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Week 31: Summer WFL

Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh

Priscilla Shirer #2

Sheila: Hey! Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm Sheila Walsh here with Randy Robison. Kind of like the Lone Ranger and Tonto. Or you can be the Lone Ranger and I'll be Tonto.

Randy: Let's just move along.

Sheila: Okay, we'll move along. People say that to me a lot. But welcome to the show. We're so glad that you stopped by and I think you're really going to love this. We have some great news, something to give you a little heads up on so if you maybe want to go call a couple of friends right now and say hey, tune in! Because we have a spectacular guest to introduce you to.

Randy: And we had a lot of fun. If you missed... If you didn't see yesterday's show or whenever the show aired, there's two shows with our guest so you can always go online at LifeToday.org to see the other one. Because would you welcome Priscilla Shirer?

Priscilla: I love being here!

Randy: Yesterday, in our timeline we talked about a movie called *Overcomer*: August 23rd at your theater. I'm one of the lucky media members who got to see it and really enjoyed it.

Priscilla: You like it okay?

Randy: I actually did. And as I told you off camera, I used to be a film critic for a newspaper

and studied film in school, which really is a bad combination because I think I know more than I do. I haven't actually been in the movies.

Priscilla: Can you enjoy films? Can you just sit and watch without kind of critiquing every little thing anymore?

Randy: No. No. It kind of ruined it. So Christian movies have been a real -- um, let's call it a battle in my life.

[Laughter]

Priscilla: We all know what you mean. We got you. We understand.

Randy: Thank you for your understanding. This one was good. It was good. Not just the message, which is always the case where you go, well, that had a nice message or they meant well. No...

[Laughter]

Sheila: You went very "bless their heart" there. Yes, you did.

Randy: I did. We've been there. But I'm telling you, this is obviously a great message. And not just because it is biblical but it's relevant and it's laid out very well. But then from a production standpoint, which I appreciate, it's good. There were no moments where I went uh! Right? Which is important to me. I think it is important when you're putting that out there that you have a level of excellence, almost so that you don't get in the way of the message.

Priscilla: That's right. Because you can be distracting with a lack of excellence. You really can be. So I appreciate the Kendrick Brothers so much for that in these films that they have given us: *Fireproof*, *Courageous*, and *Facing the Giants*, and *War Room* and now *Overcomer*. Exactly what you're describing; that they care about excellence.

You know something else that I think is important is diversity. There has never been in faith-based films, there has never been this level of intentionality in terms of diversity. And even though that isn't their main goal, their main goal is the gospel, the fact that they have been strategic about that, I believe, has caused more of the breadth of the body of Christ to see themselves in those stories. I appreciate that. As a woman of color, I appreciate that.

Sheila: One of the things I love about this particular movie is that there are so many different characters who all have to face some kind of identity crisis. It is not just a young girl who doesn't know Jesus. But you have a coach who is a believer but his identity is very much tied up in what he does, in his job, and when that's taken away it really shakes his faith.

Priscilla: Yes. And everything of this world, at some point or another is going to be taken away. Everything here is temporal. He has placed eternity in our hearts. That means that there is nothing that is here on earth that will satisfy us in only the way eternal things can. So if you're just storing up all your treasures and stuff that will be stripped away at one point or another, beauty fades...

Sheila: Amen! Amen! And amen!

Priscilla: Bank accounts are diminished, houses are gone. One year you have it, the next year you don't. Financial situations differ one year to the next. Job circumstances change. If we have placed our significance in those things then we will be decimated when those things are removed from us.

But if your treasure, if your significance is found in something that is unchanging, the same yesterday, today, and forevermore, if you're rooted there then you have an anchor so that it doesn't matter whether I'm wearing these clothes or those clothes. It doesn't matter whether I'm driving this or driving that, whether I live on this side of town or live on this side of town. I know who I am because I know who my Father is.

Sheila: That will preach!

Randy: One of the characters in the film, not the best actor in the film because we know who that is.

Priscilla: Whatever!

Randy: Cameron Arnett really was really good. Excellent!

