

Season 8 Review

Dr. Rick: [00:00:00] all right, welcome again to the think orphan podcast. I'm Rick Morton, along with my cohost Phil Darke, Phil. How's it going today?

Phil: [00:00:07] It's going really well. I'm I, you know, I am excited even though.

Everyone is predicting because we're recording this on November 2nd. For those of you not in the, not at States, everyone's predicting that there's going to be a meltdown and, and war and riots and looting, and pretty much anything that can happen. Everyone is predicting it's going to happen over the next three days.

I don't think it's going to personally, but I might, I might be found out to be wrong. You're going to be listening to this after everything goes down. So you're going to either know I'm right or I'm wrong. And I'm hopeful that I'm right. Um, for everyone's sake. Uh, but I, I just, I just have, uh, you know, more faith in the human human race.

Maybe that's not, not justified. Uh, maybe I just think it's because people don't want to burn down and destroy their own country, even in foreign countries. Sometimes I've seen, uh, elections, you know, and, and people freak out and they don't burn down their own country. That I've seen anyway. So I know what's happened in the past.

I just don't think it's going to happen tomorrow or Wednesday or whenever we know the results of this election, but why I'm even more excited today. Um, then, you know, hopefully not having the end of our country tomorrow is the fact that we get to go back over all this. I mean, honestly, as I'm going back over this season, I know we've had some phenomenal seasons, you know, season one was great that had dr.

Rick Morton on it for the first time. But you know, this season is probably, I just listened to the content we've had the season. I think it might be our best one, but you know, that's that's, and that's saying a lot because we've had some pretty amazing content. How are you doing, man? You know, I mean, I, I don't know if you're as excited as I am to go over these episodes, but

Dr. Rick: [00:01:47] I am not, I am, I'm not as excited about it as you are about tomorrow, apparently.

Um, yeah, we're, we're not sure. I mean, we're not at the point of like sword and rice and beans and plan to stay in for the rest of our lives. But, you know, there's a lot of, there's a lot of anxiety around the, you know, around the election stuff. So I'm, I'm kind of ready to get this over with quite honestly.

Uh, other than that, we're great. You know, we're, we're plugging right along, um, trying to won the Europe well, ministry wise and, you know, having a good time and like, how can I not be excited, man, I'm talking to you, right. Like I like, I'm getting an opportunity to talk to you and hang out with our, with our listeners and, and talk about some great guests that we've had on, uh, over the course of the first half of the season.

And so how bad could it be? Right.

Phil: [00:02:33] Well, I'm going to say a couple things to that. First of all, again, I've said this before on the show, I think, you know, you said some pretty low bars, so that's definitely one of the low bars. You had a tip. That's good know, because I had a talk with me. I have many people who will tell you that's nothing to be excited about.

Fact, a lot of people probably avoid it cause I talked too much. The other thing I want to clarify is I'm not excited necessarily about tomorrow and what might I'm excited over. I'm excited for it to be over. And I don't think all this stuff that everyone's talking about it's going to happen. So I'm, I'm, I am excited to hopefully find out that I'm right on that

Dr. Rick: [00:03:09] I'm going to need our listeners.

I'm going to need our listeners to write in and, and to give us, give me on a scale of one to 10, do you think Phil one is not excited? Do you think Phil is excited would be a 10 because I think he was right about a nine and a half up there. He's really kind of looking forward to tomorrow. I could hear this voice.

Phil: [00:03:27] I am looking forward to it. And I said, why? Because it's all going to be over, like you said, but I just think, I, you know, again, I'm excited to find out that again. Um, I think I'm gonna be right. The fact it's not going to, everything's not going to blow up. Um, there's going to be things going on. People aren't going to be happy, 50% of the country or 51% or 49% or whatever it is, are going to be really not happy with the results I think.

But. As I've seen over the last, however long there's there's, there's good Kings and there's bad Kings as we've seen throughout history. Right. And life goes on. We've had every election and however long everyone said, this is going to be the end of the world. And you know what? It's not.

Dr. Rick: [00:04:07] God still owns throne, man.

Phil: [00:04:09] That's exactly right.

Dr. Rick: [00:04:10] That's that's the, and that's not a Jesus dude. That's, that's the real deal that it really doesn't matter how this turns out. And, uh, you know, and we get it and like, look on the, on election Eve. We get to sit here and talk about some, uh, some great stuff and some great folks that we've had come through the podcast.

So.

Phil: [00:04:31] So the last, you know, we started the season talking about, you know, kind of, we had our kickoff show, we talked about race relations. We talked about actually the, the, when black lives matter was the George Floyd had just happened. Black lives matter. A lot of the protests were going on. A lot of the conversations were going on.

That was, you know, it seems like that was ages and ages ago, but it wasn't that long ago that we had that conversation. And I, you know, if you didn't listen to that, I think it was. And, you know, it's still relevant, very relevant. And it's, I think it's going to be more and

more relevant, especially as we talked about as, as we come off the election, as people are, are hopefully wanting to have conversations and continue to have conversations.

Um, as we talked about in that, it's really about, you know, listening and understanding others. I had a conversation, in fact, this afternoon with someone that we disagree on, a lot of things. But to have the conversation, to listen to each other, to understand each other's positions and, you know, walk away saying, you know what, we got to agree to disagree and let's, let's move on.

So, um, you know, what'd you, what'd you think just kind of looking back on that conversation, I listened to it again. Um, and you know, I, it was, I was.

Dr. Rick: [00:05:36] You know, with a little more time to reflect. I think also, um, it, you know, it, it just kind of leads me back, even the purpose of, of this podcast and why we do what we do.

I mean, we're, we're all doing this because, because God has called us to be a voice for the voiceless. Right. Like we've, we've been called to, you know, to, to give voice for those that are, that are, you know, downtrodden, oppressed, and, and, and unable to, uh, affect themselves and, and, and change their own circumstances.

