

Jeff Juhala Zoom Video

[00:00:00] **Dr. Rick:** [00:00:00] All right. Welcome again to the Think Orphan Podcast. This is Rick Morton, along with my properly socially distance cohost, Phil Darke. Phil, we can't be much more socially distanced than we are today. That's true, Alabama to California.

Phil: [00:00:14] It's true. You know, and it's, it's pretty common. It's pretty common these days.

And maybe I got a little something that's keeping me down. So hopefully it won't won't get me down too much today. I don't think it will. I think, I'm so excited about our guest today that that will overcome anything that I got going on in my body. So how are you doing?

Well

Dr. Rick: [00:00:33] hit us with it. Man. I'm good. I'm good.

I'm ready. I'm ready for this interview. Ready to. Ready to get jumping into this with you. So why don't you, why don't you tell us about our guests?

Phil: [00:00:41] Yeah, so our guest is the National Director of Training and Ministry Programs for For the Children. You may know it as Royal Family Kids, they have camps and they have several other ministries.

Jeff's going to tell us about the name change and and also what the ministry does as well as some really cool stuff that I've been [00:01:00] able to talk with them about even before we were. Getting this interview going. So I'm excited for you guys to hear some of the amazing stuff that he has to share today.

So, as, as we've been saying over the last few weeks, and few months really join the, join the Facebook group, join the Think Orphan Facebook Group. If, if you want to go deeper into the conversation and, and not, don't just join it, don't just click on it and say, okay, now I'm done, really join the group and engage.

Yeah. Ask questions share things that from the episodes that, are questions from, from that you have about them or things that really hit you and that your ministry is doing some different things, maybe. So, that's our hope for this show is it doesn't end here. It doesn't end on this podcast, this recording, this download that you're doing, but it's actually something that we're, especially now in this time of COVID where we're, we are distanced, and we are apart from each other, these, these mediums that we have on social media really are good things for us to be able to use. They have, they have their shadow, they have their negative side, but I think this is a really good way to use it. So I [00:02:00] do encourage you to do that. Also subscribe to the podcast if you haven't done so already. That way you won't miss any episodes, but again, without any more of that from us we're now going to get to it with Jeff Juhala.

Dr. Rick: [00:02:11] Jeff, welcome.

Jeff: [00:02:13] Well, thank you.

Dr. Rick: [00:02:15] We're excited to have you. And so Phil feels kind of filled our listeners in a little bit on on kind of the, the, the new name for a ministry where the, with an established identity. And so, man, we're really glad to have you, and I'd love, just for us to, to kind of kick off tonight. Share with our listeners a little bit. How did, how did you get engaged in this ministry and, and how, particularly were you drawn into into caring for kids that are, that are in in state care?

Jeff: [00:02:45] So I had an interesting journey, a true calling, my wife and I had been involved in lots of ministries at church over the years.

And the speaker from Royal Family Kids at the time came and spoke at our church trying to start up a [00:03:00] camp. And we heard about it and we thought, great. As soon as somebody starts, it we'll sign up as, camp counselors. So that was, we heard about it on a Tuesday night and then it totally evaporated from our brains.

Never heard of anything else. No other announcements, no nothing. But over a two year period, we really felt God putting a burden on our hearts for orphans. It was one of those series of years where it seemed like every couple of months orphan care popped up in our minds. I heard a great message on Focus on the Family about the orphanages in Cambodia.

We had a lady that would come to our church and talk to us about the orphanages in Romania. We had a missionary speaker come by and speak about the orphanages in India. And we really just felt this extra deep connection. To orphan care. And we just knew something was stirring, something was happening and that we had to get involved in it.

We just didn't know what, and for a two year period, we just felt this sense. So one day I I walked into my children's pastor's office and he's the guy who had brought in Wayne Tesch, the founder of broke MD kids to speak. [00:04:00] And I walked into his office and I said, Hey my wife and I just really feel this stirring.

I don't know what to do with it. We've been praying about it, but it's been two years. Maybe we should amp it up and have you pray about it, and he had this funny quizzical look on his face and he said, do you remember when that guy Wayne Tesch came and spoke two years ago? And I said, wow, yeah, that's the first I thought about that for the last two years, whatever happened. And he said, I'll tell you what happened. Nothing happened. And he said, Wayne spoke, several people were interested. He gave me his books. And, but nothing happened. He said I've been handing his book out to people and asking for two years.

And my wife and I had been praying for two years. Will you be the camp director? Will you be the camp director? And everybody has turned us down. And he said, Jeff, today I walk into my office and I found some extra books on the shelf that Wayne had left. And he said, my wife, and I've been praying about this for two years.

And nothing's happened. So I took the books off the shelf and I threw them in the trash can and essentially said, Lord, the dream is get done. I'm going to move on to other things. And so he turned around at his desk and reached into the [00:05:00] trash can and pulled out

one of the books and said, maybe God's been calling you guys to work with orphans right here in America.

So it's like, wow. Out of the trash can, the dream was revived, and it was a pretty special moment for us to, to sit there and think, wow, he threw away the dream. He was literally in the trashcan. And he pulled the book out. So we read the book and we felt super connected to it. Went to training.

We were absolutely blown away by the training that we had seen the six days in immersion experience at a, at a summer camper. All these foster kids were running around and we just felt, wow, we felt one thing completely overwhelmed. Running this one, we can't ministry. We had to raise \$20,000.

We had to get 30 adults to take a week off. We had to get the government to say yes to giving us kids. We were blown away, but we were also so mesmerized by the thought that we could do this ministry for foster children. And we were both good kids who came from good homes, my wife and I. So this was new to us, new language, new [00:06:00] concept.

So we did that for six years up in Northern California and four years into it. We started to feel this stirring again, just like we had before the stirring of this, every time something happened now, instead of getting involved with foster or orphanage, it was get involved in full-time ministry. And it was another two year cycle of, we felt the Lord stirring us.

We felt for sure that we were going to go into full-time ministry and that we were going to move. And there's a lot of details that went into that stirring and into that account. But then we got a phone call and asked us to move down to Southern California and take over the training department here at Royal family kids now the children.

So that's the journey, a lot of stirring, a lot of calling. A lot of confidence building that God came alongside us and met us where we needed to be met. That doesn't mean the journey was easy. There were some pretty rough days, but it was eight. We were able to get through the rough days because we were confident in the call.

Dr. Rick: [00:06:54] That's awesome. Well, Jeff, I, you, you kind of unpacked a little bit of for the [00:07:00] children and, and Royal Family Kids, kinda your your camp ministry there and talked a little bit about the contours of it. But for those folks that are listening are podcasts that are unfamiliar with your ministry.

