

3/16/17
Week 12: Mission: Rescue Life
James and Betty Robison
Rick and Tommye Scarborough

James: Thank you. I want to welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. My wife Betty and I are thrilled to spend this time with you.

I think this could prove to be one of the most important moments in your life because we're actually going to deal with what many people say is the heaviest, most difficult experience for any human being to deal with and that is for a parent to lose a child. On this program, you have two couples, both couples happen to be ministry couples and we lost incredible daughters.

Now we're going to get to that but listen to me. You know someone with a broken heart and the thing I feel when I'm talking to you is you may have one. Betty and I could really hold on to each other and a lot of people, some of you know, you held us up. This other couple would say the same thing. There are a lot of people, some of you right now, you've got a broken heart. I mean sometimes you think it is unbearable. The sad thing is that you feel like you bear it alone because not many people -- there are not many people calling.

I think about a couple visiting a boy that had gone to prison. He had been there for years and this couple just felt led to go see him. He looked at them through the glass with the wire in it. And he said, "I've been here for several years. You're the first person to ever come see me."

The boy they went to see was the boy who, in a drunken stupor, had killed their teenage son on the highway; and that's the boy they went to see. Then they took that boy and ultimately, took him home; they took him home with them and he began to be a school speaker, speaking to teenagers about alcoholism and he became a miracle. That's love. I think you're going to experience a miracle.

Rick Scarborough, I want to introduce him and Tommye to you in a minute but I just want to say this to you. We want to talk about this book. And at the last part of this program, I'm going to read what I consider to be, for me, the most inspired words I've ever read outside the Bible. I can't even fathom how they came to Rick in the circumstances.

The other thing I want to say is this, Rick was an evangelist. He actually told me he admired me,

patterned some of his evangelism after me; that he was a pastor of a great church, several churches. He pastored last in Pearland, First Baptist near Houston where some things happened in the school that really shook him, and he started Vision America. He has been used of God to awaken much of this nation. He has turned Vision America over, Rick Scarborough has turned it over to John Graves; of course, his wife Nicole, they're here in the audience. Boy, they have the glory of God all over them. And he's just gifted. He happens to go to our church, Gateway for which we are grateful.

Would you welcome a wonderful couple? Would you welcome Rick Scarborough and his wife Tommye to *LIFE Today*?

Rick: Thank you.

James: Glad to see you. Rick, I know your organization has had a tremendous effect. A lot of people need to keep up with what you're doing. They need to support what you're doing. They're going to know they're called to and they need to be involved in it. And like just say in an election, let's just say one that happened recently, what did your organization do to help swing various areas of the country back to a biblical world view in their response?

Rick: We like to say, James, that our ministry is of the pastor, by the pastor, for the pastor; as the church goes, so goes the nation. But in most churches, as the pastor goes so goes the church. So we have targeted evangelical pastors who have an open heart to see true revival in the country. We went into Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia and Florida primarily. We worked in about ten states in all. We targeted those five states. And then toward the latter part of the election we moved up into Michigan and a couple of other places that were highly contested and most people thought unwinnable by the conservative -- in the race.

Now we never endorsed a candidate, we don't do that. We're all about biblical principles. We gave voter guides by the millions to evangelicals that were reproduced. We don't know how far they reached. But John, as a matter of fact, who is an attorney by education and training, has a great understanding of the political world, put together a 501c3 compliant voter guide in the latter parts of the race. We believe and we think we have some empirical evidence to validate this, that we touched the right places at the right times. We used heat maps. We literally tried to take the limited resources we had and target the races where if Christians turned out they could make the difference.

God called us to be salt and light. That's what we try to be. We try to bring the light to these issues and call the church to be what she was called to be, salt.

James: I think you've done it tremendously. You've really organized. The thing that we know

that there are decisions being made; we know the supreme court justice, for those of us who understand the preciousness of life, the beauty of marriage, the beauty of the way God made things and how we can pour love out on everybody even if we walk in a different way or we don't agree, we can still be loving but we still hold up a reliable standard. You've done that. You've done it in love.