And that's, you know, kind of the center of what our orphan care really is all about. And, and I think that applies as well, you know, in this conversation that we have people that are in, um, You know, majority positions and minority positions all over the world for a lot of different reasons. Some of that because of race, some of that because of socioeconomic status, some of that because of.

You know, a host of other things that maybe are not getting the focus right now, but, but our responsibility is as followers of Christ is to, um, you know, to look in the end to those people that are, that are being oppressed to seek justice for them. Um, and, and to do that in ways that honor them as, um, you know, as men and women, boys, and girls that are created in the image of God.

And, and I think that, you know, that doesn't change. And, and, and that's not, that's not, you know, that has nothing to do with the political winds are blowing today or, or how, you know, how we see our, our particular moment in history. That's a, that's a call that universal. And so I think, you know, what I would say to our listeners, what we try to hold ourselves accountable to as a family and our church and, and all those, you know, those places where, uh, you know, where we, we take our presence and how identity is to, is to live out that.

You know that call for justice. And I think it's profitable for us to have a conversation that continues. And I think it does still continue. It may not be, you know, we met or may not be in the middle of writing. We may not be in the room of civil unrest, but we don't have to have civil unrest to, um, and, and we don't have to have fresh, raw nerves in order to have productive conversations.

And, and so, um, you know, I think as, as we. You know, just as we continue to push forward, part of the responsibility is not to not to forget the difficulty and the pain of those moments,

but, uh, to press in and, and to seek solutions. And I think for us, those are, you know, those are God honoring solutions and those are, those are things that ultimately, you know, reflect the, the heart of God that has to be kind of the central point of what we do.

So, you know, that's kind of where, where I am after further reflection, I guess.

Phil: [00:08:22] Yeah. And I think too, like you said, I mean, it really was a good picture of why we do what we do. You know, it was something that I think that we both you and I, why we do this is to help people understand, um, really how we see the Bible, instructs us to bring justice to the fatherless, to plead the widows.

Cause you know, to. To, you know, have all of these different verses all of the different scriptures that talk to us about justice, you know, and what that looks like, you know, to do justice. Right? Cause I think it's, it's not simple. Right. It's not a simple black and white. Here's what justice means in every situation.

Right? It's something that we, as we talk about all these other interviews that we've had this season, as we look back over the course of this, this podcast, as we look over the course of the work that we've done of orphan ology of in pursuit of orphan excellence of all the other books, as you know, Johnny car's book called orphan justice, these are nuanced.

Issues. These are nuanced situations. These aren't things that have a simple answer and, you know, and I think that's something that as we talk through today that we clear and clear, and it's something that that's why we do what we do. So we can have these great conversations with people to talk through these nuances, to talk through these difficult situations, to help people understand that, you know, you have your core convictions and your beliefs, and we do too.

And. You know, when you're looking at any individual situation, sometimes it's blurred a little bit as far as what that looks like in that specific situation. And it, you know, and I, I, I look at that and I say the first interview we did this season actually conveys that it shows that right. Karen Springs.

What a great book. She was able to write in, you know, adoption through the rear view mirror that we talked about in that interview. But one of the things that she, you know, really talked about was her unique perspective that she had in Ukraine, really having a place where people were staying when they were, um, In the adoption process and coming over to be able to bring their child home to the, you know, as dates.

And she was able to host them and hear their stories and hear their perspectives. And then she was able to visit them after the fact. And that's really what this book is about. And that's what we were able to talk about. But going back to the nuances of it, you know, there's some of those that they were really difficult situations.

There were disruptions, there were things that happened that weren't ideal. And, you know, some people would say, well, if you're in a black and white world, We shouldn't adopt internationally to see it doesn't work there's disruptions. So why would you do it? Right. But it's not that simple. Right? So what'd you think of that interview?

That conversation, you know, w with Karen, I loved how she said it's, you know, we have to, one of the things she talked about was she wanted to tell the story about life after happily ever after. Right. And what'd you think of that interview of that conversation? I know that you loved it during the conversation, but just reflecting on it.

Dr. Rick: [00:11:23] You know, and I mean, Karen is a dear friend and, and so there's a, you know, there's a piece of this, that there was no surprise in what really came, you know, came out of the book, just knowing the, you know, knowing the person. And I think, um, the thing I love the most is she told the truth. Um, you know, she didn't, um, we, we say all the time, you know, in, in international adoption circles, I mean, there there's, there are no, there are no fairytales.

Um, and, and she did, uh, she did a great job of, I think, telling good stories, true stories, but, but, but understanding that, you know, all of us, all of our stories on some level are, are shades of gray. There's good and bad. There's, you know, positive and negative in, in the course of those stories. And I think rather than having to feel like she, you know, had to conserve details or to romanticize things or.

Or those kinds of things. She, you know, she ultimately felt like, um, that the, you know, the, the honorable thing to do and the right thing to do was to, you know, to tell the, tell the truth and. And I think it's, you know, we, we need to hear, I hear more of that in, in this community. We, I think, you know, the, the most underrepresented voices in, in the adoption community or our adult adoptees are, are those that have, you know, that have, have walked through that and, and are on the other side.

And. And, and so, so I appreciated her giving voice to, you know, to many of those stories. And, and I think, you know, being able to see it through her eyes of someone who had, you know, given and sacrificed and had worked very hard in, you know, in the lives of those, those families. I think there, you know, you could understand if she wanted to sort of bend and stretch and try to tell those stories in ways that were, you know, just overtly, um, You know, always positive, but, but she didn't, and I think it highlights the need for pre-adoptive education and hides the need or highlights the need for support.

And, you know, the fact is that that really, you know, in churches yeah. And other places where we're calling people out to, you know, to do this kind of work and to, to be these kind of families, we're, we're derelict. If we're, if we're only calling them to that and then not realizing the. No support, they're going to need, the resources are going to need.

