

**Transcript: [Voddie Baucham on Education, Mission, and Christian Culture-Building](#)  
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*Note: This transcript has not been exhaustively edited and may contain errors.*

00:00:05:01 - 00:00:27:07

Alex Kocman

Greetings and welcome to the Missions Podcast, the show that explores your hard questions on missions, theology and practice to help goers think and thinkers go. I'm Alex Kocman, director of communications and media with ABWE. Joined, as always, by Scott Dunford, pastor of Western Hills Church in San Mateo, California. And you are you and we're so glad you've joined us today on the show.

00:00:27:07 - 00:00:45:22

Alex Kocman

If this show ends up being a blessing to you, go ahead and share it with a friend and also leave us a positive rating and review your podcast platform of choice. We are over 300 episodes into this show, Scott, over 360 episodes into this show. God's been so kind to us over the last seven years. Can you believe that, brother?

00:00:46:00 - 00:01:04:21

Alex Kocman

I wonder if anyone has listened to all of those. I don't think I have. I know that I have and for sure. And speaking of things that are humbling, Scott, let me tell you just a little story as we dive into our conversation with our esteemed guest today. And of course, listeners have already clicked and know the title and know what we're going to be getting into today.

00:01:04:23 - 00:01:32:05

Alex Kocman

But I was at a conference last year and there was a couple of different authors with a particular publisher that were asked to sit down and do book signings and to be available to sign books that they had written. And I'm sitting at one table with my little book that I've half-authored here with Chad Vegas submissions by the book and well, our guest is sitting at the table next to me, and he's got the line going out the window.

00:01:32:05 - 00:01:49:05

Alex Kocman

And I've got like one person comes over and says, Hey, hey, buddy, how you doing? And so I was humbled in that moment. And, you know, the Lord uses things like this to knock us down a rung. And of course, the fellow that was behind me, beside me that day is the fellow that we're speaking to today, right?

00:01:49:05 - 00:02:14:04

Scott Dunford

Yeah. So we're glad to welcome Dr. Voddie Baucham, pastor, church planter. I first met you, and I don't know if you would definitely not know this, because I met you in my living room on a DVD from Passion 2000. I don't even know if you can remember that most of our listeners remember. And I remember, you know, this is an unusual name and I was really challenged by all those messages.

00:02:14:04 - 00:02:46:14

Scott Dunford

But that's where I was first introduced to you. You was raised in a non-Christian home, converted during college and as well known in this ministry for his preaching, dealing with a whole lot of topics related to culture and holds degrees from southeastern, a demon from southeastern and serving at African Christian University. So tell us a little bit more about your ministry and what led you from pastoring to go all the way to Zambia in ministry and any even and help us understand a little bit about Zambia.

00:02:46:14 - 00:03:03:10

Scott Dunford

I embarrass myself for our listeners by asking about Zanzibar, which is actually in Tanzania, which I knew that. But clearly I don't know anything. You just didn't know it, anything about Zambia. So how close is it to Wakanda?

00:03:03:12 - 00:03:03:23

Voddie Baucham

You're right.

00:03:03:23 - 00:03:07:13

Voddie Baucham

It sure actually seems right next door.

00:03:07:15 - 00:03:30:00

Voddie Baucham

No thanks to guys for this opportunity and this is awesome. I love to get the opportunity to talk to people about mission and, you know, our mission personally, the mission that we have as Christians, the mission that we share and the way that that, you know, just sort of grows and develops in our lives individually and collectively.

00:03:30:02 - 00:03:56:05

Voddie Baucham

And my family and I have been here in Lusaka, Zambia, the capital city, for the last eight years. We made eight years actually in August. We came we said we were coming for 3 to 5 years, and now we've been here three plus five. So, you know, it's kind of how the Lord works. Zambia is geographically located in south central Africa.

00:03:56:05 - 00:04:43:02

Voddie Baucham

We're landlocked, and so below us is Zimbabwe and Namibia, Botswana. And then we have to our west, Angola to our north, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to our east. We have Malawi and Mozambique and to our northeast, we have Tanzania. So we're completely landlocked. Yet it is about the size of Texas. Wow. If you are thinking about the landmass and it's got about somewhere 16 to 18 million people, the median age in Zambia is somewhere around 15-16.

00:04:43:04 - 00:05:24:23

Voddie Baucham

It's a very young country. Growing country is probably the most stable country on the continent, probably the most peaceful country on the continent. There's never been any civil wars here or anything like that, said, more peaceful transfer of power than any other country on the continent. It's a constitutionally Christian republic. So in the preamble to the Constitution, Zambia identifies Zambia as a Christian nation, which I've gotten a huge kick out of with all the recent, you know, brouhaha in the US about Christian nationalism, you know, about white Christian nationalism.

