ROUGH‑EDITED TEXT FILE

WTIS AM 1110 ‑ The Inspiration Station

"Tess Talk!"

Saturday, May 7, 2016

11:00 a.m. ‑ 12:00 p.m.

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>> One, two, three, four.

>> TESS: I truly believe we are all angels put here on earth to love and serve each other.

I have met so many people who are doing good works in our community through creating non‑profit, charitable organizations, and I've been very fortunate to meet so many people with inspirational lives.

Through sharing their stories and God's Word, it is my hope to inspire others through these inspirational speakers and to motivate and inspire you to reach your full potential in your personal and professional life. Welcome to "Tess Talk!"

>> [Singing]: And all the people said amen, whoa, oh, and all the people said amen. Give thanks to the Lord for his love never ends. And all the people said amen.

>> TESS: Good morning Tampa Bay, USA and the world. This is Tess with WTIS and you are listening to "Tess Talk!"

So, welcome everybody!

>> BEIMEI: Hello, everybody.

>> TESS: And that's Beimei, she is my sidekick. I love her.

>> BEIMEI: I love this job, by the way! I love being a side kick for Tess.

>> TESS: I would love to introduce our guests this morning, we have Lexi Banks and Tyna Kim and they are both winners from a speech contest for the deaf and hard of hearing. We have a signer with us, an interpreter, sorry, with us, Kelly O'Brien. And we have Brian Dery from Triple Knot Productions.

>> BEIMEI: Hello, Brian.

>> BRIAN: Hello. Thank you for having me.

>> BEIMEI: A good radio voice, by the way.

>> TESS: And we have Lexi's mom, Kim, and we have Brian's son Jacob with us. So welcome everybody!

And I wanted to say you may be listening to this radio show, or you may be reading it. We have live realtime captioning.

Lisa Johnston is our live realtime captioner today, so thank you, Lisa.

>> BEIMEI: Thanks, Lisa!

>> TESS: She always does an awesome job.

And we have Kathy at the helm.

>> KATHY: Welcome back. Happy Saturday!

>> BEIMEI: It's a beautiful day, I hope everybody has something beautiful planned for today.

>> TESS: Oh my goodness, I just opened up this computer, it's so funny, it's so funny!

>> BEIMEI: Why so funny?

>> TESS: Because when I opened it up, the whole screen was upside down and when I lift it all the way up, it's right‑side up. Very unusual.... but anyway.

So, we have a hearing health expo going on in Brandon and we have Bill Reese there.

>> BEIMEI: Today?

>> TESS: Yeah, it's going on right now.

>> BEIMEI: Nice! Are they listening?

>> TESS: They're listening, whoever can hear is listening.

>> BEIMEI: Hi, Bill! Hi, everybody!

>> TESS: If they're deaf or hard of hearing, they are reading the realtime captioning and he has a huge screen set up so that everybody can see it.

>> BEIMEI: Oh, awesome! So they can read whatever is going on on the radio? That's awesome.

>> TESS: Yeah. We're going to start with a prayer, I always start with a prayer in the beginning, and please everybody join me in prayer, bow your heads.

Dear God, please help me to behave on the radio station today. Amen.

>> ALL: Amen.

>> TESS: Thank you for the amen!

I also have to say that because sometimes I'm not a very good girl.

>> BEIMEI: Sometimes? [Laughs]. I don't know.

>> TESS: We'll see how that works out.

Anyway, last week when we were here, we read the Daily Word for the day, as we usually do, but we didn't have a whole lot of time to discuss that. And the word for the day was "I can."

>> BEIMEI: I loved that word.

>> TESS: Beimei and I were discussing that and we wanted to say a few words about that this week before we forget.

>> BEIMEI: Absolutely. When you texted me that Daily Word last week, I was so excited because I love that word because I think it's such a positive, such a strong, a very sexy attitude [laughs]. I'm sorry, we have minors sitting here, but still....

That's exactly what I believe. Because I think that the only way to be better, to improve yourself, is actually to reach just a little higher than what you're comfortable with. Guess what? If you're comfortable, you're already capable of doing that so you're not really growing.

>> TESS: That's so true.

>> BEIMEI: Yes. I'm not saying when you know you can't do it, do say "I can" because that's, let's say, silly. But if you know that theoretically you can do it but you're not comfortable, do it.

Yes, there's always going to be risks involved but the rewards are so amazing and so, so awesome.

For example, Tess's radio show! Oh my gosh! How much fun are you having in the past four weeks?

>> TESS: Oh, I've been having a blast and it's so much fun because I can introduce people that I've known for years that have inspiring life stories and also share non‑profit organizations and try to create awareness and support for them.

