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Week 42: Rescue LIFE

James and Betty Robison

Charlotte Gambill and Natalie Grant

JAMES: We want to welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Thank you. If you remember -- I'm James, and this is Betty -- we were led by God to launch this program. If you knew me, for many years, about 30 years, I just lived in coliseums and stadiums. And then God told me that I was to call this beautiful woman, who was very quiet, to sit by me, and he wanted us to call the family his family in the family room and help them get to know the Father.

And the Lord showed me, everyone thought he's such an effective communicator/spokesman; he said, "I want you to be a servant. I want you to show people the beauty of serving others, and what a joy." So let me tell you something, you are the greatest in the kingdom because you serve. You notice the least of these. And you not only minister to them, Jesus said, "You minister to me, you're loving me."

Well, we've got guests today. One has been here one time from the United Kingdom. And Natalie Grant has been here several times singing, but Charlotte Gambill with LIFE Church in the U.K. spends a lot of time here; and they have written a book together. So now you really have to look at this. You have to be -- you have to be clever to see DA! And really know they're saying *Dare to Be*. God is able, are you what?

TOGETHER: Willing.

JAMES: Are you going to be yielded clay in the hand of the Master Potter? Isn't that the real issue?

TOGETHER: Yes.

JAMES: And when the Master Potter takes control, it's not all pleasant shaping; sometimes, there is the pressure and discomfort involved. Would you agree? But he is shaping us into a creature of honor.

Let me read. I just flipped this open. Let me just read what I saw on one page. This is on page 83, just randomly. "This I declare about the Lord; he alone is my refuge. My place of safety," that's in any situation. "He is my God, and I trust him." And there is only one. "For he will rescue you and me from every trap and protect you from deadly disease."

Boy, we need that right now because right now, we don't really know how to deal with this pandemic, and we need the wisdom of God. And everybody we listen to, it's like they get all these different sounds every day. But we need to know our source.

Welcome. How do you like being over here in the United States of America?

CHARLOTTE: Well, I like it a lot. When I was here last time, I told you that I'd married an American. So the good news is I'm bilingual; I understand you completely.

[Laughter]

So we're going to be fine.

JAMES: You mean you even understand Texas-English?

CHARLOTTE: I do! I mean, I've got all the dialects down.

JAMES: Does your husband have a Texas or national or U.S.?

NATALIE: He's from my part of the world, Washington state.

CHARLOTTE: So yes, I just have to remind him every now and again that it began on our side of the ocean, this whole language deal. And so you put your own little spin on it.

JAMES: I love you saying "again" instead of "agin." You say you're born again! Not a born agin and agin and agin. Our pastor Robert Morris says, "Agin and agin and agin." I want to say, "Robert, hang on a second. We don't have to be in the U.K., but we could say 'again' every now and then."

CHARLOTTE: You like pushing words together, like y'all.

JAMES: That is a wonderful word! That's like the Canadians, ya. Ya!

All right, tell us what you want us to hear. We're going to read it, but what do you want them to hear?

NATALIE: I think the way you were saying it right before about the things that we need to be focused on, even in this moment. We don't know how to deal with a pandemic. We don't know how to -- but the Word of God and who Jesus is is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And so maybe we're facing something we've never faced before, but I think we feel more impassioned than ever to actually remind women your identity is in Christ.

Don't listen to everything that's happening in the world. Don't get caught up in social media that's trying to tell you what your identity is and who you belong to and what you need to be fighting for and what you need to be speaking about. Instead, go to the Word of God. And then, what has God put in you to do? And a lot of times, I feel that's where people get stuck because they're waiting for God to either send them a smoke message or say it out loud or push them through the open door. But God just requires our simple yes.

And that's the story of our friendship, the story of the ministry. We just talked today about going on tour; over 20,000 women have made first-time decisions for Christ. That's just when you say

yes. People want to jump over the little obedience and get to the big, but when you just say yes in the small, that's how God takes you to what it is that he wants you to do.