What is it like? What is it you found when you, when you read the book and you got in and you, you did training and started to get immersed into the, to the world of this ministry. Just kind of help our folks get a taste of who you guys are and really what you do in this, in this space,

Jeff: [00:07:26] A Guy named Wayne Tesch was 12 years old and upstate New York went down to the altar and prayed God, what am I supposed to do when I'm 12 years old?

And he saw a vision of 12 or a kid's faces fast forward, another 12 years, he takes his first job at 24 and he says, God, what am I supposed to do? And he saw a vision of kids' faces and 12

years after that, he was given an opportunity to take foster children to a summer camp. He had been doing church camp at church kids for years and got really good at it was kind of known as the camp guy.

So now he's got an opportunity to [00:08:00] take foster children to camp. And what he didn't know was all the things that he didn't know. Right. He tried to take these children who were not. Typical of going to church on a Sunday, sitting in a classroom and doing a craft and take them to summer camps. So he tried to treat it as a church camp at church kids, and it just blew up in his face.

It was a disaster on every, every single level, except one. And the one level, it wasn't a disaster. Was it really connected and impacted the kids? So regardless of the disaster that the adults experienced, the kids had a great time. The kids were absolutely amazed. The kids were up in the mountains. The kids were in the outdoors.

The kids are swimming. The kids were having as much food as they wanted to have. Right. So the two, the two, the adults, it was a disaster to the kids. It was heaven. Right. I mean, isn't that so much the case when you step into foster care, orphan care what we can see is a disaster, but what the kids see is a different thing.

So from there, they, they discovered it was a hit. No, they had to work through some of the issues and they started training other churches on how to do this one week, summer [00:09:00] camp for foster children. And they started training other groups and that was 1985. The first camp. And now this last year, not 2020 this year, cause this is a different year, of course, but 2019, we had 214 chapters around the country.

Another 45 overseas. We had almost 9,000 foster children attend a one-week camp. 2008, we added on a mentoring club. Because a lot of the kids we'd only see them once a year and we wanted to do more. So we ended on a mentoring club that would see them through the school year. So essentially what we do is five day summer camp and a nine month mentoring program which is all geared for kids who have been through abuse, abandonment, neglect, and it's.

And we go to the church, the local church and say, We'll train you how to do this, but this is going to be your ministry. We'll partner with you, but you've got to raise the money. You got to get the, the volunteers, but count it as, as your church ministry, what you're trying to do to get outside the walls of the church in an area that we would use, we used to say the there's people behind the iron curtain or there's people behind the [00:10:00] bamboo curtain where foster kids had been behind the government curtain for years.

Dr. Rick: [00:10:02] Yeah.

Jeff: [00:10:03] Right. And we sort of like had this barrier between church and state. Right? Right. So part of the beauty of the ministry that I was attracted to was it gets in the middle of that barrier. It gets in the middle of that tension. And sometimes the tension is rich and sometimes the tension is pretty easy.

But it gave us a chance to step into that world and say, let's do something. So that's essentially what we do. All for kids in foster care, all volunteers this past year 2019, we had 15,000 volunteers show up, take a week off. And give and give and give and live in the great week we call it, an intervention camp because it really intervenes in their lives.

And we're just trying to interrupt some of those cycles. And when you take a kid out of their common world, you put them in an uncommon place than uncommon things begin to have. Yeah. And that's probably why I love going.

Dr. Rick: [00:10:50] I love hearing and, and, and I, and one of the things I want to make sure and just kind of point out from, from what you said, We talk a lot about collaboration on, on this podcast.

And we're [00:11:00] constantly talking about, ways that churches can work together and ways that ministries can partner together and all of those kinds of things. But I don't want to miss the, you're talking about a collaboration between, between the church, between the

I don't want to answer to these areas and, and really being able to engage. With the government and, and so, we're, so our collaboration is not limited to those things we do with the body of Christ. There is, there's a, there's an incredible opportunity and there's a gospel opportunity and us being able to collaborate and, and to connect with, connect with government.

Jeff: [00:11:46] Yeah, it's a great collaborative. I love it. I love the idea. Yeah. The church and state working together for the noble cause of the kids in foster care and adoptive care. Some, some people find it that tension in a very awkward, they don't know what to do. We, [00:12:00] we go right to our churches to say, Hey, because it's church and state, there's certain things we can't do.

Like we can't do altar calls. We don't do community. We don't do baptisms. Right. And some people really bristle at that, but we operate it in our lives all the time as Christians, without those things. Right. There's opportunities there where we do things with kids without those things. And one of the joys I have is trying to explain.

To our trainees, how we can share the gospel without some of the typical methodologies that we look at. And it's a great joy for us to be able to do that, that we can still share Christ. We can still share our faith alongside the kids that we serve while balancing church and state issues.

Phil: [00:12:46] Yeah. And, and so with the it looks like I lost Rick here for a

Jeff: [00:12:50] minute,

Phil: [00:12:50] but yeah, we'll get back. We can, we can part out, but we'll just, we'll just continue on. And so, with, with that, with the, obviously the collaboration, the, the [00:13:00] ministry that you're, you're able to do. With the camps with the parents that are the parents, the adults that are actually able to go to the camps and help out the churches that are partnering with the Royal Family Kids Camps, which those names are the same, so

you're not confused out there if you, if you hear that the Royal Family Kids Camps, those still exist, and that is the name. But really what do you find that, that, the the kids experience and you kind of talked about it already. The kids are just loving it, but then what do you usually see with, from the adults' perspective?

And I know some people who have been involved with it and I've seen it firsthand as far as what that looks like, but, but just how does that how have you seen the, the, the camps themselves really impact the adults in particular with with how they think about orphaned and vulnerable children with how they care for orphaned and vulnerable children.

Jeff: [00:13:50] Yeah. It's a very impactful week on the camp side because it's so intense. It's very immersive. You, you leave your family, you leave your work, you leave your [00:14:00] kids and you're living there for a week and you're in this experience. So it's like going away on a missions trip, right. You're you're in it and you're living it.

And we, we give a lot of training and we tell a lot of horror stories, not to scare people away, but to prepare them. And a lot of the adults. Come away from it feeling like, wow, I had no idea. They, they, they tentatively step into this arena thinking, Whoa, I've heard about this. I've heard about foster kids.

I've heard about behaviors. I've heard about challenges now I'm in it. But when we have this collaboration with so many other adults, we always make sure we have, a child specialist, like a social worker there. And we always have a lot of school teachers there. And we always have, a Bible teacher there and we always have specialists there to support everybody.

We have tons of extra adults because the kids need it, but the adults also need it. So the impact on adults is it opens their eyes to a world they've seldom seen. If you're a school teacher you've seen, if you're a nurse, you've seen it, but so many other people come along and they've just never been in that world.