00:05:25:01 - 00:05:29:13

Voddie Baucham

And I'm like, okay, where does that put Zambia? (laughs) Zambia is this black...

00:05:29:16 - 00:05:30:09

Scott Dunford

Or Uganda?

00:05:30:14 - 00:05:59:02

Voddie Baucham

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Where does that put these countries? But anyway, that's part of the reason that, that, that we're here. It's part of the reason that at the African Christian universities here we came to helped start ACU, we got here in August. ACU started about I guess about six months later and it's a university classical Christian liberal arts university started by the were the Reformed Baptist Churches of Zambia.

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Voddie Baucham

I came to Zambia for the first time in 2006 and, you know, had an opportunity to be here in the ministry. Among those brethren, there's a vibrant, healthy three and a half decades old Reformed Baptist movement here. So it was just a really strategic place and a really strategic opportunity and an incredible fit for me in terms of my gifts, talents, abilities and desires for a long way around answering your question.

00:06:28:17 - 00:06:30:21

Scott Dunford

But that's what we need to hear.

00:06:30:23 - 00:07:03:18

Alex Kocman

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00:07:03:20 - 00:07:43:17

Alex Kocman

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You've already kind of given us an overview of the landscape in Zambia, obviously very different from the United States, which is, well, let's just say it's not quite a Christianly constituted republic right now, and I'm sure our median age is also older than what you see in Zambia right now.

00:07:43:17 - 00:08:05:00

Alex Kocman

And so what is what is that been like going from the Bible Belt in Texas to there? And specifically, we hear this conversation come up every now and again in the missions world of "reverse missions." I don't think that's an accurate term. But this idea, you know, for so long we've sent missionaries from the rest to from the west to places like Zambia.

00:08:05:00 - 00:08:12:02

Alex Kocman

And is it time to start sending missionaries or frankly, the opposite direction, or are there other things happening that you're seeing there on the ground?

00:08:12:05 - 00:08:43:04

Voddie Baucham

Yeah, I think of it differently. I think of it more from an individual perspective. I think there was a time when we thought about missions in terms of global parts of the world, unreached parts of the world, and we still do to a certain extent for certain parts of the world. Right? There's you know, and until everyone is heard, we're still going to have those pockets, those places where, you know, we have to try to send people for pioneering mission.

00:08:43:06 - 00:09:15:10

Voddie Baucham

I think for the most part, what we see is God preparing people in various settings and putting them in positions, providentially, where their gifts, talents, abilities, desires and opportunities allow them to be planted where they're needed. And sometimes that means, you know, a situation like mine where, you know, I'm going from Texas coming to Zambia.

00:09:15:12 - 00:09:41:04

Voddie Baucham

But there are also people in the United States who've come from Zambia or, you know, other parts of Africa or other parts of the world. And because of their gifts, abilities, desires and providential circumstances, they're now planting churches or, you know, in the United States or planting churches in the United Kingdom or wherever. So, you know, I'm with you.

00:09:41:04 - 00:10:22:01

Voddie Baucham

I'm not a fan of the whole, you know, reversed missions. I'm concept I think it's a lot more organic than that. And the reason that I'm encouraged by that is because I think what a lot of our approach to missions lead us to do is to think about missions in terms of Green Beret, Navy SEAL, Christians, you know, who are these special people who go places and do special things as opposed to us thinking about missions in terms of God, preparing all of his people to be about his mission.

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Voddie Baucham

And for some of those people, that ends up being cross-cultural because the fact of the matter is, I was a church planter in Houston, so I was involved in in mission work in Houston. Right? I didn't come here to be a missionary. I'm a missionary who happened to come here.

00:10:40:11 - 00:10:59:12

Scott Dunford

To help us understand a little bit more about Africa and how it's laid out. I was just looking at a map and some things are coming back to my mind to the north. So to the north is, is Congo right? The Democratic Republic of Congo, which is mostly French speaking.

00:10:59:12 - 00:11:21:07

Scott Dunford

There's a book—I don't know, you may have read this book—I read it a while back called *King Leopold's Ghost*, which exposed the huge genocide of the Congo by the Belgian government. And it was something I had never heard about before at all. But that's just to the north of you. But Zambia is was part of Rhodesia, which was an English and it was an English colony, correct?

00:11:21:09 - 00:11:25:11

Voddie Baucham

Yeah. So Zimbabwe would be Rhodesia. Zambia was Northern Rhodesia.

00:11:25:12 - 00:11:47:20

Scott Dunford

Okay. And so is there any kind of like culturally, you know, between the English speaking parts and the French speaking parts, is there a crossover? Do you see Christians going from a place like Zambia into the Congo, or is the ministry limited to the English speaking or French speaking world? How does that work out in Africa?