>> BEIMEI: You are doing so much good, Tess! And through you and your radio show I have met so many fabulous people and it's so inspiring, seriously, to me, because watching what they're going through with their disabilities and watching the positive attitudes they have, it truly puts a right perspective of when I view my problems because, guess what? They're really not that big problems.

>> TESS: That's true. That reminds me of the C in Schluvittt for compare.

>> BEIMEI: Exactly. It reminds me, if this show puts a smile on your face, log on to Tess's website to show support and sponsorship, that's what keeps us going.

>> TESS: That's right, we can always use sponsors and I found this out starting this radio show.

If you're interested in sponsoring, my e‑mail address is Tesstalk@WTIS1110.com.

>> BEIMEI: And we want to continue to put a smile on your face, right, Tess?

>> TESS: That's right. And if anybody would like to call in, the call‑in hotline is 1‑855‑265‑2929. That's 855‑265‑2929. Or if you would like to text us during this show it's 727‑379‑1154, that's 727‑379‑1154.

>> BEIMEI: Just remember to put your name at the end of the text so we know where the text comes from.

>> TESS: Yeah, and if you let us know where you're coming from or where you're tuning in from, that would be awesome.

So, I wanted to tell you that collaborative communication access via captioning is an organization that advocates and educates and raises awareness for realtime captioning and their website has visitors from over 125 countries.

>> BEIMEI: Oh my goodness! That's awesome! That's a lot of countries!

>> TESS: Yes, that is. And we've had people from the United Kingdom, I know that they tune in and I think we had a couple people from New Zealand last week.

>> BEIMEI: Nice!

>> TESS: Yeah. So I'm going to read the Daily Word for today.

Oh, before I do that, the “I can,” I want to tell you when I was a court reporter years ago, they asked me ‑‑ the U.S. Customs agent or the U.S. Attorney's Office asked me if I would take this job over in Switzerland.

>> BEIMEI: What a great opportunity!

>> TESS: I was 20, maybe 21 years old, and they said there's going to be a lot of attorneys, there's about 14, 15 defense attorneys on there and I was, like.... well, sure, I can do that! I've done board meetings and this and this and this and of course I can.

>> BEIMEI: That sounds very much like you.

>> TESS: And then after I left I said to myself [Sighs] I hope I can do this! And it worked out great.

>> BEIMEI: I knew it, I knew it.

>> TESS: I had such a fun time.

>> BEIMEI: I had no doubt in whatever you do, Tess.

>> TESS: Before we go on a break, I want to read the Daily Word for today, I chose it for Friday, it seems fitting, the word for the day is helping hand.

With joy in my heart, I lend a helping hand with others. Each day is comprised of 1,440 minutes, which equates to numerous opportunities to help others, whether opening a door, assisting a neighbor, and so on.

Someone once said, "Never get tired of doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts." These words remind us how powerful our actions can be to another.

The little things matter, for they create a flow of love and gratitude that blesses others. An unhappy day can quickly turn into a pleasant one just by smiling at someone or offering a listening ear.

As I go about my day, my 1,440 minutes, I remain ready and waiting for opportunities to help others.

You shall not see your neighbor's donkey or ox fallen on the road and ignore it. You shall help to lift it up. That's from Deuteronomy.

So we're helping people, the interpreter is helping us and Lisa Johnston CARTing for us.

>> BEIMEI: Thank you, Lisa.

>> TESS: So all of this fits in together, in the Schluvittt show, we'll talk about the V for volunteer.

So we've lost internet connection here, so we'll work on that and be back in a minute.

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>> This is Inspiration AM 1110, WTIS, Tampa.

[Music playing].

>> TESS: Welcome back, everybody, this is Tess with WTIS and you're listening to "Tess Talk!" or you are reading "Tess Talk!" with the live realtime captioning.

I wanted to give you the link for the realtime captioning. And it's www.streamtext.net/player?event=Tesstalk.

>> BEIMEI: Every time you say that I want to laugh, is there any way you can change it simpler?

>> TESS: Actually, this is simpler, and if you go to the WTIS website, WTIS1110.com, you can look for that link under "Tess Talk!" under shows.

>> BEIMEI: That's much better.

>> TESS: Or under dynamiccommunicationstrategies.com.

If you would like to call in, it's 855‑265‑2929, or text, 727‑379‑1154.

And we have Tim on the chat line.

>> BEIMEI: Hi, Tim!

>> TESS: Thanks, Tim. Tim, I know you're joining us at Aki Sushi after the show, so when you're riding to your place from Aki Sushi, just bring your Smartphone and you can read the live realtime captioning so you won't have to miss anything. Got it, Tim? Text me back and let me know you got this.

>> BEIMEI: And Aki Sushi's address is 3970, Tampa Road, Oldsmar, Florida, the number is 855‑2624, we're meeting there after the show, so if you want to join us, just let us know.

