# Writing the Story God Already Began: Betsy Hake's Story (Part 2)

Episode 338

Carole Joy Seid [00:00:01]:
Welcome to the Homeschool Made Simple podcast. This is Carol Joy Seid, and you're about to hear part 2 of the amazing story of Betsy Hake and her ministry with trafficked children in Honduras. Betsy has asked us to help her implement a full-scale read-aloud program at her children's home in the beautiful countryside of Honduras. Lord willing, I will be traveling there this November to help equip her amazing team. If you would like to partner with us as we begin to build a library for the Jericho children, please visit our website at homeschoolmadesimple.org/jericho to donate to this life-changing project.

Betsy Hake [00:00:50]:
One of the blessings in disguise of going through this healing journey, what I call a healing journey, was that God began to show me also like different thought patterns, different ways that I was behaving within the ministry context that were real, that really I needed to die to them.

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:14]:
Mm-hmm.

Betsy Hake [00:01:14]:
And in order for the ministry to grow more. And so I was, Very, very grateful for the time apart because, you know, when you're in ministry, you're just go, go, go, and you're, you're thinking about the needs of others, which is good. But this allowed me to have time to really focus too on to ask God, what do you want me to learn from this suffering? Because he's—

Carole Joy Seid [00:01:43]:
Great question.

Betsy Hake [00:01:45]:
Always Yes. He's always got a plan. And if we can praise him in the midst of it, if we can embrace the cross, embrace the cross, yeah, then it comes out for what the enemy wants for evil. Because I really truly believe that the enemy wanted to use these illnesses in my life to take me out.

Carole Joy Seid [00:02:09]:
Absolutely.

Betsy Hake [00:02:11]:
God is so gracious that he uses that evil, turns it for good, and we come out stronger in him in the end. And so I began to just be able to have time to ask him, what are some of the things that really need to change in my life? Mm-hmm. What are some of the thought patterns about myself, about others, about God that are really not true?

Carole Joy Seid [00:02:38]:
Yeah.

Betsy Hake [00:02:39]:
And that are— that will cause the ministry to be inhibited and not grow at the rate that God wants it to grow. And so it just became something of gratitude, of being able to say, thank you, Jesus, for what you're showing me, and, and for the humblings, um, and being able to die to self. And one of the things he reminded me of of is you never are any less by dying to yourself.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:14]:
You're more like Jesus.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:15]:
That's right.

Betsy Hake [00:03:16]:

Being less flushed out. Less Betsy, more Jesus.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:22]:
Oh Lord, but that hurts.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:24]:
Yeah, yeah.

Betsy Hake [00:03:25]:
It's not the easy road. It's certainly painful. It's painful just even when he reveals some of the ways That, you know, because normally we think, I'm pretty good.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:37]:
Yes, I'm God's best little gift to this world. And he goes, uh, actually, actually, we need to talk.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:45]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:46]:
You're like, oh Lord, I was thinking I was doing so well. He's like, um, well, right?

Betsy Hake [00:03:53]:
Yeah, yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:03:55]:
But out of it, whatever the enemy throws at us The Lord just keeps working to develop his image in our lives.

Carole Joy Seid [00:04:04]:
I'll give you an example just to make it more clear.

Carole Joy Seid [00:04:08]:
Concrete.

Betsy Hake [00:04:09]:

Concrete, yes. This helps anybody. All right, okay, good. Um, yeah, the Lord really showed me that I needed to share the leadership in the ministry, that the people that he had placed around me I needed to let them go. I needed to empower them. They were so gifted. And, and he showed me that sometimes their giftings were threatening to me. And so rather than being threatened by them, I needed to be like— A cheerleader for them.

Betsy Hake [00:04:44]:
Yes, yes, a cheerleader, exactly. And say, you have these amazing gifts, and this is, this is where you can you know, as you're released—

Carole Joy Seid [00:04:54]:
Yes.

Betsy Hake [00:04:55]:
In leadership, this is where you can really flourish.

Carole Joy Seid [00:04:59]:
And I'm telling you, that has made such a difference.

Carole Joy Seid [00:05:01]:
Wow.

Betsy Hake [00:05:02]:
And the Lord had already spoken to us that he was going to expand our borders. He used Isaiah 54:1-3. He said, extend your tent pegs. I already knew that the ministry was going to be growing, but I feel like he really needed to do that in my heart to help me how important it was to really not have to do everything.

Carole Joy Seid [00:05:27]:
Yes.

Betsy Hake [00:05:28]:
And to really allow—

Carole Joy Seid [00:05:29]:
Delegate and trust.