And the, you know, the lifetime commitment that it is, I was talking to, you know, that of, of a number of, uh, adult international adoptees today. And he and I were talking about the fact that, you know, this is, this is not a, this is not a story that ends when you're, you know, when your kids are grown. There are still, you know, layers of, uh, of that story that continue to develop.

And, and, and some of those things are, are fantastic and wonderful and, you know, and awesome. And there are still some hard things and some hard consequences. And. You know, and, and we find our, we found our kids' journey through things that are, that are

layers of their past and layers of their experiences and layers of leaving a culture and coming to another one and all kinds of things that are difficult.

And. But, but the only way, the only way we robbed power from all that sort of stuff is Bob put light on it. And, and by, you know, by talking about it and delving into it. And, and I appreciate the fact that, you know, Karen catalyzed that conversation. Cause I think, you know, one of the things we talked about in the interview is.

This idea. And I think particularly in the Christian community that we have a tendency for people to live behind masks. Right. Like we, we tend to try to pretend that everything is okay even when it's not okay. And, and I think part of the reality of what her book brings to the surfaces, that it's okay not to be okay.

It's okay. It's okay to be, you know, it's okay to be messy and it's okay to be complex and. And, and none of that necessarily means that it's bad. Um, and, and we, we probably, by a big lie often that says we have to have this, uh, Dillard picture of, you know, of, of what life should be and kind of this, um, you know, this facade when, when truly.

That's, you know, that's a standard we can't be held to and it's, uh, you know, it, it's a calling. We shouldn't embrace. So, you know, I loved it. I would have recommended that book wide to lots and lots of people and continue to, and just, you know, I'm really, really thankful that, that Karen, um, went on the journey and wrote it.

Yeah, definitely.

Phil: [00:16:02] No. And I think that, that, uh, you know, if you haven't listened to that interview, she talks about so many important things. She talks about, you know, the importance of adoptive parents reframing their expectations, redefining success. She talked about redemptive, suffering, blessings, redefined, all of which is in her book as well.

Um, so I would definitely I'd recommend the book adoption through the rear view mirror. I'd recommend that podcast episode to here just to, you know, Some, some more context into some of those stories into some of the stuff in the book to hear her, you know, her thoughts behind what she actually wrote, which was amazing as well.

And so, you know, and that the same idea, right, as we talked about, even this, why we do what we do, and I think. That idea of, as I said earlier, the bringing justice to the fatherless, the pleading, the widows, cause you know, so much of that is his family and the importance of family and bringing family around these children.

And that's so critical and that I think was the next couple of guests we had. Um, yeah. We're an actually the next several guests, we had talked about that, but I think that the idea of the foster care side of things and the adoption side of things, you know, obviously Karen had that as well, but DJ Jordan and Todd shipment, um, were, were similar conversations.

Um, in the sense of, they were, they're both real. Foster care, adoption advocates. Um, Todd came at it from the pastoral perspective. DJ con comes at it really from the political sphere, the government sphere and the lobbyists side of things. But one of the things that DJ talked

about that again, goes to that nuance that we talked about earlier is really the idea of how skepticism surrounding the system can be a barrier.

To people getting involved in foster care and adoption and, and, you know, he even talked in that interview. And I don't remember if it was in context of that question or a different question that we asked, but the idea of in the, in the black community, oftentimes there is that skepticism of the system.

And so they often are doing this care. It's just kind of. Under the radar, right. It's been talked about the grandma or the non I think is what he said or Naynay or something like that, where she's in the community taking in kids and no one, you know, the government doesn't know it. Right. So that's going on.

It's just because they're skepticism. So what, what, what really stood out to you in that, in that DJ interview, going into Todd as well. Yeah.

Dr. Rick: [00:18:17] And that was a piece of it. I mean, honestly, that was a piece of it from, you know, from DJ's interview. And I, I think the, you know, the takeaway for me for that is, um, W we've got to find ways to be able to, to resource, uh, the African-American church.

And the fact is that they, they are doing foster care. They may not be doing it the way that you know, that necessarily, um, it's organized by the government to be done, but they're, I mean, they're doing. Out-of-home temporary care, sometimes permanent care all the time, you know, with, within the community.

And, and I think one of the things that it was, it kind of struck, you know, fresh and a new for me is just this idea that, that many of those people are doing that with without all the support that they need. And, and so, you know, finding ways to be able to, to bring some of the things that we have and some of the things that we've, you know, that we've come to know about foster care, bringing that to bear is, is a really important dialogue that I think, you know, I think we need to start.

And, and personally from having, you know, kind of been in that world, some. I think there's, I think there's a great, um, there there's eagerness and there's great opportunity, but I think it's going to be a conversation that's going to be slow, you know, it's going to be, we, we want to see, um, you know, wide acceptance very quickly.

We want to see, you know, kind of those, those bridges being built. And, and I think the, the, the truth is that we have some, you know, we kind of have some cultural things to get past and we have some. You know, some understanding and, and thing that things that, that we need to gain in order to, you know, really best be able to, to engage that.

I think another thing that DJ said that was. No, it was hugely important. And I don't know that he ever emphasized it in, in, uh, but it was throughout a lot of what he said. And it was, it was the role of his own family. It was a role of his own dad and in kind of shaping him to be the man that he is today.

And so. But a huge portion of, um, you know, what he's doing and, and the way he's engaging, both, both personally and also professionally comes out of a heritage of, of a mom and dad that, you know, thought that way and believe that way. And, uh, you know, a church culture that, that had, you know, a servant's heart to it.

And, and so DJ didn't become the guy that he became to, to do what it is that he's doing. And. He did it not because he was reacting against his, his upbringing. He was doing it because it's a natural extension of who you know, of, of who he was raised to be. And. And I just think that's a tremendous testimony to, um, you know, to, to, to his, you know, his father's family.

