

# Missions and Animation: Examining the iBible With Steve Cleary

00:00:05:05 - 00:00:35:00

Alex Kocman

Greetings and welcome to the Missions Podcast, the show that explores your hard questions on missions, theology, and practice to help goers think and thinkers go. I'm Alex Kocman, Director of Communications and Engagement with ABWE, joined by Scott Dunford, pastor of Western Hills Church in San Mateo, California, and we're so excited that you're embarking with us on another exciting journey into what God is doing among the nations, and why, and the biblical foundations of it.

00:00:35:02 - 00:01:02:15

Alex Kocman

Whether it's your first time joining us or you're an old friend, if you're watching us on NRB-TV or the Wrath and Grace app, or maybe on the ABWE YouTube channel, or of course, most of you are listening by Audio podcast, it's the greatest group of our subscribers. We're thankful for all of you, and if you haven't yet left us a positive rating and review and your podcast platform of choice, go ahead and take a minute to do that to help appease the angry algorithmic deities.

00:01:02:22 - 00:01:20:01

Alex Kocman

They appreciate your sacrifices of positive reviews, and they answer our supplication by displaying the content in front of more people across the world. I'd better restrain myself. Stop before I get in trouble with all these really ham-fisted metaphors about the algorithm. But.

00:01:20:06 - 00:01:21:19

Scott Dunford

Using a metaphor. Okay, good.

00:01:21:20 - 00:01:23:15

Alex Kocman

It's a metaphor. Yes, it's a metaphor.

00:01:23:15 - 00:01:25:01

Scott Dunford

Fully clarifying.

00:01:25:03 - 00:01:49:13

Alex Kocman

Right. They aren't there aren't literal. Actually, there might be literal. Demonic entities inside some of the algorithms these days. We're not sure. But, speaking of leveraging technology, though, in the spiritual, components of it there. How do you like that? For a segue, Scott, you know, I, I'm very much looking forward to our conversation today with our guest, who you'll be introducing in just a moment.

00:01:49:13 - 00:02:15:17

Alex Kocman

But I first found out about this ministry and this initiative through a presentation at Abdul. We here, our global family of ministries, a sending agency for about a thousand missionaries reaching into 91 countries. Talking specifically about a translation effort, that this media ministry, is undertaking with our team in Togo in the away tribal language.

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Alex Kocman

And, so showing Christian film and video and media and, you know, as I present that, I don't know if you're thinking this, Scott, or if anyone in the audience is thinking this, but let's just face it. And yes, when I point the finger, there's three fingers pointing back at me. Maybe I'm in a glass house with this, and I should be careful not to throw stones.

00:02:35:13 - 00:03:08:17

Alex Kocman

But the bar of quality in Christian media is often just set very low. Lots of Christian productions, let's face it, the quality of those productions isn't necessarily all that it could be at all times. And so, I was I'll just I'll just say I was blown away by the quality, of what our guest and his team has been able to produce here and thrilled that a BWR has been able to partner with them, and that missionaries in West Africa can get this into the hands of more people.

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Alex Kocman

So that's kind of my, you know, free endorsement. And that's not paid at all. That was pro bono. But, Scott, why don't you give us more context and tell us who we're talking to today?

00:03:19:00 - 00:03:38:11

Scott Dunford

Well, I'm it's my it's our pleasure, to introduce to you. Yeah. Steve Cleary to our show. Steve, I don't know that Alex could have given you a better, a better, endorsement and a commercial. So, who knows? Maybe you guys need to start sponsoring our podcast. But Steve is the founder and executive director of Revelation Media.

00:03:38:20 - 00:03:59:04

Scott Dunford

And is currently producing what Alex just described. The iBible also pretty well known for something that I know a lot of people were following, which is The Pilgrim's Progress

animated film, which is their feature, feature length film, Revelation Media, but also is involved in a lot of other projects, including probably something from Alex in my past.

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Scott Dunford

Jesus freaks, the book, Hearts of Fire, of course, Pilgrim's Progress Illustrated Storybook and many others. And so, Steve, I know that doesn't summarize all of your work, but we are so glad to have you on the show.

00:04:10:18 - 00:04:20:07

Steve Cleary

Yeah, thanks. It's great to be here, Alex. After that endorsement, I feel like I should just sign off in because I can't, you know, if I say anything stupid, it'll ruin everything you said about me.

00:04:20:09 - 00:04:33:05

Alex Kocman

Well, don't sign off. And listeners don't tune out quite yet but tell us about this project. I mean it. Tell us about some of your other projects as well. Feel free. But specifically, this iBible project. Why do we need something going from Genesis through to revelation?

