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Week 14: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

David and Jason Benham

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James and we have some really special friends and special guests.

James: They're friends. They're our friends but I don't know if they're friends. They're twins but I don't know if they're friends. They're the Benham brothers, David and Jason.

They had their own television program and they took a stand for truth and sometimes some people said they didn't like them anymore -- kind of happened to *Duck Dynasty*. Isn't it amazing that some people decide that we won't waver and the opposition forces in the world, of the world come out against them? But we shall not be defeated because we are more than conquerors and we're overcomers.

The Benham brothers, David and Jason, I knew their dad real well. He and I used to be troublemakers together years ago. Boy, I'm telling you what, Flip was really something. He sowed a lot of great seed. But I've got to tell you because I know these boys well, these men, and I'm telling you, they are the fruit of seed well sown for the right purpose, for his, God's kingdom purpose through us as believers.

I want you to welcome David and Jason Benham and they'll tell you which one is the brighter, the sharper -- they'll let you know. Would you welcome David and Jason to *LIFE Today*? Good to have you guys back. Good to have you.

David: Thanks for having us.

James: All right, why don't you take off? Who is going to lead the night?

David: Thanks for applauding for me, folks! Appreciate it!

Jason: But I say the empty wagon always rattles the loudest. My favorite part of your show so far has been when she opened it up and we got a chance to hear Miss Betty. You're amazing by the way.

[Laughter]

Behind every great man is a great woman. We applaud your wife which says a lot about you -- you're a great man.

David: Are you going to let him ask a question?

Jason: No! I want to sit here and talk about him and his bride.

David: He's the leader here. Well, Betty is the leader.

James: Look, how come you dress sharp and he's got on his old denims tonight.

David: He told me he was going to wear denim with an undershirt. He's trying to go this '50s throw back. I'm like look, you've got to be modern.

Jason: He has to wear nice clothes to distract you from his face.

[Laughter]

Wait a second -- that's not right. I look like him.

James: Let's talk about this. I went to school in Marshall, East Texas Baptist University and some of my first crusades and revivals were in Shreveport, Queensborough; lots of churches over there. What in the world happened for you guys in Shreveport?

David: Well, I'll start and I'll just say in the context of the culture. So what Jason and I wanted to do with this book, our very first book was all about H.G.T.V. and what happened with our show.

In Matthew 5:11 Jesus said, *"Blessed are you when men persecute you and falsely accuse you for they did the same to our fathers before you."* That's what happened with us. So we tell that story.

Our second book we talk about how to help you build your story. But then this book right here, we deliberately left the miracle of Shreveport out of both of those books because we knew it was stand alone. Because in the context of the culture, if you read Isaiah chapter five and it talks about darkness filling the land, what is right is now wrong, what is wrong is now right, good and evil have been exchanged. They exchange the truth of God for a lie, as Romans one says.

And in the end of that chapter it says, *"Darkness fills the land. Even when one looks to the sun, behold the sun is covered by the clouds."*

In that context Isaiah chapter six, verse one, "In the year of Uzziah's death." In other words, in the year of a major political reset, a political shift, 54 years Uzziah was king, Isaiah said, *"I saw the Lord."* He said, *"And he was seated on his throne and the train filled the temple and the seraphs cried, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty; the earth is filled with his glory.'"*

So in the midst of darkness he saw God and the earth was still filled with his glory.

Jason: That's a great intro for me.

David: Okay, then go ahead.

Jason: The beautiful thing about this is in this story, this covers about 20-year period of history for us when God gave us a dream back when we were little boys with our dad. And our dream was to one day play professional baseball on the same team together, believe it or not, in the same stadium and that stadium was in Shreveport, Louisiana and it was an AA professional baseball stadium for the San Francisco Giants. The Shreveport Captains played there.

The reason why that stadium, we grew up right here in Dallas, Texas and we would drive up I-20 every year to go vacation in Atlanta, Georgia with some of our family members and we would pass that stadium. It was usually about 7:00 in the morning. We were driving in an ice blue station wagon where you can lay all the seats down in the back.