Um, and, and one of the real passionate things that you see is, is this guy who is, who is very dedicated to, um, to stepping into places of fatherlessness. And it's not because. It's not because he experienced that himself. It's quite to the contrary, he experienced the benefit of the love of, uh, of, uh, of the father.

And so, you know, he's, he's poor that in well, and I, I just, I love that about him. Um, you know, with Todd, I think, um, you know, Todd's, Todd's an academic and, and he's, uh, you know, he's a guy who teaches biblical studies and teaches theology. And so that's kind of the place that he's going to start. And I think the.

You know, one of the things I just appreciate so much about how he speaks into the church is this idea that this is not. To, to care for orphans and widows is not an extra biblical idea. It's a, it's a centrally biblical idea. And, and in an age where there's so much conversation around the gospel and what is the gospel and how do we live out the gospel?

And. And there were even wide skepticism in some angelical circles about, about doing the gospel and, and doing justice. And, and can you really do both of those things? Are they antithetical to one another? He just does a really beautiful job of helping to reinforce the idea that they don't sit in opposition each other, but, but they're, they're complimentary.

And so, you know, just really appreciate that. The, the fact that I, you know, I love his book. And I think if for those of our listeners that are out there, if you're in one of those churches where, you know, your pastor struggling to get it and, and there's, uh, you know, there are people within your church that are serving.

But you just like, it really hasn't taken hold in your church. Todd's book is one of those books you can pick up and put it in the hand of your pastor. And, and, you know, you're, you're getting someone who is, uh, you know, who's a, a well-trained new Testament scholar who's, you know, really kind of, you know, well-known.

That is that makes a credible argument that helps a pastor to see this in a very non-threatening sort of way and helps to help, you know, for us to be able to see it through, um, you know, through a, a gospel lens. Um, No. I think Todd pretty much focuses on adoption as you know, as kind of the center point for a lot of what, um, you know, a lot of where he, where he begins in the ends and that, but, but the book covers other things and talks about, you know, trafficking and other places where the, you know, where the church can be involved and.

But always on a, on a really solidly biblical foundation. And so, you know, it was a great conversation

Phil: [00:23:55] now, both of those conversations. I mean, I, if, again, if you haven't listened to any of these conversations we've had in season eight, I encourage you to go back and check them out because they are all solid and you know, and they're going to train you up and teach you and make you think about things that you may not have thought about before.

You know, Todd's book also, you know what Rick did and say, as it goes through, and it really just. Interviews effectively. He interviewed a bunch of different people who have adopted and who have been through this, this orphan care. Yeah life, you know, and, and really what does it look like? And, and he interviewed them about it and he talked with them about, and that's what his book basically is, is a Chronicle of that, which is, you know, I didn't really think about it until just now, but, you know, Karen and, and taught at a similar, you know, chronicling people's experiences.

And as you said, social study, really research, which is, which was fantastic. Right. And so. I think that that was those, both of those were, were great. You know, Todd has, you know, as, as appendix of his book and we talked about it in the interview, just the five key relationships, I'm not going to say him now, you got to go listen to that interview.

Um, but for any adoptive family, really the five key relationships. And so there are tidbits, there are great practical tips. There's also just some big picture stuff. As Rick said from a, from an academic who. Who doesn't speak at that academic ivory tower level. He definitely makes it extremely accessible for anyone.

And it's something that we had. We just had, I thought it was a great conversation with him. I really enjoyed actually both DJ and Todd are friends of yours. Rick, who, who I, I met. When we interviewed them and I absolutely loved getting to know them and look forward to getting to know them deeper. So there is the next interview.

However, is a guy that I introduced to you. And he's a guy that I spent a lot of time with. Um, but he's, he was my main coauthor on, in pursuit of orphaned excellence. He has become like a brother to me, a phenomenal guy, amazing father. And. And, uh, just a guy who is an amazing husband as well. I don't want to neglect that Laura Beth you'll appreciate that.

Um, and, but we talked about, you know, it was, it actually a two part episode. We had a lot to talk about. We're not going to go into specific, super detail on it, but a couple of the things that, that I just want to highlight is, you know, he. We talked about the collaborative process and the book writing process.

And it's something that, you know, we talked a little bit about in the commentary of that interview, and I just want to point it out again, then that that book became better when Keith became a part of it. Now, you know, partly because Pete Keith is, is a brilliant man. Who's a, just a deep thinker that you hear in that interview.

Just, he's not only thoughtful, but he's just, just. Sharp as a tack. And, but he pushed me to be better and I pushed him to be better. Right. And that's really what we talk about in collaboration. It's what we talk about on this show that we want to hopefully be able to push you to be better. And you can push us to be better as we are having these dialogue and conversations, um, on whether it's online or if we meet each other in person or, or whatnot.

But that was something that I saw in that, in that book writing process. And so as far as the content of that interview really. The things that stuck out to me. And, and I don't know if, if they stuck out to you as well, but we took, we asked him what he, what he would have done differently if he wrote in pursuit today.

And, and, you know, one of them was something we've talked about a lot, which is, which is the gatekeeping. It's something I talked with, a lot of people about, we didn't address gatekeeping in that book expressly. It was kind of implicit in some of the things we talked about, but it's such a critical aspect of, of the orphan care.

Um, or the orphan care communities and orphanages that to make sure that you're not just, you know, all welcome, come one, come all intake and gatekeeping. Um, But the other thing that we talked about really was the idea of, of not only the importance of fathers and family in a children child's life, but you know, what about the single moms?

You know, because that was one of the misinterpretations of the book that people thought we were saying in the book, because there was a subtitle of one of the chapters, you know, and in hindsight we probably wouldn't have it, but it said the height, the subtitle was mothers are not enough. And it was really an indictment of the.

Men who aren't stepping up in the families and in the lives of their children. But it sounded like we were saying that single moms can't do it. And that's not at all what we were saying. It's not at all. We're not, we never have said, um, anything resembling the fact that single moms can't do it in single moms.