00:11:47:22 - 00:12:15:10

Voddie Baucham

Yeah, there tends to be a lot less of that overlap between borders, you know, compared to say, you know, in the US you see things between Canada, Mexico, the United States, you know, that that kind of flow there is some of that. There would be a lot more interaction between, say, Zambia and Zimbabwe, you know, because they're there, their histories.

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Voddie Baucham

Then there would be between, you know, we got Portuguese speaking former Portuguese colonies on either side. So Angola and Mozambique. Right. It's the Portuguese speaking world. And so you don't see a lot of interplay or overlap. And in the Congo, you know, the French, you don't see a lot of interplay or overlap there. But, you know, there is from time to time.

00:12:39:22 - 00:12:46:20

Voddie Baucham

But the Congo is also very unstable and war torn. And so there's, you know, a lot going to play because of that also.

00:12:47:00 - 00:13:10:20

Alex Kocman

So would you say then that that you're seeing challenges to the gospel spreading as a result and that the reason for us asking is we do look at the ministry that you're able to have there in Zambia. It seems like the Lord is at work, right? There's this movement for 35 years or so. There's a classically based Christian university that's happening there.

00:13:10:22 - 00:13:21:05

Alex Kocman

The government has a Christian identity or consensus behind it. What are the challenges then? What is left for the gospel to do in a context like Zambia?

00:13:21:05 - 00:14:09:20

Voddie Baucham

Well, and therein lies the rub. That's why issue was so important, because, you know, Zambians recognize the Zambian Christians here. These reformed, confessional Christians here, they recognize that, you know, while it's great to have, you know, a constitutionally

Christian republic, well, it's great to have that written into the Constitution. The Christian foundations were lacking. And so it's interesting, I came from a country that is not identified as a constitutionally Christian republic, but everything about it, everything about its fiber and its history and its culture is rooted in grounded in the Christian worldview that shaped its founding.

00:14:09:23 - 00:14:42:18

Voddie Baucham

And now I move here to a country who has the statement in the constitution. But does it have those roots and those foundations? In fact, they have very different roots in foundations African traditional religion, African traditional worldview. So basically you have, you know, this statement of Christianity that is sort of pressed down on top of this culture of African traditional religion and African traditional worldview.

00:14:42:20 - 00:14:56:06

Voddie Baucham

And so there is that clash there between the roots and the core and the stated desire to. So it's a very different kind of approach to things.

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Scott Dunford

I just I just want to remind my listeners, our listeners, it's been a long time since we've had Conrad and Bailey on our show, but his interview that we did with him on African tribal religion, I highly recommend people go back and kind of check that out, especially in relate related what we.

00:15:12:01 - 00:15:14:08

Scott Dunford

Just what we just heard from Voddie.

00:15:14:10 - 00:15:29:00

Scott Dunford

So how do you approach then theological education and discipleship in that that kind of a context and you know, how does it differ from what you've done in the States and then what would you say American churches should can learn from what's happening in Zambia?

00:15:29:03 - 00:15:41:23

Voddie Baucham

Yeah, it's really interesting that you know one of the things because of all of that these Reformed Baptist churches did is they didn't start a seminary. We didn't start a Bible college. We started a university.

00:15:42:01 - 00:15:42:11

Voddie Baucham

00:15:42:16 - 00:16:07:22

Voddie Baucham

And it's interesting. I run into people all the time. We've been here for eight years. I've been talking about ACU for eight years. More than that, right? Since before we decided to come here. Very clear about the fact that it is a classical Christian liberal arts university offering degrees in agriculture and business, you know, education and theology and tried to move into, you know, the hard sciences and over the next.

00:16:08:00 - 00:16:29:19

Voddie Baucham

But I tell you, if I talk to ten people, eight of them are going to ask me about our Bible college, because that's the only thing that they can conceptualize, right? It must be a Bible college. It must be a seminary, right? Because that's what missions is about, right? It's about starting Bible colleges. It's about starting seminaries.

00:16:29:21 - 00:17:01:04

Voddie Baucham

And we you know, you just have to continue to tell people, No, no, no, no, no. Our mission is to, you know, not just get them baptized, but to teach them to observe all things. Right. That that that that he has taught us, that he's commanded us. And so we're about building those foundations that much of Western civilization has come to take for granted.