JAMES: When you go on tour, are you going to civic arenas, auditoriums, or churches, primarily? Where do you go?

NATALIE: Well, this tour thing you say, that's what we used to do in 2019.

[Laughter]

I don't really know what that is anymore. We're just getting ready to go back out on tour. We're so excited.

JAMES: Where will you go? To churches?

NATALIE: Some of it is churches, and some of it is civic auditoriums. So both.

JAMES: And hopefully, you still won't be arguing over masks.

NATALIE: Right. Just do what you've got to do.

JAMES: What is the goal when you go? Is it primarily women that you're focusing on?

CHARLOTTE: Yes. It really is. The whole journey of the book is really, sometimes when you see things on a platform, you don't get the full story of how that came to be. We just were aware that sometimes when people look at platforms, they can just be like, okay, well, I can't do that because they have a platform. So it must have been easy for them. We're really best friends, but the way our friendship began was such a God dare to us. Like the story of that, how we met, the story of how we took the first steps. The story of how we just said, "Okay, God. Put our ministries together if that's what you're asking us."

NATALIE: Even though she lives across an ocean.

CHARLOTTE: It made no sense the whole way it's come about. But the one thing we were in agreement about was we wanted to see souls saved and wanted to see people find Jesus. So we were like, we both were so passionate about that. We were like, whatever it takes to dare to do that is what we're going to do. And so the story of how we met becomes the jumping board of the book of just taking people through the background of what they don't see when they're on the stage. Because it is a pretty cool story of how God put our lives together.

BETTY: You say you minister to women. What are some of the things that you find that you're dealing with women? Because there is a lot of shame that goes with women. They feel insignificant.

NATALIE: It is such an attack on -- and it is not that men don't struggle with this but what I find is there is such an attack on identity in general right now. There is just an attack on identity. People are questioning their identity. And then if the enemy can get you to question who you are in Christ, it's like, then how do you even move forward if you really don't know who you are in Christ?

And as moms and wives, and ministry, and busy, we're trying to figure out how to balance it. How do we walk out what we feel God has called us to do? But we feel like we've got this holding us back. I think she and I were the first ones that took the first dare to put our ministries together. And then also, to go into these cities and celebrate women; I think that's the other thing that's really missing in the church community is a culture of honor. Learning how to honor one another, celebrate one another.

JAMES: Encourage one another.

NATALIE: Exactly! Instead of always talking about all the doom and gloom. We have the news to tell us about the doom and gloom, but we have the good news. We're supposed to be ones that our good news is contagious. We feel like reminding women of who they are in Christ; it doesn't

just change their lives, but it changes their families. Women are the ones that change their communities, change the schools; women have a way of going in and changing the world because of the way that God has just equipped us. I feel like when you can remind a woman of who she is in Christ, then she's unstoppable.

JAMES: You know, if we would just realize we don't have to let the enemy walk on us. We're God's ground; the tormentor and the torturer don't have a right to walk over us.

I'm curious to know how the two of you came together. Did one of you need ministry desperately, and the other one helped?

NATALIE: No!

CHARLOTTE: It's actually a really beautiful story. I think that's why it is important to communicate it because sometimes people go, oh, it must have been this person who made that connection. It was literally us following simple steps of obedience. So I was over from the U.K. in California and was supposed to be speaking at a conference. I'd just gotten into the country. I was tired. I was not due to speak that night, yet I just had this prompt: I should go. And I should just go and see what's happening at the event.

So I go to the conference. I sit down a couple rows from the front. And I'm literally in worship, and I hear an audible male voice. And this is like a women's event. I'm like, so I look around. There is no man in the room. So I close my eyes again, and this voice says, "Turn around. Look at the back of this auditorium. The girl in the orange sweater and jeans has to do with your destiny." And I was freaking out.

JAMES: Was this a male voice telling you that?

CHARLOTTE: Yes. I just knew it was the voice of God. Like literally, and it was the strangest thing God's ever said to me.

JAMES: You just shattered a lot of people.

[Laughter]

He might actually be a guy. Can you get away with it?

