

**10/10/19**

**Week 41: Mission: Rescue Life**

**James and Betty Robison**

**Michael Anthony Curtis and Morgan Parks**

**Song: "Stained Glass"**

**James:** Thank all of you. I'm excited. I'm anxious to talk to you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have Michael Anthony Curtis. The last time Michael and I were together we went to pray with Randy Travis who had just had a stroke. It was a really tough challenging thing.

And Michael just loves God so much. He's written country songs for all the famous singers. When he was here and sang a song that kind of related to both of us not having a father, and born without, let's say wedlock or where things were together, he began to talk about being set free and it was just unbelievable.

Since then, this is the guy that didn't know who his father was, Michael Anthony. He met a Morgan Parks that is sitting here by him and they're brothers. Now I want all of you, with your cameras, I want you to kind of zoom in on the two of them. They didn't know each other. How long have you known each other now since y'all got to know each other?

**Morgan:** Right at two years.

**James:** About two years. And had the same father, they didn't know it because you hadn't even found yours when you were here; you didn't know, and the same here. But now they're together and they're singers. They're going to sing a powerful song. But I want you to listen to their story.

Would you welcome our guests, Morgan Parks and Michael Anthony Curtis? Would you

please? Same father, different names, different journey. Take off Michael and tell us about your journey.

**Michael:** Well, after I was on your show, I got to know who my dad was and I was seeking out information. I met his children. They had told me that there was another one out there like me. They didn't know if it was a boy or girl but they knew there was another out there like me. And I got to know who my dad was and he was a Korean War veteran. I learned about forgiveness, grace, and mercy at a much deeper, deeper level.

**James:** Now was he aware that he had left a child; that you were the child? Did he realize this pregnancy had taken place and now he's out of your life? Did he know that?

**Michael:** He did.

**James:** Did you have to deal with that part?

**Michael:** Ironically, God poured down the grace and mercy and love for us to have a wonderful relationship before he passed. He passed away years later even before Morgan got to know him.

But I'm just telling you, James. I really learned what grace and mercy and forgiveness, and a heavenly Father, how much he can love and forgive.

**James:** I can see it on you. It's on your countenance. I know you. I know it's in your heart.

How does this guy suddenly come into the picture over here? Because he looks like your brother for sure.

[Laughter]

I just love his countenance -- both of you. To me, you've got a holy glow, the glory of God on

both of you. You've got grace. You look like you're related. You're sure spiritually related; I can just see it everywhere. But tell me how this all came about.

**Morgan:** Well, I'm a minister outside of Memphis, Tennessee, in a town called Collierville. I was doing funerals at a large funeral home in Memphis and one of the guys that work there who I clicked with immediately said, "You do the most earthy funeral services. Would you be the guy we call if we..."

**James:** What do you mean by earthy?

**Morgan:** Personal, earthy.

**James:** Just down to earth? People get it. It helps them. It ministers. It isn't just a bunch of religious stuff. It's real ministry. In case you don't understand all this spiritual talk. Okay, talking about people who understand us. Not religious gobbledygook. "God..." and all that. There you go. Go for it.

**Morgan:** So he asked me if I would be the guy they could call if a family needed a minister at a service but didn't have one. And so I kind of thought about it and I said, "Well sure. I'll do that." I mean how often can that happen? Everybody has a minister. Well, 378 times in three and a half years.

[Laughter]

**James:** God bless you!

**Morgan:** The guy that asked me to do it was friends with one of the people that went to my church. And they were at a Christmas party and my name came up and this person said, "You need to hear Morgan's adoption story. It is really miraculous."

So, the next couple of weeks we had a 94-year old woman we were doing her funeral. He came

in this breakroom and I was sitting there. And he said, "I've been told I need to hear your adoption story. It's pretty miraculous."

I said, "It is pretty miraculous actually."

So he said, "Who was your birth mother?" And we went through all these things. And eventually he said, "Well, who was your birth father?"

I said, "Well, he did this in this town."

He goes, "I had people in my family that did that."

When I told him...

**James:** You didn't know who your birth father was. You're being very honest about that; right?

**Morgan:** No. Never did. I had a picture of him that my birth mother had when I met her when I was 18.

**Michael:** Knew his name.

**Morgan:** Knew his name. And so when I said where this town was where all this happened he turned as white as that cloth in front of you. I said, "What's going on?"

