says from her heart and with her life that points people to the fullness of life and that's in Christ. You can be that witness.

Father, I pray everyone watching right now will realize that they're unique and they're special and they're here on a mission. I pray they'll get excited about it. If it is an intercessory prayer ministry, if it is supporting outreaches, if it is touching somebody else that feels no one noticed, whatever it is, I just pray dear God, that you would show them how special not only they are but how special you can be through them; in Jesus' name.

Always remember that phone number is there if you say, "I just need someone to pray with me. I need to be able to talk to someone." That number is paid for by love so don't hesitate to call.

We also want to give you an opportunity today to reach out and touch someone literally with the love of God. Let me tell you what you're about to do. In just a moment, you're about to determine the future for someone's life and their destiny. I'm not kidding with you. In the next few moments you're going to determine a destiny of children and you can make all the difference one can imagine, the difference in life and death. I want you to watch very closely because I think you're going to want to be a part of sharing God's heart in a very specific way.

On the mission field

Announcer: Like any mother, Beatrice longs to see her children happy and healthy. And in pursuing her desires for their well-being, Beatrice simply wants to provide them with the basics of life. But in Beatrice's case her hopes for her children ever having any kind of a future have been shattered because of their water source.

Open Captions:

>> I felt really bad that it was the water that caused my child to get sick and die.

Announcer: This is never how Beatrice intended life to be, losing a child because her water supply is contaminated. And then knowing that she has no other choice but to give the same water to her other children.

Open Captions:

>> I'm afraid my other children will die from drinking this water just like my youngest child did.

Announcer: What makes Beatrice's situation even more tragic is knowing that a clean water well could make the difference between life and death, not only for her children but for all of the children in her village.

Open Captions:

>> I would say thank you to the people that would be able to give us clean water. I would jump, dance and clap my hands and be thankful for this blessing.

[Water splashing]

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, we've been there where we've watched the children so sick because of contaminated water. Then we've been up where the children greet us because they know we're the ones that provided the well that gave them a whole new life and they're rejoicing. Then we've seen the well come in where those people are so happy. When you look at that, what goes on in your heart when you think about what it means to just have fresh water or to be without it?

Betty: Well, I have to look at it from a mother's heart and I can really sense and feel the hurt in that mother. She's lost one child and she's afraid she's going to lose another one. There's a nurturing in a mother that naturally wants to take care of her children. She wants the best for

them. She knows what the problem is. She knows what the answer is. But she can't provide that answer so she's asking for help. She wants someone to come and give life to her children through the water wells.

We can be a big part of that. When we see something that we know we can do something about, that's the heart of a mother. So I appeal to every mother that's watching. Can you reach out in your heart and help us drill a water well for these children? Please help us! Anyone that's watching, please ask God how much you can help in this situation.

James: Betty, I can't watch you even reference what it feels like to lose a child knowing that as a mother you did and we lost a daughter. We just watched the beautiful engagement and wedding of the oldest son of this daughter that is in heaven, Robin. One of the last things she got to do was watch her son graduate, the one that's just married. I spoke at the graduation. The next two children, they gave their rose to you because their mother wasn't there.

I'm thinking about that and I couldn't help but think that when we tell you how much we wish our Robin was actually at the weddings that will ultimately come with the other children, and that if we had said to you, any one of you watching, any one of you sitting here in this studio, if we had said, "We're losing our daughter. Could you bring her the help that would give her the rest of her life to see her family grow up?" I believe you would have run. I really do believe that. I believe any one of you would have gotten up and said, "Here it is! Here it is, James and Betty."

I believe you would have wanted to do it. I believe you would have rushed at the opportunity. Listen to me. That didn't happen. There wasn't the cure and the miracle for the healing of the cancer didn't come. But here's the deal. We've got a perfect cure. It is what Jesus called "just a cup of water in my name."

But we can actually give a well of water. I'm asking you to do that for that mother. But that mother was appealing for all the other mothers. She was appealing for all the children that she knew what they faced. So here's what I want to ask you to do. I want your heart to leap that I'm going to give a cup of water, a well of water. I'm going to do it today. I can drill a well. The average cost is \$4800. I believe you can do that. There are some of you who say, "I'm going to do it. Praise God I can touch that whole village; save those kids' lives and give them a future."

Some of you could say, "I'll give \$1200 or \$2400 and pray some others will join me."

Most of the support -- don't you miss this -- most of the support for these wells comes from people who will give \$48 that gives an average of 10 people water. So at whatever level you can help, do so.

Then, Betty, we've got a real need. We've got to replace a drilling rig. And when the missionaries tell us that they can't even be refurbished now, it's done, it's gone -- \$380,000 to get a new one. I'm saying, "God, just raise up 380 people that will give \$1,000 one at a time."

I don't know at what level you can participate but I believe you're going to want to rush right now and say, "I'll tell you what, I'm going to be an answer to that woman's prayer, for her children and other children. I'm going to be the miracle they long for. I'm going to make it happen."

We have some special gifts for you. But you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life and you're doing it because of the love of God that's in your heart for others. Thank you for doing it. Go online, LifeToday.org, take your bankcard and use it like a check or dial that number. Use that bankcard like a check. Make the gift God puts on your heart. Or write a check, make it to LIFE. Thank you for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children are forced to make a dreadful choice: Drink 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 proven demonstrations of God's love today.

Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today you can help drill 500 water wells in remote villages in over 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. And \$144 will help provide fresh water for 30 people for a lifetime!

Additionally, just over \$378,000 is needed to replace an old and failing drilling rig in Africa. Please consider an additional gift of \$100 or more to get a desperately needed new rig in place as soon as possible.

With your gift we'll send you The Stream, a powerful new book by James Robison that charts a clear path for your personal revival and a spiritual revolution.

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the "Promises of God" coffee mugs.

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 you may request our "Majesty" bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, I just feel like God is answering prayer. If you were to call the number and get a busy, just be persistent. Say, "Maybe people are calling for prayer but I'm going to call to get through to be a miracle in somebody's life, I'm going to help provide that water."

The book, *The Stream* -- this is streams of living water to help literally change everything in our future together as the believers who love God and know he is our hope. If you'd like to have this miraculous story of Jen Bricker, born without legs but also she doesn't have any limits either because there's nothing impossible with God -- *Everything is Possible*. I'd be glad to send it to you. You can get it online or in the bookstores. But if you help us give a cup of water we'll send it to you to say thanks.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Jen for a tremendous blessing? Jen, you're a tremendous inspiration. There is her web site again there on the screen. You see her web site if you want her to come and be in your area?

Thank all of you for being here. God bless you! Bless you for watching!

Begin video clip

Sheila: Hi! I'm Sheila Walsh. Will you join me every Wednesday on *LIFE Today*? And together, you and I will dive deep into the Word of God. I'll see you there!