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Week 41: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Naomi Zacharias

James: Well, you don't have any idea how much fun you're about to have. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm just going to hold up this cute little guy right here. Where would you think that I would get this? Because the first thing I did was take a picture of this sitting on my knee because that's just the cutest little thing. And you're going to see this book, this is a children's book, *Little Prince, Little Prince, What Will You Be?* And it is written by one of the most beautiful friends we've ever had. Ravi Zacharias's daughter Naomi, and she has three sons and a daughter. But these princes, and the one that's five now inspired this.

But Naomi's here and Naomi would normally have a big crowd and they'd just all stand. But Betty and I, with all of our heart, and with the angelic host, we welcome you to *LIFE Today*. And I've got to tell you, dad is watching because dad sat here a lot. He was in this studio a lot. And I think he really liked coming here.

Naomi: You all meant so much to him. You were so special to him. You've always been special to me. He's always cared for me with such kindness. I was telling some of your staff a little bit earlier, in those last months with my dad, you played such a role that I feel like will forever bond me to you. And I will forever be grateful. We wouldn't have gotten him to Texas without your help. You just moved so quickly.

When we said, "We think he needs to come" you got us to Texas that day. And how critical it was for us to get there that day. They actually closed treatment a couple days later. And of course, we didn't know that was coming. But you really walked that with us and with me, calling regularly to check on us and just praying with us and grieving with us too. And I'm so grateful.

James: Well, we want to just say thanks to God for your dad, and the whole world. Our viewers think your dad is like a New Testament living being right with us for his entire life. He sowed so many beautiful seeds. But he sowed a lot of them in his family. You're beautiful girls and just an awesome family. And I just love you. We're really thrilled you're here.

Now we've got to talk about this. Now this little puppy, it didn't really come with the book but when you open up and you see this beautifully illustrated book, and I'm really anxious to hear why in the world you, with all you've got going put so much into this. You see this little puppy just kind of shows up all through the book. And did the people that helped you after you published the book find this and say, my goodness! It wasn't created because of the book, was it?

Naomi: No! The artist, Mary Eakin did such a beautiful job with the art and she had woven that puppy. And so now my son Nico, who I wrote this for wants to know where his puppy is -- I think both stuffed and real. But Harvest House is the publisher and they actually found this little stuffed animal that they thought fit so perfectly. So just a few special people got the puppy with the book. And I'm so grateful that it meant something to you. I'll have to tell them they did a good job.

James: And I wrote a whole book about pets and we now have little Heidi; she is three. What a blessing. I want to ask you how in the world, have four children, three little guys, what moved you this direction? Because this is really very simple, it's for a child. What would you say? Four to ten? Something like that?

Naomi: Yeah. So one thing I'll say, it started as a song I just made up for Nico when I was rocking him to sleep one night when he was just an infant, and the other kids learned the song. So we have sung the song to Nico for years. In fact, when he saw the book and it was called *Little Prince*, it's always been called his name. So he was like, where is the Nico book? What's this?

But I don't know I just made up songs in my head for all of them when they were babies. The others are really short. I don't know why Nico's ended up being like verse upon verse. I don't know if it was because he was a middle child and I was trying to balance some things out or something, but he's got a longer song than everybody else.

So then it just became a dream, could this ever become a book? I wasn't sure that would become a reality and I was so thankful for Harvest House for putting some faith in this because it's probably been just one of the projects that's just so very special to me because it was for my son. And I just really wanted to do it for my son, to be able to give this to him.

James: Who found the illustrator, the artist, Mary?

Naomi: The publisher did, Harvest House did.

James: Well, aren't you pleased with the incredible...

Naomi: Yes! She did such beautiful art and it's got that perfect amount of whimsical to it that's truly beautiful.

James: Let me ask you what kind of response you've had from people who found out you were doing it and some that looked at it. What are you hearing?

Naomi: Well, I think there are some things, kind of magical about a children's book and I think any good children's book or children's movie it speaks to the adult, honestly, as much as it speaks to the child because it speaks to the things in us that we never grow out of. So in this book, the desire to be known, the desire to be loved, to be championed, we're never too old for that, right? So you read these children's books and you are wanting to give this message to a little one that means something to you. But it's also reminding you of those things, your own heart, and those needs of your own soul too.

