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Week 42: Mission: Rescue Life
James and Betty Robison
Andi Andrew

James: Listen, I want to tell you this. I'm James, this is Betty. Welcome to *LIFE Today*.

You don't have any idea how special I believe the people who watch this program are. I don't know if you watch, maybe it's your first time. What am I in for? Well, you're in for quite a ride because if you're carried by whatever influence or spirit is carrying the viewers you're doing to be carried into somebody's life in a way that is nothing short of miraculous. In other words, you're going to actually become not a discussion of love but a demonstration of it.

If you've ever just said, "I'd really like to be loved." How about I'd love to be love's expression? I think that if you watch, you will be.

Our guest today is from New York City which is not where people from Texas go to have a ministry.

[Laughter]

But she is called there, her and her husband, Liberty Church.

Here is the title of a book. Listen to what Christine Caine -- by the way, Jack Graham, Prestonwood Church, you'll have to forgive me -- a Baptist preacher, I understand. He called one day and he said, "Don't tell anybody I told you but Christine Caine is the best preacher I've ever heard."

[Laughter]

There she is from Hillsong and Australia. Boy, can she lay it out. But she's a blessing. Here's what Christine says, "Break free from the lies that hinder you and step into your God-given destiny." See she does many things with the author of this book, Andi Andrew.

Now we've had Andy Andrews many times. This is Andi Andrew, *She is Free*: Learning the truth about the lies that hold you captive.

Would you welcome Andi Andrew to *LIFE Today*?

[Applause]

Welcome down here to Texas.

Andi: Thank you. Good to be here.

James: And how is New York City?

Andi: New York is amazing but my daughter and I were very amazed by how much space there is between the houses here.

[Laughter]

She was excited to see the land and how much space there was in-between the houses. But New York is amazing.

James: Well, you're called there no question about it. I want you to tell us, our viewers, about the amazing journey; some would say heartbreaking in some ways, maybe shocking, stunning, hard to fathom but when you say "*She is Free*" that leads us somewhere. So just take us on this journey that you in-depth take people on in this book in a way that I think enriches their life and then they find a freedom they never imagined.

Andi: For me, the title *She is Free* came out because I gave my life to Jesus at 19. I fell madly in love but then fast forward and I get married, have three kids under the age of three, I mean it was fast; had three kids and it was one of those seasons. I don't know if you've ever heard the saying, "When you get married you realize how selfish you are and then when you have children you realize how angry you are."

[Laughter]

So I realized I was quite an angry person and there were a lot of things that I had been protecting myself with and in a way faking it in my Christianity.

I would read the scripture and it came alive to me in some ways but then there was disconnect to where I wasn't walking in freedom, there was a lot of bondage that I was walking in. I was controlling my world and protecting myself with anger, with manipulation. I walked in a shroud of shame, control. I would isolate myself from others even though I'd be in crowds, I was

very isolated and had my walls up. I mean I showed up at church with my three kids on my hips looking all good but really, when I would go home I was a wreck. I was breaking down and depressed and had anxiety.

James: Were you in ministry at the time?

Andi: I was in ministry at the time. After I had my daughter I decided that it was time to kind of be a stay-at-home mom and work through my issues. When I got to a place where I was scaring my kids, I was dangerous in myself and I went, if I keep living like this I'm going to damage my relationships with my children and my husband and I don't know if there is any going back.

I was, like I said a serial faker. I was able to be at church and looked like I had it together. I knew how to be in ministry and do that thing. But when it all kind of fell apart for me was when I hit rock bottom. I remember one morning where my daughter, little baby was crying and needed me to come and feed her and I was so depressed that I couldn't get out of bed. I remember rolling out of bed onto the floor and just sobbing, going, "God, I don't know what to do here. I don't have anybody but you."

And it was like almost like augh!! I wish I had something else. Hello? And the Holy Spirit said, "That's right. I am all that you have. And the I am is the one who will heal you."

I was in that place where -- it doesn't happen all the time but it's like the tangible presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were right there. I realized in that place is where the disconnect maybe that I walked in with, reading the Word of God and walking this out in freedom was in his presence where he would heal me.

Now it's been a journey. Because what had happened when I had my children was growing up there was abuse when I was younger, sexual abuse when I was younger. I grew up in a very controlling environment. My mom and dad and I had broken relationship and all of that came to the surface. And that really was the beginning of the journey of *She is Free*.

James: It was like the fruit of what was sown in you, damaging, suddenly the ugly aspect began to come out. You may not have immediately connected them. So what happens now? You've got this situation, it's grown and now suddenly, you're alluding to the past. So what did you conclude or what did you determine when you went back and saw what had happened?