Aren't, you know, shouldn't be adopting or single moms shouldn't be carrying and raising for their kids to the contrary. And that's what I think Keith talked about in that. And something that he's talked about on many occasions. So that was just, you know, uh, I love the interview. Um, I just loved the fact that I got to hang out with my friend for a long time.

That alone was worth the time, but I wouldn't have done it if I didn't think that one out there wouldn't have learned from him about what he's learned working in Uganda for 15, actually almost two decades over in Uganda, working under Uganda leaders. So, Rick, what'd you think about that interview?

Dr. Rick: [00:29:00] Yeah, and I think that's, that's the takeaway is just the profound humility.

You know, that, that he approaches life and ministry with. I mean, the fact that, um, that he, you know, he kind of went as this young whippersnapper 15 years ago, um, with a lot of zeal into a situation, but had the, you know, had the, the, the foresight, I guess, in, in that place to humble himself and, and to learn.

Um, and, and sometimes, you know, coming out of a first world Western context, I mean, that's, that's a, that's a, that's a rare thing to find. And, and the fact that he, you know, he went and listened and was poured into and was ministered to, and learn the culture. And, but, but valued in a steamed. The, the experience and the, you know, and the insight that had, had been gained by these older brothers who had been doing this for, you know, for a long time, and it's not lost on me.

And I hope it's not lost on our listeners. That that was not just, uh, that was just not just an operational thing. That was a spiritual thing too. That, that like, he, he looked at these guys and, and they were, you know, they were kind of spiritual older brothers and fathers that, that poured into him and disciplined him and, you know, really enlarged his view of God, even in the midst of, um, of enlarging his view, you know, practically of the ministry in, in front of him.

And, and I think, um, You know, we're so quick to go into situations and to want to go contribute what we have and want to tell what we know and want to, you know, bring to bear those, those things that we believe, you know, that we bring as assets and. I mean, he really kind of threw that whole idea on its ear and, and in a great way.

And, you know, in saying that, you know, that really being careful to listen and to learn and to, and, and to dwell and, and, and to. But then seeing the fruit of that 15 years later and, and in what God has produced and what God has done through him and what God has done through. Bye bye for in that collaboration and so on, you know, um, Just, uh, it was great, man.

Thanks for, thanks for introducing me to Keith. I mean, you know, being more than, uh, you know, the God that had had written part of a book, but being somebody that we've got to connect with personally. Um, and, and I hope, you know, our listeners are, are, you know, feel like they've benefited as much. Um, I know, you know, it was, it was great, um, to get that sort of, uh, the sort of insight

Phil: [00:31:58] from you.

Yeah. And it's something that is, you know, you know, right in the book with Tony, when you see you write a book with someone, you know them, right. Like, so I, I even read it differently than other people read. I mean, I read it and go, man, this is good stuff, but then I, as I'm reading it, I think of the man, you know, in his.

Living room with his kids, with his guitar singing on his Monday night, worship, nighters doing the, you know, and it's just adds so much. So then that's really that kind of, that real deal side of things that I think a lot of people, as you know, I mean, it's silly really, but people go, Oh, you wrote a book, therefore you're on this, whatever, you know, different.

Type of person, whatever, you know, whatever it may be. And it's just,

Dr. Rick: [00:32:43] yeah, it just personalizes him and, and, you know, and, and hopefully, I mean, that's kind of doubling back, but I mean, that's one of the things about, you know,

about Todd's book that in, in Todd's book, the stories that he, that he brights, and there are a lot of those are people that folks are going to know.

Like, they're going to recognize those names and they're going to know that those are the people they've heard speaking at conferences, right. And other books and those kinds of things. And part of the, part of the great relate-ability of that book is it is it kind of tells the real life story of some people that you've probably heard pizzas pieces and parts of it, but maybe not all of it.

And yeah. So.

Phil: [00:33:21] Well, and too, when somebody else is telling the story versus in a sermon illustration or in something else that you hear, Oh, here's what happened with whatever. And so here it, you know, so anyway, I think that was something, you know, I think we want to move on here, but that was just something else that I think is just really cool that people are able to see, um, about, about Keith.

I was just very, very glad that people got to hear his heart. I got to hear his, his passion for what he does, but another guy, as you said, Keith whipper snapper, when he went into Uganda, you know, so our next guests that we were able to interview, what a, what a pleasure it was to interview Robert Glover.

And, you know, I've actually gotten to know his son, Josh, um, uh, just. Randomly, uh, is now staying at my parents' house, but that's a, that's a story for another day, but I've gotten to know him. And, and so I hear a lot of these other stories about Robert as a young young lad in, in England playing soccer and, and anyway, stories that were kind of fun to put, you know, put some more context into that pre China, Robert Glover, but I'll tell you what, like, you know, To see his, or to hear his story, to watch the documentary children of Shanghai, which is now available to, to, to be able to get a snippet into the book, as many as the stars, which is now available.

And I encourage people to go. Actually, if you listen to the podcast episode, that's another teaser for that. He gives you an opportunity to get a free copy of the book. I'm not going to tell you how to do it. You got to go listen to the podcast episode, but, um, That interview, man. I just listened to it the other day.

What, uh, Oh my gosh. I mean, just so much there, what an amazing man, what an amazing story, you know, being, you know, influential, you know, deeply critical aspect of getting over a million children into families in China. I mean, who would have even thought about that over 20 years ago? And yet this man goes in, you know, former.

English footballer. And he just says, Hey, I can do it. Let's do it. God's, you know, God's behind me. Let's make it happen. Right. And so, you know, even though he hasn't been ignited yet, which we, again, we still gotta be working on that, Rick. Right. Um,

Dr. Rick: [00:35:40] he, you know, if you have knighted him in the, in the, in the interview, right?

Like you tried to go ahead and

Phil: [00:35:46] I'm doing my best. I'm doing my best, you know, I can only do so much. I do have an English last name, but that doesn't get me very far in the knighthood categories. So all that to say, Rick, I know you love the interview too, so I want to hear what you, what really stuck out, even, you know, reflecting on it.