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Voddie Baucham

So for example, I teach a class called theology, worldview, and ethics as part of the core curriculum. By the way, even our agriculture majors that will graduate with 24 to 27 hours in Bible and theology right now in our science majors, because the core curriculum. Right, and I teach theology, worldview and ethics in our core curriculum. And basically what I'm doing is I'm taking, you know, confessional exam and I'm taking, you know, the Decalogue and talking about how to build for, you know, practical understanding of Christian ethics from the Decalogue three types of law, three uses of the law, so and so forth.

00:17:39:19 - 00:18:00:16

Voddie Baucham

And so one of the things that I one of the ways that I always illustrate this for my students is, you know, Lusaka is the capital city. Couple of million people here. The overwhelming majority of people walk everywhere they're go. But we don't build sidewalks. People's houses and businesses are behind wall fences and people put their welfare.

00:18:00:16 - 00:18:22:23

Voddie Baucham

It's all the way at the edge of their property. So people have to walk in the streets and people are run over and killed almost every day. Right. And so I talk to them about the sixth commandment, right? The sixth commandment, you shall not murder. There, there is what



we what we shall not do. But there's also what is required of us, which is the protection of human life.

00:18:23:01 - 00:18:54:21

Voddie Baucham

And so I tell my students this I want ACU to be known as the university that produces people who build sidewalks right now, because it's not just about telling people how to go to heaven when they die. If we understand the *imago dei* and we understand, you know, the way the Gospel transforms us, then we also have to understand the value of human life and be the kind of people who build sidewalks because people matter to God.

00:18:54:23 - 00:19:02:14

Voddie Baucham

And if you can if you can conceptualize that, then you kind of get what we're trying to do at ACU.

00:19:02:16 - 00:19:29:06

Alex Kocman

And I think it would be maybe not new information for everyone listening, but to realize that, you know, the Bible college movement is a newer movement in history and in many ways that's—it's an evangelical, you know, trend and pattern that arose in response to certain things. Right. Especially coming out of the fundamentalist modernist controversies. And really people were sort of bunkering down and let's just do our thing right.

00:19:29:08 - 00:19:47:00

Alex Kocman

Meanwhile, we were we were sort of living off of the fumes of and coasting off of the fumes of really everything that came in terms of education. Christian Lee throughout Western culture right before that, because for generations we had the sort of foundations that you're talking about.

00:19:47:01 - 00:20:09:00

Voddie Baucham

Right, right. And so now that goes back to what I was talking about with, you know, the differences that I've seen coming here. It's like we're trying to intentionally do it through their work at ACU, those things that Western civilization is built upon but takes for granted, which has been a fascinating word but also incredibly challenging.

00:20:09:03 - 00:20:33:23

Alex Kocman

It's also encouraging to me because I see multiple polls at work in the evangelical world, not polls specialize. Yeah, and Scott and I have talked about this before on the show, too. There's this sort of fight or flight thing happening. Do we leave godless places and build communities that are rooted in the types of historic Protestant teaching that you're talking about?

00:20:34:05 - 00:21:16:01

Alex Kocman

Or do we integrate among the lost masses and do we send more missionaries rather than huddling up and different communities and churches are going to answer those questions prudently and differently based on where they are. And I think we acknowledge that that but not all contexts are the same. Yeah, but it seems like sometimes this this missionary impulse is pitted against the desire to lay the foundations again to build Christian culture that's rooted on the gospel, not rooted on the trappings of Western culture that isn't informed by the gospel, but that's rooted directly in Scripture.

00:21:16:02 - 00:21:28:11

Alex Kocman

Maybe in some of the ways that you've described. Sometimes these impulses are kind of pitted against each other. Do you ever find yourself sort of having to say to the people in our tribes, Hey, we still have to love the nations, not just the nation?

00:21:28:14 - 00:21:56:03

Voddie Baucham

Yeah, exactly. You know, we do have to do that. And interestingly enough, I have to do that more here. And the reason I have to do that more here is because Africa and Africans, by and large, for a long time have seen themselves as recipients in terms of mission. Right now, this is the place that missionaries come to.

00:21:56:05 - 00:22:32:04

Voddie Baucham

It's not the place you launch missionaries from. And so that's another barrier to, you know, you ask the question about, you know, ministry to these nations around us. And that's one of the things that we're trying to inculcate into Christian culture in Zambia as well. Right. How do we become a light to the nations that surround us? And just getting people to think in those terms is oftentimes very difficult, even from a practical standpoint, because, you know, this is a developing nation.

00:22:32:05 - 00:23:09:11

Voddie Baucham

And so people are like, hey, man, we need infrastructure, we need roads. You know, we need doctors, we need you know, we need to we need to literally build foundations and infrastructure, not just spiritually. Right. But, you know, and so the idea that that that you would think about. No, no, no, I'm going to go to, you know, neighboring countries, you know, in in order to advance that the kingdom spread the gospel, that that's something that, from a very pragmatic standpoint, becomes difficult to think about.