CHARLOTTE: So I was traveling with someone. I just nudged them, and I was like, "Okay, just turn around and tell me, is there someone in the back of this room in an orange sweater and jeans?" They went, "Yes, there is! How did you know?" I went, "Don't ask. I have no idea what's going on." I was just like, no idea.

So I sit down, and the lady that's hosting the conference leans forward and says, "I know you're not speaking tonight, but would you take the offering for us?" Again, another step of, I had an option. So I said, "Okay, okay, okay." She said, "Well, whilst you're up there, we have a guest singer, and I wonder if you could introduce her." I'm like, "I've never heard of your guest singer." Like back there in England, there was no Christian radio, no Christian -- so she's like, "It's okay. You can just read her bio out."

So I get on this platform, and I start to awkwardly read this bio out. And the girl in the orange sweater and jeans starts walking down the center of the aisle. I just began to prophesy over her, and she began to cry.

NATALIE: It was the strangest introduction I've ever had.

CHARLOTTE: In front of all these people watching, this whole thing unfolds. I just gave her a hug, and I just said, "I'm Charlotte. I have no idea what's going on. And I'm really sorry I made you cry." And then I got off the platform.

[Laughter]

That was the beginning.

NATALIE: It's funny because I was in a, my husband and I had been told that we would never be able to conceive a child. I was burned out. It was just one of those seasons in life where you felt dry. I was showing up to do what I needed to do, and I felt a nudge. Usually, when you're going to perform, I'm behind stage warming up my voice or drinking tea or something getting ready to go on. But there was a nudge that said, you actually need to go and be a part of worship. You need to get your focus right. You need to be poured into before you pour out.

So even just that, following that prompt from the Lord to go be a part of that was all a God setup. And then the words she spoke over me I thought there is no way you could have known. That's exactly what my spirit was needing to hear. It was just kind of that moment that the Lord just said, hey, I'm doing something bigger that you can't see. It took us about six years of vacationing together. We were like, he probably didn't go to all that trouble to just let us go on vacation together.

[Laughter]

JAMES: So when you came together miraculously, and that is a miraculous story, and I can tell you really love each other. You love each other with the love of the Lord, and you want the Lord's love that you all have discovered in a relationship to be theirs. So when you wrote this book, you're really wanting the viewer, those who are watching, to grasp something in here. Or you want something in here to grasp their heart. What do you want to happen? How would you describe what you want to happen to others?

CHARLOTTE: When we get older, and we journey through life, we get tired, we get weary. A lot of our life can become routine of just what life has handed to us. I think we want to remind people that God is so much bigger than our routine and so much bigger than what we see right in front of us. I was not looking for Nat, and she was not looking for me. God already saw the plan he was going to do through our lives, now almost 17 years later, which involved a friendship she desperately needed, and I desperately needed, but we didn't know. Which involved --

JAMES: But people need that friendship. People need that relationship. The reason for that relationship's importance is your relationship with God. But also with others because God cares about the others, the others that you care about, and the others you wished cared about you or cared about things you know are important. That's why he brought you together. Does that make sense?

CHARLOTTE: We want people to dare to get back in that flow. I think a lot of our life ends up with things that we're forcing or trying to make happen. But when you're in that flow with God, you walk through doors that you didn't even plan to walk through. And you end up in places where your wildest dreams couldn't have put you. Like we're here today. We didn't have this plan all mapped out. Sitting here talking about a book that we didn't think we were going to write.

But I think a lot of people sit, trying to make things happen, instead of letting God make things happen. And we just want people to dare to believe that. Dare to believe he is who he says he is. And if you just trust that small voice, instead of always looking for the big things, that he'll lead you to places that you could never imagine. And that's not just true for us.

NATALIE: And dare to take him at his Word. I think that's the big thing; it's full of the Word. When you dare to take God at his Word, even if you don't feel it. I don't always feel like it's true. I don't always feel it in the moment. Sometimes I'm like, Lord, I'm reading this Word over my life, and it feels like it is falling like completely flat. And your feelings will come and go.