And it opens their eyes. And it really, the spiritual part is it opens their heart. We [00:15:00] w I think people are naturally drawn to help children. Who've been through abuse and abandonment. They just don't know what to do. And then when we give them an opportunity, they start to say, wow, I never knew, I never knew this was out there, but now that I'm in it I see that it's such a wonderful thing.

And we, we imagine some horror stories in our minds because we've heard stories in the news. And then we find that, what. They're just regular kids. They're just kids that want to have fun. They're just kids that want to grow up, but just kids that don't want to put their past behind them and have a better future.

And when you get to see them and live with them for a week it's changed a lot of our adults, meaning this. We now regularly track how many of our college kids change their major? Because they've gone to a week of camp, meaning they were business major. Now they get into social work or they were a finance major.

And now they're becoming a school teacher or they didn't know what they wanted to do. And now they join. They jump into this arena because they say, I didn't know what I wanted

to do, but man, I love this arena. Or we've got a lot of people that have, thought [00:16:00] about being foster parents, but never took that step.

And after doing a week with foster kids, with this team, they become foster parents. So they're, they become adoptive parents. So annually, we have about 150 volunteers. That step into foster care or adoptive care, on that full-time basis, because they've been encouraged because they've seen it because they have the support because it's that, it's that thing that helps them get over the step and say, okay, we've been thinking about doing it, let's do it.

And so about 150 every year become foster parents or adoptive parents. And we have, a whole bunch of college kids change their major to get into this arena as well.

Phil: [00:16:36] Yeah, that's really cool. That's that's I didn't even think about that college major side of things. That's, that's just, yeah.

See that is having such an impact. Well, I mean, we all know doing ministry that we often don't see the fruit of our, of our work. Right. You know what I mean? Probably 99% of what we do we do. And we don't see anything, particularly in the, in the work with orphan and vulnerable children that aren't.

When you're home [00:17:00] as foster kids or as adoptive kids, then obviously you see more. But you know, and things like the camps you go for a week, sometimes you may have some, some you might connect with them afterwards or whatever, but, but a lot of times you don't. So But, w w when you're working with the kids camps and the, and there's different parts of your ministries, as Rick, and I know as Jeff, I mean, sometimes we do get these little glimpses.

Sometimes we do get little nuggets, that God just gives us that little glimpse behind the curtain to see what the work that we've been doing. And, and usually, I mean, at least in my experiences, it comes right when we need it. Right. Like when we're, yeah. And a bummed out about something when we're discouraged about something, but we get glimpses into, the impact that, that, we are making.

And can you just share a couple of those stories? Just so people can get an idea of,

Jeff: [00:17:44] if we do

Phil: [00:17:44] little things, never underestimate the impact you might be having on lives. Right. And so that so many people, and I just love for you to give a couple of stories or, one or two stories that that, that kind of exemplify that.

Jeff: [00:17:56] Yeah, I got a couple of short ones and then a very very impactful [00:18:00] one. There's a quote by a guy named Thomas Carlisle. This is the quote when the Oak is felled, the whole forest echoes with its fall, but 108 corns are sewn in silence by an unnoticed breeze. I love that quote because it, in what we do, we can notice the crashing tree.

It's like the destruction that happens around kids' lives. Those are easy to see, but we don't see that, that. When the life is sewn this acorn falls with a tree and begins new life and, and, and he uses this word are sewn in silence by unnoticed breeze. And I started using that word unnoticed moments that we have unnoticed moments that happened, that we would call it a throwaway line or a throwaway moment.

So here's two quick short ones. We had a volunteer in Springfield, Missouri walking through the mall. And a camper came up to her in the ball and said, miss so-and-so Ms. So-and-so, do you remember me from camp? And the gal says, Oh yes, yes. How are you? And the little girl immediately, he says, do you remember when we finished that puzzle together?

And the woman is thinking, [00:19:00] I don't even remember doing a puzzle with this little girl. It was a busy week for a lot going on, but she said, wow, I'm sure we had a good time and everything. And immediately the little girl says, it's the first puzzle I've ever finished in my life. And we would do a puzzle and not really think much of it.

Right. But to this little girl, this moment in time, it stood out to her. She said it was the first puzzle I ever finished in my life. Now, is that a spiritual moment? No, it's not. But is that a moment, a memory marker for her that tells us maybe we should pay attention to every little thing. That's one of those unnoticed moments.

Another quick story was the bus just arrived at camp one day. A little girl got out. Her cancer took her to the to the cabin and this particular cabin had the little bunk beds and a couple of drawers. And the little girl, he immediately started unpacking her little bag and was gently, gently taking out each item of clothing and putting it in the drawer one at a time with a lot of care and it was supposed to be lunchtime.

So the counselor says, come on, come on, come on. We gotta go. We gotta get in line there's things to do. And the little girl just didn't move [00:20:00] just each item, taking it out and putting it in this drawer. And the counselor came over and said, Hey, sweetie. We can do that. Anytime we've got to go get into lunch and the little girl looked up and she said, this is my first dresser.

The lady said this, what? She said, this was my first dresser. And she was just so enthralled in the moment of having a dresser, right. Something that you and I have. We have lots of dressers. We've opened up doors 10,000 times. But to this little girl she had heard about dressers and now she finally had one she'd gone away at this camp.

She got to have a dresser, something we would never think about as having importance or having value or have any meaning whatsoever. It was incredibly meaning to this little girl now again, what does that mean? A spiritual moment? No, but here's the thing when you meet kids needs. In simple things and practical things like puzzles and, and, and dressers, all of a sudden they start listening more intently to the, all the other stuff you say, because we're meeting their basic practical needs.

We, we exposed them and we gave them a moment [00:21:00] that registered with them. We didn't even know about it. We didn't know that this girl needed to complete a puzzle or

needed needed a dresser. But when you do these things, they start to listen to all the other stuff you say. So a really impactful story. Is one of our trainers national trainers named Dan.

He told us this story just recently it wasn't with a camper, but it's, it goes along with the, the idea that we don't always know what impact we're having on people. And he had been a middle school basketball coach. And coached a lot of awkward middle school boys, right in basketball who are learning how to dribble, learning, how to run, learning, how to do just the basics.

And as a great guy, he'd been one of our camp directors and he'd learned a lot about kids over the years as a teacher, but also as a camp director, he spent time with this awkward kid and just made sure that he got time on the court and did all the things he was supposed to do. He was just doing what he always does well years go by and he gets an email.

And his name was Tim. And so our camp director, Dan gets this email from Tim. [00:22:00] Hey Dan, coach. Dan, do you remember me? My name is Tim so-and-so and you were my middle school basketball coach. Okay. Dan responds. Hey Tim, great to hear from you. Hope all is well, glad you reached out. Well, Dan didn't really remember him cause he's, he coached hundreds of kids through, through middle school.