>> TESS: We'll be three between 12:30‑1:00. We have a good time.

>> BEIMEI: And excellent food.

>> TESS: Yes. And now I would like to introduce Lexi Banks and Tyna Kim.

So, they are winners from the Optimist Club. They had, like, a speech contest and it was called the communication contest for the deaf and hard of hearing.

So, welcome! Welcome, Lexi!

And Kelly, you're going to voice for her, so you need to scoot the microphone real close up. I know it's hard to sign and talk on the mic at the same time.

So, welcome, Lexi and Tyna!

>> BEIMEI: Welcome.

>> LEXI: Hello.

>> TESS: You need to get a little closer. Thank you! That's so much better.

Lexi, tell us about your experience. You're the high school winner. And tell us what the theme was again. It was something about bringing out the best in others?

>> LEXI: Yes, yes, it was, that was exactly it.

>> TESS: Oh, okay. I thought there was a little bit more to that, but that's awesome.

So, can you give us ‑‑ tell us about your experience there and then give us a short summary of what your speech was about.

>> LEXI: Um.... well, it was actually a really good experience for me. I really liked it. And I thought it was quite fun.

As far as my speech, I talked about my positive attitude influencing other people and inspiring ‑‑ how my friends inspired me and gave me a positive attitude.

>> TESS: So, give me some of the examples that you gave us during the speech.

>> LEXI: Um.... for example, I remember I said I have a friend who she used to hurt herself and she was always paranoid at first on her things and I remember I helped her and I tried to console her and that really changed her perspective on a few things and I felt really inspired from doing that.

>> TESS: That's wonderful, that's really nice.

>> BEIMEI: That's amazing, because that's a huge change.

>> LEXI: Thank you.

>> TESS: And tell us about, if you don't mind sharing, can you tell us about Goldenhar syndrome?

>> LEXI: I don't really know about it. My mom knows quite a bit about it actually, though.

>> TESS: Uh‑huh. Kim, did you want to share? You would have to come up by the mic, if you don't mind.

>> KIM: Okay, sure. Well, Lexi has Goldenhar syndrome and what that entails is she was born without a mandible, so her jaw is set back and she has a trach and a G‑tube and she also was born without an external ear or a middle ear canal, so that's where her hearing impairment is about.

>> TESS: Ah‑ha.

>> KIM: And she is truly an inspiration to our whole family.

>> TESS: Oh, she is. And I did talk to you, Kim, yesterday about Lexi and about what an inspiration she was to other people and especially to you. It's just such a beautiful story.

>> KIM: Yes. And if I talk too much about it, I'll cry, especially because it's Mother's Day.

>> BEIMEI: Oh, that's right! Happy mothers' day to all the mothers out there.

>> LEXI: I love you, mom!

>> KIM: I love you, Lexi.

>> Tomorrow is Mother's Day.

>> BEIMEI: I think one thing that was very touching that Lexi ‑‑ is that her name? ‑‑ was talking and she keeps saying how other people inspired her, but what I can see is she must inspire so many people, so many other people, you know. It's the other way around probably more so, but yet her take, her, how do you say, her translation is other people inspires her. That's such a wonderful attitude and wonderful outlook on everything.

>> TESS: And I had the privilege of being one of the judges on the panel, and she just totally blew it away, she was just awesome!

She didn't even use any notes, she memorized everything, and it was so fluid, good eye contact, and just an awesome job.

And Tyna Kim, welcome!

>> TYNA: Hello, how are you guys?

>> TESS: We're doing great! Thank you so much for joining us today!

So, what grade are you?

>> TYNA: I'm in sixth grade ‑‑ oh, seventh grade, I'm sorry, interpreter mistake.

>> TESS: And I thought you were in high school, so....

>> TYNA: I know! A lot of people think I'm in high school, actually.

>> TESS: Yeah, you're very mature for your age.

>> TYNA: Yeah [laughs], I know. Thank you.

>> TESS: So, would you tell us a little bit about your speech that you gave on Thursday?

>> TYNA: I felt like I did great during my speech, so I really feel like I inspired myself and it inspired my life.

>> TESS: So, could you give us some examples of what you talked about in your speech?

>> TYNA: So, for example, when I was in school, I remember one of my teachers who wasn't there, there was actually a substitute for that day, one of the kids messed something up and I remember I had to work with one of my friends and it was actually one of my male friends and I just was so inspired because he wanted to work with us and he was really trying to get a good grade for that activity.

>> TESS: And tell us about your studies, because from what I understand, you are an extremely intelligent person.

>> TYNA: Yeah, actually, yeah, I am pretty smart, I am!

>> TESS: So, tell us about your favorite subjects and what you plan to do in high school and college.

>> TYNA: Hmm.... I have to think about that for a second.... I don't know.

