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Week 14: Rescue LIFE

Sheila Walsh

Care Tuk

SHEILA: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm so glad that you have tuned in for this episode. You're not going to want to miss it. I hope you're taping it in some way because you're going to want to show it to some friends.

I have a guest today and it is someone I've wanted to meet for gosh, several years. We've corresponded by email and her story is something that genuinely has rocked me, brought me to my knees at times, and to tears and joyful moments as well.

I want to introduce you to my guest. She is coming to us all the way from Alaska. Care Tuk, it is so great to have you on *LIFE Outreach*.

CARE: It is such a blessing to be here, Sheila. Thanks!

SHEILA: Yours is one of those stories where you almost don't even know where to dive in. I don't think I've read another story like yours. Could you, first of all, explain to us, I notice you're wearing a hat? I saw you kind of adjust it earlier on. Is there a reason why you're wearing it other than your ears might get cold in Alaska?

CARE: Yeah. We put it to a vote, do I wear the hat, do I not wear it? But most people know me with the hat. I've had 14 battles with cancer, and after losing my hair so many times, I said forget it! I keep it at a number seven and your producer said yesterday, "Yeah, well, let's keep it down. It will keep the shine off. There won't be a glare off the top." He said, "Oh good call! Good call!" That's my one fashion accessory.

SHEILA: Fourteen separate battles with cancer?

CARE: This is what baffles the doctors. If I may, to put it in context of how it all happened.

SHEILA: Please!

CARE: I was an eight-week preemie and my mother had taken the drug diethylstilbestrol which was at the time a clinical trial in '40s and '50s to prevent miscarriages and she had a couple. So the D.E.S. Caused most of the female cancers, cervical, twice, ovarian, breast, twice, thyroid, all that kind of stuff. Whacked out the immune system. I've been fighting cancer since I've been 19 and now I am 67.

SHEILA: Wow!

CARE: Then I got hit by a drunk driver.

SHEILA: Pause right there because you, I guess you've gone through so much that you're just -- "And then I get hit by a drunk driver." I mean that was catastrophic! Plus, it interrupted what you felt was God's plan for your life.

CARE: Yes. We had just been accepted as long-term missionaries. I was going to be teaching occupational therapy at university down in Australia. And then we'd go to language school, and then go to possible Africa, they thought. And my husband is in construction. We were just waiting to hear which language school. Three days later at 10:30 in the morning, I got hit by somebody who had five D.U.I.'s already and liens against his house. He only ended up with a scratch, but he died three months later in a nursing home.

My only sadness, truly, Sheila, at first I was really ticked because I wanted to say face to face to him, alcoholism is a disease. If you have gone through that much in that amount

of time. I wanted to say, I forgive you. I love you. Do you know? Broken bones can be fixed. I'm here. And I still pray for him. So yeah.

SHEILA: How devastating was the car crash? What kind of recovery period did you have?

CARE: In essence, I'm still going through it. But at first, he hit me so hard the bones were shoved up kind of into my eye sockets, so my face had to be rebuilt. Amazingly, they went right through over here and you can barely see the incision, and then did the surgery there. And then all in the inside of my mouth they were able to put it together there. My shoulders took the brunt because it was a stick-shift little truck I was in. And so I just had, I think it was the ninth or eleventh shoulder surgery on the right arm. I've had two. And my arms are held up with a 25-pound test monofilament fishing line and screws and bolts, that type of thing. Back injuries later that would require hardware. So don't get behind me at an airport -- ever!

SHEILA: I can only imagine. What I thought was really interesting was what Bill, your husband said when you said, "Now we can't go to the mission field." What was Bill's response to that?

CARE: Bill's response, and actually, Jamie, our daughter at the time, who was little, was really mad at God because she wanted to go to Africa. She wanted to be an M.K. And he sat Jamie and me down and he said, "Listen here you two. The call to the mission field has never changed -- just the place. And our place for now on is at the end of our hand, whether you're at school, at the grocery store, at the hospital, at a job site, banging nails, wherever you are, that's your mission field."

I didn't think I would be in quite this kind of medical mission field, but it truly has been. And it's been fun.