Priscilla: Excellent! And he is a real live actor. He is a for-real actor. That's what he does.

Randy: He was good. His character asks a very pointed question and one that resonates with Sheila, and I think it resonates really with all of us who will hear it: Who are you?

Priscilla: Who are you really?

Randy: How important is it that we get beyond the I'm a television host, I'm an author, I'm a speaker, I'm an actor, I'm a mother, a father? How important is it that we get down to that who are you in Christ?

Priscilla: Again, because that is the thing that's not changing -- that's the thing that's going to remain.

So we go to Ephesians chapter one and Ephesians chapter two, which really are the premise and the basis for this film. We go there and we find out that we are chosen and that we are loved and that we are adopted and that we're redeemed and that we're forgiven. And we start living from a place that is rooted in those realities instead of a place that is rooted in the lies that the enemy has sought to tell us or our past experiences or our past behaviors. Because he wants you to think, the enemy wants me to think that just because I have experienced something I am that thing. Or he wants me to think that just because I have a tendency in that direction because that is my struggle, he wants me to think my struggle is my identity.

But just because I struggle with that doesn't mean I am that. It just means that I struggle in that way and that I have the Holy Spirit of God. I'm a temple of the Holy Spirit of God; that means that the power of God himself gives me the opportunity to resist the schemes of the enemy and to resist the tendency of my own flesh. So just because I struggle with that thing doesn't mean that I am that thing.

I believe we have a generation of people that are believers but because they don't know really who they are and the power that we have access to, we have been deceived by the enemy. So the enemy is convincing us that just because we have a leaning in a particular way that that thing defines us. So then we start behaving in the way, in the direction of who we think we are.

Maybe because our parent told us we must be that thing because we have a leaning in that direction. Or we struggled in that way, or we behaved in a certain way during our crazy college years or whatever, we did the thing for a little while and we behaved in a way that was incongruent with who we are as believers in Christ. Well, just because I have that in my past doesn't mean that that will define my future. I am who my God says that I am.

Sheila: I love that! I love that! That is one of my most primal beliefs and I needed to know that because of my father's suicide when I was a child. I needed to understand my history doesn't determine my destiny in Christ; that we are not the things that happen to us.

But the reason that that part of the film hit me so much was in my mid 30s, as a believer, having co-hosted the 700 Club for five years, I ended up in a psych hospital. And the first question my Christian doctor asked me was, "Who are you?"

And I said, "Sheila Walsh."

He said, "No. Who are you?"

I said, "I'm the co-host of the 700 Club."

He said, "No, Sheila, who are you?"

By the time of God stripping everything away, by the time I left, when he said, "Who are you?" I said, "I'm Sheila Walsh, daughter of the King of kings." Because that's my identity. And that's what's so powerful about this movie.

Priscilla: Yeah! And it doesn't devalue or diminish those other parts of you; that you can be fully a mom, a wife, a co-host. That we can enjoy all the aspects of our individuality and our uniqueness that God has given us access to but in the end where we are rooted, where we find our significance, that's rooted in who God says we are.

Randy: I think it is foundational to the point where you really can't build your life on the other things that God gives you as a parent, as a husband and a wife, until you know who you are. It is like you don't have that foundation down, you don't want to start putting up walls until that's strong.

Sheila: One of the things I know and love about you and Jerry is that family -- hugely important. So when you go and do a summer doing a movie or with this movie where you were in for like three or four weeks, the boys come with you. I found myself wondering how has that impacted their lives being part of that whole environment?

Priscilla: Thank you for asking about those boys. Listen.

[Laughter]

I don't know what people think I do. They think that I'm doing movies and all that stuff. No, I'm cooking for three boys and doing their laundry -- that's my full time job.

Randy: How impressed are they with your acting career?

Priscilla: They are so not impressed that I...

[Laughter]

I'm like, "Guys, let's go to the movies!" Because most of the time they end up being extras or something. "Let's go to the movies so we're going to see, maybe you'll see yourself and I'll be in the movie."

