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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional**

“Creating Our Own Security” – Marco Svagna

ANNCR: January 23rd, “Creating Our Own Security.” As a child, did you ever have something that made you feel safe and protected? This thing seemed to assure you that everything would be okay, and with it, you felt more bold and confident. But could this thing actually ward off dangers and keep you safe? Night lights, a security blanket, a favorite stuffed animal – they all might’ve made you feel protected, but if danger were to arise, they certainly wouldn’t be of any help. Of course, we recognize this now as adults...but I’m not so certain we’ve outgrown the practice. You see, while we may no longer carry a token around with us, we often still try to establish our own security – our own fortress against pain, rejection, failure, and even death. But is this our best method for safety? Marco certainly thought so, that is until he discovered true security. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

MARCO: I was the oldest of three boys born in New York City to Italian immigrants. I was always a “good boy” who studied hard and did well in school. In my junior year I discovered body-building and pumped iron four to six days a week.

I was extremely fearful of death, which made me health-conscious. Outwardly, I was quiet, but inwardly, I was filled with bitterness and resentment. I still lived at home with my parents even after I graduated from college Magna Cum Laude. Then running became my obsession. I felt self-righteous and superior to others because of my health regimen.

I had rejected religion at the age of sixteen. But one day, while trying to tune in a rock station on the radio, I discovered the "Unshackled!" radio drama and rarely missed a program. I was amazed at the change in people's lives, the peace they described. It troubled me to think about giving someone else control of my life, even God. But who can resist the offer of forgiveness and eternal life? I prayed for forgiveness and received Christ as my Savior.

The Lord led me to a church where I felt accepted and loved, and I came out of my shell. I taught Sunday school, led a college group and became a deacon. I even began dating, something I had never done! I'm Marco Svagna and there is only one explanation for the change in my life. Christ living in me makes the difference!

ANNCR: In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus condemns our natural tendency to trust in our own strength for security. While there are many things in this life that might worry us, Jesus asks in verse 27, “*Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*” Friend, in this passage, Jesus calls His people to turn to Him with their needs and with their fears. For consider how little control we have otherwise, even with our best efforts. Rather, let’s seek after Jesus for our true security. Will you receive this truth today?

CREDITS: Unshackled Daily Devotionals are produced by Pacific Garden Mission along with our Unshackled Audio Dramas. To find even more true stories of God’s saving, transforming power, visit our website, unshackled.org.

This episode was written by Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupfershmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Jon Zemke.

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