Andi: So I guess that moment for me was more like the catalyst of okay, I can do this. I can actually walk in freedom but it is going to be something that I have to begin to walk out. I think I had many moments. But the subtitle: Learning the truth about the lies that hold you captive, I

don't know why I hadn't put it together but it was almost like I realized that as I was growing up, whether that was when I was abused or when I had broken relationship with my mom and we were codependent in strange ways that I believed the lies that grew into something that became my reality.

I like to liken it to maybe a pair of glasses. We all view the world through our circumstances; right? Our upbringing, the different things that we've experienced and mine were scratched and marred and I had a view of the world that needed to be healed. So as you unravel those lies you have to read the Word of God, you have to get into the presence of God and go, okay, I'm believing a lie here, God and I need you to show me how to replace that with the truth. The truth of my pain, the truth of my past, those are real but God, you can replace that and you can heal my heart.

So I really have begun to do that in multiple ways. That is the simplest thing I go back to. But for me, in particular, this journey began but there was this moment with my son. So he was three years old and control was one of the main things that I had dealt with, and still sometimes it pops up like control to the -- I'm like, is this flower straight? Is that pillow straight? Have I vacuumed and the lines are straight? Do you know what I mean? It was kind of because I couldn't control the things that I went through I wanted to control my external world. I can't control circumstances that happened to me so I'm going to control people, I'm going to control my house.

There was a catalyst once again moment for me when I had perfectly cleaned the toy room and I had made breakfast and my kids were eating and my eldest son took the Legos and that sound of them dumping out on the ground, I lost my mind and I started screaming at him to the point to where my...

James: Like he just made a mess.

Andi: He was just playing with his toys. Yeah, he made a mess but the sound of the Legos pouring out brought me to a place where I had him shaking. My three old son was scared and shaking. My husband looked at me and he goes, "You go upstairs. Go be with Jesus."

I remember going up there and I was broken going, God, I don't want to live like this but -- okay, I love that you talked about love a second ago because that's where God went, "Can you just let me love you? Because you if would let me love you instead of striving for my love you could live from this place of love and become love and you would heal these relationships."

I remember going downstairs and apologizing to my son and he had cleaned up. That was the problem. And he goes, "Look, mama. I cleaned up for you."

I was like, "No, no! This is the toy room. Dump out the toys."

But that for me was a moment where I went God, you've got to heal me. It was kind of like one of those moments you're like, I don't know how but I'm willing to continue to put one foot in front of the other and let him peel back the layers and continue to heal me. I'm still on this journey today, right? I'm not perfect.

Betty: Well, we're all on this journey.

Andi: We all are; right? But I think this is one of those things where as long as I sit in the presence of God and sit with the Word of God and I allow him to love me and I go, okay, here are the lies that I'm believing. God, I'm a hot mess. I want you to heal me. I want to show my kids how to do this well too. That there's a mom -- you have a mama that's being healed and whole -- we can do this together.

James: One of the things that I know that virtually every Christian has observed and maybe witnessed in their own lives, is that if we have an issue with somebody where for whatever reason there is a tension, it could even be resentment or bitterness but a spirit of unforgiveness, when you have that you have just invited all manner of bondage in your life -- all manner of defeat.

It's a very powerful statement when Jesus said if you don't forgive the Father won't forgive you. Now that's a huge statement. In other words, what is going on inside of us that is so disturbing to the father who loves us with all of his heart in all the right ways is saying, "If you carried that, something is happening here that has separated you from the flow that you're seeking and must have." But if you're going to block it with unforgiveness and bitterness, there is something happening in the spiritual realm that is heavy that is very significant. So you found I think with your own mom.

Andi: The relationship with my mother was huge. When you say that, Matthew 18, the story of the unmerciful servant, I think that's one of the hardest stories to read.

James: He said you're turned over to the tormenters and that's precisely what you're living. You're tormented. When you do not forgive, you may think you are hurting them but you're the one being tormented.

Andi: And that was what, when I read that, because I feel like that's what we do. The story of the unmerciful servant is we go to church, we ask for forgiveness, we walk out the doors and we're like, I'm going to choke you, I'm taking you out, and I'm not forgiving you today and then

we wonder why we're in prison, why we feel tormented.

So with my mom, that was very significant. For me, when I got saved at 19 it was like all rainbows and unicorns. I was like, oh my gosh! Like I had no -- I didn't know life could be this amazing -- that I could be so loved.

But then also at the right time God begins to reveal things so that we can be healed of things maybe we were unaware of, or lies that we believed that grew into our reality and what we thought was true. So I remember sitting with my mom and having this significant conversation with her and starting to ask her questions about my upbringing, poignant questions and she was honest with me. I was not a lady in that moment.