Betsy Hake [00:05:30]:
Delegate and trust the leaders that he was already raising up within the ministry. And that's really what's happened. So many of our next generation are now stepping into the leadership and doing a great job and doing a marvelous job.

Carole Joy Seid [00:05:46]:
So— Wow.

Betsy Hake [00:05:47]:
Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:05:47]:
So—

Carole Joy Seid [00:05:48]:
That is so encouraging.

Betsy Hake [00:05:49]:
I'm thankful.

Carole Joy Seid [00:05:50]:
So, all right, what else do you want to tell us? Because we're gleaning all these pearls of gold.

Betsy Hake [00:06:00]:
We talked a little bit about this, about the Lord did have me write a book.

Carole Joy Seid [00:06:04]:
Yes, and that's what I wanted to talk about.

Carole Joy Seid [00:06:06]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:06:06]:
Yeah, so talk about how this— just very briefly— how this man came along and, and helped you. I don't even know the details of that. Was he an angel dropped out of a cloud, or what?

Betsy Hake [00:06:19]:
It's a— it's kind of a wild story. I love it because it's, you know, again, something only God can come up with.

Carole Joy Seid [00:06:26]:
Amen.

Betsy Hake [00:06:27]:
And, um, back in 2004, we were right in the throes of ministering to the women coming off the streets, and I loved to be right in the middle of everything. And so the Lord spoke to me very clearly, and he said, I want you to take the month of March. This was in February of probably, yeah, 2004. He said, I want you to take the month of March, stay home, do not go to the ministry site, stay home every day until the last day of March and write down everything I tell you to write. And write down how the ministry began. Tell the story. Tell the story. And I wasn't really sure I'd heard him correctly, but that month was a leap year.

Betsy Hake [00:07:22]:
So there it was, there was 29 days. And at midnight on the 29th day of February, he woke me up in the middle of the night and I felt like he said, I'm not kidding.

Carole Joy Seid [00:07:36]:
Oh yeah.

Betsy Hake [00:07:36]:
And our pastor had also that week talked about how Winston Churchill, when he was gonna write his memoir, He didn't want to do it. And somebody said, I'm going to tie you to a chair. And this was kind of a random thing my pastor said, so I knew that it was God speaking.

Carole Joy Seid [00:07:53]:

You needed to hear that. Yes.

Betsy Hake [00:07:55]:
And so the next day I got up and I wrote, and it was kind of like God opened a faucet. From the time my children and the ministry started, when my children went to school, I wrote the whole day. And then when the children came home at 3:30, I stopped.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:13]:
And so I had this whole manuscript that was written without really any training, and God knew that, but I kind of forgot about it.

Betsy Hake [00:08:23]:
So, um, 2019—

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:27]:
No, so when you wrote it, you were just— you just had the place in Tegucigalpa back then, and the kids were going to the school that you created?

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:33]:
That's right.

Betsy Hake [00:08:34]:
Okay, we didn't even—

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:34]:
You weren't homeschooling and doing all that you're doing now, right? The kids out in the country?

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:38]:
Yes, we We didn't even have the children's home.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:40]:
Right. Okay.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:41]:

All right. So God speaks to a man in one of our churches.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:46]:
That supports you.

Carole Joy Seid [00:08:47]:
His name is Sam Watley. Yes. And Sam was on a retreat with his church, and it was a silent retreat for 5 hours with the men in the church.

Betsy Hake [00:08:59]:
And the goal was to hear from God. And at the end of the day, they all had to share what they had heard from God. And what God said to Sam was, help Betsy Haake write a book.

Carole Joy Seid [00:09:11]:
Oh wow.

Betsy Hake [00:09:13]:
But he didn't want—

Carole Joy Seid [00:09:14]:
Did he have any experience in writing a book?

Betsy Hake [00:09:16]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:09:17]:
Oh, he did?

Betsy Hake [00:09:18]:
He had actually written several books.

Carole Joy Seid [00:09:19]:
Oh, okay.

Betsy Hake [00:09:20]:

Um, and he had also, um, studied writing and literature. So, but he didn't want to tell his pastor because he said it just was so out there for him. Um, and he barely knew me. He had, um, heard me speak at his church.

Carole Joy Seid [00:09:40]:
Yeah.

Betsy Hake [00:09:40]:
And he actually helped me raise money for our first vehicle when I lived in the village. But other than that, um, not really knowing me well. And so he— it took him 2 weeks to tell his wife. And he told his wife, and his wife said, well, Sam, if this is of the Lord, you should at least tell Betsy.