Dr. Rick: [00:36:04] I mean, again, and this, you know, I sound like a broken record, but, um, it, it's the, it's the humility piece of it. I think, you know, you you'll listen to Robert's story and, and, and the fact is that. He went into all of these places and found great favor and, and you know, and the Lord guided his steps and guided his path along the way.

But he'd never presented himself as the answer. He never, he never presented him. The one who knew how to fix things. He, he, he presented himself as, you know, one who wanted to be a friend, one who wanted to, you know, to, to help them reach the ends that they, you know, that they saw were desirable. And, and he, he ultimately earned trust.

And, and as he earned trust, um, he leveraged that trust in order to bring about change. And, you know, and, and I think, again, one of the, you know, one of the, I mean, yes, he, Robert tells an amazing story like he is, and, you know, I mean, for crying out loud, for those of us, from the, you know, from the South of the U S is his, you know, his accent alone, it makes you want to listen to him for hours, but, you know, but, but you, but the truth is that, that he, um, Yeah, he was, he just very patiently.

I mean, it's 20, 20 years of work and they, they saw some extraordinary things happen, have seen some extraordinary things happen. Um, I think hope for some things, even, you know, even greater to happen as a result of the investment that he's made there. But the truth is that it all comes back to making an investment.

You know, he, he and his wife left England for kid four small kids and. Six, six other ones. There's four. Okay. Even better, like, right. So, but they leave, they leave with their kids and move to Shanghai. Like the, like, they, they, they, they up and, you know, completely changed the world. And, and he, I mean, again, here's the thing, his, his story is, is to us incredibly impressive, because we hear a million kids and that, you know, that, that blows your mind.

Um, his story is not better than. Someone who's who's left and is, is tall and weighing up in a, in a, in a village nobody's ever heard of faithfully caring for kids and shepherding families and, and doing the things that you know, that we know to be done. I think what, what, somebody like Robert, what his story reminds us is that, you know, God will, God will take our faithfulness and do with it.

What he wills. But, but you look at, you look at the story and you look at everything and this is the thing that's fun to talk to. Robert. The thing is like he, he doesn't start blowing smoke and trying to tell you how all of his efforts added up to the things that he's seen. Right. He just kind of laughs his way through the whole story and has no idea how it all happened,

Phil: [00:39:31] right?

Yup. I mean, he had said, I remember when he even said, like, we went to talk to the Chinese government, he's like, Hey, you know, do you have any numbers? Do you know how many kids like it wasn't like he was tagging, you know, an Italian sheet. Right. He's just like, went back after a while. I was like, Hey, you know?

And they're like, Oh, it's a well over a million. Oh, okay. All right. Oh, wow. That's awesome. We've hit it. We need to change it because it's just like, as he saw that God was doing it and, and yeah, it was, it was very evident to that.

Dr. Rick: [00:39:57] Can you tell us about, about, you know, starting the, the soccer team and the middle of the child welfare institution.

And so basically takes a bunch of these kids from an orphanage, pulls them together, makes a soccer team out of them and. You know, they, and they win everything. But that story is probably told a thousand times over in different places around the globe every year. And, and here's the, here's the thing that, that like to me is, is the most impressive of all that we can sit back and we can look at all the things that God did through Robert Glover and did through his family and celebrate.

But, but, but what it shows is, is nothing more than it's a grand story about faithfulness. And I, and I know there are, there are some people that are out there that are listening to our show. That are told in a way, doing similar things in similar places. And they're not seeing, they're not seeing a million kids see their lives change.

They're not seeing a government respond to them. They're not seeing all those kinds of things. And what I want to encourage them to say is still be faithful. Like still and, and, and, and don't think that because th because that's the, that's the humor in the whole thing, when you, when you ball it all down in that interview with Robert, it was like, there's not a, there's not an ounce of ego in that.

And, and it's, it's just a guy who, who, who, who felt a call, who had an ability who went to a place who faithfully stewarded it and. And, and things happen that seem impressive to us. They seem impressive to him. Um, but the most impressive thing of, of the whole story is his, his willingness to go his openness to serve his, his following of a calling in his integrity to continue to pursue it.

And, and I, and that's what I hope people will be encouraged by. And I hope, you know, some folks that are maybe not seeing those kinds of results come out of, you know, come out of their work and come out of their ministry can look at a documentary like. You know, like this one and can read a book like this one and can be encouraged to say.

As long as I'm serving an audience of one with that same sort of faithfulness, that's all that counts.

Phil: [00:42:18] Yeah. No, absolutely. And I think the one thing to remember too, about all of it is he didn't show up in China, speak in Chinese. He didn't show up in China having all this favor, like dumped upon him right away.

He was hanging out with the kids, not even being able to eat with the people in the orphanage. Right know, that's why he started that soccer team. Right. And, and like you said, it was, you know, it was great to win the championship too. You know, it was kind of like an afterthought, like that was cool, but what that deed, that was amazing.

It was the open door, right. Literally the open door

Dr. Rick: [00:42:51] she literally got out of the ball.

Phil: [00:42:54] Right. And so, yeah. And you need to listen to the interview for the full story. We're just giving you snippets to hopefully make you hungry and no pun intended, actually that fun was intended online. Um, for. You know, to go back and listen to that because it, everything Rick said is absolutely true.

The patients, the intentionality, the, the humility that all of that I believe is why he did have that favor from God, to be able to say, God, I have my open hands. I'm going to China. And I have no idea what it's going to look like, but I trust that you're going to lead me to these relationships. You're going to lead me to say the right things.

You're going to give me the ripe interpreters. You're going to get me the right. People, and we're gonna just keep taking one step forward. It's as we say in our organization, it's, let's do the next right thing. Right. And that's just what I felt Robert was doing over the course of 20 years. And we see it here on the other side, but I can imagine.