So this book, there are really two things that I wanted to communicate to my son through this. Part of it just starts dreaming. When I was pregnant with Nico there was a lot of challenges in the pregnancy. And one of them they had said he had some markers for something that where 95% of babies don't make it to their first birthday. So when I was pregnant with him, I was just praying and praying for his life. I just wanted his life. When I actually was able to hold that little one and then with a renewed sense of what a privilege and gift it is to be able to dream for a little one, these hopes that you have for them. So part of it is just a mother's dream. If there is one line, "If you are a waiter, I'll eat out every night. I'll order all the specials; I'll swallow every bite!" But it really was never about what he did or what occupation he has but the realization that this child is created in the image of God, a God who has a plan and a story for him. And just wondering about the hundreds, thousands, millions of ways that the Lord might use his particular gifts in a story that was written for him and being able to bear witness to that.

So just being able to dream for him. But that lesson for him of knowing that I don't know all the ways, all the things that God has for you but he does, and he has a story that is yours and yours alone. But then also wanting him to know that throughout this journey and this very, what is a very complicated thing called life that he will always have the biggest fan in me and I will always love him and champion him towards that story God has for him.

Betty: Don't you think, I know, being a mother, when you hold that little one, ever how many you have, each one is that special one to you. And you think, God, what are they going to be? How are you going to use them? What's going to be your gifts that you're going to take and use for your honor?

Naomi: And when you start to see those honestly, from such a young age is the particularities of their personality and of their giftedness and just wondering of the many ways that God can use that and will use that. And it is such an incredible privilege in life, whether it is a child of your own or one that you have a relationship with. My sister is the

world's most amazing aunt. And even on Mother's Day, my daughter said, she said, "You're the best mama in the world, mom! And she is like, "But Zia is the second-best mama."

So I think just for all of us that we, I think depending on how our relationships are, we do all know children and we do send a message to them. We influence the way that they see the world and the way they see the value of their life and what they may hope to be or dream to be.

James: Did your dad know you were doing a children's book?

Naomi: He did. And you know when it came, the book arrived, because of course, the publishing takes time, so I'd given him the manuscript which a children's manuscript is much easier to send off than a real book manuscript but probably a year before it was finished. So the book actually arrived at the house maybe six weeks after we lost him. And I wasn't actually expecting it. When I opened it and realized what it was, my first thought was to run inside, and I couldn't wait to show my dad. Then of course, that awareness came back that I couldn't do that.

But my dad was just the most amazing grandfather. My children call him, "Papa." One of the things that I feel like he has left with them is, my dad traveled. So often he was on the road so much. Somebody wrote me recently and said, "Was it just his presence that had the impact that it did on you all as his father and as a grandfather?"

I said, "It's really more than that because the presence has to be inerrantly good. If your presence is bad or unhealthy it is not actually life-giving to people. But he was on the road so much but for my four little children he left such a tremendous, such a powerful mark on their lives. My two-and-a-half-year-old, yesterday just said, "Mama, I miss Papa! I miss Papa."

His goodness and the love that he showed to those children, the character that he modeled

for them is just amazing, the impression that it made even on little ones.

James: Well, I praise God. I want to say to all of you, and I really mean this. I wish you'd go online, go to Amazon or wherever you want to go, all the people that have the online distribution. Consider getting this for everyone you know in the family that has a child that they might sit down with because I promise you the illustrations and simplicity, the story, the inspiration, there's that little puppy sitting on his head.

You know we have a little water feature out behind the house and we've got a little slider turtle that is, when our grandson...

Betty: He just showed up in our pond.

James: He's the cutest thing. And he actually knows when we walk out and comes swimming. Just this little bitty thing. I said, "Betty knows your voice, I think."

But my grandson said, "Oh! We've got another Shelton!" He said, "We had Shelton one, Shelton two, Shelton three." But I remember that I took these little turtles, these little sliders to them when they were little, and they would put them in a little aquarium and raise them. And they had that many of them. I said, "Well now we have Shelton five." So we talk to him.

But you know when you go through the book, and you see the inspiration, I want to ask you to do something. I want you to do something for the children you love and for people who you want to bless their children. Get copies online and give them to somebody to bless their child with. I'd love to send you one.

Naomi, you realize, and of course, your dad was a great encourager of everything we did and of course, I think we encouraged him in everything he did, and we did a lot together. But we both went all over the world. We went to the least of these and the overlooked and the downtrodden and to the trafficked and we've been setting people free. We've been

drilling thousands of water wells and feeding hundreds of thousands of children every week, setting literally thousands of girls free from sexual trafficking, and that's what we're doing right now. We're asking people to help us reach, rescue, and restore those who are trafficked. We head a lot of them off at the places they're going to be taken captive. We've learned how to do that.

You've been involved in this. Tell our viewers how important it is that they support this and then tell them how they can find out about what you're doing in case they want to step over there and join with you on some of the outreaches.