Carole Joy Seid [00:10:01]:
Yeah.

Betsy Hake [00:10:01]:
To see what her response is. If she's interested.

Carole Joy Seid [00:10:04]:
Yeah.

Betsy Hake [00:10:05]:
And so he wrote to me, and it took me a month to respond. I— sometimes when, when something is right in front of my face, I don't always recognize it. Took me a month to respond, and I had totally forgotten about what I had written before. And I said, well, I'm open to this. perhaps it's God's will. And he said, well, I'll be willing to come down and spend a week with you and you can tell me the stories, because he had no idea I had already written a lot of it down.

Carole Joy Seid [00:10:35]:
Right.

Betsy Hake [00:10:36]:

So he came down in July of that year and I— and interviewed different people and interviewed me. And then at the end of the week, I remembered about the manuscript, 14 chapters that I had already written.

Carole Joy Seid [00:10:52]:
Oh my goodness.

Betsy Hake [00:10:53]:
And he was like, Betsy, this would be helpful.

Carole Joy Seid [00:10:57]:
Yeah.

Betsy Hake [00:10:58]:
And the other part of it that was amazing was that God had given Sam a dream about ministry buildings. And in the dream he said to me, Betsy, where did all these buildings come from? And I said to him, they will come. And so, um, he And I spent that whole week— no, he came again, and then we spent the whole week paring it all down because it was just like— Too much.

Carole Joy Seid [00:11:28]:
Way too much.

Carole Joy Seid [00:11:28]:
Right.

Betsy Hake [00:11:29]:
And I'm so grateful for Sam because he knew about writing a book.

Carole Joy Seid [00:11:33]:
Yeah.

Betsy Hake [00:11:34]:
And so he knew about how many chapters it needed to be.

Carole Joy Seid [00:11:39]:

How long.

Betsy Hake [00:11:40]:
I'm very verbose, and so he was Excellent at cutting it all down and making it readable for other people. And so it was just an amazing thing that I really felt like the Holy Spirit wrote that book.

Carole Joy Seid [00:11:57]:
Wow. And what's it called?

Betsy Hake [00:11:58]:
It's called The Road to Jericho.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:01]:
Great name.

Betsy Hake [00:12:01]:
And yeah, and it's just— I call it stories for his glory because it really is the stories of how God moved Miraculously, to love on these children and to give them a new life.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:15]:
Oh yes, and it is a new life.

Betsy Hake [00:12:18]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:19]:
How do people get this book?

Betsy Hake [00:12:21]:
The publishing house is called the Anglican Publishing House.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:25]:
Okay.

Betsy Hake [00:12:26]:
And so you can go online and find it.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:29]:
And is that the only place?

Betsy Hake [00:12:30]:
That's the only place, unfortunately, right now.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:32]:
You have to get it directly from them. Anglican Publishing House.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:35]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:36]:
The Road to Jericho. So what's next in your life and in the ministry?

Betsy Hake [00:12:43]:
Well, I do feel like God wants me to write more.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:46]:
Okay. Because there are more stories that have happened since the last—

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:51]:
I bet.

Carole Joy Seid [00:12:52]:
And I especially want to, to focus on some of the lessons that God has taught me through, through these times of affliction as well as through the times of watching him move in miraculous ways.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:08]:
How's your health now?

Betsy Hake [00:13:10]:

Oh, I feel great.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:11]:
Do you?

Betsy Hake [00:13:12]:
Yes, I feel great. I know that there's still possibly more that needs to be healed in my body, but I'm able to work full-time and really feel like God has restored my strength.

Carole Joy Seid [00:13:29]:
Yeah, that's so good. And the Lord laid it on my ministry and our board, um, for us to come and do a little R&R trip, which is why I'm down here. And my goal was to cook for you and to just give you some rest, but you're hard to keep up with because you put those tennis shoes on and, honey, you go. It is such a joy to just give you a little respite from, you know, being with that many people, that many children, but also that many adults, and the constant pull on you from the ministry. It's all good, it's a blessing, but it's relentless, isn't it?

Carole Joy Seid [00:14:11]:
Yes, yes. And I really am so grateful for this week.

Betsy Hake [00:14:16]:
It's been great, such an amazing thing.

Carole Joy Seid [00:14:19]:
I think one of them one of the blessings too, you know, looking back on this past year has been even though I was sick, the Lord never— I never had to stop evangelizing. I never had to stop sharing the gospel. I was able to continue, and that's such a joy for me, um, to be able to share.