00:23:09:13 - 00:23:31:20

Voddie Baucham

But we're seeing that in different ways. We're seeing people from other nations come here to ACU as well. My first graduate was South African. We've had people from Rwanda, people

from, you know, the Congo, you know, people contacting us from all over, you know, the region. And as far away as, you know, Ethiopia talking about a desire to come and study at HQ.

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Voddie Baucham

So we're hopeful that that will change.

00:23:35:08 - 00:23:58:05

Scott Dunford

What have you learned, you know, just in your time there, you know, clearly Christianity of some sort and probably Anglican, I'm guessing it was Anglicanism that initially came to Zambia. What did you look at that you say, Hey, these are early missionaries that came in. They did right. Well, what are some of the things that you're looking back and say, Hey, I wish this is what we're learning from the mistakes of the past?

00:23:58:07 - 00:24:07:18

Scott Dunford

What have you learned, even just looking backward in history, that that that we could learn from as far as what we're doing in in maybe totally non-Christian contexts?

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Voddie Baucham

Yeah. And when you talk about early, you know, Christians here, you know, one of the Seven Wonders of the World is here in Zambia. And in order to go see that seventh, you know, wonder of the world, Victoria Falls, you'd have to go to a town called Livingstone that's named after David Livingstone. And this was David Livingstone stomping grounds in, in his mission work.

00:24:36:12 - 00:25:15:09

Voddie Baucham

And Zambians are incredibly grateful for that that work that was done. I think, you know, a couple of things that that have been sort of pointed out to me and maybe Conrad talked to you about some of this, but if somebody tells you, who's Zambian, tells you—a Zambian tells another Zambian where they're from, for example, or a Zambian tells Conrad, you know, I'm from, you know, this place or whatever, he can tell them what their denomination most likely is because early mission movements basically divided up the country and said, this area is yours, that area is yours.

00:25:15:09 - 00:25:40:08

Voddie Baucham

That area is yours. You know, and did the work, you know, in that way. And another problem, of course, was, you know, you've got the problem of rice Christians, you know, this idea of you know, we come and we bring resources and we bring our resources. Everybody's happy to get

the resources. So they're happy to, you know, accept whatever it is that we're saying to them because of the resources, you know, So there are those types of things.

00:25:40:08 - 00:26:13:10

Voddie Baucham

And then of course, there's the shallowness. And so people, you know, have come and it's still, you know, happens. They come in and they do some evangelistic work, you know, that put, you know, evangelistic in their course. They're they do some evangelistic works. They give somebody training that's this much about Sunday school. And then they, you know, call a pastor and you get people who'll say things like, you know, we planted, you know, 400 churches, you know, over the last couple of years.

00:26:13:10 - 00:26:38:02

Voddie Baucham

And I'm going, yeah, I don't know what you're doing, but you're not planting churches because it doesn't happen like that. You know, what you doing is something very different than that. And so, you run into a lot of people and a lot of places where things are, you know, a mile wide and half an inch deep, people have very little understanding of the fundamentals, very little grounding theologically.

00:26:38:07 - 00:26:48:12

Voddie Baucham

Zambians, indigenous Zambians are kind of left, you know, to pick up the pieces. So, yeah, there are there are some there are some train wrecks that have been left.

00:26:48:17 - 00:27:14:09

Alex Kocman

Absolutely. And understandably, any time we step outside of our culture, it gives us a new perspective on our own as well. And you're somebody who, even though you've relocated about eight years ago now, you are about to go on another short preaching tour, right? You've remained active in some ministry, at least publicly in the US. And I know it's been well, just an interesting last couple of years.

00:27:14:09 - 00:27:30:16

Alex Kocman

Right. What are what are the things that you see culturally differently because now you've been able to step outside of it and yet you look at the news in the US or you look at different things that are happening within the church and hopefully fresh perspective that that allows you to see something that maybe sometimes we're blind to.

00:27:30:17 - 00:28:01:20

Voddie Baucham

You know, it's interesting and people are always amazed when I say it when I say this. But living outside in the US and going back a little back three or four times a year has made me far more hopeful about the church in America than I ever was before. And I think what

happens is it's kind of like as parents, you know, as parents, we look at our children and we're constantly disciplining and disciplining and correcting our children.

00:28:01:22 - 00:28:17:21

Voddie Baucham

We see all of the work, right. That needs to be done with our children. We get tired, we get frustrated, and then somebody comes from the outside and says, when your kids are awesome and we go with these kids like.

00:28:17:23 - 00:28:22:09

Voddie Baucham

You're right, you know, you see you in these, these.