James: Is this because it was even traced back to some of the abuse?

Andi: Well, some of it was the abuse and the bondage that actually our whole family was in. You know, I really do believe everyone is doing the best they can with what they have. But then when they start to realize when we all grow up and go, "Hey, that's not working for me anymore."

So when I asked my mom poignant questions about our upbringing, she was honest with me. I actually said really horrible things to her, not ladylike words that I will definitely not repeat here. And I got up and walked out and told her I hated her and wanted nothing to do with her. For seven years -- seven years I made her pay. I was angry. I moved to Australia met my husband, got married, and was as far from her as I possibly could be. I'd see her but I was like, I was angry and I remember one moment where she said to me, "I only hope you can forgive me like Jesus has forgiven me."

That was one of those moments where I was like, "I'm so mad at you for saying that. You are so right but I'm not going to do that right now."

And I remember when I was pregnant with my first child I felt the Holy Spirit say to me, "Would you want your children to treat you like you are treating your mother?"

And I'm like, no! I was reading the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery. You can put the pieces together of the things that we walked through as a family. My mom's fine with me to share. But as I read that story I remember I was massive and pregnant and I fell to the ground weeping because I saw my mother as forgiven.

I said, "Oh Father, will you forgive me for how I've treated her for the last seven years?"

He said, "Yes, I do forgive you because you were the Pharisee that threw her down at my feet." And I'm like, whoa! Okay! So intense!

But I remember being down on the ground weeping and asking for forgiveness and feeling so love and forgiven even in that moment. Even in my pharisaical ways. And right before my son was born, see my mom's a doula and is amazing -- amazing at helping women through birth. So she came over to Australia and we sat on the floor together folding laundry. And I had just taken a moment and I said, "Mom, will you forgive me for all the years of how I made you pay like you were the only person that's ever sinned on this earth?" Just weeping. It was kind of like she's like, "I've been waiting." She's like, "Of course, I forgive you." And we embraced each other.

And now I have to laugh because we moved to New York and my mom and dad have moved to New York as well. They live upstairs in the same brownstone as we do in a different apartment because we have boundaries. But they live in the same brownstone. So we have so many opportunities still to this day for reconciliation.

We're not perfect but there are things that still pop up and I'm like whoa! I'm mad at you. Or whoa, we need to work this through. So forgiveness is constant but I realize that I put myself in that torment and in that cage until I chose to forgive. It is not just with her, obviously. There are moments of forgiveness we are all constantly walking through.

James: So that really is one of the keys to being able to say *She is Free* and that can be true of anyone. Do you appreciate Andi sharing her story and even opening up about the battle? I pray for you and your husband. It's Liberty Church, is that right? Are you hard to find? Is it downtown? Where are you located?

Andi: In New York City we're located in Dumbo in Brooklyn. We're also on Broad Street right in the financial district. We're also in the Upper West Side and in Union Square.

James: Well, everybody is going to be praying for you. The book is in the bookstores, you can get online. We are right now trying to set people free from far worse than molestation. We're trying to set up little girls and children free from being taken in bondage and captive and sold into literally sexually trafficking. It is a horrible thing. But we are able to put God's arms of love around them because of people who watch like you.

If you'd like to have Andi's book, we'll be more than happy to send it to you.

Betty, we're going to look in and sometimes -- here's the deal, this is so real. By the way, you're going to see Sheila Walsh which she has become such a missionary. She has always had a

mission heart to the world when she was with *Women of Faith* or whether she was co-hosting the 700 Club or whether she is singing with Billy Graham in his crusades. But where she is now, working with us, and putting arms of love around a desperate world, you'll see how moved she is.

I want you to stay with this story and I want you to watch the opportunity to open love's door and let love flow freely. Watch.

On the mission field

Open Captions:

>> My name is Srey Pich. My family is very poor. I've had to work since I was very young. My father would get drunk and beat me or my siblings. He forced us to find work. If we didn't earn enough, we couldn't come home.

When I couldn't earn enough, I came to the city with my friend who told me she knew of a good job opportunity. But I was betrayed and sold. I was ten years old. Every night I was forced to sleep with men. If I refused, I was beaten. I just wanted to die, but I stayed alive because my younger siblings needed me.

I have never felt happy. In the bar, I just pretended... But inside, I was broken. When I look in the mirror... I feel very dirty because of all the men I was forced to sleep with.