Carole Joy Seid [00:14:45]:
I know.

Carole Joy Seid [00:14:46]:

The amazing news of what Jesus has done for all of us. And so, um, that's just been such a blessing to gather here to be able to, to share his good news.

Carole Joy Seid [00:14:59]:
Yeah, we, we have had the joy of watching several people come to the Lord since you've been here.

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:05]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:05]:
Do you want to share any of the story of any— like, I love some of the comments that some of our Uber drivers made after they prayed with you. What would one of them said? Can you remember?

Betsy Hake [00:15:18]:
Yes, well, I remember it's Damon, and he said, wow, this is the best thing that I could possibly have heard today.

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:30]:
And who was it? Was it an Uber driver who said, who would not want—

Betsy Hake [00:15:34]:
Oh yes, that was yesterday. That was Ricardo. Who would not want this?

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:40]:
Who would not want to know about eternal life?

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:42]:
Who would not want to have eternal life?

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:45]:
That's what he said. That was just so precious.

Carole Joy Seid [00:15:48]:

Yes, just beautiful. And, and I think the, the thing I love is to see how God has set it all up. He has gone before us to be able to prepare the good works and to prepare their hearts so that we just walk into that setting and are able to share, this is what Jesus has done for you, and he has an incredible purpose for Amen.

Carole Joy Seid [00:16:12]:
Yes. Betsy, a lot of American Christians feel intimidated in sharing their faith. Can you give just kind of an elevator speech of, like, the little girl Myra that we led to the Lord in the market here that we bought some toys for my grandchildren from, and how we've gone back and visited her several times since we've been here and told her about a good church and Hooked her up with some other believers. But how did you start that conversation, and what, what are some pointers that— because can everyone be a soul winner, or is that only something that people gifted with the gift of evangelism can do?

Carole Joy Seid [00:16:55]:
Oh, well, the, the Bible says that we are all given the privilege of sharing what Christ has done in our lives.

Betsy Hake [00:17:05]:
Because it's really just sharing what he's done and sharing the testimony of what he can do in their lives.

Carole Joy Seid [00:17:13]:
And so, yes, I mean—

Carole Joy Seid [00:17:15]:
What's your icebreaker?

Carole Joy Seid [00:17:16]:
Yes, I would say probably, um, here in Latin America, one of the ways is to really just ask them about their spiritual journey. Like, do they go to a church? what do they believe about Jesus? Um, and but I've had other times where the Lord has kind of just, um, made it very clear.

Betsy Hake [00:17:41]:

Like, like one time there was a setting where I was buying insurance for the car, and I was able to say to the man, you know, here I'm buying insurance for my car, but I'm wondering if you have You know, the insurance that you need for eternal life.

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:01]:
And would you like to hear how you can have that, you know, assurance of going to heaven? So sometimes there are moments and I—

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:10]:
The Lord gives you a creative in.

Betsy Hake [00:18:11]:
Yes, yes. And I like to listen to the Lord as I'm sharing the gospel, if there's, you know, some lead-in, because that's, I think, the hardest part.

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:24]:
It is.

Betsy Hake [00:18:24]:
You know, because we're kind of intimidated.

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:27]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:28]:
And, um, but once then you are able to, you know, get the go-ahead that they, that they say yes, they want to, to hear, um, then, you know, it's just such a privilege.

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:40]:
It is. I think Myra was the little gal who said, thank you so much for sharing this with me.

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:47]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:47]:
Like, who wouldn't want to know these things?

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:51]:
That's right.

Carole Joy Seid [00:18:51]:
Yeah. And I think in America we feel intimidated, like it's not politically correct. Or we don't want to be obnoxious, or we don't want to be pushy. But I have rarely met anyone who does not welcome the good news.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:06]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:07]:
If we do it in a gracious and welcoming way.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:10]:
Yes. Well, I think the other thing that sometimes we do unconsciously is we look at, you know, we're guided by what we can see.

Betsy Hake [00:19:19]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:20]:
And I remember One time I was in a taxi. I was with one of my daughters.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:25]:
Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:26]:
And she was maybe 8.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:27]:
Yeah.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:27]:
And she's bilingual. And the taxi driver just looked so grumpy.

Betsy Hake [00:19:33]:
He looked like, you know, Mr. Grumpy Pants. And it was really early in the morning, and my daughter said, Mom, do you think he knows Jesus?

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:42]:
She said this to me in English.

Betsy Hake [00:19:45]:
And I said, well, I don't know, honey.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:46]:
Maybe you could ask him.