David: A Caprice Classic.

Jason: We would all be asleep in the back seat and Dad would be passing this stadium and he would shake us back there. He's like, "Boys, wake up!" We would wake up. He would say, "See that stadium over there?" He said, "That's where the professional baseball players play. Maybe one day you boys can play there together on the same team. Let's pray and ask God to let that happen." And so we would pray together, the three of us.

James: But now you were playing baseball and you were pretty good.

David: Yeah, we were.

James: Was he good too?

David: No, he wasn't. He hit from the left side. He hit from the wrong side. I was definitely a

much better baseball player. But we had signed to play --

James: Okay, you did play then.

David: That's right. We went to Liberty to play. And while we were going to Liberty we would travel up to Lynchburg in our little Isuzu pickup truck and we would pass Shreveport on I-20. And we would see that stadium and of course, I would have to lead the prayer. Jason didn't quite have the faith. But we would pray: "Lord Jesus, one day help us to get to that stadium and play together on the same team." Well, after Liberty, I got --

Jason: Well, let me stop there real quick. The reason why he would lead the prayer is he always had to repent of something to begin with. So I had let him go ahead and get that out of the way.

[Laughter]

But part of the story is that here we were twins and come about our senior year, David got drafted by the New York Mets. He was a catcher; he had some really good pop times. I had thrown my arm out as a junior in high school.

James: What were you pitching?

Jason: You know what? I wasn't pitching at the time. I was playing outfield and I threw the ball as hard as I could, and it was a waterlogged ball, and I tore my arm. Anyway, that caused my -- I couldn't throw as hard as he could. So for our senior year he got drafted, I didn't. I remember sitting in church, I'm going to be a little vulnerable here, I was crying in church because I didn't get drafted, David got drafted. We both ended up signing to play baseball at Liberty. Come our junior year, David gets drafted again by the Mets but I didn't.

David: See a pattern here?

[Laughter]

He's being vulnerable but I'm his twin brother I can pour salt on the wound.

Jason: Okay because I'm still a hero.

David: You're not going to cry are you?

Jason: But anyway, that was a very difficult time for us. It just kind of shows you the pattern

of a dream and a vision. And you guys have seen this probably in your own lives, where you have the birth of a dream, the death of a dream, and then the fulfillment of a dream. When it is fulfilled, it doesn't always look exactly as you originally thought because God pivots you at times but when you experience the fulfillment of a dream after you've properly died to a dream, and I had to die to this dream of being a professional baseball player and playing with him in the same stadium when I was a senior in high school. I had to die to it when I was a junior.

Then I ended up getting drafted as a senior and he did as well. But yet then I broke my leg in my second year in pro ball. Snapped my leg in half -- it was awful! Then the very next year, I got released by the Baltimore Orioles.

James: You've had a heck of a life. You know that?

Jason: Right! Listen. I want Betty to get up and give me a hug. I need a hug! I need a hug!

David: So we tell this story and we're really journeying through Jason's life on how I was drafted by the Red Sox when he was drafted by the Orioles but then I immediately got traded to the St. Louis Cardinals and they shot me right up to big league spring training. I was playing with all the big guys and there's Jason down in the minor leagues. He had broken his leg. Now he is trying to rehab. I mean his back is against the wall. It's really tough.

Jason: Now David was the only minor league player to ever play tailback in baseball. He'd run on the field and the coach would say, "Hey get your tail back in here, boy!"

David: Whatever!

Jason: He liked that; that was a legitimate belly laugh.

James: You were in St. Louis and -- were you weeping over him? Was he just tearing you up?

David: No, it was okay. So it was our dream, it was our dream -- get your arm off of me! So dad birthed this dream in us when we were kids and we had a granddad that came to all of our baseball games, so it was generational. We wanted to play pro baseball together on the same team, especially in Shreveport because that would have been something ever since we were little kids we'd always pray about and had been something that we really wanted. But now in the minor leagues and now Jason gets released by Baltimore and I'm with the Cardinals and playing in the minor leagues with them, it's just not going to happen.