That's why I love the Psalms because they're emotional basketcases like me! In one chapter, they can be like, Lord, you are great. You are wonderful. And a couple verses later, have you slammed the door on your compassion? Have you forgotten about me? I'm like, I get you. Like I get that up and down of an emotional rollercoaster.

JAMES: Our Father can handle all this. He can handle it. He accepts it. He understands it.

NATALIE: And he wants to hear it from us. That's one of the privileges of having a relationship with Christ. And so I think if we can just challenge women to get back into the Word and to dare

to take God at his Word, it really will, it might not change their circumstances, but it will change them.

BETTY: Well, and to realize that God has a plan for each one of us. From the time we were in the womb, he had our lives planned out for us. And if we can just accept that and go with it, from season to season, because there are different seasons in our life. Years ago, I wrote a book of my story, *Free to Be Me*. Because so much of the time, I didn't know who me was. Through his help and encouragement and God showing me, I found my place. We don't want to get so settled in a place that God might not move us to another place.

CHARLOTTE: If the dare just keeps continuing, you just keep still believing, still walking with God.

BETTY: And it is a journey! He takes us to different places.

JAMES: And it is amazing that Betty has been such an influence. We have very well-known people, very famous people, oftentimes, and some people think that I'm a pretty effective communicator, but everybody loves Betty. They love our guests; I think they like me, but they love her. And one of the things is that Betty has shown them, and the Lord showed me he would do this. She is very shy, she's tender, but she is strong, but she very much felt like -- easy to feel like -- I don't matter. And all of a sudden, people saw her, and they saw themselves in many ways. There is a woman that would rather be probably hidden, and yet she's there. They just open up to God because they say, look at Betty. Look how much we see Jesus in her. She wasn't even planning to say anything. She never dreamed she'd say something. God, you can do that with me. And she's been such an encourager.

This is what I pray for you right now that you will inspire women to realize how valuable, how uniquely designed they are, how fully gifted and divinely enabled God wants to make them.

Father, you bless these two beautiful ladies. Lord, thank you for the uniqueness of the design in each of them. Lord, you just pour out your spirit on them and through them on women all over

the world. And Lord, raise up men who know how to love women the way they deserve to be loved; the way they really want to be loved; admired, not compared -- admired and loved, esteemed and encouraged, and covered with protective love, and the family. Use this book and these ladies to help change the world to look more like Jesus; in your name, we pray.

The book is online; it's in the bookstores. We're rescuing the trafficked. You do some of that; you know how important it is. You know how precious it is to set someone free from that awful, never deserved situation nobody would want on anybody! And how sick we become that we could use that person to try to gratify something for which there is no satisfaction -- but getting right with God.

Listen to me. I want you to watch, and then I want you to become the miracle, the only miracle that can give these girls freedom from total bondage. You can set them free. That is not an exaggeration. We have a group of supporters who say, "We will match anything you do to set someone free because we believe this is that important." Watch closely.

On the mission field:

ANNOUNCER: In a world filled with poverty and hopelessness, the young, the innocent, the vulnerable can easily fall victim to friendly strangers, as well as trusted relatives, who in reality are sex predators looking for their next victim. Ghitu, whose real name we can't reveal, shares her story.

>> Because of poverty, my aunt took me to India to sell me. When we arrived in India at four am, that's when my aunt told me what I was going to be doing. She said, "Whatever a husband and wife do is what you'll do, but it will be with 10 to 15 men a night."

I was shocked! I couldn't utter words. She told me if I didn't do it that she would kill me. They kept me locked up for about a week, and they would feed me one slice of bread in the morning and one slice in the evening. That's how they broke me down.

When I wasn't performing, I would cry and cry. There was nothing I could do. I was going to end up *dead* in that place. A sense of hopelessness came over me.

ANNOUNCER: Fortunately, Ghitu was rescued from her captors by our mission partners in South Asia. She was taken to their safe house, where she is recovering from years of physical abuse, and where she is being restored spiritually.