Now we're on a journey somewhere that none of us, this is the first time. Betty, you just said a moment ago, first time we sit together to talk about together losing our daughters. I really need you to stay with us here because we're talking about a miracle God. Obviously, we prayed for a miracle. You read me words today that you were writing about the miracle our daughter was praying for and would experience; and then she tearfully read me the last paragraph that was after our daughter experienced the miracle the way she didn't look for it.

Betty: I started journaling when we went on this journey that we didn't ask for but we were on it. I journaled just about every day and this was shortly before our daughter went to be with Jesus. I didn't know at the time it was going to be -- this particular journaling was going to be that close to her leaving us. But I was journaling and it was just amazing to me how, in the middle of that journey, we're still fighting the battle and I'm writing and I'm saying, "God, this beautiful girl you've given us that we are enjoying, God, please, touch her and heal her." And then the next paragraph it was, "God, I wasn't expecting this so quick. I have to tell you that I'm sorry that we don't have our daughter here with us anymore but God, I know you didn't do this to hurt us. You didn't do this to make our lives miserable or to hurt her family. But God, she is with you now and she is well."

We don't always know what's in the future for us but we do know that if we hang on to God it's going to be okay. And it is getting better each day. It is not always easy. There are those days when you just think God, why? But you can't stay there. And God has been so close to me personally and not to take away from the father, the dad that loved her so much, but I think we deal with things in a different way, certain aspects; and for me, it is an awareness of God's presence in my life. And now, the tears that I shed so many of, God has turned those tears into tears for those others out there like us that are hurting so badly that the pain paralyzes you if you don't have God. That's where I want my tears to be focused now is on those that are hurting. And I know how they feel now because I've been there.

James: I want to say to those of you who are watching, that you're going to experience a miracle. I promise you. If I could hold you and put your head on my shoulder, weep with you, it would not be a moment wasted. But we're going to try to lift you to a place higher than you've ever understood.

Rick and Tommye, we lost our daughter Robin quite a few years after you lost yours. We lost

our daughter Robin at age 40. We can say with great joy, she had 40 years of sowing seeds of life every moment she was breathing. She was a miracle baby and she lived a miracle life.

You lost your beautiful daughter at 25. She had a challenge. She was a tremendous athlete. She was a distance runner. She was a gold medalist. She was an inspiration but she fought some situations.

I'm going to go to Rick, Tommye but to the parents and to the brokenhearted, or just to the people who have a broken heart, and having been there, we still live with this, what would you say? You heard Betty's heart, what would you say to our viewers that have a broken heart?

Tommye: I know a lot of you do have broken hearts and it's unbelievable to lose a child -- it really is. It's like a part of you is taken away. But I know the experience that Jesus held my hand all the way through it.

There was one verse that God just gave to me. It's in Isaiah 42:3 says: When you walk through those waters, I will be with you. He doesn't say "I might be with you." He said, "I will be with you."

There were days that Jesus had to just take me by my hand and hold me up because I didn't think I could make it. But then I leaned on that verse and I made it through that day.

James: Do you understand what I shared with our viewers not long after the loss, and that is if I didn't know God so well I wouldn't like him. That's how painful it was. Because you're thinking, you can do this, and our daughter asked you to do this and our daughter believed in miracles.

Don't even begin to tell me our baby girl had no faith or not enough faith. Don't go there. Please don't go there. Her faith didn't fail, God didn't fail -- we don't understand. We don't. But we know and boy, you're going to see it as we move through this program, just how well it is. Rick, just come in here and tell us a little bit about that journey.

Rick: Well, Catherine, all of her life wanted to go to Texas A&M. Well, her grades were plenty well enough but her test scores weren't. So she had to go up a side door through Blinn Junior College. So we loaded her up, set her up in an apartment with three roommates, came back home, and just, we were grieving over the loss of the child physically but boy, it was going to be the greatest time in her life.

The sixth day she was there we got a phone call, one of her roommates, and it was on a Saturday night. Everything that ever happened to me bad as a pastor was on Saturday night.

[Laughter]

I got a call. They said, "We think somebody has put a drug in her drink. She is out of her mind."