Three months of hanging out in the country. I knew nothing about with six kids. You know, we were seven weeks in Honduras and my kids were moaning and complaining the whole time about, you know, not, I mean, not all of them and it wasn't the entire time, but it was a lot of it. Right. And I'm having young kids and you're like, Oh my gosh, are we doing the right thing?

Like after just a few months to think 20 years of faithfulness, it's just, it's just awesome. So yeah. On the other side of that, our last interview of this, at least the last non recast we able, we're able to throw in at the end, Caroline leaf recast for you because we thought we'd finish it off with another great interview, but we're not, we've already talked about that one in the past.

It's a great interview. Listen to it if you haven't yet. But the last, you know, fresh interview of season eight that we were able to do is Spencer Reeves. So Spencer's kind of on the other side of that continuum. So to speak of, of being a new, beyond the scene, really relatively, he's been that with child hope international for a few years, but he's right in the middle of a transition to family based care from.

An orphanage there at child hope international. That's the amazing thing about child hope. We didn't really get into that conversation, but that orphanage, it was not just some random orphanage in Haiti. I mean, it was, but it was also a, a subject of a CNN special after the earthquake. It had a lot of. You know, kind of big, uh, press, so to speak on this orphanage for being an orphanage.

Right? And so to now go through a transition, he was able to tell us really in the middle of the transition, the, the struggles with donors, the struggles with staff, to be able to, to, to move them along on this transition, when this is what you were always doing from child sponsorship to family sponsorship and these just these different changes that are real paradigm shifts, quite frankly, for there.

Their board and their staff. And, and as we said in that, in that interview, or as I said, I mean, Rick would like to claim it. But as I said, it's like, you know, if you want to learn football, you go and you watch some movies. You, you, you talk to coaches, you, you read some different books on it, but if you really want to feel what it's like to get hit, you need to talk with someone who's actually in the game right now.

And that's the thing about Spencer's, he's really in the game, he's talking with all the best of the best. That we've had on this show. Um, but he's also a guy who's in the game right now. And I thought that's what I thought it was just a really raw, fresh interview. That was just kind of, as we said in that interview, I mean, as we said in the commentary afterwards, um, you know, it's, it's like he's still working through it as he's answering the questions.

Right. So anything else from you on that one?

Dr. Rick: [00:46:29] No, I, I just, I think it, you know, it was a, it was a good reflection of. Somebody who didn't necessarily have all the answers and didn't feel compelled to have to pretend that he had all the answers and, and that was kind of, that was kind of refreshing. And so, you know, he's, he's committed to some things and, and is committed to some direction and they're, you know, they're faithfully walking that out and stepping that out and he wants to do that in the right kind of community with the right kind of people.

And, um, and I think all of that was, you know, was tremendously, um, You know, tremendously helpful to hear, uh, I hope it's encouraging to some folks that are, you know, maybe, maybe there's somebody that's sitting out there that's listening to this right now. That's saying, Hey, there's something about my ministry that I really, you know, convictionally believe needs to change.

Well, here's a guy, who's a good example of someone who, you know, who had that same sort of thought and a group of people that have that same sort of thought. And they really still don't completely. No, you know, fully what the end game is going to be and all that that's going to, you know, get a main for them, but they're, but they're committed to this principles and they're walking them out faithfully and, and they're, and they're willing to encounter the mess and the difficulty and the hard conversations with donors and all the things that are necessary in order to, you know, in order to be able to, to foster that kind of change.

And so I think, um, You know, go and do. Likewise, we all have that kind of courage. Well, and

Phil: [00:48:05] I think, you know, something I just thought of which I often say, you know, don't be afraid to say, I don't know. Um, because in, in what I just thinking, and I don't know

if this holds up and it may be an awesome new coined phrase that we all use in here on out, it's just quoted and it's all over memes and everything.

But, you know, I was just thinking some of the best things happen after you say, I don't know. Right. I mean, I just think of some of the things that I've learned that I've said, I don't know. And then somebody actually comes along or somebody introduces me into a mentor who can help me to know, or I learned something because I researched it because I didn't know.

But if you think, you know, and if you fake it that you're knowing, then nobody's going to give you that opportunity to say, Hey, let me introduce you to Lee Oswald. Let me introduce you to Phil aspect grant, because they were to call it. They called me and they're like, Hey, we want to get some advice on transition.

I'm like, okay. I'm not your guy, but you know what, there's these other guys who I know that can help you with that. But if they didn't have that humility to call me and say, we don't have the answers, we don't know what you know, it's not that they don't know what they're doing at all, but the, you know, they're, they're really, as he said, I feel like I'm going blindfolded with a lot of this stuff and, you know, and you're just kind of feeling your way through it.

And, and you have, we have resources, we have people, and that's kind of the, that's a big part of this show. We have, you know, we're trying to bring to you these resources versus that, you know, both Rick and I have been able to have the privilege to become friends with, or to know over the years that we can then introduce to you.

And I haven't met a single guest who has said, Hey, don't introduce people to me. If you, if they ask you to connect me with it, I don't want to connect. I haven't met there. Hasn't been a single guest that said that. And so, you know, and I, and to the contrary most event, Hey, here's my email address. If anyone contacts, you just have him have him drop me an email.

Some have said you haven't dropped me a text, no big deal. Right. So that's really the idea. That's why we do what we do. We really are wanting, you know, we're here, we're on the same team. We're saying, Hey, how can we get children into families? How can we get children to flourish? How can we help children and families to flourish?

How can we be a part of that, a little part of that. Sometimes it could be a big part of that, but we're just, again, taking that next faithful step to say, who's that next guest, who's that next person that we can talk with when you connect with us on Facebook, you know, like, or on an email, or if we're at a conference, if those things ever happen again in our lives, um, then we can actually have a conversation over coffee.