>> I have no fear now. I can learn a skill and have a life after this. There is hope for me.

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: And that is the hope that God's love through people who will literally in a sense become his hands, Betty, become the way out because of love. That's what I'm praying for.

BETTY: I can't even imagine what goes on in the hearts of these precious girls, and some young boys, too, that are used like this, the abusive world they're taken into. They're lied to to get them there. They think maybe they're going to get work or something to help their family. They never get back to their family because of the abusive world they're taken into. And if they don't obey them, they beat them, or they'll kill them. The fear that they must live with, the hopelessness that they say they live with, and not even knowing if they'll live from one day to the next.

Please help us help these precious little ones. God loves them. He gave his Son for them that they might have eternal life. Let's offer hope to them. Let's let them know they are not alone; that we hear their cry for help. Please join us today, and let's do that.

JAMES: This is a very brief period of time this year because of so many crisis situations all over the world that we're going to touch with God's love. The last few weeks, our coworkers have told us that 600 girls have been totally set free, they've been reached, and now they're in the restoration process.

Would you please help us right now? Some friends like you have said right now, "We will give \$320,000 to match what you give right now." It will double it. It takes an average of \$128 to rescue one of these that are being trafficked. Most of them are girls, there are some boys. It's very sad. It's a horrific life. And many of them got into it being told they were getting a job and they could help their needy family. It's a horrible deception and destruction. But we can set them free with love.

Many people full of the love of God have planted their lives in the midst of this suffering. They have gone into hell for a heavenly cause, but they have to have our support. It takes an average of \$128 to rescue one. If you gave \$64, with the matching gift, you've now got \$128. If you gave \$128, it would not be just one you rescue but two. And I always ask you to think as big as you can. And our viewers and our donors, you're amazing. You really do. \$1280 rescues ten, now it's 20. It doubles.

Whatever you can do. Would you go get your bank card? Would you go online or dial that number? And use that bank card like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail, and please do so. A very short period of time, we need to hear from every one of you. We have some special gifts to give to you that will be a blessing, with Sheila's book, with some gifts for those of you who enjoy a beautiful masterpiece that you and your children can enjoy. And of course, the "Divine Servant" bronze, that's so beautiful! Please do what you can. Do it right now. Would you please? Thank you so much for becoming a miracle to someone.

Begin video clip:

ANNOUNCER: Innocent children and young people, longing to be loved and cared for, are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators, forced into the evil industry of human trafficking.

Through Mission: Rescue *LIFE*, you can reach out to educate children at risk of being trafficked, rescue those already enslaved, and restore young lives giving them a future.

With a generous \$320,000 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 today, we'll send you Sheila Walsh's brand-new book, *Holding on When You Want to Let Go*; "A lifeline of hope for those who feel their life is falling apart."

With your gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive the *Beauty Out of Ashes* puzzle set featuring an image taken by our team while on a trip to the mission field. This 500-piece puzzle forms a beautiful portrait of hope in the midst of despair. Included is a 24-piece puzzle for your children and grandchildren.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280, which will now help rescue 20 children. And you may request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Divine Servant." Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: We just say thank you. In a way, I wish you could hear it from one of those girls, "I never thought I'd ever have a chance. I thought it was over." No, it is not over. You gave them hope.

If you'd like to have this book, these beautiful, beautiful women that show us Jesus, we'll be glad to send it to you. Charlotte and Natalie work together. Natalie's spent quite a bit of time trying to rescue those that are there. The book will be a blessing to you. It is in the bookstores; you can

get it online. But you help us rescue somebody and say, "Would you mind sending me Charlotte and Natalie's book?" We'll be glad to.

Thank you, ladies, for coming. Thank you for coming and sharing Jesus and showing us Jesus.

NATALIE: Thank you for having us.

JAMES: And for teaching us how to talk better?

CHARLOTTE: I tried.

[Laughter]

JAMES: Thank all of you for watching. God bless you. Thanks for sharing *LIFE Today*, not just watching it.