SHEILA: There is something so profound about that though because that is true for

every single one of us. For every viewer watching, our mission field is at the end of our fingertips.

CARE: And we call it at the end of your hands, or hands of hope. When I speak in school, I have kids trace their hand, and then write out a sentence of what they want to do at the end of their hand to make a difference.

SHEILA: Wow! That's beautiful.

CARE: It's really been fun. Some have made rainbows; schools have made rainbows. Others have put them on lockers down the hall. So it's really kind of cool to be able to do that.

SHEILA: That's awesome. Your book, your second book, *Don't Wimp Out: Finding faith, courage, and victory in life's daily battles*. I read about you having a brain bleed. Was that a result of the car accident as well?

CARE: They don't know. To this day they do not know. I didn't fall. I didn't have anything. I was ready. It was labor day weekend. We were ready to can. I had peaches brining. I had cucumbers ready. We had apples galore. We had everything. And I'd had a funny, I can't even explain. But the neurologists say, that's exactly how people describe it, and it is a funny kind of headache, and it is when you lean over.

And I happened to have to go over and get my oxygen levels checked, which would take me maybe 15 minutes, a half-hour from where I was. Never went home for several months because I ended up having a three-compartment subdural bleed. The backside was totally dry; the inside was wet. And I had a full-on bleed here up in the front.

The worse side effect, yes, going through rehab, being an occupational therapist, was tough. I did not want to go to rehab. I did not want to go through therapy with my peers. And I fought tooth and nail. But on top of it, it was in the middle of 9/11. I became

aphasic, meaning I couldn't speak. I could understand but I couldn't speak. So you see the TV, you watched everything that went on.

We have relatives who worked in the financial district and so you're thinking everything. But all I could do was pray. It was one side effect was Yoda, Yoda-speak because I had to learn how to walk and talk and speak all over. I've had enough peas up my nose and oatmeal in my ears that I ever care to have -- ever! Ever!

SHEILA: Here's what I want to ask you, Care, because I'm going to tell people how they can get a hold of your book in a moment because they need to read it for themselves. There is way too much to cover in one program. But I want to ask you about the resiliency of your faith in the midst of all of this. Because I know people are going to be watching and they're just weary, they're worn out. They think, I can't go another step. How has that journey been for you?

CARE: For me, because I do, I get weary. I'm weary, I'm worn, but I make a choice to be willing to hang on even though the rope is frayed. But this is one of the biggest reasons why everybody should be in His Word and hide His Word in their heart. Because during those dark lonely times, those times when you know and think you can't take another breath, you have God's Word and God will bring to mind the exact scripture, the exact word of encouragement to whatever is going on.

SHEILA: One of the most remarkable things about your story, to me, is the way that you have stewarded your suffering so well. One story in particular really touched me because I thought I don't think I would have been doing this. You're in this business deal with someone and it goes south. And they spend money you don't know about, and you end up in a terrible place, financially, really destitute. But every month when you have to make payments for something that somebody else did, tell our viewers what you did as you did that.

CARE: Well, at first, I was really -- I let God know. Bill and I figure God knows what

you're thinking anyway, and Bill said, "God knows that so we might as well tell him and say it out loud." I was not very happy so then I did. I went to the word, and it was about encouraging -- encourage those who harm you, pray for your enemies. And I went, you've got to be kidding me! You're asking me to do what? And yet, I did. And I was faithful. The rewards have been incredible over the years to write that note of encouragement.

SHEILA: But you wrote a note for that. Didn't you write to the guy every month?

CARE: Every single time we had to write a check, I mean we were already strapped because we had double debt, we had a house that didn't sell so we had that mortgage plus what our other mortgage was, plus now the sue. So I would write the check and then I would write a note of encouragement. Never put scripture in, never did anything but just a note of encouragement that pretty much paraphrased scripture. But I didn't want to be a Bible banger, I didn't want to know -- we had no idea. We knew they had to be hurting.