So Tim emails back. No, no, no. I was just really curious if you remember me. Yeah. You are my basketball coach and in this grade and this year, and you spend a lot of time with me and I know I was awkward and I know I didn't know what I was doing, but, but you really cared. And I appreciated that. And Dan responds again.

Thanks Tim. Appreciate it. Well, I'm glad you reached out pray that all was going well in your life, and then a couple of days go by and Dan gets another email. No coach Dan. I don't think you understand. I'm in New York, I was standing on a chair. I had a rope around my neck. I was about to commit suicide.

And I thought to myself, nobody will miss me. And then I thought, coach Dan would miss me because coach Dan [00:23:00] cared anyway, you took the rope off and he started to, relive his life. And you reached out to coach Dan. Now this is getting years, some years later, coach Dan care at some critical moments in this kid's life.

And a coach, Dan didn't know that he was making that kind of impact. He had no idea he was making that kind of it, that that kid really needed it. And at a moment of critical, a critical moment in that kid's life. And he's standing on a chair with a rope around his neck, the guy he remembers is the guy who just spent time with him playing basketball.

Again. Was that a spiritual moment on one hand? No. On another hand, who, yeah, when he had that rope around his neck, that was a spiritual moment, so we can reach out and we can touch kids kids who were from these difficult, challenging, hard places. And these unnoticed moments can be so impactful.

No matter what we're doing, whether it's at a camp or mentoring, or whether you just play games with kids or whether you foster them or adopt them, or hang out with them in

Sunday school when we reach out these, these unnoticed moments can be so valuable. We have to [00:24:00] remind ourselves and our human nature is.

I feel like I didn't make an impact because I didn't see any immediate results. And this is a battle. I fight with our volunteers all the time because they're human, right. We want to see the, but we want to plant the seed and see the crop immediately. The law of the farmer says it doesn't work that way.

The law of the farmer says you plant and you wait and we're so human. It's hard to wait, but we know when we deal with children and especially when we deal with. Children from vulnerable places that that harvest takes a lot longer to see, but it is truly there.

Phil: [00:24:35] No, definitely. And I think that, we talk with people about that all the time.

It's actually why folks, we asked you to let us know how this podcast is impacting you, by the way that's part of the reason is to be, just to know how the different guests are impacted. So you can tell them as well, just drop them a note and say, Hey, that story, that really helped me to understand because there are, I mean, there are thousands, probably millions of Tim's out there.

Jeff: [00:24:56] Yeah, exactly. Who we just don't know about.

[00:25:00] **Phil:** [00:24:59] And, it's, as you said, usually, not just sometimes, usually we don't

see

the crop, we don't see the harvest. We just, we're just sowing seeds and, and doing what God has before us. So yeah.

Thank you for those stories. Fantastic.

Dr. Rick: [00:25:14] Tonight is the night. Of the technical difficulty. All right. So Jeff, you you focused in, on, on kind of talking about your, your ministry and for the children and how you guys care for children. Right. But that's not all that that's not all that exists in this equation with with foster care.

There are their birth families, there are foster families. There are, there are lots of other people that are, that are coming around these kids and in various ways, and, and, and you guys in particular are really also focused on, on foster parents and, and focused on the families that have, have these kids in care.

And so. Just would love for you to just kind of unpack a little bit about how for the [00:26:00] children, like how you guys support foster families. Maybe even kind of talk a little bit about for, for those of our folks that are listening that are, that are unfamiliar with the foster care system, just a little bit of the realities of families who have kids in care and, and, and what are, what are some of, kind of the, the common profiles kind of common, common things that we see that are, that are hurdles that you guys are trying to help conquer in helping families to stay engaged in, in, in the foster system?

Jeff: [00:26:30] Well, one of the first things we noticed right away was when you're able to take foster kids from a foster family, it gives them a week of respite, right? Desperate time of rest, and that's just so needed.

And so critical. Most counties have systems and programs set up for that. It's just hard to implement them all. It's hard to always get people to come in and say, I'll take the child for respite. So a lot of our, a lot of times we get great feedback from thank you. I just needed the break myself. Right?

We've got a great letter back from a foster mom. Last year [00:27:00] said I heard about your camp. I heard that my son might be able to go. I didn't think he would be. Able to stay. I dropped him off. He stayed all week. I was surprised he stayed all week. I got this wonderful note from the camp counselor who praised my son up and down.

And I thought, you're talking about the wrong boy. Right? Because she said, you must have a different child than the one you're praising here. Right. But again, when you take kids away for a week, they act differently. They don't always act the way they do at home. We do that on vacation as well. So here's a mom who said, well, I, I didn't think my, my son would be able to.

To be away. And he did, and it gave me the week of rest. And she said, when I read that letter of all these wonderful, glowing things about my son, stuff that I don't always see, it really helped me refocus that those things are in him. And, and I need to continue to draw them out. She said, I was kind of at my rope's end, but this, this week off gave me the rest and this list of great attributes that he really does have helped me refocus [00:28:00] on him.

So there's lots of little things like that. Where siblings get to come together. We have a lot of sibling. Connections where sometimes siblings get split up in foster care and adoptive care. And sometimes they've come back together at camp and they haven't seen each other for a year or sometimes years.

And so sometimes the families love the idea that, Hey, can you specifically make sure that the siblings get together at the same week at the same time? Because they recognize the value of that sibling time together. Cause you know, two different foster parents may have two different boys or two different girls, et cetera.

And they, they want again, foster parents are so wonderful. They, they recognize that this is a great need. So those are some of the things that we see Part of when we're trying to encourage our own volunteers to step into that foster care arena. Is that a again, we don't train foster parents, but a lot of our volunteers become foster parents.

So part of what we're trying to do is come around them and support them either with respite care or with just a team that says, I know what you're going through. And [00:29:00] sometimes we have foster parents reach out to us because they know that we get it and they don't have to explain themselves. And when you're talking to strangers about.

Your child and some of the issues that are challenging you right now, you have to explain everything and people don't always get it. So when they talk to somebody who's sort of on the inside somebody who's been around a lot of foster kids, who've been around the system a little bit. You don't have to explain everything.

And it just, it's an easier conversation to kind of open up about what's going on. I mean, we have, foster families contact us about other needs. We're trying to under the, for the children, Brella grow into meeting needs and we know with COVID-19, there's gonna be a lot of needs coming up as, as we start to open up and get back to school and do different things.

So one of the offerings that is happening under for the children is the opportunity to sign up where you just meet needs. Like, Hey, they need a dresser or they need a mattress. They need sleeping bags, they need sheets, whatever. So we're signing up new churches. Now under those under those opportunities, we're foster parents can put out a need and it's through another church program, but it really helps [00:30:00] people again, step into that zone.