>> BEIMEI: Can I just point out that I thought it was so cute and so wonderful when she says "Yes, I am, I'm very smart!" It's like that “yes, I can” attitude, it's so important, and everybody should ‑‑ a lot of people would probably think that you're being ‑‑ oh my gosh, what's that word.... um.... what's the word when you think so good about yourself?

>> TESS: Egotistical.

>> BEIMEI: Egotistical. But not at all! When you know your strong points, you should always, you know, recognize that.

>> TESS: Yeah, she's just very confident.

>> BEIMEI: It's a very matter of fact statement. Awesome.

>> TESS: And that's what showed in your speech also.

>> BEIMEI: Which is amazing. Can I ask, how many audience are there when you were presenting your, like, where you were giving your speech? About how many people? Do you remember?

>> TYNA: I think there wasn't a lot.... maybe, like, 20, 30‑ish, somewhere between there.

>> BEIMEI: That's a pretty big crowd, you know, because to talk in front of a group of people, it's not as easy as people think, you know, you have to really have no filler words, you have to make good eye contact, you have to make sense of your speech. It's really not easy. So good job, you guys!

>> TESS: And I wanted to mention that there was a little bit of a mix‑up with the judging. It wasn't really the judging, it was the announcement of the winners, because after they announced the high school winners, I was thinking, you know, Lexi wasn't even mentioned and I know she was the best and she should have won first place, so I'm thinking what is going on?

So, I looked over at the papers after they won ‑‑ after they gave out the medals, et cetera, and I said can we double‑check this? Because I think there is a problem here.

And we double checked and we found out yeah, Lexi was the winner and she wasn't even announced for second or third place, and I know she was not feeling good about this [chuckles].

So, later we had a picnic at the park for everybody and then the head guy brought her over and said you know what? I'm so sorry, we made a mistake and you actually won first place, and she was thrilled!

>> BEIMEI: Congratulations! That's awesome!

>> TESS: I felt so sorry for her and what happened. And now they get to advance to the state, so they're both going to Jacksonville to do their presentation there and you have a chance to win thousands of dollars in grant money for scholarships, right?

>> BEIMEI: That's fabulous!

>> TESS: If you win state, you go on and on. This is actually an international contest.

>> BEIMEI: Awesome! And good luck you guys!

>> TYNA: Thank you very much.

>> LEXI: Thank you.

>> TESS: So, when we come back, we're going to do the Schluvittt Show.

>> BEIMEI: I love that.

>> TESS: We'll talk about V for Schluvittt, I'll explain all about that and we'll talk to Brian Dery about Triple Knot productions.

>> [Singing] ‑‑ when I play the highway FM, I find my soul revival, singing every single verse, yeah I guess that's my church. Can I get a hallelujah? Can I get an amen? Feels like the Holy Ghost running through ya, when I play the highway FM. I find my soul revival, singing every single verse....

>> Inspiration AM 1110, WTIS Lakeland, Sarasota and the surrounding communities. This is Inspiration AM 1110 news.

>> A massive wild fire in Alberta, Canada may double in size by tonight. Already 250,000 acres burned and 1600 buildings destroyed.

>> More help is on the way and 90,000 displaced. The government is providing $100 million in financial aid.

>> Donald Trump has begun sharpening his attacks on Hillary Clinton.

>> Women want strength, want security, want strong military, they don't want a woman who sits at home at 3:00 o'clock in the morning and she's sleeping.

>> Trump spoke at a rally.

>> A man is charged with killing his estranged wife in Washington, D.C. on Thursday has been charged with two counts of first‑degree murder. I'm Christopher Cruise.

>> Hey, it's me, your house talking, do you know what would make me happy? Your plants will thrive in anyone's yard, if you do that for me, I won't tell your boss when you say you're "working from home" you mean "you're shopping from couch."

>> Go to Lowe's and get your plants.

>> Mothers day is this Sunday. Don't forget to get a Hallmark signature card, she's been there, helping you with everything, and Hall mart will celebrate what she means to you and have her dimension or sparkle, just like her. Since there are no ordinary moms, there are no ordinary moms.

>> Everyone knows the crab shack on Gandy boulevard is the best seafood, all you can eat fish fry on Mondays and Wednesdays all you can eat shrimp is something you won't want to miss. The crab shack welcomes you to a great dining experience and the food is made especially for you. You may find this may take a little longer but the reward for your patience is a great meal. We have steamed blue crabs, mullets and come out if you haven't already and join us at the crab shack restaurant. That's the crab shack right where it's always been, 11400Gandy boulevard, St. Pete, check us out. Florida style.

>> This is Inspiration AM 1110, WTIS Tampa.

>> [Singing]: Because I'm happy, clap along if you feel like a room without a roof. Because I'm happy, clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth. Because I'm happy, clap along if you know what happiness is for you. Because I'm happy, clap along if you feel like that's what you want to do.

