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Week 12: Mission: Rescue Life

Mission special

Sheila Walsh

Sheila: Hello, I'm Sheila Walsh. Welcome to this special program.

For over ten years, here at *LIFE Outreach International*, we've been involved in rescuing young girls, and sometimes young boys, from sex trafficking all around the world. I'd love to tell you that things are so much better now but they're not. They're a lot worse. I recently returned from a trip to Southeast Asia and the thing that really broke my heart was the age of so many of these children who are being trafficked.

Sometimes when you watch programs it's tempting to think well perhaps they find themselves there because that's the life they have chosen. No. Far, far from it. So many young girls, someone will come to their village and say, "Hey, we have a job for you in our town."

And because, particularly Southeast Asia, there's a tremendous commitment to family and wanting to honor their family, to take care of their parents, these young girls will accept a job and suddenly they'll find themselves in a nightmare of a world. Sometimes they'll be offered a meal. They have no way of knowing that the food has been drugged and they will wake up in a small cell, really, with a man beside them and their life is now behind a closed and often locked door.

We care about these children. We care about the cries. I've talked to so many young girls who have told me, "Sometimes I would look up at the stars through a little hole in the ceiling and ask if there is a God in heaven will you please send me some help?"

That's why we're here. We're here because we want to respond to those cries. But the need is urgent, the need is now.

I want to show you something of the work that we've been doing over the last ten years that will give you an idea of exactly our hope and our mission that we will be able to reach these girls before a trafficker ever touches them; that we will be able to rescue those who have been trapped. And not only that but we would be able to restore them to a life. These are not just somebody else's children across the world they could be your daughter, they could be your sister. They're crying out right now and I'm asking you will you respond to that cry?

Will you join with us and determine that this evil cannot go on any longer? Some of this may be hard to watch but once you've seen it you can't look away. Watch this.

Begin video clip

Sheila: Every time I see a little girl... hello! How are you? Big smile. ...like that, I just wonder what her future is.

Announcer: When we began bringing you the stories of girls trapped in human trafficking over a decade ago, you responded in a big way. Through the work of rescue life we began to shine God's light in the very darkest places on earth. And when that light appeared, the evil one scattered like cockroaches back into the crevices and corners they came from. But they never stopped their terrible crimes. There is too much money involved. Instead, they've continued underground.

Their progress has been slowed but our work is more critical than ever. Because of the traffickers have been chased out of committing their crimes in the open, there is fresh fear among the girls to speak with us. Many don't want their faces shown because they're scared for their families if someone finds out they're helping end this industry. But we want you to know that these girls, even ones we can't show, they're real. Their pain is real.

Our tears have fallen together on the same floors as they've told us over and over that they want freedom but don't know how. Well, we know how. Our partners all over the world are reaching these girls. In many cases being preventing trafficking altogether through education and border intervention. We're rescuing them through investigations and SWAT raids. And we're restoring them through safe houses and skills training so they can have a life and an income when they leave our care.

It is ironic that our success has made our work more difficult but we won't be stopped, not until the last girl is freed. We need your help today more than ever. We need you to speak up for these precious ones who cannot speak for themselves. They're waiting and hoping for rescue. We can't let them hope in vain.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: It's overwhelming, isn't it? When you see that amount of need and you see numbers of children like that. But for me, the reality is it comes down to the life of each child. One child reached, you change her whole world.

I was in Southeast Asia recently and had an opportunity to understand some more of how these children end up in a place like this. Some viewers have written and asked me, "Well, how does a child get from a village to a place like that?"

One girl I met, her dad is in prison and her mother left and went off with a younger man leaving her to take care of four children. She was 12. That's where it starts. It starts with innocent children going out at night trying to collect cans; to sell eight cans for a quarter. And so often, that is where they are kidnapped and taken away.

Their cries will never leave me. That's why I wanted to share with you exactly what the need is, how these children get there and how we can do something. Some are able to escape but honestly

they are rare. Most girls when they are trafficked like that and captured, their spirits and their wills are broken down until they believe they have no value.

A pastor told me, "We have to tell these children they have more value than a chicken." They consider a chicken as something you would sell and they have no more value than that. We know differently. We know that the value that Christ places on each life was his own life.

I want to take you now to show you the story of a young girl and how she was caught up in that evil world. I think it will help you understand how this happens. Please watch this.

Begin video clip

Sheila: I just wanted to explain why with this particular little girl that we're not showing her face. She's 11 years old so we want to do everything we can to protect her. So when you were just nine years old something terrible happened to you one night. Why don't you tell us about that?

Open Captions:

>> My dad is in prison and my mom ran away with some man. So I collected cans for food money to feed me and my brothers and sister.

Then one night... A guy on a motorcycle grabbed me and took me to a bar. [Crying] I was locked in a room and many different men would come in. If I refused to be with the men, I was beaten. After a year, they let me out of the room and I ran away.

Right now I'm free, but I still have to go out at night to pick up cans. I still have to buy all the food for my family. I'm scared that I will be taken again and made to go back into that room.

Sheila: I'm horrified by her story. And the tragedy is she is not the only one. There are so many girls.