Until two weeks left of my season in 2000, the year 2000, Jason was done. He had spent the

summer coaching a collegiate team up in Connecticut somewhere. He said he was miserable every day because he knew he could still play. But finally, through that summer he had died to the dream.

I called him and I said, "Hey! There's two weeks left of my season. Why don't you come watch me play?"

So he comes to Little Rock Arkansas in flip flops, a tank top and some shorts. Two days later his life had completely changed, so did mine and that's what the book is all about. I'm not going to tell you anymore.

James: Well, you've got to tell us something about it. Let's get back to that stadium.

Jason: Yeah! So let's get back to the stadium. So two weeks left of that season, I remember David, I stayed with him at his host family's house and he got up one morning and he said, "Hey. Let's go take some batting practice."

I said, "Man, if I pick up a bat -- I'm already dead to this dream. I don't want to arouse this thing again."

Well, he convinced me to do it. I picked up the bat. We went out to the field really early. He started throwing me batting practice. We were in Little Rock, Arkansas; I-35 went right past the stadium. I was hitting balls out onto the stadium. I was like, "Dude, what did you do this for?"

James: Putting windshields out.

Jason: What did you do this for?

David: He never really hit home runs. He was shot.

Jason: It was just more of the same for me -- just more home runs. So what we did was we got down on our knees in center field which was a habit for us. We had done this all through college, we had done this all through high school baseball and now professional baseball, we got on our knees and we said, "God, we ask that you would somehow..." and David was praying, "you would somehow allow Jason to get signed to play for this team with me."

Now how is that going to happen? I'm literally sitting in the stands.

James: How is it he's even praying for you?

David: That's a good question! Bless those who curse you. Do good to those who hurt you.

James: All right, so what happened?

Jason: So we got down and we prayed and that night, I'm sitting in the stands and I was an infielder and the infielder for David's team at the time, this is Cardinals, AA, his name was Alex, he was running to second base and he slid into second base and he sprained his wrist. Okay? And remember him getting up and they had to kind of help him off the field.

David comes back down into the bullpen. I said, "What happened?"

He said, "Alex messed his hand up."

So David went back into the dugout to find out what was going on. They said Alex was going to be done for the season. So David walks back down to me and I was thinking in my head, I know how to play that position. So that night, we prayed, we said, "God, if there is somehow, some way." My wheels were starting to spin because when you pray you've got to then expect. Now expecting knowing God not my will but yours be done but you are powerful enough to make this happen.

David: But still holding to this dream we had ever since we were kids, knowing that we had prayed about it, we had prayed about it with our dad, we had prayed about it all through college, even whenever we got drafted. We were like Lord, I don't know how you're going to make this happen because Boston and Baltimore don't even have teams that play in Shreveport. So now I get traded to St. Louis, Jason gets released and now we're back together and now the stage is set.

Jason: Now this team that David is on is in the Texas league which they play against Shreveport; now I didn't know when they would play against Shreveport or if they already had or anything like that.

David: We hadn't even paid any attention to that.

Jason: So two days later, David had already gone up to his coach; I convinced him, I said, "Please go tell your coach to sign me because if you sign me they don't have to bring guys in from other teams and there's a domino effect."

Betty: And you're already there.

David: But you have to understand that I was a AA catcher in major league spring training at the beginning of the season. I'm one phone call away from the big leagues. How does it sound to

go up to your coach and go, "Hey! Sign my brother, the guy over there sitting in the stands eating a burger with his flip flops on. Sign him."

[Laughter]

That's just not very cool. But I asked.

Jason: Two days later, we got a phone call. They said, "Bring your brother to the field." I signed with them. I played two games there with Shreveport -- excuse me, with Little Rock.

David: Let me say first before we even get to that point, because I know we've only got three minutes. That night, we're playing against the El Paso Diablos, the Arizona Diamondbacks that was their AA team. They had a big 6'7" lefty that was on the mound. I mean he was throwing hard. He was going up to the big leagues at the end of the season. He had a no-hit shutout going into the sixth inning.