[Music playing].

>> TESS: Welcome back! This is Tess at WTIS and you're listening to "Tess Talk!" or you are reading "Tess Talk!" with the realtime captioning.

So, this is ‑‑ I wanted to give you the phone number again to call in. The phone number is 855‑265‑2929. And the text messages 727‑379‑1154.

And I want to mention that at the Hearing Health Expo which is going on right now, actually it's today from 9:00‑3:00 p.m. it's at the First Presbyterian Church of Brandon so stop by there and say hello.

We actually have a booth for my non‑profit organization, communication access Inc. and they are showing this realtime captioning for everybody.

And we had a few people ‑‑

>> BEIMEI: That's awesome!

>> TESS: Yeah, isn't it awesome? We have Don Shafer in the chat room and Paul and Marie. We didn't get to the Schluvittt part but Patrick is volunteering a loop around this section so people cannot only read but hear with the telecoil or the T‑coil on their hearing aid or their cochlear implant.

>> BEIMEI: Well, that sounds amazing. That's awesome. Hello, everybody.

>> TESS: Thank you, Patrick. We appreciate it.

Let me share with you the Schluvittt Show. Oh, I'm going to show Kelly the sign for Schluvittt. It's with an S, Schluvittt.

So, Schluvittt is an acronym and that represents ‑‑ well, let me back track just a little bit. I have ‑‑

[Laughter].

>> TESS: I have a motivational presentation called how to be happy and there are ten different elements and I was trying to figure out how are people going to remember the different elements in this presentation and remember how to be happy.

So I came up with ‑‑ what I came up with is an acronym called Schluvittt and I thought it sounded pretty cool and in the beginning I tell everybody we're all going to join in, repeat after me, your new vocabulary word. Ready? Schluvittt.

>> ALL: Schluvittt.

>> TESS: Just Schluvittt.

>> ALL: Just Schluvittt.

>> TESS: Go Schluvittt.

>> ALL: Go Schluvittt.

>> TESS: Just go Schluvittt.

>> ALL: Just go Schluvittt.

[Laughter].

>> TESS: I think Jacob liked that.

>> BEIMEI: I love that word.

>> TESS: We take one letter from the acronym each week and this week we are on the letter V, and the letter V stands for volunteer.

So, volunteer, if you volunteer even just a random act of kindness, just even opening the door or just, you know, just sharing candy or something, something as simple as that, it just makes you feel good, it makes the other people feel good, and it leads to more happiness.

>> BEIMEI: I totally agree.

>> TESS: Even a random act of kindness, I don't know if anybody has ever done this before, but have you ever just gotten a flower or some flowers from a store, a grocery store or whatever, and just randomly bought them and then just give it to a stranger?

>> BEIMEI: No, I have not. But I would like to receive one.

[Laughter].

>> TESS: Well, let me tell you a story.

>> BEIMEI: Okay.

>> TESS: This is, you know, some little acts of kindness could really make a big difference in somebody's life.

I heard this story, it's a businessman who owns a huge corporation and when he ‑‑ he told the story to all of the people in his business, he had this big conference, big meeting, and he said when he was in middle school, he was very depressed and he decided one day he was going to going to commit suicide.

>> BEIMEI: Oh no.

>> TESS: He just didn't want to live anymore and so he went to school and he decided to clean out his whole locker, he put all of his books in his backpack because he didn't want his parents to have to clean that out after he died.

>> BEIMEI: Wow.

>> TESS: So he was walking home and his backpack was filled with books and he was having trouble walking home and then all of a sudden the backpack just burst open and all of the books just fell out all over the place.

So, he's trying to gather up all of these books. And then a neighbor came over and saw him, one of the school boys, and decided to help him and helped him with all of his books.

And he walked home with him and spoke with him and he said well, it was really nice to meet you, and he said I guess I'll see you tomorrow on my way to school.

So, that night he decided, you know, he's got this new friend that's expecting to see him, and it totally changed his life.

And he never told that story to this guy who he hired later in life when he started his business.

>> BEIMEI: Wow! I think he should tell him.

>> TESS: Yeah, well, he did, in front of everybody.

>> BEIMEI: Oh!

>> TESS: In front of this whole audience of people, all these employees.

>> BEIMEI: Isn't that amazing? Sometimes just a random small act can make such a huge impact and change on other people's lives.

When you were saying that the Daily Word is helping hands, I was just going to say that it's not just helping hands, which is great, but it's also just a kind word, an encouraging gesture, all of that can make a huge difference in a lot of other people's life or day or, you know....

>> TESS: Like it said in the Daily Word, even just a smile, a simple smile to have somebody else smile.