He said, "That's where I'm from. I was born there. My family is still there."

I said, "You're lying to me."

He said, "I'm not lying to you."

So eventually I gave out my birth father's name and he turned as white as that sheet again. I said,

"What is it now?"

He goes, "That's my uncle."

So we started comparing details and everything. Sure enough, it was. He looked at me and he said, "You're my cousin." Then we had to go do this poor lady's funeral.

[Laughter]

The minister's crying, the funeral director is crying. And then within three or four days, friend requests started on Facebook and then we got to switch numbers. Then we met each other and immediately, it was like this is something.

**Michael:** There was a click. As soon as I saw him...

**James:** He is better looking than you though.

**Michael:** That's what he said!

**Morgan:** I tell everybody that!

**Michael:** That's what he says. I always say age before beauty.

**James:** Keep going. I didn't mean to interrupt you. You know the truth hurts but I had to comment.

**Michael:** So I don't know, it was just for years every time I'd meet somebody, oh is that my brother or is that my sister? You're just hunting for that missing piece. When they called and said, "We found the other you" it was like... [Joins hands together]

**James:** And is he able to sing too?

**Michael:** Oh yeah!

**James:** Now you write songs and so forth. Had you heard of him and any of his songs?

**Morgan:** Actually, it is deeper than that. Musical people that I'm either obsessed with or really, really like were people that he knew very well. In fact, the recording studio that he does stuff at is where many of the songs that I'm very attached to were recorded. Because I asked him about one of them. He said, "You want to sit in the room where they recorded that song? Let's go next door." And chills.

**James:** That's great! And did you recognize some of the songs he had written and made him quite famous. No question about that. So now what are y'all doing?

Anything you want to ask these two guys?

**Betty:** I was curious, you've known each other what? Two years? That's not very long but after meeting one another and spending time together have you noticed things that you do and you say, "That's the way I think" or "That's just like -- that reminds me of myself."

**Michael:** We were at the hotel yesterday. [Snaps fingers] Denise said, "Y'all walk alike."

**Morgan:** He has six children, I've got seven children.

[Laughter]

**James:** All right, tell me what's happening in this whole journey because you're going to do a song. I'm going to want to hear about what led to the song because I barely made it through it crying because it took me back to a spot I referenced before you sing it. And almost said, "We sing it." That would be the worst thing that ever happened in a song you ever did. That would end your career for me to sing.

[Laughter]

But what's been going on between the two of you now since you came together?

**Michael:** Well, just getting to know each other and wanting, we're about to get our children together so our children can get to know each other and sing. We're going to do some ministry work together. We just felt like when we got asked to do this, James, that this was just God business, kingdom business. Getting to the song, "Stained Glass" which Morgan fell in love with.

Since I saw you, look, there's a lot of broken people out there in the church. I became one of them. I went through a divorce. Man, I just got mad at God for a while. Like how can I serve you and you allow this to happen to me? And then I ended up after the divorce moving to Texas and was working with Randy Travis and he had that stroke. That was July of 2013 and I'd moved back home. When I moved back home I was at Ricky Skaggs and he said, "Son, take off that heavy coat. God's forgiven you."

**James:** God bless you, Ricky! Love you, buddy!

**Michael:** I was standing in front of a 20-foot stained glass window one day in worship and God just poured it out. I really for the first time got -- emotional -- what it felt like for a prodigal to come home.

**James:** We're all broken up glass, stained glass. And he can make a masterpiece. You had a great thing happen. You met your father, tell us about it.

**Michael:** It was another thing that after I met him and got to know him and found out he was a Korean War veteran. Man, I just fell in love with him.

**James:** Did you feel like you were forgiven?

**Michael:** I just felt like that all that didn't matter. We look at our sin sometimes, James, and we go -- you know, but the bottom line is people can look at you and me and Morgan and go, "Well, y'all were born out of wedlock." But if we hadn't been born look at all that wouldn't have had happened.

So for my dad, I found out so many great things. I found out where my music came from and where the poetry came from. I just -- one of the greatest things I got to love him before he died.

**James:** Thank God for that. This "Stained Glass," I want you to tell how it was inspired and then I want y'all to sing it. But when I was a boy, with my mother, my dad was never there, and saying we were living in poverty, this is true. In all the years I was in school in Austin, ten years starting when I was five, because I had an aunt who got me in a school that she could get me in as a favor to my impoverished mother and our difficult situation. But all the years that I was in school there in Austin, those ten years, never took one person home to see where I lived; 17 different places in ten years and dumps. I didn't want anybody to see where I lived.