00:28:22:09 - 00:28:44:21

Voddie Baucham

Kids, right here, you know, And I think what happens when you're so close is, you know, we get so caught up with the things that are wrong or the things that are negative. But, you know, I've been in, you know, 50 some countries now, and there's no place like the US for one reason, because federalism, there's 50 states.

00:28:44:22 - 00:28:51:16

Voddie Baucham

Right. And that's incredibly unique. So not everywhere is New York, in California,

00:28:51:21 - 00:28:52:12

Alex Kocman

thank goodness.

00:28:52:12 - 00:28:54:11

Alex Kocman

Right, Scott?

00:28:54:13 - 00:29:29:23

Voddie Baucham

Yeah, amen, that every you know, not everywhere, not everywhere is like that. And, you know, that's one thing. But secondly, this 350 million people and there are thousands of prophets who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Yeah, there are so many universities and seminaries and podcasts and, you know, so many theologians writing books and you know, how many how many Americans can name five theologians whose, you know, work they think everybody ought to be reading who are not Americans.

00:29:30:01 - 00:29:56:08

Voddie Baucham

You can't do it because they overwhelm a majority of the meaningful, profitable theological work that's going on is coming out of America the most influential churches, the most

influential preachers, the most. I mean, it's coming out of America. And again, there are thousands of prophets who have now filed the need to bail. And there is a rich theological heritage and incredibly rich theological work.

00:29:56:14 - 00:30:03:06

Voddie Baucham

But there's also a lot of whining and complaining from people who just don't know how bad it is in other places.

00:30:03:08 - 00:30:04:22

Scott Dunford

That surprise you. Alex?

00:30:05:00 - 00:30:06:22

Alex Kocman

Does it surprise me that people whine and complain?

00:30:06:22 - 00:30:10:05

Scott Dunford

No, no, no, not that this is answer.

00:30:10:07 - 00:30:12:12

Scott Dunford

I'm just curious if his answer surprises you.

00:30:12:14 - 00:30:27:13

Alex Kocman

You know that I didn't I didn't necessarily anticipate that you'd say that very. I think you're right. I think that just in general, I think we're blind to you know, Jesus tells Nicodemus you can't see the kingdom without regenerate eyes.

00:30:27:15 - 00:30:51:04

Alex Kocman

And there's so many people looking for the kingdom and one thing that I'm often pointing people back to is look at the fruit of the kingdom. It's in the ground that you're standing on, whether it looks like it's going well right now or not, in whatever controversy or crisis that's happening in the news, we are standing on the shoulders of so many generations of spiritual giants.

00:30:51:06 - 00:31:13:03

Alex Kocman

And yeah, going to a place like Zambia where, okay, we're externally we're formally Christian, but the foundation is this deep? It's very thin compared to what we have here. And again, because there's this conflict between the stay and build culture here versus the go and

tell and reach the nations impulse because there's that conflict there. Well, maybe there shouldn't be.

00:31:13:03 - 00:31:34:19

Alex Kocman

Maybe it's like you're saying at the beginning, brother, about God is working more in individual hearts and he's fitting them for the circumstances where they find themselves in some people. You're going to be extremely evangelistic, effective in plant schools and start plant churches, start classical Christian schools, do things like that in the States. And then for other people, it may just be planting the seed for the very first time.

00:31:35:00 - 00:31:53:11

Alex Kocman

In another context, the goal is not just to be reaching the unreached. As important as that is, the goal is that every nation and tribe and people would have a fully mature body that is doing all the things that Christians do in the community as salt in life. And that's not the view of missions we've had for so long.

00:31:53:11 - 00:31:59:13

Alex Kocman

It's just been reach those who aren't reached and then nothing beyond that about teaching them to obey all things.

00:31:59:16 - 00:32:26:10

Voddie Baucham

And again, it's like I said, it's been encouraging to me to turn around and look back and to go back and, you know, several times a year to be involved in events and with ministries that are incredibly effective, incredibly faithful, that are fighting the good fight. Now, at the same time, you see the craziness, right? It's not that I don't see the craziness.

00:32:26:12 - 00:32:47:22

Voddie Baucham

I absolutely see the craziness is and, you know, my Zambian brethren ask me all the time like, what is wrong with your people? You know, what's wrong with your tribe? You know, because your tribe is crazy. You know, you don't know what a man is or a woman is and they don't know, you know, all this kind of crazy stuff, right?

00:32:48:00 - 00:33:22:15

Voddie Baucham

So I see the crazy, but I also recognize that, you know, when there's 350 million people and when there are people who are, you know, pulling certainly levers, you know, of power and, you know, controlling certain aspects of media and, you know, these kinds of things, even some of that is given far more sway than it would were it not for those levers that these people can pull on the overwhelming majority of Americans know the difference between a man and a woman.