And then years later, to get a letter from their oldest son who was in the military academy to say, "You don't know what that meant. You may never see or hear from my parents again, but I need you to know that every month the word of encouragement was exactly what we needed to hear." And so all I can say is, okay, Lord, fine! You're right again!

SHEILA: But there is something about that that is so living a Christian life. Like you actually believe what's in the Bible, and you actually trust Jesus. And you get it about laying up your treasure in heaven. I don't think people will be able to see you over your pile of treasure when you get home.

CARE: Neh! Treasure is treasure, I just want to see God. But you know, he's been working on me since that time. Trust was one of the words, which is Totally Rely Upon the Savior's Timing. *And* to rest in that trust, which is Relinquishing Everything and Submit Totally. That's all that we can do.

Bill and I don't know anything other than being real. Real what I'm not sure.

[Laughter]

And if normal hit us I don't know if we would know what normal was. Yeah! Be who God made you to be. Just be yourself. Even on your bad days -- even on your bad days, your worst days, let people see that.

SHEILA: Care, when people get *Don't Wimp Out*, and after they finish it, and it's a big book, it is substantial, what is your prayer for your readers?

CARE: My prayer mostly is that they will see God and not us. That they will see that God works through anything that you can go through, good, bad, ugly, whatever it is, he is right there. And I think, Sheila, I could best describe it by your love of Psalm 23 and being bummer lambs. I feel like a bummer lamb who is often carried through the valley of the shadow of death. But I'm also glad that all Dogs Go to Heaven because goodness and mercy are always nipping at my feet trying to keep me in the flock. I'm no different. I'm no saint. I'm human.

SHEILA: Beautifully human! Beautifully human. Okay, people, as you can tell, this is just a remarkable sister. I feel like we're two daughters from different mothers, or the same mother, I can't remember what the phrase is, but you know what I mean. There is so much in this story that is just challenging, encouraging, that makes you want to keep looking up.

So how can people contact you, Care? Where can they get in touch with you if they want to hear more of your story?

CARE: The best way is to go to my website which is WWW.CareTuk.com. Don't put a C in Tuk because that's what you do to a shirt. And we aren't found in the pharmaceutical aisle. So Tuk. And we're not a taxi either.

SHEILA: Yeah, I've been in tuk-tuks when I was in Thailand.

CARE: Yeah! Yeah!

SHEILA: Okay, well I'm going to tell you how you can get a hold of Care's book. But first of all, I want you to watch something that will touch you as deeply as I pray Care's story has. Then I'll be right back to tell you how you can get your own copy of *Don't Wimp Out*. Watch this.

On the mission field

Open Captions

>> I was really scared and afraid. I was so young, and I did not know anything. The men forced me to do bad things and I could not find any help.

>> Girls? How old do you want?

>> Young.

>> How old?

>> What's the youngest?

>> Huh?

>> The youngest.

ANNOUNCER: Sex trafficking of young women and children is one of the darkest and

most depraved activities of humankind on the planet today. There are nearly five million victims who have been forced into prostitution. And the majority of those are women and children.

>> These are kids that have been forced to have sex with people and they're being abused and they're being photographed and doing things that no child should ever have to do.

Open Captions

>> They blindfolded me and put me into a van. When we arrived, I was put in a room with two sets of locks. There I was forced to sleep with men.

ANNOUNCER: Mission: Rescue Life was born over a decade ago to do our part in helping shine the light of God's love into these dark and depraved areas. We're partnering with missionaries around the world who are rescuing those bound in slavery. Even former trafficking victims like Bella are helping those in need.

>> You know, sometimes I tell them about my story. I said, "Before I used to do that, too. And I know how it feels." I think if I'm without God, I'm nothing. So every day, I always thank God for this life.

>> So when we look at these big numbers of statistics and they're just demotivating, what we choose to do is we just choose to focus on the one. We work alongside law enforcement and so we rescue one today, we rescue one tomorrow, we rescue one next week. Because every single child matters to God and so they then have to matter to us.