Here's what I think. If we don't defend her, if we don't say "no" to those vicious predators, and trust me, they are very well organized and they are very well funded so we've got to get organized, we've got to get funded. It is time to let our righteous anger rise to the surface. There are some things that we can say, "Well, that's not good" -- but this is evil. This is absolute evil from the pit of hell and we cannot abandon these beautiful children who are longing to know that there's at least one person on this planet who cares for them.

I want her to know it is you and it is me, and we're going to fight for them in Jesus' name.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: That little girl's face, that precious child's face will never leave my mind and my heart. I pray for her but I want to do so much more because she is not the only one. There are so many young children like that.

Can you imagine if you were 12 years old and it was your responsibility to take care of your brothers and sisters because your mom has left and gone off? One of the children she's left to raise is a baby. And she is terrified. She still has to go out every night. She has to go out when it is dark because that's when all the beer cans are thrown out of the clubs. So she goes out between midnight and three in the morning and is terrified that one more she'll be kidnapped and put on the back of a motorcycle and find herself waking up in that room again. We cannot let that happen.

We have some phenomenal partners on the ground. At *LIFE Outreach* we have the largest center for these girls; it is called Destiny House, a place where they can be taken, where all their medical needs can be taken care of. Where they can be told, "You are not a number. You are a child that is loved by God and we come in his name to tell you that you have value."

So now is the time where you and I need to step up. We are the church of Jesus Christ on the

planet at this time. This is our watch. We cannot allow this to go on.

Our mission here is very clear and focused: Reach, we want to go to the villages, we want to get to these children before a trafficker is ever able to come within ten feet of them so they never have to face that. But then we want to rescue; for those who have already been trafficked, who lie in the dark every night terrified, waiting for the next man to come in, we want to take our SWAT teams, we want to kick those doors down, and we want to rescue these young girls.

And then restore. Can you imagine? From the age of nine to 12 you have to service men night after night after night. It takes a lot of work to be able to work with these young girls and tell them, "You've been told that your life is worth nothing, we're here to tell you that your life has value. The value that God puts on your life is the life of his own son." So we need to work and we need to do something and we need to do it now.

I'm really excited to tell you that some of our partners have put up a \$320,000 matching gift. It used to be that for \$128 we would be able to rescue one child. That might be too much for your budget but now because of this matching gift, if you can give \$64 our partners will match that and together you'll have rescued a child.

If you were able to give more, \$128 now it will actually rescue two children. And for those of you who have been financially blessed, \$1280 matched now, it used to rescue ten children, do you know that if you are able to give \$1280 you will rescue 20 children? Isn't that amazing to be able to do that? You'll be able to reach, you'll be able to rescue, you'll be able to restore and we'll do it in Jesus' name.

The need is urgent. I just got back. It's getting so much darker but as long as the body of Christ is on this planet this is our opportunity to say, "We are not going to allow this evil from the pit of hell to go on. We're going to come with the light of Jesus Christ, shine it into the darkness, and let people know you are loved by God." But we need your help and we need it now. Please go to your phone. Please call that number. Give the best gift possible.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Behind the bright lights there's a darkness where a world of innocence is lost, and abuse runs rampant scarring the souls of children with no one and nowhere to turn for help. With bodies broken and hopes crushed, these young victims are trapped in a never-ending nightmare.

Today you can shine the light of God's love in this dark world to reach, rescue, and restore these young ones to the life God designed for them to live. With a generous \$320,000 matching gift, now your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child can be doubled to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help rescue one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 Mission Rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

And with your donation of any amount we'll send you the faith, hope, love tea towel set. These beautifully woven hand towels are a wonderful reminder to remain steadfast in faith, hope, and love each day.

With your gift of \$128 or more you'll receive the life-giving Proverbs journal bound in genuine leather. This journal is filled with wisdom and daily encouragement from Proverbs, featuring lined pages for your personal notes as you reflect on godly instruction to success in life.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,280 which will now help rescue 20 children! And you may request our beautiful bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video**On the mission field**

Ralph: I'm standing here today at a border crossing near India and Nepal. Multiple thousands of people cross through this border every day. But caught in the middle of all this flow, young ladies, even little girls are being caught up in this darkness called "human trafficking." They're going to be caught on the other side of this border: No passport, no legal documents, and no

identification. Most of them never to be seen again.

It's like these young girls are like in the jaws of death and those jaws can either close in on them and take their life away or those jaws can stay open. And they stay open by mission partners who are on these borders right now as we speak. They're intercepting these girls from being taken across that border where they will disappear. If they do, they're going to end up with diseases like AIDS. Many of them end up committing suicide. But our mission partners can rescue them so they can have a life. They get them in school. They give them training so they can move on with their life and really thrive.

I want to ask you today, right now, if you would go to your phone, call that number on the screen, go online, whatever gives you the greatest opportunity to give the most generous gift you can give to help our mission partners intercept these girls and get them out of the jaws of death into a beautiful life. God bless you and thank you for giving today.

End of clip

On the mission field

Open Captions: Over 4.5 million women, girls and boys are currently victims of sex trafficking.