It bothered me when others told who their daddy was on the card. I didn't have a daddy. I actually, a couple of places as a little kid, I made up a name of a daddy I didn't have. And I was hurting. But I went to church with my mother. I got christened and in this pretty uppity Episcopal Church, which I never really understood all that was going on, all the liturgy, I just didn't understand. I'm just a kid; I'm 10 to 12 years old. But I got to looking at the stained glass windows. I saw one of them was Jesus and he was holding a little lamb. And I just stared at him. I thought, that is Jesus. It would be wonderful if he would hold me. I knew I needed to be held. I needed a father's love -- the shepherd.

I looked at another one and Jesus is knocking on a door. Don't ask me how I knew he wanted to come in. And it was like he was saying, "I want to come in." And the night I accepted him, I saw that stained glass window and I said, "I'm opening the door." Boy, did he come in! And he'll come in for you.

I want y'all to sing that "Stained Glass." You want to introduce it before you sing it?

**Michael:** Like I said, I was at that church worshipping that day and I just felt like the Lord poured it out. And the pastor actually said, "I had a message on stained glass today but I didn't get to preach it because the Holy Spirit took over" like he sometimes does.

But James, I could not do anything else that afternoon. It was just like you've got to write this song, you've got to write this song because there's so many people inside and outside the church that just need to realize, you can't clean yourself up. Without the blood of Jesus, we're all stained glass.

**James:** Y'all want to hear them sing? This is the brothers singing, "Stained Glass." All right. We want to hear you do it.

[Michael Anthony Curtis and Morgan Parks sing]

Driving by the church on Sunday  
 From the outside looking in  
 There are those in there and those out here  
 Dealing with their sin  
 The rainbow-colored windows  
 Made me realize at last  
 No matter which side of the wall you're on  
 We're all stained glass

I don't come here for religion. No!  
 That's not what it's about  
 We're all pilgrims on a journey  
 Trying to get life down  
 Some come with broken pieces  
 And for some the die is cast  
 but we're all part of God's mosaic  
 But we're all stained glass

But you are welcome in my Father's house  
No matter what you've done  
There's only one who got it perfect  
That's God's only son

But he'll give you a brighter future  
He'll forgive you of your past  
Friends, you're not in this alone  
We're all stained glass

You are welcome in my Father's house  
No matter what you've done  
There's only one who got it perfect  
That's God's only son

But he'll give you a brighter future  
He'll forgive you of your past  
Friend, you're not in this alone  
We're all stained glass

No, without the blood of Jesus  
We're all stained glass

**James:** Just let me say to you how special you are. Broken stained glass. Cleansed. Thank you, God! He wants that for you. As three fatherless guys up here met that Father that loves you. I don't know about your family. I know about the family of this Father.

And Betty, that Father giving me you is the greatest joy of my life, and three children, one of

them in heaven with the Father, and 11 grandchildren, and early next year we'll have our seventh great grandbaby. You need to understand that this little couple here, this older couple, whatever, we love you. This is family you just heard, all of us stained glass. I wished you could understand how much we love you. That's why we're here. Betty and I are not looking for something to do. When you've got 11 grandkids and about to have seven great grandkids, you're not looking for something to do, I just love you. God, I love you! And I want to thank you for helping us love people that are overlooked.

Would you tell these two brothers thank you? And would you say thank you, God for being their Father? I love you, man! If they want you guys to come and do something in their church or sing, where would they locate you? How would they ask you? Would y'all come and do something with us?

**Michael:** Absolutely! They can go to [AlawisEntertainment.com](http://AlawisEntertainment.com).

**James:** I'm going to put it on the screen so we know how to spell it. Is that a Tennessee title?

**Michael:** It's actually my partner's in Wisconsin and I'm in Alabama so it's Alawis.

**James:** There is it is, folks! There it is. And they can find you though; right?

**Michael:** They can find it at Alawis Entertainment.

**James:** Let me tell you what we're doing right now. When I say "we" I'm talking about all these people out here. We're trying to get God's arms around people that need to be set free who have literally been taken in bondage as sex slaves. I want you to watch this, and I'm pleading with you, set these kids free, set these girls free; would you? It's not an exaggeration we can. Jesus came, it is for freedom Christ set us free. Let's let these precious ones that have been in slavery, bondage, together, let's set them free. Watch. You'll want to do it.