00:33:22:17 - 00:33:41:10

Voddie Baucham

You know, you wouldn't know that. And if all you watch is what's coming out on TV, you know, you would think that, you know, half of Americas is part of the alphabet mafia and there are no straight married people raising kids anymore. But on the ground you see that it's not quite like that.

00:33:41:12 - 00:33:57:19

Scott Dunford

You kind of open the door to this. And I think you've touched on it a few times already. But could you know, as we're kind of wrapping this up or coming close to the end, what are some lessons that you as most of our listeners are coming from the West, some listeners of the UK, Canada, you know, America for sure.

00:33:57:19 - 00:34:12:01

Scott Dunford

And then our missionary force is spread all over the world are majorly our listeners. Well, what would be some things that you would say, Hey, these are some things that I think we need to learn from what you're from the Zambian church. What can we take away from what the Zambian church is getting?

00:34:12:01 - 00:34:52:07

Voddie Baucham

Right. Yeah, I think it's amazing in a in America, there is this abundance and this embarrassment of riches. And so we are very frivolous when it comes to resources in America. But in Zambia, in our churches here, we can't be frivolous when it comes to resources because we don't we don't have those kinds of resources. So churches here are not trying to figure out, you know, how to get a 15th or a 50th full time staff member, right?

00:34:52:07 - 00:35:34:04

Voddie Baucham

I mean, that's just it's just not a thing, you know? And so there's much more of a there's much less of a professionalism in that regard and much more of an all hands on deck approach to ministry that I think is very healthy. And it's something that I notice more and more, you know, as I go back to the US and as I go to churches, and I'm not saying that there's anything wrong, you know, with having people in staff positions per se, but it's just striking when I go from here where most churches, you know, are.

00:35:34:16 - 00:35:52:13

Voddie Baucham

Really hoping to be able to pay a pastor. And then I go, you know, to a place where the you know, minister to ninth grade boys is making them for tax. Look.

00:35:52:15 - 00:35:54:17



Voddie Baucham  
You know.

00:35:54:19 - 00:35:57:16

Alex Kocman

I was that guy, so I'm allowed to laugh.

00:35:57:18 - 00:36:06:17

Scott Dunford

Well, if I can just jump in. I mean, that makes it hard even in the States, though, because here I'm out in the Bay Area, churches are generally very small.

00:36:06:21 - 00:36:07:11

Voddie Baucham

Yes.

00:36:07:11 - 00:36:25:23

Scott Dunford

Very, very post-Christian. It's a very much a mission field. And when I'm trying to recruit young men to come and join me here, I'm often competing with that 15 staff position. And we're trying to get, you know, paid enough money to buy a house. And I'm like, hey, come out to the Bay Area. You'll probably never own a home.

00:36:26:01 - 00:36:34:15

Scott Dunford

You probably going to have to work, you know, some by some by vocational, right. Even though you're going to get paid \$100,000, you know, like. Right. You still won't be able to afford to live here.

00:36:34:18 - 00:36:40:12

Voddie Baucham

Yeah. How does that you give you \$100,000 and you can still get food stamps, right?

00:36:40:14 - 00:36:45:02

Scott Dunford

You're not. We're laughing, but that's the truth. That is absolute truth.

00:36:45:03 - 00:36:51:10

Voddie Baucham

I'm from I was born and raised in Los Angeles, man. I you know, I know where I know.

00:36:51:12 - 00:36:53:13

Scott Dunford

We've you Los Angeles is cheap.

00:36:53:19 - 00:36:56:19

Scott Dunford

Compared to, you know. Yeah, yeah, absolutely right.

00:36:56:21 - 00:37:29:13

Voddie Baucham

Yeah. But it is it's an interesting you know, it's just a very interesting it's a very interesting thing. And the other thing too, is like churches here, you know, you have people right next to each other who, you know, this person is a made or, you know, a full time, you know, gardener at somebody's house or, you know, has some, you know, kind of cart where they're selling things on the side of the road and barely scraping by.

00:37:29:15 - 00:38:01:07

Voddie Baucham

And then over here you have somebody who's, you know, some high falutin, you know, government muckety muck or, you know, some great job with some NGO or whatever. And it's strange how in the Zambian context, you don't get that sense of rivalry and jealousy that you do almost inevitably in the American context. Now, you know, if you had to.

00:38:01:07 - 00:38:33:12

Alex Kocman

Because we've sold jealousy, you know, as the fuel and the currency of social change social movements. Right? And of revolution. Right? It's fueled on, on jealousy. And if I could just make something a little more explicit as we wind down just so we can contextualize what you're saying, brother. So there is this critique of some of the writing in missions from ten, 15 years ago that said that mission minded people need to be radical.