We're we're supporting those foster families. They're doing such critical work and they often feel alone and left out. And so anything we can do to come alongside and partner with them is an opportunity where we would like to grow and help

Dr. Rick: [00:30:12] them. Yeah. And I, I love the idea that, that you're, you're giving this really accessible thing that people can do a week of their life.

They can take a week of vacation, they can do this, you're going to train them. You're going to, you're going to stand them up so that they were ready to do this. But, but what it does is it gives them a way of, of really tangibly putting their toe in the water. And for, for some of them.

Their answer is we're, we're going to commit to foster and, and we're going to do that. But, but all of the other ways that people are finding to, to be mobilized, meeting, tangible needs, providing wraparound services, all of those kinds of things. And, and I, I just, I love the, the ministry model that you guys have, that, that really, because it's centered on the local church Like this really helps to catalyze a really kind of [00:31:00] full and complete approach to foster care ministry in a church.

And, and it, it, it just, I think you, as you're illustrating all of those different things, like, I don't want our listeners to miss that, that, sometimes we unintentionally send a message. To, to folks in our church that, really the only thing you can do is you can adopt, you can foster, we have, we have these kind of life altering.

Kinds of things that, that we, that we say that there are a lot of folks that are just not in, they're not in the place to do that. And, and I think, you guys are creating accessibility to, to give a wide variety of people, the ability to take their gifts and talents and abilities and bring them to bear.

And so, thank you because, because the, the service that you're providing to the body of Christ and the, and the ripple effect of that is, is vast and. Those 15,000 people are, are

affecting a lot of kids and they're affecting a lot of communities, but they're also affecting a lot of other people like them [00:32:00] and, and bringing other people to the table in a lot of different ways.

And, and that's, that's a message that we wanna, we want to continue to, to reinforce is that. Part of, part of this and orphan care is this is not optional for, for those of us who were, who were Christ followers. There, everybody, everybody has a role to play and, and something to do.

And orphan care being a gospel enterprise and And I just meant, I'm just, I'm very, very thankful for for you guys in your, in your ministry and the way that you're the way that you're leaning in to give people really practical ways to

Jeff: [00:32:33] yeah. A foster parent is jumping in the deep end.

Right. And sometimes if you tell people, gee, I want to help these. These vulnerable children. Well, you got to jump in the deep end or nothing right there. So what we're able to do is coming along and saying, well, you don't have to jump in the deep end. How about, how about the middle of the pool? Or how about the shallow end?

Right? How about just get in for a little while, just five days. Can you handle five days and people realize, Hey, I can handle five days that wasn't so hard. I mean, it was, it was challenging. It was intense, but you know, when you do [00:33:00] intense things, it's very rewarding too. If you went and it was easy, you'd say, well, that was, was it, was it worth it?

If it was easy, so. They get to, they get to do it for five days. And then if they join our mentoring program, they get to do it over nine months. Right. So if they can't take five days off, they can join the mentoring program and do it on a Saturday for over a nine month period. And with these other programs that are beginning with providing goods and services wraparound, it gives other people chances to, to get into that zone.

And we've been working with a guy named Bishop Blake down in Texas. And he says, yeah, he says foster care is one of the few. Things that are actually mandate giving them like a mandatory statement in the Bible, like James one 27 widows and orphans, it says right there to do these things.

It doesn't always stay to do parking ministry. It doesn't always say to do all these other things, but it says to do those things and a lot of churches struggle, like how do we get in that zone? Well, this is just one way. There's lots of ways you can get in that zone. We're not doing a good ministry out there doing good things.

There's a lot of them, but to get into that zone is a valuable opportunity to serve. [00:34:00] And I, and again, it comes back to the can the church and state work together. If we can't work together, we got a problem right there. We've got to find a way for the church and state to work together and the state needs it.

They are desperate for more foster parents. They're desperate for a wraparound care. They're desperate for stuff because it's a growing deal. Right. And with COVID it's even

worse. So they need the church. They need faith based people. Well, to get involved and be a part of that. And, and why not, they need it.

It's a, it's a, it's a mandate. And the Bible let's jump in that zone. Absolutely.

Phil: [00:34:31] And and as you talk about the pool analogy, I'll just keep that going a little bit here. And, you don't just throw someone whether even in the middle of the pool, you don't throw them in without training, right.

That's right. Oh yeah. Right. That they're not going to do damage and destruction as they're, as they're

doing these camps, as they're connecting with these kids, who are from our places. A lot of them have. Yeah. If you use that, if you don't know about you might do stuff unintentionally. And so that's what you do

is you

train you're the director of the training, right.

And so a big part of your job anyway. [00:35:00] And so I love how you guys do the training. I, traditionally now during COVID, it's had to take a, I want to talk to you about a little bit about it too, but yeah. How do you guys do your training? And as you talked about it with me, you do your training.

It really to allow the people to learn from spontaneous moments, which I think a lot of times during training, we just have it, okay. Learn this information and, and then you go home and hopefully it will be in your mind and your brain and you'll know how to do it when you Nancy's issues. But, as you talked about with me, you have really a different approach than most people do when it comes to the training, at least.

That I've seen. Can you just talk about that and then really how COVID and, has caused you guys to pivot and what your training looks like nowadays? Well,

Jeff: [00:35:42] sure. So traditionally, if you wanted to become a camp director, most of our ministry opportunities to start with becoming a camp camp director is starting to camp chapter.

So you show up at a six day. Camp that is actually happening. The camp goes for five days, but the trainees show up for six days. And it's a, it's an immersion experience. You [00:36:00] live at the camp with the kids, not in the same housing as the kids, but we'll take you to a classroom. About six hours a day, but about every two hours, we leave the classroom and go see and experience the camp and action.

So we'll train on how to run a great chapel service. Then we go out and see an actual chapel service. If we train on how to do registration with the kids, then we walk out and see registration. If we train on how to handle nursing and medical needs and we walk out and see the nurse and all the medical needs, right.

So it's a great lecture with observation time. And what I noticed over the years of doing the six to eight trainings was so much of the training happens outside the classroom, not just observation, but I started to use this little phrase, off agenda training. So I'll give them an agenda that says here's where we talk about fundraising.

Here's where we talk about behavioral needs. Here's right. That's on the agenda. But when we're out walking and talking in on the campground, when we're having a breakfast, lunch dinner in the cafeteria, we were sitting by the pond watching kids fish. Other questions start [00:37:00] to come up. Well, Jeff, you said this in training now, what did that really mean?

And all of a sudden we're back to training. We're back to discussion. We're back to how to apply it in a setting that's no longer in the classroom and great, great training takes place. What I call off agenda training. It's just in these moments when you walk and talk along the way, and when you're living it, when you're living at this campground, you can have that opportunity.

It reminds me of a, a message I heard from a pastor years ago that a lot of Jesus' miracles took place when he was being interrupted. He was on his way to Sumeria. And this event happened, he was on his way and blind Bartimaeus cried out. He was on his way somewhere else. And the guy in the tree, climbed up the tree and it was, saying, Jesus, what are you doing?