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Steve Cleary

You know, I was actually surprised when I really felt that God called me to do this. I was at a time in my life where I was just completing the Pilgrim's Progress film. It was extremely stressful, it was very expensive, and it really took a toll on my, on all my life, I kind of felt like the character Pilgrim carrying this, you know, a big backpack of burdens.

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Steve Cleary

And I said at times, my wife, I said, you know, we've done a lot. Let's just semi-retired, spend time with grandkids, travel. We purchased land in Costa Rica. We planted coconut trees, mango trees. We hired an architect to design us a little tiny house in the rainforest. And we were going to spend half our time there. And that that was my plan.

00:05:15:11 - 00:05:34:16

Steve Cleary

That was Steve's plan. And that was about eight years ago. And I had this dream that in the dream, God said that he had a project for me to do another project that would greatly impact world missions. Now, I'm not even charismatic. I mean, I'm Anglican. I don't know if I'm allowed to have a dream, but I had this dream and it really impacted me.

00:05:34:22 - 00:05:35:13

Steve Cleary

And I.

00:05:35:14 - 00:05:39:17

Alex Kocman

My Baptist sensibilities are reeling right now, but continue to keep.

00:05:39:17 - 00:05:54:19

Steve Cleary

Going. Yeah, I actually cleared it with my bishop. So he said it was okay. The I told my wife and she said, what's this project? And I said, I have no idea, you know, and it wasn't revealed in the dream, but it kind of shook me up. And she said, what are you going to do? And I said, absolutely nothing.

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Steve Cleary

I said, you know, I'm not going to do anything not knowing what this is all about. If God has a plan, he'll show it to me later. And sometime later I was it was on a Thanksgiving morning. I was reading this article. The Urgency of Teaching the Bible is one story written by a professor. Published this article maybe 20 years ago, and he talked about the dangers of not teaching the whole gospel, not teaching the whole Bible, and how what happens when society goes away from that.

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Steve Cleary

And it really impacted me and it impacted me the same way when I, like, read, tortured for Christ, when I read that book and how it set a new course for my life. And I knew God was calling me to do a narrative, I didn't know what a narrative was. I just had read this article. And so I got on Google.

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Steve Cleary

I started searching biblical narrative, Bible narrative, and I found, you know, tons of articles and search results. But I could not find a narrative. So I'm like, well, what if I asked the same question? Alex, what is the importance of this narrative? And realizing the gospel doesn't begin in Matthew, it doesn't begin at Christmas. It doesn't end at Easter.

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Steve Cleary

You know, it begins in Genesis and it completes in revelation. And the more I studied it, the more I realized that we're leaving much of the world behind. And, you know, even popular teachers in the US have said, don't worry about the old the Old Testament. One teacher actually said, disregard the Old Testament and actually called it a stumbling block.

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Steve Cleary

And I'm like, no, it's part of the gospel. How do you really know the gospel if you don't know Jesus? Was there a creation? The whole gospel. So even though I didn't have like a previous passion or education to do this, God really, really impressed it on my all my heart. We went around sharing it with leading mission, you know, big mission organizations about this need for a narrative.

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Steve Cleary

I had, like Scott, had done, The Pilgrim's Progress. I knew the value of visual media. So I knew God was calling me to do visual because that's the space I was in. What would that look like, a visual narrative. I talked to a bunch of church leaders. I talked to ministry leaders. Everybody loved the idea. Nobody wanted to fund it.

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Steve Cleary

So it would just. And I'm kind of stuck by myself saying, what do I do? I mean, this is a gigantic project. And I just started taking steps and started producing animated episodes of the Bible. And today, you know, seven years later, we have studios around the world in full production of doing the entire biblical narrative in animated video form using a translation of Scripture.

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Steve Cleary

And so it gets a little might get a little confusing because I say, well, you're a translation, which translation do you use? And we're actually creating our own translation of the narrative, and it's overseen by theologians. It's actually authenticated as a legitimate translation of Scripture. But is the Scripture narrative not word for word Scripture? But we're not paraphrased.

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Steve Cleary

We're an authorized translation of the biblical narrative. So it's the real deal. It's the Bible on film, it's animation. And our goal is to is to translate it and get it out to the world.

00:08:55:22 - 00:09:15:02

Alex Kocman

Hey listeners, we know you believe in missions. Otherwise you probably wouldn't be listening to or watching this show, but have you ever wondered what your next step with the Great Commission should be? Maybe the Lord is leading you to serve somewhere yourself. Maybe the Lord is calling you to be a part of sending someone from out of your own church.