They're like, "Uhh! Do we have to, mom?"

"Yes! We're going to the movies!"

One of the reasons why I actually, in the beginning when I was toying with this idea and trying to decide whether or not to go to do this, one of the reasons why we ended up saying yes was because we would get to take our whole family. The thought of my sons being around, in one case, the Kendrick Brothers and then in another case the Erwin brothers, being around these men who are excellent at their craft and are unashamed of the gospel.

And having my boys work in that environment because we put them to work, whatever. Anybody needs coffee, they're going to go get the coffee. They're going to help. They were cleaning off the set and doing whatever needed to be done.

I thought the fact that these boys get to see what it is like to be -- whatever they end up doing in their life, to do it well and to glorify God. And to make it so that when... we had devotions in the morning. My boys thought they were going to be sleeping in. Uh-uh! You're going to devotions! To let them see what it is like to bring Christ to bear in every aspect of your life. It was such a gift to our entire family.

I will forever be grateful to Stephen and Alex and Shannon Kendrick who also bring their families by the way. Oh yeah! They don't sort of separate their family life and their ministry life and their love for the Lord and family and all that from their work life. They're like you know

what? Let's glorify God with all of it. So I will forever be grateful to them, Jerry and I, for the example that they have been to our own sons in that regard.

Sheila: One of the things I've been wanting to ask you for a bit is before you did your first movie, we all knew you and loved you because of your books, your Bible studies, your Bible teaching, but suddenly, this whole new audience knows you from this movie. How has that changed? How have you seen God use that with people who perhaps the movie was the first introduction to you?

Priscilla: Yes! That was very interesting because mostly with books and Bible studies it is largely a female audience that are sitting together and doing the Bible studies and stuff. So I'd meet lots of women in the airport or something. But it did open up that door a little bit where men had seen this movie so they just knew me from this movie and they would stop to say hello to me. My husband was a little annoyed by that.

[Laughter]

All these men that wanted to take a picture or something like that. So my husband had to kind of get over that hurdle just a little bit.

But also, let me tell you what it did. I have this little kind of internal thing. It is not something that everybody has to do, it is just something that I was sort of challenged about. Where I don't always take a picture with folks because sometimes I can't. If I'm with my kids and we're having dinner or whenever, I can't. But when I'm able to, I always exchange a photograph for a prayer. Always! So I don't care if we're in the airport, I don't care if we're in the mall, I don't care whether you're a Christian or not, if we're taking a picture, we're praying. And we're going to do it right in this grocery store aisle, whatever.

Sheila: That's great, Priscilla! That's great!

Priscilla: That's something that's given me an opportunity to do is pray with people who, I

don't know if they're Christians or not, but I get an opportunity right there in the mall or the freezer section of the grocery store to call out the name of Jesus on their behalf.

Randy: You mentioned also being recognized halfway around the world.

Sheila: In Israel.

Priscilla: Yeah! That's been interesting too. I was in Israel and this has happened a lot but this time was extremely memorable. We were doing a tour through Israel and there are people from all over the world who have come to tour Israel. But these -- there was a group of women, beautiful women from India, and one of them recognized me from across the Garden of Gethsemane. We were doing a tour of the Garden of Gethsemane. And one of them recognized me and I could see that sort of reflection in her eyes like, that's that girl from War Room! And all of the sudden she started filtering around and all of the women followed her over.

As they got closer I could see that they were all beginning to recognize me and tears started to fall from their eyes. They came up to me, and it wasn't like I'm enamored with celebrity kind of tears. There were tears that I could tell, it had something to do with what was going on in their hearts.

And they came up to me and their tears caused tears to well up in my eyes. A sweet little woman that I guess was sort of the leader of this group, she just reached out and just brushed the tears from my face. And she said, "We want you to know that you have saved our marriages."

Whether these women were Christians or not, I don't know but she said, "We take War Room and we pass it around to women in our community. And we watch War Room and War Room has saved our marriages."