And he said, let's go have dinner. And he was being interrupted. Oh, what? He was outside going to and froze doing something else. And at camp we're not necessarily being interrupted, but we're out doing, we're going to and from, and there's great. Observation moments in great spontaneous moments that pop [00:38:00] up that you can't plan for on a training agenda.

And so it's a great moment. Now, the challenge with that is how do you convert that over to a virtual training? So this summer we had to convert all of our training from face-to-face training to this virtual training because of COVID. Which is no easy task. And I had to study a lot about it. Like a lot of you guys do, how do we, how do we convert this material?

So my attempt was the observation piece was so valuable. We went back and found some video footage as much as we could get our hands on. And it was just average, everyday video footage of a campground in operation. And we would talk to the trainees. Okay. Imagine you're at camp. You're not in your living room.

You're at camp. What do you see on the screen? Let's observe together. Let's look together. What you think you see is just a couple of kids bouncing around. But what I want you to see is where's the counselor, where's the child specialist. If something goes wrong, if they're by the water, is there a lifeguard?

I need to start having you focus on instead of saying, Oh, that's nice. A couple of kids are walking around. No, I need you to focus on [00:39:00] if you're the camp director. What else is going on? What else do you need to be prepared for? What's coming up next. Are those people in place? If you've got adults around there, how did they get there?

Who recruited them? Who trained them? Starting to refocus how you see the world. Was it easy? It was certainly not. Easy. Did it go over as well as I wanted? No, but it was our first shot at it. And sometimes, your first shot is your first shot and you'll learn from it and you grow. But I think we started to plant those seeds of observation and a lot of our trainees that they can't

Phil: [00:39:29] just

Jeff: [00:39:30] see a typical scene.

They have to start thinking differently about what they see and what it means and how all of these things took place that You can do more than what you see initially. So that was our shot at virtual training this year with COVID and the test will be. Whether they can start their camps up next summer and be successful.

And we trust that they will, it'll be a steeper climb. Right. Everybody's had a steeper climb this year with virtual training, but that doesn't mean you can't do it. It doesn't mean you can't be successful. Absolutely. And I [00:40:00] think

Phil: [00:40:00] it's also something that, moving forward, it

will actually be good

for us to have both options.

Jeff: [00:40:04] Yeah, absolutely.

Phil: [00:40:05] Because it will open doors that may not have been there, absence of virtual training. So yeah.

Jeff: [00:40:12] I think part of virtual training. Yeah, go ahead.

Dr. Rick: [00:40:15] Oh, go ahead. Go ahead. Go ahead. No, I want to hear what you say.

Jeff: [00:40:19] Yeah, I think part of virtual training, as challenging as it is it makes us refocus on what are, what is the meat and potatoes, forget the, some of the stuff that we've put into training over the years.

That's just the niceties, which the niceties are always good. It helps enhance things, but when you. Come down to it. You just got to come down to the solid basics when you get to virtual training. And here's the course that you really have to know. And so I had to go through and cut out a lot of material rearrange, a lot of slides, narrow stuff down, not take out content, but just focus content.

And I think that's it's, now when I go back and do my live training, I think I'll have more, more time to focus on the most important things.

Dr. Rick: [00:40:59] For [00:41:00] sure. One of the things we always do with our guests and we want to close it over time by, by asking you a couple of questions and the first one is what, what is it that you've read listen to, or watch recently that's impacted the way that you think about how we can

orphan children with excellence.

Jeff: [00:41:21] Okay. Yeah. Well, I've got a, I've got a very specific book I'm going to share here, but a couple of others that are more general this book. Yeah. Phil, are we still on? Yeah. Yep. Okay. So I've got this book. This is a tough read. It's called. Predators, Pedophiles, Rapists and Other Sex Offenders.

So in my business, I've got to read stuff like this. If you're a foster parent, you probably don't need to read this, but I've got 9,000 kids showing up at camp every year with 15,000 adults. And I've got to read stuff like this and as hard a read as this was, and this was pretty brutal to read. I've got to make sure Phil, you said this.

That we train people that we put people in place that are prepared and that we keep the [00:42:00] bad guys out. Right. That's essentially what this comes down to. So that's, that's a book that I read recently. That was a startling and striking. We've been in this business for a long time, trying to keep kids safe.

Right? You, you want to minister to kids, but you've got to also keep them safe. And when you, like I said earlier, if you meet kids' needs, they'll start to listen to other things. But when kids are scared, they don't listen to you when kids are frightened. They don't want to listen to you no matter what you got to say.

So that kind of a book right there is the type that institutions, bigger organizations need to be a part of just because we've got to keep kids safe. Right. Some of the other general stuff that I've been involved with is the global leadership summit at a Willow Creek trying to keep my leadership skills up, trying to get our other volunteers.

To sign up for that great two-day simulcasts that all of our volunteers can, can sign up for and just be a part of as a, as a guy who studied leadership a lot. I've been rereading this book called on becoming a leader, a classic and the, the leadership. And again, this book as I've been going back through it On [00:43:00] Becoming a Leader by Warren Bennis.

I look at it and again, it's solid, solid basics. We can skip over sometimes. And then if we're not doing, doing it, it's like foundational stuff for a house. If you don't have a good foundation, a fancy doors and windows, don't matter if the foundation is cracking. Right. So foundational stuff. As we reach out to our camp directors and our mentor directors are we providing them with good leadership?

Are we providing them with opportunities to lead? Well, and of course, going back to The example of Jesus in so many times where he had compassion, he had patience, he was interrupted. And that was okay. Trying to, to instill that into the foster care community, that we're a part of. That so many kids seems to be at times a bother or they ask incessant questions or they have behavioral challenges.

And yet we gotta be patient and empathetic and compassionate and say, you know what I can do this. I can be patient. I can work with these kids. I can make a difference, even though I don't see that harvest. You know that again, that is [00:44:00] so, so valuable that we, we, we hold on. To that hope that we know is there, that we know is important, that we know is valuable.

Even though we don't see it we hold on these kinds of books, keep me motivated and keep me at a level where I try to employ that to our, our leadership teams and our, our volunteer tears. We just did go through this transition and if your groups are going through any kind of transition, we do it through a, sort of a name change.

We're still have. Royal Family Kids Camps, but our corporate name is now for the children. So as we went through that change, we found this great book it's called the Managing Transitions. So if your organization is going to go through some transitions, name changes, brand changes, logo changes, man. This is a great book on working through that whole transitional process.

We get married and connected to logos and brands and names and sometimes rightfully so. And so when there's change it, it's hard and we want to manage it well. And so we just want to be as effective as we can, as our new [00:45:00] title says for the children to be able to speak nationally to what we do and internationally with some of our chapters overseas things are very different overseas.