Naomi: Yeah! Human trafficking I think is one of the most important issues facing our time. When Wellspring, that's the humanitarian arm of R.Z.I.M. and the arm that I serve as director for, so when we started in 2004, I feel like even since then we hear so much more about trafficking now than we did then. The awareness has grown and yet we're still seeing the numbers go up each year. So I really think human trafficking is ultimately an issue of the human heart. So as long as we're dealing with the sin of the human heart, we are going to be dealing with an issue like this because it is about the exploitation of a human being.

You know you have these quotes of pimps and underground people who have said things like, "A gun you can sell once but a human being you can sell over and over again." When we're looking at that kind of world and that kind of mentality where people see somebody else as a means to an end, this is what a result of that is going to be. So the importance of advocating for those who have been caught in this slavery, and for the protection of those trying to prevent some from ever knowing its horrible clutches I think is such a tremendous issue for our time.

One of the things, you guys have probably seen this too, but at Wellspring we've been hearing from some of the programs we work with COVID, some of the brothels have been closing down at various points around the world. That's interesting because I've never seen that before, even with H.I.V. You've never seen them close down brothels for

that reason.

But there is a part of you then when you hear that and you think oh, that's a good thing. That must be good. Yes. There is a side to that, obviously, when the brothels are shut down and it's not happening there. But I think we need to realize too these kinds of activities tend to flourish no matter what is happening with the economy. It just means that for some of the women that were working in the brothels they're now homeless. In some ways they're now more vulnerable than they were before because these things are happening on a more underground level.

So the need for us to still stand up, to participate, to advocate, to support these programs that are bringing freedom for so many and preventing slavery for so many is more critically important now than it ever has been before.

James: A lot of times, when they quit doing the work in the brothels, they'll actually start peddling drugs themselves, promoting it, and selling it and spreading that.

Naomi: Yes. And I remember one time in India and I've never forgotten, it was a brothel madam because many times it is a woman who is working in the brothel. You sometimes wonder, how is she doing this to other women? It's not just women now, too, there are a lot of men. There are a lot of younger children, both girls and boys. But I remember one of the women when we walked in there, she looked at me and she is the brothel madam and she said, "Why should I let you help them? Where were you when I was them?" And just that reminder that for so many that are actually working on that side of trafficking, they too have their story.

I don't think somebody would just wake up one day and decide they're going to sell another human being. So what happened along the way? We like for there to be a victim and there is a perpetrator, but so often the perpetrator was at one time a victim.

James: Naomi, you are a tremendous blessing. I want to repeat, this is online, in the

book stores. It will bless children like you can't believe because you can help a little prince know the King of kings and Lord of lords and begin that process at a very young age. I said if you help us rescue and literally reach out to these who are trafficked, we're going to send you a thank you if you help us help them. *Natural Remedies*, this is amazing to help us build our resistance. There is a prayer box that is beautiful to put your prayer requests in.

Now here's what I want you to know. We can reach, rescue and restore someone who is trafficked. And in the third world, a dollar goes a long way -- \$128 makes that happen for one! Viewers like you said, "I'll tell you what, it is so important we'll match what they do." You make \$128 gift, it's double, you can help two.

I ask people to give big, Betty. I like people to think big when it comes to kingdom impact. \$1280 reaches 10, now 20! I want you to watch this. You're going to be moved. But the things you've got to understand is, the problem you see, you're the solution. You're the answer to the need. You're the miracle that is needed to deal with this. Watch.

On the mission field:

Open Captions: Behind locked doors.

Announcer: In rooms hidden out of sight for most people is a world filled with young girls. Girls who became entangled in a web known as sex trafficking. Most of them set out to find legitimate work in hopes of bettering their lives only to end up being taken captive by a sex predator. Sheila tells what happened to one young girl she met.

Sheila: This girl who is now 15 started going out when she was 12, 13; thought she was going with a friend to get a job. I'll try and do whatever I can to provide for my brothers and sisters. And she thought she was going to be like a waitress. When she went into the place they offered her food, which seemed really compassionate and kind but the food

was drugged. And she lost consciousness and when she came to she was in a small locked room with a man. She was naked. And she realized that for the first time in her life that she had been raped. What is she supposed to do?

Announcer: The evil of human trafficking is driven by the fact that it's a multi-billion-dollar industry. The real tragedy is the resulting physical and emotional scars inflicted on millions of young girls and children.