End of video

In the studio

SHEILA: I can't think of a more perfect way to honor our love for Christ than to reach out to those who are hurting and who are broken and who have been trafficked into a life of nightmares. Just even hearing that man saying, "What's the youngest?" That just gives

me chills. And then I read something like in Psalm 82 it says this. This is verse four: *Rescue the poor and helpless, deliver them from the grasp of evil people.* Trafficking is a multibillion-dollar industry. It is well funded. They know exactly what they're doing.

But the great news is you and I are on the earth at this point. This is not a mistake that you and I find ourselves here for such a time as this. And just as a young girl, Esther stood up and put herself, put her own life on the line to save her people, we have people right now on the ground all across those areas where southeast Asia and so many areas where little girls are literally being kidnapped and forced to do things that no child should ever have to do.

Well, we have some amazing friends of *LIFE* who have put up a \$320,000 matching gift, which simply means for whatever you're able to give today, they will match it. Normally, it takes \$128 to begin that process of reaching, rescuing, and restoring a child. But today, if you're able to give \$128 that would be matched. They would put their money with you and that would be two children rescued. If that's just way above your budget, then \$64 would be matched and that would see a child rescued.

I've been on the streets in Southeast Asia and some of these girls, they are so little and they're so innocent. I remember one girl telling me, "After the men have gone, I lay in my bed and I beg God, 'If you are real, if there is a God, please send somebody! Please send somebody to help me.'" And that's what we're committed to doing here at *LIFE*.

So please, would you just the best gift you can? Whatever you give will be matched and we're praying that this would be a revolutionary year of seeing prisoners released. There is not a doubt in my mind, this is a work of hell, this is a demonic force behind trafficking. And you and I are coming in the light of Christ to say not on our watch. We're going to do something.

The great news is that when you rescue these girls and they're taken to a place where they're loved and restored, taught something that they can do for a living, then you're able

to share, "Remember that night we prayed? Well, God heard your prayer, and we came in his name and you love him." I had the privilege of praying with many of these girls as they gave their lives to Christ.

So please, go to your phone, just give the very best gift you can and let's do it in Jesus's name.

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 warn children who are at risk for sex trafficking, rescue those already enslaved, restore young lives and give them a future.

We have 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 the *Prayers For Life* Journal, a perfect book to write down your prayers as you reflect on your relationship with Christ. With your gift of \$128 or more, you'll also receive the N.I.V. Thinline Bible, along with 365 days of *Prayer For Life*, a beautiful devotional filled with scriptures and key thoughts for each day of the year. Keep all three resources close by for your daily prayer time as you meditate on God's Word.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280, which will now help save 20 children. And you may request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Let the Children Come."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

On the mission field:

RALPH: One of our goals at *LIFE Outreach* is to prevent human trafficking, to rescue girls caught in human trafficking, and of course, restore those that are rescued back into a normal life as much as we can. This border crossing here is somewhat of a mixture of the first two because these girls have literally been caught in trafficking. They haven't had to go across the border yet and disappear. They're being intercepted on this side of the border, so they're being prevented from having a disastrous future.

If you can imagine, it is almost like they're going to fall off a cliff. They haven't fallen yet, but our mission partners were able to catch them -- just before they fall off that cliff. And they're able to bring them to safety and bring them to a life of nurturing, a life that gives them a hope and a future. So this type of mixture of prevention and rescuing is vitally important to our mission. So please continue to give and support this ministry. It is a beautiful thing to see.

End of video

In the studio:

SHEILA: Thanks so much for helping us with Rescue LIFE. It is one of our great passions here. And for any gift at all today, please say I want to read *Don't Wimp Out* by Care Tuk.

Honestly, Care, the fact that you've poured so much of your life into this book to encourage others is just an absolutely wonderful gift. I'm praying everyone will get a copy. So all the way from Alaska, my sister, I wish I could reach through the screen and give you a hug!

CARE: We got seven inches of new snow last night, but I would encourage even more that your viewers go and they do -- they look at everything that *LIFE Outreach* does. They're amazing! We've been supporters for years and years, and it couldn't go for anything better. Let's save lives! Let's save lives!

SHEILA: Thank you so much! We love you.

CARE: Blessings! And s'mores!

SHEILA: And s'mores! We'll see you next time on *Life Today*!