We, we talk about that. The language is different and culture is different, but boy, the kids are the same. They just want to grow up and be kids. They just want to be kids for that while they're still children and have kid issues and kid fun and kid joy and kid happiness. And so all these things are so different overseas, internationally, but boy, the kids are the same and it's a, it's a joy to be able to see see them and see their lives connected as well.

Phil: [00:45:32] I definitely well, those again I am always excited when, and I'm excited in a bit also,

Concerned when I haven't read any of the books that because now they're on my list,

Jeff: [00:45:44] you

Phil: [00:45:44] know, which is ever growing, but I'm, I'm ever added to get those and check them out. So the last question, folks that, they're listening, what's coming.

What person has most impacted your thinking on how we can love orphan invulnerable shoulder with

Jeff: [00:45:57] excellence? So that [00:46:00] person to me is our founder. Wayne Tesch, he's a re semi retired now from the organization. He's no longer the president, but he's the guy that came to our church and spoke those many years ago.

He's the guy that had that vision when he was 12 years old. And when he was 24, he's the guy that started that first camp. He's the guy that called me 2006 and said, Jeff, would you move your family and come work, 400 miles away and take this journey with me and working alongside him.

He's an encourager, he's a motivator, he's a mentor. He has shown me through his daily living that he cares for these kids so much that he'd get on a plane and he'd be gone 150, 200 days a year on the road. Talking to churches, talking to camp directors, raising money by raising awareness, doing the things that had to be done.

And, and I told our directors this phrase all the time and it applies to Wayne. I say to the directors, the kids we serve have no idea how hard we work to do what we [00:47:00] do. We, a common line we get from kids at camp campus. So how much do they pay you? Well, I'm a volunteer. I don't get paid at all.

What do you mean you don't get paid at all? I thought you lived here. I thought you worked there. I thought you got paid a lot of money to be here. It's like, Nope, none of that is true. Right. They have no idea. They're 10 or 12. They, I don't know. And for Wayne. Kids that have been to our camps.

They have no idea. There here's a guy named Wayne test. They have no idea. He was on an airplane all those times. They have no idea. He was away from his wife and away from his family. That, that is a, an example to me that the, he has planted seeds across the nation and across the world that there are kids.

I think that will show up in heaven and walk up to him and say, Wayne, you don't know me, but I'm partly here because of your efforts. And I think that's going to happen to so many of us I've been studying this for a long time. This. This impact that we have unnoticed impact. And I think we're going to walk the streets of heaven and people are going to come up to us and say, you don't know me, but part of the reason I'm here is because of what you did, either you gave a camp scholarship [00:48:00] or you gave it an offering, or you were a backer of this, or you helped support that.

And that's part of the reason why I'm here today. And I think that's going to be true for, for so many people that they're going to be amazed. And how much impact they've really had on people on this earth. And they just don't know it yet. They don't see it yet. Wayne has had that impact on so many lives and I believe each one of us has actually had.

A very large impact and we just don't know it yet. And we won't really know the full impact until we walk the streets of gold.

Dr. Rick: [00:48:26] Yeah.

Phil: [00:48:27] Well, thanks so much, Jeff. I, I'm encouraged so encouraged by I was encouraged when we, we hung out for coffee and very rich

Jeff: [00:48:33] today.

Phil: [00:48:34] This conversation, I just want to thank you for taking the time to be a part of this.

And I, I have no doubt that our listeners will be better for it.

Jeff: [00:48:41] Yeah. Well, let me say to you guys, thanks for what you do, right. Again, kids don't know that you're in a studio right now doing this right, but you're helping kids. There are volunteers out there who are going to listen to it, and they're going to be appreciative that you guys took the time and the effort and churches and nonprofits, et cetera.

So let me thank you guys on behalf of the kids that will be [00:49:00] touched by your work and effort. Let me say thanks on their behalf. Yeah.

Phil: [00:49:04] Jeff, for just being a part of the show for sharing what God is doing in your life, in the ministry. As, as he talked about the transitions, the, but you know, some of the things that are staying the same,

it's just their heart for the orphan and vulnerable.

And and, and just being able to give, as he said, a lot of respite, a lot of wraparound care different things that they're really wanting to do as a ministry which is, which is why really they're they've have changed the name to be more holistic than just a camp. And so what'd you think just, general and any other thoughts, just about a general?

I know that lifeline does a lot more work really with birth families, the reunification side, things like that. And yeah. I would definitely want to make sure that we touch on that a little bit too. Just

Dr. Rick: [00:49:48] know

Phil: [00:49:49] this is their first foray into this conversation.

Dr. Rick: [00:49:53] Sure. And, and I, I think, I mean, I love, I love what they do in the camps [00:50:00] and, and ministering, focusing ministry on, on kids.

I love the fact that it's, trauma sensitive ministry and that they're, like. They're they're holding a camp. That's that, that takes into account the hard places in that. And, and I love the fact that they, that providing respite care and, and like wrapping around foster families is is a big portion of, of their work.

I think, the couple of things that I, that I just want to make sure to say, and I feel like that'd be kind of delinquent if I did. And this one. I think a big emphasis is the local church has to be on, on wrapping around those foster families. Jeff didn't really say this, but it was kind of implied in, in his his answer that the, the, the statistics were right around 50% of foster families.

Don't, don't continue to foster beyond 24 months. And so, fully half of the people that step in to to get into foster care, Have one or two placements and then, and then they're done.

And generally the [00:51:00] reason is because of burnout and, and that's where the church has kind of the perfect model.

For doing this. I mean, God has this thing rig, right? Like we, we have this community that can come around foster families and can wrap around them and, and provide extra support for them. And so they're, they're layers of support that can, that ultimately can help these families to, to stay engaged longer.

And, and, and the truth is the longer people do this, the better they get the better their skill becomes. And, and, and just kind of knowing how to experience actually, how to, how to walk through some of these hard things with, with kids. And so, very, definitely love that.

And, and, and think it's the beginning of a journey that the churches are still going to have to seize upon doing. Doing something else and they're, they're very child-focused and what they do. You're going to bring people out of the woodwork and you're going to have to be ready to mobilize them [00:52:00] into, doing other things, providing.

No Neil support, prayer support, transportation support, doing respite care events in your church for families. All those kinds of things are, kind of work together and conspire together, raising up respite families that can do this stuff. So it's not just once a year that a family is getting a week off, but that they're getting a weekend off or getting a week off, fairly regularly, but we're not.

I'm doing more damage to the kids when we do that. Because, because these are people that they know and that they're invested in our relationship with, and they don't feel like they're being transitioned out of stability and to instability because I'm just undermines everything we're doing. I think the last thing, Phil, and, this is a huge passion point for me.