Betsy Hake [00:19:49]:
I just totally weaseled out of it, you know, because— Yes, because he was intimidating. Because he looked so grumpy.

Carole Joy Seid [00:19:55]:
And she asked him in Spanish, you know? And the biggest surprise for me was he was so needy of the gospel.

Betsy Hake [00:20:05]:
He was so hurting, hurting.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:09]:
And he stopped the car and we shared the gospel with him. And the change in his face was incredible as he received Jesus into his heart. And so it was such a lesson to me. You know, you just cannot be led by—

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:26]:
Appearances.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:26]:
Appearances, that's right. And I think sometimes we think, oh, people are just gonna reject this, when really it's— they need it so desperately.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:36]:
And they want it. People want to know that they can have eternal life.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:39]:
That's right.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:40]:
And here in Latin America, they're taught that they can't. Very often they're taught.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:44]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:45]:
That nobody can really know. If you're going to heaven.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:47]:
Yes, it's presumptuous.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:49]:
That's right.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:49]:
If you think you know.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:50]:
That's right. But the Bible says in the book of John, these things were written that you might know that you have eternal life.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:57]:
That's right.

Carole Joy Seid [00:20:58]:
And we're not telling them anything that is not promised by God's word.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:03]:
That's right.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:03]:
He wants us to know. Yeah, there's, there's so many beautiful scriptures about us, that soul winners will shine as lights in the firmament. And I just can't think of anything— I always say leading someone to the Lord is better than going to Europe.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:19]:
Amen. Amen.

Betsy Hake [00:21:20]:
There's nothing better.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:22]:
There's nothing like that. Our pastor has always told us that there's nothing like the joy—

Betsy Hake [00:21:27]:
That's right.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:28]:
For us— Of affecting somebody's eternity.

Betsy Hake [00:21:30]:
That's right.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:31]:
You know, because if you share the gospel and someone comes into the kingdom of God, you have just expanded the kingdom.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:39]:

Amen.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:39]:
And there's no joy like that joy.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:41]:
That's right.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:42]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:21:42]:
And Corrie ten Boom, who's such a hero and heroine in my life, but she used to go through airports and they'd push her, you know, on wheelchairs. And she would say, now tell me, this is a very large airport. Do you know your way around all of this? And they'd say, oh yes. And she'd say, but do you know the way to heaven? And then she would pray with them, you know? And then she would talk about how after she prayed with someone, that, that she would picture herself going to heaven someday and them coming up to her and saying, thank you, it was you who invited me here.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:23]:
That's powerful, isn't it?

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:27]:
Yes.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:27]:
Yeah, so good.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:29]:
Well, any closing thoughts?

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:32]:
Yes, I would say trust Jesus. There's just no better way than to trust and obey. He is faithful. He is true. He will never let you down. That's what I would close with.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:50]:
Amen. Amen. Do you want to pray for our listeners?

Betsy Hake [00:22:54]:
Some—

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:54]:
there's some people that are suffering or someday are going to be suffering.

Carole Joy Seid [00:22:59]:
Would you pray for them?

Carole Joy Seid [00:23:00]:
Absolutely.

Carole Joy Seid [00:23:01]:
Okay.

Carole Joy Seid [00:23:02]:
Jesus, We just thank you so much, Father, for everyone who's listening to this today. We thank you, Father, that you transcend all borders, Lord God, that there are no barriers for you. And we thank you, Jesus, that you do have a purpose in our suffering, Lord God, and that you said in your word, Jesus, that it's a privilege to participate in your sufferings. And so this morning, I just pray, Father, that if there's someone that's listening that is going through a time of difficulty and going through a time of suffering, going through a time where healing is desperately needed, Lord, I pray that you would minister to them, Father, through your word, that your word would take on life, that they would Have understanding of your perspective in the situation, Father, that they would understand what you are doing, Father. Because if we can see the way you see, Lord God, we will be able to receive what you need us to receive, and you will turn this evil into good. And so I pray for each one that you would turn any evil that the the enemy is using against them, or any affliction that the, the Lord is allowing, that you would turn it for good, and that your word would take on life in their very being. In Jesus' name.

Carole Joy Seid [00:24:41]:
You've been listening to the Homeschool Made Simple podcast. If you like what you heard in this episode, please leave a rating and review on Apple Podcasts Or Spotify, or share this episode with a friend. It means so much when you help us spread the message of Homeschool Made Simple with others. Thanks for joining us this week on the Homeschool Made Simple podcast. Remember, Jesus's commandments are not burdensome. What he calls you to do, he will enable you to do. Blessings!