I remember a friend of mine who was a court reporter when I was in the court reporting industry, one of my court reporters said ‑‑ she was taking a psychology course and her experiment was just to walk down the road and smile at people to see who would smile back and I thought wow, I do that all the time!

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: I do that all the time! How many people ‑‑ but she was doing that experiment, we just do it naturally.

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: Okay. So what's the conclusion? How many people smiled back?

>> TESS: She said just about every one ‑‑ about 99% of the people smiled back.

>> BEIMEI: That's awesome!

>> TESS: Every once in a while, I used to do this with my kids and we see somebody and they're just not smiling and we would challenge each other to see if we could get them to smile.

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: Which reminded me, I own a restaurant and I've been working in the restaurant industry for many, many years and I used to play this game with myself because a lot of times when people are walking in, especially if they're walking in by themselves and you can just tell that they're having a bad day or they had a bad day.

And I always, in my mind, I say all right, let's see if I can put a smile on this person's face at the end of his meal or her meal.

And a lot of times I succeed.

>> TESS: Yeah, you do a very good job.

>> BEIMEI: Thank you! It always makes me feel better throughout the process, and obviously, you know, when anybody walks away with a smile on their face, it's such a ‑‑ just an amazing feeling, you know, for all of us.

>> TESS: And I really enjoy volunteering.

Before I was a court reporter and then when I switched over to become a realtime captioner, there is so much volunteer work, you know, that people just need realtime captioning for their support group meetings, so I've been doing realtime captioning for the Association for Late‑Deafened Adults group for over 20 years now.

>> BEIMEI: Wow, that's amazing. Good job, Tess!

>> TESS: I just love it, I've met so many friends, I volunteer for a couple local chapters of the Hearing Loss Association and whenever I see the word "volunteer" I say pick me!

>> BEIMEI: And Kelly is volunteering to translate, what do you call that?

>> TESS: Interpreting.

>> BEIMEI: Thank you, Kelly, it's awesome you're doing this.

>> TESS: Thank you, Kelly, I really appreciate that too. It really helps. And I know Lexi and Tyna appreciate that.

>> BEIMEI: Okay. So I want to share a story that happened with me. When I first moved from China to here, which was probably 16 years ago now, it was a huge change, because I had a very, uh.... I had a really good career, I had lots of friends and family in China, so when I came over here, I don't have any friends except my ‑‑ he's my ex now, but he was my boyfriend at the time, except him, I don't know anybody in this country.

And I don't have a job. I couldn't work legally. So it was really hard for me. It's a huge, very difficult transition for me.

So, I was pretty depressed for a while.

And finally I decided to see a psychiatrist, a professional, to help me. And I was very, um.... I was surprised and also interested to find out and she said listen, two things you need to do. First of all, find something that you love to do, like whether it's dancing, singing, or whatever, find a hobby and do it. Join a group.

And also volunteer. Find whatever things that you can volunteer, pick one that's your favorite and do something to help others. That will make you happy.

And she was absolutely right! I did both things that she said. And pretty much it was only two sessions I went. I was happy! I was cured! I was good! [Laughs].

>> TESS: Wow! Wow!

>> BEIMEI: Yeah, that's amazing.

>> TESS: That's a wonderful story. I love volunteering, it does make me happy. And I am actually literally ‑‑ maybe I'm bragging, but I'm one of the happiest people that I know.

[Laughter].

>> TESS: So is Beimei though.

>> BEIMEI: Yes, you are. Every time I see you, I know I'm going to get a good story.

>> TESS: We laugh and have a great time.

>> BEIMEI: We do.

>> TESS: Talking about volunteering, Patrick, I wanted to mention, he is with Indoor Wireless Solutions and we mentioned the loop system a few times.

The loop system is like a wire that you put around a room, a room or a building, actually, and then there is an audio that's connected to that loop and then there's a microphone, and when you speak into the microphone, whoever is inside the loop, there's a direct input into their hearing aid or cochlear implant.

>> BEIMEI: Wow.

>> TESS: And all you have to do is put your T‑coil on.

So, if you have ‑‑ make sure you have a T‑coil if you have hearing aids, because sometimes people don't have T‑coils, sometimes people don't know what T‑coils are.

But in the state of Florida, the audiologists, it's a law that you're supposed to inform your patient about T‑coils.

I know that's getting way off the subject [laughs]. As I usually do.

>> BEIMEI: It's very useful information.

>> TESS: So, I want to say thank you to Bill Reese for volunteering at the Hearing Health Expo.

>> BEIMEI: Hi, Bill!

>> TESS: He usually comes with us to Aki Sushi but he will be busy at the expo.

>> BEIMEI: That's okay, that's a good excuse. You're forgiven.

>> TESS: Yes, you are forgiven.