I just want to make sure and say that, really, I think when, when we look at the goal of, of the U S foster care system, the primary goal of the foster care system is to seek reunification and reconciliation and families. And so it's about kids going home to the birth family and, and for that family being, [00:53:00] being restored and, and being healthy.

And, and I just, I believe at my core that that's a, that's a goal. That's not only not inconsistent with the gospel. It's a goal that's squarely consistent with the gospel. And that if we, if we really believe that, that, that that coming to Christ and being made over, Through relationship with Christ and by the Holy spirit, if we really believe that there is, there's this transformation that takes place because of what, because of, of, of, of what Christ does in on us.

And, and, and, and as Christ resides in us, then then we've got to believe that's the hope for broken families, too. Right. And, and so. When Paul and I, I know I've said this on, on the show before, but if you, if you haven't heard the, this diatribe, let me get up on my soapbox for a second and say, go read second Corinthians chapter five.

Paul says we are ambassadors of [00:54:00] Christ and, in verse 20. And he says, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation. And so as ambassador. There's as representatives of the King. In this context, we have been given the gospel in order to fix things in order to

repair things. And ultimately what, what what's ultimately to be repaired is our brokenness because of our sin and for us to reconcile and relationship with God.

But really practically that also talks about there's a right here right now, component to that. And, and so when the church begins to bring the gospel to bear on the lives of birth families, we're seeing families that have the potential then to take advantage of all these resources and all these assets that the government and the church and everybody else is pushing toward them.

And we're applying it to transform life. And, and, and these families have the opportunity to be put back together, ultimately for the glory of God, like as a testimony to the, to the work of the gospel. And so I just, I think [00:55:00] many times we, we, we can, we can jump into these conversations.

And when we focus on, when we focus on the kids and we focus on ourselves and what we're doing to keep kids safe in, in temporary care We can leave out and sometimes even vilify birth parents. And that's not to say that that many of these situations, the, the neglect, the abuse, the indifference, the things that go on are not, they're not bad.

They're reprehensible, right? Like they're, they're awful. And we don't want to minimize that at all, but, but there's a, but there's a counterbalancing reality for us in, in, in the church that Christ died for that Christ died to pay the penalty for that and to, and to bring restoration, from that.

And there's potential in the lives of those families. That no matter where they are, no matter how bad they, they've been weak, there's a, there's a chance. Right. And the gospel is that [00:56:00] chance. So I'm, I'm off my soap box, but, but I think, and I don't think Jeff was not saying that. So let me, for, for, for anybody that anybody that's going to say, Hey, you kind of unfairly went in on, I don't think he's saying that at all.

I just, I think that we just have to be really conscientious and. At, at some level in this conversation that we're making sure that we're having all of it because new people are coming to this conversation all the time and they're in, they're seeing pieces and parts of it that we're having. And, and quite honestly, the, the, the reconciliation restoration conversation, the birth family is not merely of a level and a visibility in Christian circles.

We're not having that conversation. And so And yeah, we're super passionate about it. And I'll, I mean, I'll put a plug in for, for our own ministry, our famous count ministry mobilized as churches and teaches churches, how to do that. And, and so if you're out there and you're listening and you're saying, Hey, we're trying to figure out how to.

We're trying to be like, that sounds [00:57:00] good. We'd like to, we'd like to know how to, to jump in and do that work. We we'd love nothing more than to then to jump in with you and they talk about how your church can be mobilized to do that kind of work. So But yeah, I mean, I, offline, Jeff and I were actually talking about some churches that we, that we know in common and partner churches and man, they, I mean, those churches do exemplary jobs of these camps and, the stuff they do is just, it's just incredible and is so, so good.

And so I can't recommend their ministry highly enough. And and, and think, if this is something that. That that you feel like your church has the resources and and, and the ability and the calling to do definitely reach out to them. Cause they're, they're, they're a great ministry organization.

They're doing this for the right reasons and they're, they're very skilled at what they do.

Jeff: [00:57:54] Absolutely.

Phil: [00:57:56] And you can find the, the website for, for the [00:58:00] children at the show notes. For this episode, you can definitely go check that out and, and, like you were saying in there, Jeff, I just want to

Jeff: [00:58:07] reiterate

Phil: [00:58:08] that, like,

Jeff: [00:58:08] we're not saying here Jeff was saying

Phil: [00:58:11] that they don't care about all those things.

They, they absolutely, they just do a different part of the ministry. They are, they are. And that's okay. Actually, that's what we talk about on this show. It's a gratification. It's absolutely. They are sitting in their sweet spot and they're doing it incredibly well. And so but like we said, we just want to make sure that if this is your first foray into this, and you're just dipping your toe in, as he talked about that you, that we talk about that side of it as well.

Cause it isn't talked about much. It really isn't talked about much and it's like you said, it's often vilified. And so

Jeff: [00:58:40] I

Phil: [00:58:40] do want to say, we're gonna, we're gonna wrap this one up because it is a little longer than than we expect. Affected to go and this on this episode, but, that's because we had good stuff on this episode.

So but I do want to, I'd be remiss for not talking about the blockbuster hit movie that really talks, it kind of shows in movie form, the [00:59:00] Royal Family Kids. Just as Orphanology was the New York times bestseller the movement by our. Think orphan guest, I believe he's episode six, maybe seven it's camp and, Johnston Moore made this movie and he's a, he's a champion for all this work as well.

He's a great friend.

Jeff: [00:59:18] He's

Dr. Rick: [00:59:19] our buddy. And so, and so we can, we can do nothing but Gran when we say his name, right,

Jeff: [00:59:24] absolutely. John,

Phil: [00:59:25] you were laughing wrong with us. Check it out. It's it's not a blockbuster hit. It's, I, I'm not gonna use the adjectives that I have used in the past with John as well, right.

To his face. And he's probably used them as well, but it, it does give a good picture, really about what these camps look like, and, and you know what it's, for all the,

Jeff: [00:59:47] you

Phil: [00:59:47] know, I, I could never write a screenplay. So I, I commend John for the great work that he's doing. If you knew some of the screenplays that guy could have written, you would be blown away.

So [01:00:00] all that to say, John, we love ya. And I am just looking forward to getting this out to you. And by now you've listened to the whole thing. So we are excited to finish up another episode with another great guest as we've talked about over the last. Few episodes. If you want to give to this this podcast to keep us going, to be able to keep putting out this content with these people that are fantastic people from all over the world you can go ahead and go to Providenceworld.com.

There's a spot for the Think Orphan Podcast. You can go ahead and give gifts there. So thank you for that in advance. We just want to, again, thank you for your download. Thank you for your engagement. And we do hope and pray that you take everything that you are learning from this podcast, and you use it to help you to know how you can love orphaned and vulnerable children better and better each and every day.

Thanks a lot. Have a great week.