I thought, only the Holy Spirit can take a movie and make it so that people aren't just entertained but that the Holy Spirit restores and replenishes and renews and resurrects something that may have been dead otherwise. Only the Holy Spirit can do that! So we have gotten...

Man! We have expectation for that with *Overcomer* as well. We have prayed to that end. Lord, make it so that people stop in the movie theater, before they can even leave the theater, this is what happened with War Room, we got letters from people who couldn't leave the theater because prayer meetings were breaking out amongst strangers in the theater. People's lives were changed because of that. We're asking God to do that same thing with *Overcomer*, just to show himself strong.

Randy: Hard to repeat that kind of dynamic on our own, anyway. After seeing it, I've got to say I think there is a strong chance that you will have more prayer meetings in movie theaters.

Priscilla: Well, I hope so. And there's that one scene where I lead the main character to the Lord. They had scripted some lines and we did them that way a couple of times. And then Alex said from behind the camera. Alex said, "Now Priscilla, lead her to the Lord the way Priscilla would lead her to the Lord." And that's what I did.

Randy: And that's the one they used.

Priscilla: I just led her to the Lord. And the hope is that the words that I prayed, we prayed over those words and we asked the Lord to make it so that somebody sitting in the theater or watching the DVD at home later on, that they hear those words and realize it is the Holy Spirit calling them to repeat those words for themselves and come into the kingdom of God. So that's my prayer, that the Lord would use that in that way.

Sheila: I think it would be great if we just took a moment right now and we all prayed for the release of this movie and ask God to do what only he can do. Let's pray together.

Father God, I want to thank you for the brilliance of these men who have committed their lives, everything they have to making movies that bring glory to your name. And how we thank you for Priscilla, for the way she is shining in the darkness, Lord. And that it is so infectious, when someone is in love, it is so infectious. So Lord, we ask with this *Overcomer* movie, when it

opens in theaters, Lord I pray by your Holy Spirit you will draw people to come, even if they're not sure why they're going, draw them to come.

And Lord, I ask that even as Priscilla prays for that little girl in the movie, there will be people in the movie theater at that moment committing their lives to you. We ask for a harvest, Lord, in Jesus' name. Amen! So exciting!

Randy: You know what I've noticed? And I've seen this with the Kendrick Brothers in particular. Is that they stepped out and did something that was kind of crazy when they made their first film, and it kind of grew into something a little more, and a little more, and a little more, and now it is having this huge impact.

When God calls us to step out and do something especially when it is out of our comfort zone, that's when you know you're onto something. That's when you know if he doesn't show up it's not going to go anywhere. Right? But that's because he wants to show up and make it significant.

And you know, Sheila, we have done that here at *LIFE* when we stepped out many years ago and said you know what? We want to go beyond ministering just to the audience, although that's what we're here for. If you have a prayer request you can call that number and we will pray for you.

But then we want to ask you to turn around and do something on top of that. We want to minister to you and we want you to minister to others. We have a wonderful way that you can do that, Sheila. I know you've seen it, you've been there, it makes a huge difference. Does it not?

Sheila: It absolutely does. And it's not something we have to do, it is something we get to do. So watch this.

On the mission field:

Announcer: We recently met a precious woman named Belyse who told us through tears that two of her children had died. We've heard so many stories start the same way and it never gets easier. We want so desperately to help these families, so we ask the hard questions: What happened to your children? How can we help?

But we know the responses will feel hauntingly familiar.

Open captions:

>> Our whole village gets their water from a small river. The water is not clean but it's all we have to use. Then we get home and give it to our children to drink... diarrhea and vomiting start.

Announcer: Belyse fights tirelessly to keep her family healthy. But the contaminated water they must rely on is inescapable. She lives in constant fear for the lives of her children.

Open captions:

>> I go to my knees and pray, asking God to help and protect my remaining children from the diseased water. But I know they must drink it. There is no other choice. This is the only home that I have. I am not able to leave. There is no other place for us to go.

Announcer: Like Belyse and her family, millions of people across the globe lack access to clean water. But with your help, they will no longer have to suffer the deadly consequences they face today.