We're going to go to a quick break, and when we come back, we will talk to Brian from Triple Knot productions.

>> [Singing]: And all the people said amen, whoa, oh, and all the people said amen. Give thanks to the Lord for his love never ends. And all the people said amen.

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[Music playing].

>> TESS: Welcome back! This is Tess with WTIS and you are listening to "Tess Talk!"

>> BEIMEI: "Tess Talk!"

>> TESS: Or you are reading "Tess Talk!" with the realtime captioning.

And I wanted to say welcome to everybody from the Hearing Health Expo in Brandon.

And if you want some information about the Hearing Health Expo or what they have to offer, they have workshops and vendors and exhibiters, so you need to stop by and see them in Brandon.

And before we get to Brian, I wanted to mention Tyna and Lexi, they also do some volunteer work, but they're very quiet and they really didn't want to share earlier, and I talked to them on the break and they said yeah, they would like to share now.

So, tell us about your volunteer work.

>> I volunteered yesterday in particular at a school called Cross Bayou Elementary and they had an event and I was volunteering with the games for the children and keeping them occupied and stuff.

>> BEIMEI: That's awesome.

>> TESS: And that's at Cross Bayou. Nice. And Lexi?

>> LEXI: There are quite a lot of events that I go to and I volunteer at. And I tend to help with the children and I remember for Easter weekend, I'm not sure if that was exactly it, but the kid section, I helped with that and I just kinda helped to make sure everyone was having a good time and enjoying their events and everything.

>> TESS: And you mentioned Family Center on Deafness, correct? So I know that organization and I've worked with Julie Church for many years, great organization. In fact, Julie is going to be coming on the radio show sometime soon in the summertime.

>> LEXI: Cool!

>> TESS: So now I would like to introduce Brian Dery from Triple Knot productions. Brian, welcome!

>> BRIAN: Thank you for having me.

>> TESS: Thank you for bringing Jacob.

>> BRIAN: I'm trying to get him to talk.

>> BEIMEI: Like his father.

>> BRIAN: I would say I would walk away from my film career to get in radio.

>> BEIMEI: Wow! Why not have both when you can, right?

>> BRIAN: Yeah.

>> TESS: You do a lot of volunteer work yourself.

>> BRIAN: I do, I try to fit into the model of Triple Knot productions and try to give back.

>> TESS: That's awesome. Tell us how Triple Knot was founded and what you do. And if you could bring the mic just a little bit closer.

>> BRIAN: Sorry. It was founded in 2005, a friend of mine introduced me to a young boy, a teenager who was paralyzed on a mission trip in South America, their bus had went down the mountain and was paralyzed and a friend had certified me in scuba diving and he said can you come film Rick and we'll give him a nice gift and I said sure, no problem.

I went to work and bragged about the footage and story and everyone said oh my gosh, you have to do a documentary, it's a great story and I went back to Cory and said we have to do a film, and he said I have a friend, Jennifer French, we did a film, followed her around, we were like the paparazzi and we did narrations and did a deal and got awards and the rest is history.

We have been doing films with the Shriners and veterans' stories and we raise awareness on different disabilities through motivational and film building.

>> BEIMEI: That's awesome. What was the story of the lady like you followed with paparazzi.

>> TESS: I known her, she was on a CAPI Committee, that's C‑A‑P‑I for the realtime captioner, and it's a committee to advocate for person's with impairments and I really wish they would change that name [chuckles] but that's okay, they did a lot of good in the community to advocate for people with disabilities and that's how I've known Jenn, I've known her for years and that's a coincidence, I just met you this morning.

>> BRIAN: Small word.

>> TESS: Your organization is very unique, I've never heard of anything like that, and I'm all for that.

>> BRIAN: We just got a grant from Publix and I spoke to the grant manager over there and he said, you know, a not for profit video company, that's amazing, we tell stories of individuals with disabilities and inspire and motivate and educate our viewers but it's not about getting a paycheck or paid, it's about telling the life stories and going and distributing our film, doing a premiere, and if it motivates one person, the whole experience was worth it, whether we spent countless hours in there and if one person walks away resparking their life and getting out of the wheelchair, out in front of the TV and getting them to quit feeling sorry for themselves, it's well worth it. We have done that.

>> BEIMEI: That's fabulous. Can you tell me the story now?

>> TESS: Oh, I'm sorry.

>> BRIAN: About Jenn? She was in a snowboarding accident and bruised her spinal cord and paralyzed from the waist down and does sailing, scuba diving, kayaking, canoeing and she is on a sailing team locally and they compete all over the world.

>> BEIMEI: You're saying she does, she's doing it right now?

>> BRIAN: She can. Like we can, she can.

>> BEIMEI: How does she do it if she's paralyzed?

>> BRIAN: They have adaptive sports and equipment.