I called a pastor I'd held a revival for in College Station. He got there within 15 minutes. When I drove up he was holding her at the top of a staircase and she was literally out of her mind. I put her in the car. I called my mutual friend Dr. Benny Cleveland on his cell phone. I'm driving back to Houston. I physically had to hold her to keep her from jumping out of the car; she wanted to jump out the door.

They put her through a battery of tests in a hospital. No evidence of drugs at all. Then he gave us this report, we think she's in a psychotic episode. And that started us down a journey of four years of repeated suicide attempts.

Now the reason, she was an athlete; all the medication, sodium based caused her to retain fluids. As a young lady, who always prided herself in being a great athlete, she was not going to take those drugs. And so at that time -- a fellow working for you, he reached out to us. He took us over to meet Paul Meier -- Smith Meier Clinic. He began some experiments with Catherine to control her huge mood swings. That gave us the beginning of three great years with Catherine in which everything was on a straight upward spiral.

And at the end of these three years in a matter of days she went straight down. She died in her sleep at our home. Because I knew she was in trouble, I checked her every hour on the hour, she was doing well. The doctor said, "Bring her in tomorrow."

Seven o'clock she was fine; 7:15 I heard Tommye scream. I ran into the room. She was already beginning -- the colors were changing. I did everything I knew to do to resuscitate her. She died in our bed at 7:15 in the morning. The most incredible -- it's something that no father -- nobody would ever volunteer for.

This was a sign that God gave to us. I do want to say this quickly because time is compressed. I got several -- we just said recently we missed pastoring because we didn't have close friends. I was an itinerant minister at that point. It turned out we had a lot of friends, they were all in the church.

One of the most important calls that came was within hours when I got a phone call and they said, "James Robison is on the line." And you weren't just on the line, James, you were weeping. It made an impression on me that it was life-changing because I was one of those southern Baptists that thought you'd gone over the hill.

[Laughter]

I apologize for anything I ever thought otherwise. But I heard a man weeping for me like few people wept. Another man that did that is in this room too, John. And it was people like that that came in and just put their arms around us.

I mean, the first 72 hours were just overwhelming. But another lesson we learned -- we had to make choices. We chose to do what we had been preaching. We didn't feel like doing any of that. But at every juncture there was some significant thing happened just when we thought we couldn't take another step where God shouted, "I'm here. I'm thinking of you." He is a God of infinite detail.

James: I want to say to every viewer, this is a story. Here's a great book, *Mighty Men Stay on Track*. General Boykin wrote the forward. He is a great man, great general, great Christian. You can get the book online. You can go to Vision America and get it; can't you?

Rick: Yes, sir.

James: We're going to make it possible for you to have the words I'm about to read. Now listen to me. I'm going to read it. From the time Catherine died until the funeral you had been going into the woods and praying. You went back in the woods and you sat down and you wrote, between her death and the funeral, these words. Now I want you to listen. It's titled: *A place of No Pain*.

On Wednesday morning, October 27,
2004, our Kathryn went to Heaven.
Between 7 AM and 7:15,
She left us for Jesus and places unseen.
But she did not leave us without any hope;
For everywhere we look we discover more notes,
That she wrote down on paper while depression she fought.
She leaned on her Savior in word and in thought.
She learned how to worship while fighting to live.
She learned how to love, how to pray and to give.
Each day was a labor with less sunshine than rain;
But now she's with Jesus in the place of no pain.
At 25 some say her life was cut short.
That her prayers went unanswered and even ignored.
But to those who were privileged to know her up close,

There is evidence abundant that she was the choice;
 Of a God who responded to her greatest obsession.
 To know Him and love Him with reckless abandon.
 Hundreds of pages of journals of prayer,
 Assure us that Kathryn is living up there.
 Praising Her Savior with thousands of Saints,
 Her victory secured in the place of no pain.
 The sorrow of loss crashes into our lives;
 When we least expect it, we suddenly cry.
 But quickly our Lord gathers us unto Himself,
 And reminds us that Kathryn, at last, has her health.
 She's running the race that she cannot lose;
 We move forward with life and despair we refuse.
 We know where she is, and we know how to find her.
 We live each day with this blessed reminder.
 To live is Christ and to die is gain.
 New life, forever, in a place of no pain.