End of video

In the studio:

Randy: Sheila, I have four children. I can't imagine -- I can't imagine losing one much less losing two. And the thing that makes it so difficult is that it is preventable. We need not lose any children because they don't have clean drinking water.

Sheila: One of the things the Lord has really been convicting my husband, Barry and I of this year is how casual we are sometimes about what we think of as "discretionary income." Really, I don't have discretionary income. Everything I have has been given by the Lord. It's not that the Lord doesn't want us to enjoy good things but when I see how some mothers are suffering and it's not like they're asking for some fancy new home or fancy car, all they're asking for is clean water to give to their children.

Remember when Christ encountered that woman at the well? And he talked about the fact that he would give them water and she would never be thirsty again? She was like, "Give me that water so I don't have to come back here." And he explained that he is the water of life.

I often feel when we go to preach the gospel in those nations we have to take care of the very practical needs first. When you have children who are dying, when you have mothers who literally, I've been on the floor with mothers who are weeping. When we can put a well in their village and then we can say to them, "Hey, can we tell you about the water of life who will change everything?"

You and I can change this. If we all do whatever we can, then there won't be a problem anymore. We've committed to put 400 water wells in this year alone. Do you know that already you have given almost 7,000 water wells? What a miracle! But let's not stop. The need is great and we want to do something now.

Randy: Yes! \$48 -- \$48 is all it takes to give a lifetime of clean water to ten people. You might save the lives of ten children today -- \$48. If you can give \$144 that will provide clean water for 30 people for a lifetime on average. It is \$4800 on average to provide a well and it will provide water for a lifetime. Some of you can do that and I'm asking you if you're that person do it! You can be a hero to people. You can save lives. All of you can just by joining with us and doing whatever you can.

Go to the phones, go online, make the best gift you can. We have some wonderful items that we

want to give you to remind you of what you've done. So request those. But most importantly, give that water, be that answer that these people need, that miracle in their lives that will change them -- that will give them life. Do it today!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Today, a mother living in extreme poverty will do the unthinkable, give her children dirty, diseased-filled water that she knows could kill them. With no other choice what else can she do?

With your help, clean water is on the way. Mission: Water for LIFE provides a way for parents to save the lives of their children to offer them a bright future free from the fear of death.

With your gift today, you can help drill and establish 400 water wells this year. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. \$72 will provided for 15. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift, we'll send you the "New Mercies Each Day" desk calendar. This 17-month calendar will not only help you keep track of important dates but also remind you of the Father's love and goodness with scripture quotes and encouragement from all the hosts on *LIFE Today*.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the "Fruit of the Spirit" bowl. This beautiful and decorative ceramic bowl features scripture revealing the "Fruit of the Spirit," a lovely addition to your table or home.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provided water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request our "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms" bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

On the mission field

Betty: This little child is probably between two and three years old – maybe four. But he may not make it past five – four or five if he doesn't have the water he needs. He has water but it's contaminated. But we have to give him a choice. They don't have a choice right now. In so many places all over the world, because they don't have that choice, their bodies are being contaminated with this bad water and their families are dying. Our missionaries have been there and seen them in hospitals. They're there because they haven't had good water. They've had contaminated water and its waterborne diseases that will kill them if we don't reach out and help them in time. Please help us do that! Please! All around the world give these children a chance at life. Thank you so much and God will bless you richly!

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: I really pray all of you will do what you can. You can make such a huge difference in lives today. So go online, make that phone call, do what you can.

Sheila, I'm sorry that this show has come to an end. It's been so much fun!

Sheila: It's fantastic! But remember, *Overcomer*, August 23rd, take a friend. Get tickets early! It's going to be an absolute... let's pray that this is part of a revival of what God is going to do in our nation. This is part of fulfilling the great commission. This is taking the gospel to everybody.

So Priscilla, we pray God's great favor and blessings on you. We love you! Thank you for being with us.

Priscilla: Thank you.

Randy: Thank you for being here. Join us every day on *LIFE Today*.