00:38:33:12 - 00:39:05:21

Alex Kocman

We do have this embarrassment of riches in the US. We need to steward it better. We need to give ourselves away with reckless abandon because look how needy the rest of the world is. And disproportionate amount of blessing that we enjoy. We have to answer for that. That was where a lot of the energy was in maybe a previous era of missions thinking, and there's been pushback on that to say, get your own house in order, build your church locally, do the things that Christians should be doing to be a blessing in your context.

00:39:05:23 - 00:39:22:17

Alex Kocman

What I hear you saying in the midst of that bigger conversation is, well, don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. We really do have a lot here in the States and how we steward that is going to look different. But what we can't do is, is forget that we've been given so much and to whom much is given much still is in fact required.

00:39:22:18 - 00:39:24:10

Scott Dunford

Yeah. Luke 19 is still in the Bible.

00:39:24:15 - 00:39:53:20

Voddie Baucham

Yeah. And the other thing too, is that that stewardship is not just stewardship is not about being embarrassed at what the Lord has given you. Stewardship is about using what H\he's giving you wisely. And I think the problem in those prior critiques is that, you know what you have that that bit of, you know, you need to be embarrassed, you need to be ashamed.

00:39:53:22 - 00:40:19:06

Voddie Baucham

You're almost bringing on board that neo-Marxist oppressor, oppressed ideology. Right. And in your ear, you kind of bring on board that worldview that says, you know, wealth beyond a certain point has to be considered illegitimate and you need to be guilted out of it. And, you know, that's hugely problematic.

00:40:19:08 - 00:40:44:08

Alex Kocman

Yeah. To whom much is given, much is indeed required. Well, very many people are familiar with your public ministry. But please share what where would you point people so that they can hear not only more of what you've written and produced over the years? They can certainly find that. But on these types of topics too, and looking at what God is doing across the globe and maybe even particularly through ACU, how can they learn more about that as well?

00:40:44:09 - 00:41:13:23

Voddie Baucham

Yeah, they can go to [ACU.Zambia.com](http://ACU.Zambia.com) and you know, find out information about that. They're You know, I've also started another ministry called [Mizuno.org](http://Mizuno.org) [amusing Ulu.org](http://amusingUlu.org) and they can, you know find out information there as well. But you know, I just I'm so encouraged by the fact that people can access information like this that, you know, they don't have to.

00:41:14:03 - 00:41:35:14

Voddie Baucham

It used to be the only time people heard about missions from a first-person perspective is if their church was blessed enough to have missionaries who would come back, you know, for the missions day and, you know, dress up in the garb with the people that they're visiting, ministering to, and they'll tell their stories or whatever.

00:41:35:16 - 00:42:05:00

Voddie Baucham

And, you know, praise God for, you know, churches that that that have done that and that can do that. But I think it's incredible that, you know, that there are outlets like this where people can hear about things that that folks are doing. I'm grateful for your work. I'm grateful for,

you know, the book that you and Chad have written to help people think more biblically about this whole process.

00:42:05:00 - 00:42:27:20

Voddie Baucham

And I my prayer is that people both there and here will sing more mis theologically, that they'll think more in terms of the kingdom and its advancement and what all of us can contribute to that and how all of us need to be passionate about that.

00:42:28:00 - 00:42:54:10

Alex Kocman

Amen. And that is why we exist, don't we, Scott? To help goers think and help thinkers go. And both of those things need to be done. And The Missions Podcast is, of course, a ministry of ABWE. And so to learn more about ABWE, you can go to [abwe.org](http://abwe.org). Thank you though for being on the show today and thank you to our listeners and viewers for joining us as well.

00:42:54:10 - 00:43:16:00

Alex Kocman

By the way, you can watch this. If you're just an audio listener, you can also go to ABWE's YouTube channel and watch the content here as well. Don't you want to see Scott Dunford's beautiful, radiant California tanned face? Yeah, compared to my pasty pale, of course. I guess Voddie wins the tanning competition for the day here on the show.

00:43:16:00 - 00:43:17:14

Alex Kocman

But moving on from that.

00:43:17:14 - 00:43:22:08

Voddie Baucham

We know where all the mail is going.

00:43:22:08 - 00:43:23:01

Alex Kocman

What with that said.

00:43:24:22 - 00:43:37:21

Alex Kocman

Right that's right email your complaints to [scott@missionspodcast.com](mailto:scott@missionspodcast.com), and with that, we thank you for joining us today. Until next week's episode, go make disciples of all nations, and we'll see you then.