God, you understand what that means to somebody that carries that load. Now you listen to me.
 The love that I have for God, and Betty does, and this couple, is amazing -- and the love for you.
 God, I just can't tell you how much I want to see your heart healed.

We're going to have this poem online so you can download it. But now I want to tell you
 something else. There is another one, the eagle flies. I'm not going to read much of it but we're
 going to put it online. Now you listen to me. Because you need to hear this: *The Eagle Flies*.

Eighteen days after sweet Catherine died, the gentle savior came alongside of Tommye and me
 as we travel to cheer a friend who lost a loved one so dear; struck down on a foreign field was he
 while serving his country to keep us free. Like Catherine he died at 25 making the ultimate
 sacrifice. On the fields of Iraq he committed all, for a cause he believed in this soldier stood tall.
 This oft repeated that freedom is not free. Byron Charter died for you and me.

I want to say to every military family member, those who have gone on, those who are veterans,
 those who are serving, we love you beyond our ability to express our gratitude. To God we give
 thanks. But I want to pray for you right now that your heart be healed.

God, somehow through the difficulty of even trying to explain it, would you brighten someone's
 day? Would you lighten someone's load, please? May they see that you said that you would
 take the load and make the burden light? God in heaven please heal the brokenhearted today.

Show this world how much you love them. Show them how much you want to pour out your blessings. Please let them see how much you love them, Jesus. Thank you, God.

If you need someone to pray with you, somebody to love you, you call that number. It's paid for by love. I'm going to ask you to change -- just let me tell you what I want to do. I could show you Sheila on the mission fields rescuing, trying to rescue people, little children being sexually trafficked. Can I just ask you to do something? To just do it. Just set these people free. Would you -- we have Rescue Life and we're trying to rescue these children. We just take a short period of time to ask for your help. It takes \$128 to rescue a child. And we've got a matching gift to match \$200,000; that means \$128 -- \$64 becomes \$128, and \$128 doubles, \$1280 rescues 10, now it will be 20. Would you help us?

We have some beautiful gifts to send you. We're going to post this entire poem I just started reading and want to post the first one online. You can download it. Share it with somebody, and may your heart be healed. And would you put arms of love around precious ones who are trafficked? Please do that.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Innocent children and young people longing to be loved and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators, their spirit and body 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 help restore their lives and give them a future.

Now a generous opportunity of a \$200,000 matching gift means your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child will be matched to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help rescue one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

With your gift we will send you James Robison's new book, *Living Amazed*: How divine encounters can change your life. As you read these inspiring stories you'll learn how to live amazed in the presence of God 24 hours a day.

With your gift of \$100 or more you'll receive James's new book, along with the companion Amazed Journal so you can record accounts in your own life where you're amazed at God's goodness.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will now help rescue 20 children and you may

request our beautiful new "Determined Eagle" bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

On the mission field

Sheila: I don't know if you know this but sex trafficking is a multi-billion dollar industry. That's what it is to these people. It's soon going to exceed drug trafficking. But what you cannot lose in the middle of that is one little girl that I met who said that every night after she had been taken from her village and locked in a room, she said, "I would get down on my knees and I would say, 'If there is a God, please send somebody to help me.'" It's not just a billion dollar industry, it's one little girl calling out for help.

I know this is overwhelming. You probably don't even want to hear some of this stuff. But we can make a difference. Would you help us now? Would you go to your phone and just give the best gift possible? You can go online to LifeToday.org but if each one of you does something we can see the lives of these young girls transformed forever. Would you join with us? Would you do it now?

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, *Living Amazed* -- you can live there. We're *Living Amazed* even in the journey that we've been talking about. This book, you get it online. And if you say, "James, I bear witness something about this title. Would you mind sending it to me? We're going to help some folk."

I want to thank you both. You know it's been now a few years for us, it's been quite a few years for you. No way to tell you what just reading that poem did for us, and everybody I shared it with personally and I know it's going to be that way here. Thank God for giving it to you. I love you.

Rick, thank you for the blessing you are. And Tommye, bless you. Would you join Betty and me in just saying thanks to Rick?

Rick: Thank you.

James: And thank all of you for helping us lighten someone's load. I pray we hear from you that your day's been brightened by the presence of our great God. Love you!