I pray we have the greatest response. I pray people are calling to let God heal the broken glass.

And I pray people are calling to get God's arms around all these people we're showing them right here. You watch and you just do what God tells you to do because he sure does love you and he wants to pour his love through you.

**On the mission field:**

**Announcer:** The threat most often materializes out of the blue targeting those who are innocent and unaware.

**Open Captions:**

>> One morning, my mom wasn't home. A man came to the house. He offered to take me to India for a visit.

**Announcer:** It appears friendly at first but inevitably, its true colors are revealed.

**Open Captions:**

>> He told me he would take good care of me. But then he threatened to kill me if I didn't come.

**Announcer:** With one final maneuver, the trap is sprung, and human traffickers have snared yet another victim.

**Open Captions:**

>> He gave me a piece of candy. Then he made me walk out of my house and down the road. I don't remember much, other than seeing cars and buses, and then I passed out.

**Announcer:** Puja was only 12 years old when this nightmare became her reality, linking her to countless others like her who are approached, drugged, threatened and abducted before anyone even notices. Fortunately, for Puja, Rescue Life was ready. Our ministry partners at the border intercepted her captors and pulled her from their grasp before she was sold into slavery.

**Open Captions:**

>> The next thing I remember is waking up in the hospital. They said, "You are safe... Everything is going to be okay."

What if they weren't there to rescue me? What would my life have been like?

**End of video**

**In the studio:**

**James:** God, thank you so much. Thank you so much! That thank you is for you. Somebody just like you. And think of it, Betty, we've got viewers, and we were so concerned years ago when we just showed the first time our viewers this reality. We thought, well, they'll tell us, "Don't ever show us that again." The opposite was true, "Show us how we can help."

It is unusual because people stepped up and said, "We know you're going to be rescuing, here's our matching gift." That's love! \$320,000 is a lot of money. It could have come from some large gifts of several thousand, it could have come from quite a few \$1,000 -- I don't know how it all came together but these are individuals like you that made a commitment to match what you do because they believe so much in what you just saw to rescue someone like that. And we can do it. It is not an exaggeration. It works.

Would you please right now ask God what he wants you to do? Whatever you do will be matched. It takes an average of \$128 for us to reach, rescue, and begin the restoration process. That gift will be matched, which means if you give the \$128, not just reach one but two.

And I really, you know I'm going to ask you to think big. I don't have any problem asking to you elevate your thinking when it comes to giving and the joy of giving and blessing others. If you give \$1280, we can reach ten. You do that now and we reach 20.

Would you please right now, would you go and get your bankcard that you use for necessities, for things you want to do and sometimes just using it indulgently, will you get it this time and use it as a rescue? Would you reach out right now in love? Please? I know you've got to go

get the card, come back, and dial that number, please! That prayer line becomes a life line, dial it, or go online and say here's the gift I want to make.

Father, I pray as many as can will help rescue ten -- immediately 20. Everyone that can give, help them to do what you impress them to do; in Jesus' name.

I know for some of you it is a sacrifice. Some have said, "James, I couldn't give \$128" but \$64 will be matched and we've rescued another one. Whatever level you can come and give please do it.

We have some gifts to send you to bless you. The Proverbs Journal will bless you. It is wisdom. The beautiful, beautiful towel, I call them like a hanging tapestry that has a testimony, you will enjoy. And then "In the Arms of the Shepherd" bronze, God wants to hold every broken heart, every little lamb, every precious one, you're helping make that possible.

We're going to say thank you but so many people are going to be saying thanks to God for the freedom you give them. Please, make that gift now.

### **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**

**In the studio:**

**James:** Well, folks, as I tell you good-bye today I'm still kind of weeping, Betty, because I'm seeing all those people we're trying to help as broken glass. I see how pretty they are when we put them together in God's hands.

All the people here in the audience are praying for us, all of you watching praying for us, thank you for helping us. Thank you for helping us. We need a lot of help in all we do. But I want all of you to join your praise to God and just thank God for these incredible brothers that came and blessed us and these incredible songs. We thank both of you. Morgan, thank you, buddy. Michael, thank you.

Thank all of you for watching. Thanks for being with us. Thanks for sharing *LIFE Today*. Keep doing it!