And Hammer screams -- and by the way, it was fraternity and sorority night for the University of Arkansas, Little Rock because all the kids had come back in. Now this is the end of August, they're coming back in for school and the stadium was packed, thousands of people there and the place is going nuts. And Hammer screams --

Jason: Hammer is our manager.

David: Sorry, Hammer is our manager. He screams, "Benham!" And he does this which means pinch hit. So I naturally, I swing from the right side. I get up and I'm putting my batting gloves on getting ready. And he screams, "No! Your brother!" And Jason is in the dugout and he goes, "Huh?"

Jason: I wasn't expecting to actually play.

David: He hadn't seen a live pitch in four months let alone come up against a big 6'7" lefty throwing 90 plus, a no-hit shut out. So Jason then grabs some batting gloves, grabs my bat, gets somebody's helmet and walks up to the top step and he looks back at all the guys and he goes, "Boys! I'll be right back!"

[Laughter]

Jason: I wasn't planning on doing much. But listen. Let me finish this up. You know what? First pitch swinging I hit a double off the center field wall. Broke up the no hitter -- give me some right here. Broke up the no-hitter!

But here's the beautiful part of that story. Just after I got done interviewing with the paper after the game, I'm sitting in the locker room with David. I'm thinking, this is so weird. We're wearing the exact same jerseys; we're on the same team. Our manager comes walking in. He says, "Boys! Hey, great game tonight. I want everybody here to the field early tomorrow. We're going to be taking off on the bus. Shreveport is a short distance from this stadium."

David: We had no idea we were going to Shreveport.

David: Totally didn't even realize it.

[Applause]

David: There's a lot more details in there in the book as well.

James: I think what, the main part of the book, because that is just phenomenal but in my opinion, your dad made a profound impact on the culture that's actually building more and more now. He was about as strong a right-to-life person as there was on the planet. And you guys are, and you are impacting the culture.

Would you say thanks to God and for these guys for being yielded to God?

[Cheers & Applause]

I love and respect you two as much as any two people I know. I think you are gifted beyond imagination. Are you in real estate now?

David: Yes, sir.

James: And where, if people want to buy a home where you are or they want you to help them, where would they go?

David: BenhamBrothers.com.

James: And that's all they need. Do you ever shop outside your own area where you live? Do you try to help people?

David: Occasionally, yes. Yes, sir.

James: But where are you housed? Where is your home?

Jason: Charlotte, North Carolina.

James: In Charlotte. Are there homes for sale in Charlotte and are there people that need homes in Charlotte?

Jason: Are you looking to buy or something?

[Laughter]

We'll sell you anything you want!

James: Well, they can find the Benham brothers.

David: BenhamBrothers.com.

James: I want you to pray for these guys, those of you here and all of you, you do everything you can in every way to support them in what they do.

Would you say thanks again for the influence and the fact that Christians are going to stand up today, I believe, more together like a family than ever in history?

We have been putting God's arms of love around the most desperate people on the planet. Let me just say to you. I believe the viewers of *LIFE Today* reveal more compassion and more unselfishness than any identifiable group of people that I have ever come across. I want you to look right now and know that you are, you not only hold the answer, you're the answer to the need you're going to see. I believe you'll rejoice in the fact that you can be a miracle today.

On the mission field

Announcer: In impoverished areas of Southeast Asia all too often, girls like 15-year-old Srey Neang fall for too good to be true offers of a better life in the city. It's most often presented as an honorable job but is soon discovered as something much darker.

Open captions:

>> A man came to us and told us that there was a good opportunity with good pay to work in another province as a maid in someone's home. When I arrived, the people locked me in a room. It was a brothel. I found out that I had been sold. If I didn't sleep with clients I was beaten and starved. When the man came in, I didn't know what to do. Afterward I would just cry out for my mom.

Announcer: The cries of this child are lost in the noise of the city around her. The brutality she's endured has left her utterly demoralized.

Open captions:

>> I am so desperate. If I cannot escape this life, maybe I will kill myself.