Sheila: She did not choose this life. We have to be a voice for those who have no voice. Jesus didn't just die for those of us who live in America. He died for girls who don't even know there is a God who loves them and it is our joy and our responsibility to say you know what? We're going to reach out our arms across the world and let girls like this beautiful girl here know you are loved, you are seen, and you have brothers and sisters around the world who are going to part of changing your destiny.

End of clip

In the studio

James: You may say, "James, is it really possible to change that girl's future?" -- 100 percent possible. Yes! And we have entered into this sexual trafficking crisis with the love of God and we have been able to rescue thousands. We've been able to get many of them before they get them by giving them the lies and getting them in bondage.

Did you hear her say, "I wanted to die"? She's in such a horrible situation but she said, "My siblings, my brothers and sisters need me. I'm needed." Betty, people see that and they are needed to totally correct that situation for her. In other words, to do what Jesus did -- set captives free.

Betty: If you can understand this is a ten-year old precious little girl. She hasn't had an opportunity to play with her friends, to giggle with them and run around and have fun with them. She has taken on the burden of her whole family, all her siblings because they have to have something to eat.

So then she gets an opportunity, is what she thought it was to go and to make money and to get food for her family. And she was deceived and she was trapped and she was abused and she was told that this is the way it had to be. And she was beaten if she didn't obey them. And she was threatened of her life. Everything innocent was stripped from her little precious life and her body.

Please help us help these children. Let's offer them hope. We know that hope comes from Jesus Christ but we are to demonstrate that hope. Through his love we can set them free so please join with us.

James: How do you think Sheila Walsh is sent over there apart from love? She is sent by love, sent by people who watch *LIFE Today*. And she is sent to missionaries who left their comfort and planted themselves in the midst of all that suffering full of love and we will rescue them and take care of them. It takes, think about this, \$128 is the average to reach, rescue, and begin to restore one person for a year.

So we have targeted this year to reach out and rescue 2500. But our viewers contacted us before we started asking you this time. They're going to match it with \$300,000 of what you give. Meaning what you give today will be doubled. That's amazing to me. \$128 rescues one, now it is two. Some say, "I can't even give \$128." Well, \$64 is now doubled and you've got another. I'm always saying, Betty knows I always try to get people to reach beyond what seems to be the simple and say, "God help me do what might seem impossible." If you can help us rescue ten and make a gift of \$1280 we've got ten -- no, now we've got 20 because love is doubling that. So would you do it?

Go online, please, or dial the phone number that's there as a prayer line and let it be a life line. Take your bankcard, or write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. But use your bankcard like a check and say, "Here's the gift God's leading me to make today."

I pray you're already moving right now to get that card or that check because it really is important to do it now. There's so many things to distract. Don't be distracted from what that girl is crying out for -- freedom. Jesus offers that because of love expressed by us.

Would you do it now? Thank you. We have some gifts to send you that will bless you, I promise you. But you're giving an incredible gift. You're giving them a chance at freedom and a future.

[Begin video clip]

Announcer: Behind the bright lights there is a darkness where a world of violence and sexual abuse runs rampant scarring the souls of millions of young children. With their bodies broken and hopes crushed, these children are trapped in a never ending nightmare.

With your help, *Mission: Rescue Life* can shine the light of God's love in this dark world to reach, rescue and restore children and young people to the beauty God designed for them to enjoy. With a generous opportunity and a \$320,000 matching gift, 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 of any amount today, we will send you the *Names of God* prayer journal. From Adonai to Yahweh, this journal is filled with beautiful photographs to help you reflect on 31 different names of God found throughout scripture. With your gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive the *Names of God* Bible. This special edition NIV large print Bible is engraved with the many names of God; a beautiful reminder that the God we serve is infinitely good.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,280 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 gift online!

[End of clip]

On the mission field:

Sheila: What I've seen here is the abject poverty that people are living in. So many young girls are forced into prostitution; they are trafficked because they are desperate. There is no money in the family. So often the father is a drunk. There is debt, and the only job they can get is at the mercy of a sex trafficker.

Will you go to your phone? Will you go online? Will you call that number and make the best gift possible so that we can reach, we can rescue, we can restore? Would you do it now?

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, from the bottom of our heart, Betty and I want to express appreciation on behalf of everyone you put arms of love around and all of the mission relief workers you're supporting.

If you'd like to have Andi's book, *She is Free*, learning the truth about the lies that hold you captive, we'll be glad to send it to you. Just ask for it. You might encourage some of your friends to consider getting it online or in the bookstores and you be praying for Andi and her husband there in the Brooklyn/New York City area. Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Andi for being a blessing? Thank you, Andi. Thank you a lot! Bless your family. Thank you so much for watching. We really do thank you for your help.