Sheila: It's really easy to get overwhelmed here. You just see the tremendous need, the numbers of girls who need help and sometimes allowing yourself, allowing myself to be overwhelmed, it kind of shuts you down. But then as I read the way that Christ was with people, Jesus is a people person and Jesus said the Son of Man has come to seek and to save those who are lost. That word *lost* in the Greek means ruined, devastated, broken beyond repair.

Song:

Come to me
I'll be your refuge
Hide under my wing
Rest your head
And don't you worry
Don't you worry, dear

Sheila: I believe with everything in me that Christ is able to reach the most lost, the most devastated. Do you remember what it says in Romans eight? Paul says, "I'm convinced that nothing, not death, nor life, not heaven, not hell can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Song:

Come to me
I'll be your refuge
Hide under my wing
And don't you worry
Don't you worry, dear

Sheila: Jesus' message has not changed. He hears every voice in the middle of a noisy crowd and he says, "Bring them to me." That's what we're doing. We want to bring them one by one to Jesus and together, you and I can do that.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: Yes, we can. Together you and I can do this. I've had the joy of being part of every single part of our mission. The part of reaching; we've gone way up high into the mountains in Southeast Asia to villages where our teams on the ground, boots on the ground teaching children what to be aware of. Things that I can't imagine telling my son when he was six or seven or eight, but it was the best news these children could have ever heard because it made them aware of if you hear these things, scream and run as fast as your little legs will carry you.

Then I've seen the rescue where they will go in to the worst of the worst, literally kicking doors down, working with SWAT teams, working with the local government, working with local police and rescuing these girls, literally snatching them from the gates of hell.

And then restore, I've seen, I've sat with these children. I've run and played with these children. You see that little girl with the T-shirt that said "working girl?" That shouldn't say, "working girl." That should say "playing girl." That should say, "Little girl playing with her dolls and running in the fresh air."

The thing is you and I can do that. We have some amazing partners on the ground but they're counting on us to be able to keep underwriting their work. We have a \$320,000 matching gift available right now during this special. It used to be for \$128 that you could rescue one child. But some people say, "That's a little bit much." Now if you're able to give \$64 it will be matched and together, you'll rescue one child.

But if you are able to give \$128, and many of us are, now you're actually rescuing two children. If you have a little bit more and you're able to give more, \$1280 used to be able to rescue ten of these beautiful children but now, because of your matching gift, you're able with your gift of \$1280 to rescue 20 children -- 20 more little feet running up the grass enjoying the fresh air and knowing that they're loved by God.

We need your help and we need it now because the need has never been greater. So whatever you can give, would you do it now? Will you go to your phone? Will you go online? Give the best gift possible. Because the thing is, if you give the best gift possible and if I give the best gift possible, together we can change the situation. This is evil that's been perpetrated against children. You and I can come in in the name of Jesus Christ and change their lives, change their destinies, and we can do it now. Please, go to your phone. Give the best gift possible.

We have some lovely gifts that we'd like to send to you. I know that you don't give for that but it's just simply our way of saying, "Thank you." Thank you for hearing the cries of these innocent ones and deciding that you're not going to just flip through the channels or let it go and think, well, maybe another day. Another day might not come for some of these little ones so we need to do something and we need to do it today. Please call that number on your screen. Go online. Give the very best gift possible and together, we can change the world.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Behind the bright lights there's a darkness where a world of innocence is lost, and abuse runs rampant scarring the souls of children with no one and nowhere to turn for help. With bodies broken and hopes crushed, these young victims are trapped in a never-ending nightmare.

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End of video

On the mission field

Sheila: Honestly, I don't think anything quite prepared me for this trip. I sat down and talked to a young girl who was basically sold into trafficking by her mother and father. When they need more money, instead of them finding a way to get it, they turn to their daughters. One of them is 15 now and the other one is 17. They have been basically sold every night in a karaoke bar

where they have to persuade these men, these clients to drink a lot and then they have to be willing to go and sleep with these men.

When I look into the eyes of these little girls, they're just little girls. This cannot be their future. I feel that once we know something, you can't unknow it and that's why we're here on behalf of *LIFE Today*, on behalf of *LIFE Outreach International* because we have to reach these girls before we can rescue them, before we can restore them. That's our commitment to these girls, "Not only do we want to sit down and talk with you, we want to get you out of the place where you are and put you in a safe place so that you can begin the healing process of being restored." And we're doing it all in the name of Jesus.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: I just want to say thank you. Thank you for staying with me. Thank you for not turning the TV off or walking away. The fact that those of us who are on the planet at this time who love Jesus are determining that we're going to make a difference. I'm so grateful. I'm so proud to be part of the body of Christ making the difference now.

If you've tried to call and the number was busy, please call again! Go online. Just do what you can. If we all do what we can we can change the world for these children. I will be going back again pretty soon and I can't wait to bring back stories of children who have been rescued, who have been redeemed, who have been restored, who are now our brothers and sisters because they know that God heard their cry and he sent help.

So for all of us here at *LIFE Today*, I just want to say thank you so much for your care. Thank you to those of you who have cared over and over and over again. Together we can do this. Thank you!