End of clip**In the studio**

James: Wow! I just want to tell her, don't even think about that. Someone died that you can live.

Betty, I think there are a lot of couples and I know many times during the daytime hours there are women who are watching the show, I thank God for you. But I can't help but think there are individuals and couples saying I wish I could take you home. I'd take you home. We'd put arms of love around you. Pretty little girl, you're beautiful. We're so sorry you've been exploited because you're such a beautiful person and God loves you so much and he wants to heal your heart. Betty, wouldn't you just like to take her home?

Betty: Absolutely! My heart as a mother goes out to her. She said, "I just want to talk to my mother. I want to see my mother." And yet she can. Her whole life changed the moment she was captured and put into that captivity, and her innocence was robbed, taken from her against her will.

I just say, "God, please help these precious little ones."

We have five beautiful granddaughters. We have two beautiful daughters. We have two beautiful great granddaughters. I can't even imagine them having to experience something like this. It would crush me.

Well, this should crush us because we're Christians that care about the little ones. We want to help them. She feels hopeless. We need to offer them hope and we can. So I hope you'll join with us. Let's offer them some hope.

James: See because of just the love of God in people, it's very real. It is not religion it is relationship with a God that is love. People who know that love want to express it. Just think about it. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of mission workers and relief workers who have left all the comforts of whatever country they were in, many of them from the United States and Canada and South America and places in Europe, and they have gone there as mission workers to rescue them. They're asking us to simply enable them to be able to have a place to take the girls. And it is unbelievable; I mean it is a House of Destiny, of hope, it's just amazing.

It's what love does. And thousands and thousands of girls like that now have been reached and rescued and restored. Many of them now grown with their own families, many of them teachers, some of them are professors, some of them are community leaders transformed by the love of God.

Here's what it takes. It's \$128 a year to rescue one, and we're targeting this year to put God's arms around thousands. And you know what some of our supporters said? "We will match the first \$320,000 that comes in." If \$128 -- and if you can give that, I'm asking you to do it because that will take care of one we rescue and take care of them for a year. Here's the thing. It will now be two. If you give \$64, it is \$128. Then if you know me, I'm going to ask you if you possibly can, let's rescue ten, that's \$1280. Now it will be 20. There's a level at which you can help.

We have some gifts to send you to bless you but you're giving these precious ones the gift of freedom, a new life because of love, God's love channeled through you. Would you go right now please, get your bankcard and dial that number? Or go online and use that card like a check? If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us -- please! Call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. And remember this, it will be matched. It will be doubled.

Please rescue that girl and hundreds more like her. Thank you for doing it.

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 bodies broken under horrific emotional and physical abuse. Through Mission: Rescue Life you can reach out to warn children vulnerable to sex traffickers. You can help rescue those already enslaved. And you can help restore young lives and give them a future.

And now a generous opportunity of a \$320,000 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'll send you *The Age of Promise*, Randy Robison reveals ten promises woven through all of scripture that will transform the way you view God, yourself, and others. With your gift of \$128 or more you'll receive "The Prayer is Powerful" wood plaque. This unique scripture art piece is printed on premium Birchwood, a beautiful reminder of the power of prayer.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280, which will now help rescue 20 children and you may request the beautiful "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print by Thomas Kinkade. Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, I just want to say thank you. I wish you could know the thanks that comes from the these precious girls when they have a new future.

We're sending the book, *The Age of Promise* that our son Randy wrote. I think it is a wonderful book.

Many of you would like to have this incredible story. It is supernatural. I think David and Jason are two of the greatest soldiers of the Lord Jesus on the planet. They will inspire you. If you would like to have it, you help us help those that are really trapped in prison, we'd be glad to send you the book. Of course, you can get it in the bookstores, get one for a friend, but if you'd like for us to send you one because you share life, you just ask for it.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to the Benham brothers? Guys, I love you! Y'all come any time you write something or you're just passing through and you want to share. Okay?

David: Okay, you got it!

Jason: Thank you.

James: Thank you so much for helping. Thank you from the bottom of our heart.