We can have a lunch together. Right? So these are things that, again, As I said earlier, you know, if you don't say, I don't know, a lot of things won't happen that might've happened if you did. Um, and, and that really is just that humility, that openness, it's also an intentionality. It really is intentional because I can tell you people that I remember in the past, didn't say, I don't know.

And then six months later I found out they didn't know. And I'm like, why don't you tell me. Like, think of all this carnage that happened. Think of all this happened in the wake of that, that trying to pretend like you knew because you wanted to save face or you want to do other things. But anyway, that's just something that I've seen and I truly believe, Hey,

Dr. Rick: [00:51:15] so here's what I don't know today.

You know what? I don't know.

Phil: [00:51:19] Nope. I

Dr. Rick: [00:51:20] don't know what it is that you're going to tell us that's our recommended resource for the day, but I know, you know, And so I do good stuff. So I'm going to say, I don't know. And then the good stuff's about to happen, right?

Phil: [00:51:35] So this is a book that, you know, I, I w I was sitting here going, do I want it.

Recommend it, because it's something that, you know, it might seem like I'm recommending it because of the election. It actually is a recommendation that, that I found is just fascinating. It gives a different perspective. It talks about a lot of the nuances and things that we're talking about here. It talks about a kid who.

Grew up in a, in a broken, a broken situation, broken family situation and in something that he came out of it, um, in a way that I, I, you know, is, is pretty amazing when you, when you look at it. Um, it's also relevant to a lot of the conversations that we talk about here, because this is a story of a, of a, of a white.

A white man who lives a life. A lot of that, we hear about in the context of the race relations and the race conversations that we're having, that you wouldn't expect. But he grew up in, in really the Appalachia region of the U S it's called hillbilly Elegy. And it's JD Vance. It's a book I've heard a lot about.

Um, you may have heard of it as well. And it's just a really interesting book that, that brings a new perspective for me. Cause I, you know, I mean, here's the reality. I know nothing about the story. Um, it's, it's something I'm learning. Cause I grew up in South orange County, California, you know, I'm this kid couldn't be further from that.

Right. I mean, you know, my parents weren't super wealthy, but they were extremely wealthy can compare to this guy and compared to most people around the world, And to be able to live in a house with a mom and dad who are still together after 50 years. Um, you know, it's, it's just an amazing child that I've been able to have.

So to learn from this, to be able to see a different perspective, to be able to see, uh, a man who, who was able to come out of this, it was it's, it's really been an incredibly eye-opening, um, just great book to read and I strongly recommend it. Uh, if, if you haven't, if you haven't picked it up and read it already, Is there anything else from you, Rick, before we sign off on this mid-season review.

Dr. Rick: [00:53:40] Man, I'm going to have to go pick up hillbilly Elogy, I guess, but I probably have a better frame of reference for understanding you have the

Phil: [00:53:48] accent.

Dr. Rick: [00:53:49] So like I'm kicking the door wide open to give you that

Phil: [00:53:52] opportunity. That was a softball. And I, I tried to just hit a single, rather than what I could probably put in the sports references.

We're just going to keep them coming. Folks are just going to keep them coming. So I remember I went to, I went to school in Nashville and I lived in Atlanta. So I have the fake. South experience.

Dr. Rick: [00:54:15] We've talked about this

Phil: [00:54:17] to Birmingham.

Dr. Rick: [00:54:19] It's true. We didn't let you stay. We just said, we said

head on back to California.

Phil: [00:54:29] Actually, and in all honesty, the only thing, the only reason I went to Birmingham, I had a deposition there. And when I was working as an attorney, so, you know, beautiful town, beautiful town, actually the part I was in was not so beautiful, but anyway, we're going to bring it to a close.

We could keep going down this rabbit trail. We're not going to, I'm going to show discipline and intentionality as we've talked about in this episode, but folks, you know, again, we are here. Huge. I mean, the only reason we're here really is too well. We have fun. So I guess that's, that's a reason too, but it's really to help you to understand how we can work together, how we can collaborate, how we can understand together, how we can love the orphan and the vulnerable, how we can get children into families, how we can help strengthen families, how we can help those, um, people that are really working on the front lines.

Um, too. Be able to bring justice to the fatherless, to be able to help all the children and families in their midst to flourish. What does that look like? You know, that's the conversation that we're hoping to have with you, you know, if you haven't already, and you're listening to this and you want to get deeper involved, go to Facebook and sign up for the Facebook group.

Um, it's the think orphan Facebook group and you answer a couple questions, get in, and then we'll have conversations there that are going to be deeper. Sometimes, you know, we'll have interviewed, you know, I'll ask for interview questions for guests. We'll be able to get to kind of sneak previews on some of the episodes.

But more than that, those are some kind of the little things that we're trying to find little perks for you. But more than that, hopefully the perk is that you get to go deeper into these

conversations. That's really what we're wanting to do. And it just facilitates that. So, and if you haven't done so already as well, subscribe to the podcast, that way you don't have to search around for the episodes every time it'll just come right into your podcast app, and then you can listen to the new, the new episodes for that.

Um, but beyond all that, I, you know, it's, it's Rick and I, we just hope and pray that, that everything you're learning on this show, Everything. You're learning from these resources. We're talking about that. You don't just so, okay then, whatever, that's another resource, but you, you engage them. You, you listen to these books or you read these books or you watch the documentaries that we're talking about.

These different guests that we've had have written these amazing resources for us, check them out. And with all that you're learning on the show with all that you're learning these resources, we just hope and pray that you use it all to help you to love orphaned. And vulnerable children better and better each and every day.

Thanks a lot. Have a great week.

Dr. Rick: [00:56:52] You've enjoyed today's think orphaned podcast for all the information in this week's podcast, please visit us@thinkorphan.com. YouTube can be part of the conversation. Send your questions to info@theorphan.com or join us on the orphan Facebook page. Thanks for listening and we hope you'll join us again on the next edition and think orphan.