>> TESS: She won an award in the Paralympics, right?

>> BRIAN: She, she did, she went to Beijing.

(Interruption in the audio.)

>> TESS: You will meet Tim and we're waiting at Aki Sushi. Can you give them the address?

>> BEIMEI: 3970 Tampa Road, Oldsmar, Florida, and you can call them to make a reservation if you want to join us, the number is 855‑2624.

>> TESS: So Tim Kimball is meeting us for lunch and he is a perfect individual to do a documentary on his life.

>> BRIAN: That's great, we're always looking forward to doing stories, people I come across on the news.

And my wife, she's anti‑social media and she finally did it and she posted a video of this young man who has Down syndrome and he's a body builder and does competitions and it totally moved me and I was, like, you know what? That's a sign, that's the next film I do. We have a film in development but that's the next film.

And I reposted that video and come to find out, I have friends I used to work with, co‑workers, and they have a daughter who has Down syndrome and I said hey, let's see if we can put something together and do something really, really good for the world of Down syndrome and they're all for it and we're planning and developing that next.

>> BEIMEI: That sounds awesome! And it's such a wonderful thing you're doing.

>> BRIAN: Thank you.

>> BEIMEI: Yes, you are spreading inspirational stories.

>> BRIAN: Yes.

>> BEIMEI: To everybody around, so....

>> BRIAN: Yeah, like I said we try to motivate everybody.

We had a customer one time who called us up and worked for the Department of Health in D.C. and he called me and we talked for a long time on the phone and he's like, I have this nephew, he has a diagnosis and doesn't want to get out of his room, he wants to lay in bed all day, and at this time we had done our third movie, and we had another Shriner and Justin skateboards and he's a quad‑amputee and we gave him the film, we said please stay in touch and give us feedback and within two months, he said I have a completely different nephew, he's completely motivated.

>> BEIMEI: That's awesome!

>> BRIAN: If it motivates one person, I've done my job.

>> BEIMEI: It ties together with the word from last week, I just love that word "I can" and maybe if you're in your own world, you cannot -- and you watch someone else, you watch other people and you suddenly realize you know what? If they can, I can!

>> BRIAN: Sure. And that ties into the whole thing with Triple Knot productions, back in 1998 ‑‑

>> TESS: Sorry to interrupt, because if you can slow down just a little bit, we have somebody typing every word you're saying.

>> BRIAN: I'm a southerner, I talk fast, back in film school I was paralyzed and went to the VA and we tried treatments and I had a syndrome where I could never walk again and was told I could never recover and I said you know what? I'm 24, I can, I will. And maybe the virus ran its course and maybe it was the third treatment but I did overcome it.

>> BEIMEI: Congratulations, that's amazing.

>> BRIAN: It is amazing. It's not about me, it's about fuelling that energy of what I overcame to help others and I have people come to me all the time, why don't you do a documentary about you? It's not about me. Again, it's about others and how I can help them.

>> TESS: That's a crazy story! I did not know that about you. Wow!

>> BEIMEI: Well, if you ever want to do a documentary on not just inspirational stories but a very interesting story, you may follow Tess!

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: She has so many stories and so many things.

>> BRIAN: I would love to.

>> TESS: I also volunteer at my church in Clearwater on East Bay, it's a 10:00 o'clock mass or service, it's a Lutheran service and it's the contemporary service, lots of fun, and I love signing, I love interpreting there, and I love signing all of the songs, it's just a blast!

And they have great music there, great sermons.

You know, where I used to go to church, the sermons were, like, is it over yet? I'm sorry to say. But at this church, I don't want it to end, it's so intimate.

Anyway, I can't remember what my point was!

[Laughter].

>> TESS: Figures....

>> BEIMEI: Focus, Tess!

>> TESS: Let's, you were saying something ‑‑ oh, yes, we all go to lunch afterwards, and after the service and we were all talking about ‑‑ when we started talking about the radio show, my friend, Bill Reese, when he said oh, that's great, because now you don't have to repeat your stories over and over again, you can just tell it one time and everybody can hear.

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: That's right!

>> TESS: My other friend Marion, every week she says what happened this week?

>> BEIMEI: That's what I say every time I see you! Tess, what's the story?

>> TESS: We'll talk more about that. I want to say we're just about out of time, I want to say Lexi, thank you so much for coming on the show and congratulations! And congratulations to Tyna, thank you so much!

And I wish you the best of luck. Let us know what happens in Jacksonville, okay?

And Kelly, thank you so much for volunteering.

Brian, thank you so much for coming and sharing your story, and Beimei, as always, thank you so much!

>> BEIMEI: Love being here! Another awesome show, as usual.

>> TESS: We'll see everybody at Aki Sushi and we'll talk to you next week. So stay tuned! See you next Saturday!

[End of show].