Sheila: Let's decide enough! Let's just say enough! We will rise up and we will change this. And we will do it because think of -- our whole thing here at *LIFE* is reach, rescue, restore. The value that God places on their life is not diminished by what they have to do every night. And because of that, we get to tell them, you're not a number -- you're a name, and God knows your name and we're coming in His name to let you know. Time is coming for you to be free.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Boy, Naomi, when you see that beautiful girl -- gosh she is beautiful -- what happens inside?

Naomi: I was looking at her face and I was thinking about how many times do you hear a story like this? Or see a face whether you're standing in front of her or looking at an image on a screen, it never gets easier and it never loses its impact. I think because you realize that what has been done to her, the violation is so tremendous. And that while there is the potential for rescue and freedom, she will have to live with the wounds of that for the rest of her life, and just the reality of the pain and suffering of that.

At the same time, when I was listening to Sheila talk too, I think this is honestly like one of the most beautiful messages that the Christian gospel has. You don't have to be a

Christian to go out and take a stand against trafficking. You could not believe in God and still want to advocate for that little girl.

But I think what you do have with the Christian message is you have the reason why. It is only with the Christian message where you have the ought, why any of us ought to do this. Why what was done to her was wrong, was a violation of actually the image of God himself. But also why as horrific as that is, what happened to her, it cannot diminish her even a tiny bit because she was made in the image of God and nothing and no one can take that away from her.

James: She can be rescued and restored. Because love never fails. Betty, what do you want our viewers to consider as we ask them to help us rescue them?

Betty: Well, you know, I agree with you, Naomi that it's never easy to watch. It doesn't get any easier to see those precious, precious girls being treated as they're treating them, being lied to, hopeful that they might be getting a job to help their family and then they're drugged and they're taken to these places that they might not ever see their family again. Just all the hopelessness they feel.

But I'm so grateful that because of *LIFE Outreach* and so many other ministries that have reached out and helped and cared, that we can do something about it. We can get to these precious little ones before they get to where they're taken, and their bodies are abused and their hearts and minds are just torn apart and fear sets in.

You can join us in that. Please, right now, join with us and let's say, let's make that difference for these precious children.

James: Well, you can actually help us rescue them in the very areas where the traffickers normally take them captive. We've really got watchmen, more than on the wall, they're right in the setting, the scene, and they're able to get them before they're getting trafficked. But then after they're trafficked now, because of your faithful help over

the years, when we do reach one and get them out, we've got compounds now in various areas that are secure where they can't get them back.

You have reached out, because of your love. Betty, I'm telling you, the viewers of *LIFE Today* are the most beautiful expressions of God's love I've seen anywhere on this planet. If you'll reach out right now, go get a bankcard and use it like a check, you write a check and make it to *LIFE* because that's what you're sharing, but go get the card or get the check, make the check. If you can give \$128 it will rescue one. That's the average cost. Listen to me, it will be doubled because it's going to be matched. \$1280 to rescue 10 will now rescue 20. So would you go get your bankcard? Go online, make the gift now or dial the number. If you do write a check, call the number and tell us you're putting it in the mail. And then please do so.

Remember, we have some gifts to send you to bless you and they will! They really will. Could save your life because of what it will do for your ability to resist disease. And God knows we need that ability. It's built into us if we enhance it and strengthen it. We want to help do that.

Also, Naomi's book that she has written for her Little Prince and a prince somewhere in your life. Would you please right now make that gift? Thank you so much for doing it! Thank you!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Behind the bright lights there is 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 \$250,000 matching gift now your gift of \$128 to help reach, rescue, or restore one child can be doubled to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help save one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 mission rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

With your gift we'll send you *Natural Remedies*. This beautifully illustrated and essential book explores ancient nutrition and the health benefits found in God's creation, a valuable reference with biblical insight to help you live your best life.

With your gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive this beautiful prayer box inscribed with the words from Philippians 4:6. This wonderful keepsake includes pencil and paper to write down prayer requests you want to give to God.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will now help rescue 20 children. And you may request "A Mother's Strength" bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio:

James: There's no question that God's given us remedies and so much of it is what we eat and the nutrition. Gifts for you.

Naomi is going to be back with us. We're going to talk about *Little Prince* but we're going to talk to, we're going to talk about what Dad left behind because boy, did Dad make some great deposits in your life right here on *LIFE Today*.

So Naomi, Betty and I say what our whole audience would say if we could get them in here and not have someone tell us we're stretching it. So we really are trying to guard and

protect everybody. But we want you to know that you're a great blessing and we look in regard to talking to you again. I do want to talk about not only what Ravi left all of us, but what you saw and what you know he wants to be happening. God bless you.

Thank you so much for watching. Don't miss the next program! We're going to talk to Naomi.