00:09:15:03 - 00:09:38:12

Alex Kocman

Well, wherever you are with missions, if you're ready to get serious and find what your next step is, a 24 hour demo event is for you. Now. It's great to listen to a podcast about missions, but there's nothing that beats the in-person fellowship that can only take place face to face, where you're alongside other people that are in your similar station of life, thinking and praying together about your next steps.

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Alex Kocman

So if you want to join us at our next event, they happen all throughout the year at our Harrisburg, Pennsylvania based international headquarters. You can go to [demo.org](http://demo.org) again. That's [demo.org](http://demo.org) and use the promo code [podcast](mailto:commission@demo.abw.org) for a discount on your registration fee. So it takes all excuses away. What are you waiting for? Come find your next step with the Great [commission@demo.abw.org](mailto:commission@demo.abw.org) promo code [podcast](mailto:commission@demo.abw.org).

00:10:10:14 - 00:10:12:08

Alex Kocman

Now back to the show.



00:10:12:10 - 00:10:31:00

Scott Dunford

So it's very interesting how, you know, I have a little bit of a hard time getting my mind around that. How do you have a translation of the Bible that is, a translation, not just a, a movie about the Bible. It's not you're not producing something like The Chosen. It is something that's attempting to be a word for word translation.

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Scott Dunford

How do you call it a translation? If it's only containing narrative? How does that work out?

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Steve Cleary

Well, you know, we ask this question too. And if you read Luke looks Luke starts his gospel with, he's basically is saying, that's been a lot written. That's been a lot said about when Christ, you know, walk the earth. He goes, I desire to create a concise narrative of the events that happened. And that's what he did with Luke.

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Steve Cleary

That's what he did with acts. He created this concise narrative. When you read the New Testament characters quoting the Old Testament, they often quoted in narrative form. They don't quote it word for they quoted and they quote it in a, in a narrative. So we only use the scripture to create our scripts so we don't, you know, like you said, we're not the chosen, the chosen as a great program, but we don't add anything.

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Steve Cleary

There's no characters out of this, no dialog added. If there's dialog in Scripture, it appears in our, in our in, in the, in our episodes. And when we started writing these, we met with more leaders and they said, they said, you're really a, Bible story, you know, comparing us to the Bible stories. But I said, that's not my goal.

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Steve Cleary

I mean, the vision is to create a visual, biblical narrative that's authorized. And they said, you know, they literally told me you will never get authorized. It's almost impossible. And they said, it's kind of the same thing you're saying, Scott. They said, just be a Bible story and be happy with it, because then you got freedom to kind of take a, you know, a license or a Hollywood license to tell the story of the way I want to tell it.

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Steve Cleary

And but we prayed about it, and I was visiting with Sal, one of their media video departments, and they're here in Dallas, outside of Dallas, and he said, the CEO is here today. He'd like to say hi. And I'm like, wow, great. That's a that's an honor. Didn't know that was going to happen. And he came in and 45 minutes later he said, he said, we are going to authenticate your scripts as a, as a, as an authorized translation of Scripture.

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Steve Cleary

And I'm like, I didn't even ask him to do it. And I said, why would you do this? You're kind of the age old print Bible translation people word for word Bible. He goes, if we don't use visuals, we're going to lose the next generation. And he gave me some examples in his own life. And I said, how much is this going to cost me?

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Steve Cleary

And he says, we're going to do it for free. He says, just keep doing the videos. And I said, I've heard these could take a decade to get, you know, reviewed. He said, we've already started doing it before you got here. And now they review all our scripts that go right to the top, and they it's really a deep dive to make sure.

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Steve Cleary

So we're not telling word for word scripture, but we are telling the thread, the narrative thread throughout the Bible. We're putting it in chronological order and the Scripture are edited and authorized, not by me. They're by the leading Bible translation group in the world today. I mean, it really blew me away that it happened. And people don't.

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Steve Cleary

I have printed a copy of our narrative. I've given it to Christian leaders, and they want to. Some of them won't even touch it. So this whole concept, one person says, if you don't have chapters and verses, it's not a Bible. And I'm like, well, where did you get that? You know, I mean, chapters and verses have been around since the 1500s.

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Steve Cleary

What did they do before for the first 1500 years? So, you know, since I've even since Christ. And so we have this thought that if the Bible doesn't have chapters and verses, if the Bible isn't printed on paper, it's not a Bible. And I think that's the most dangerous thing we've ever done. I think that's a that's a monoculture problem that we've created in the church today.

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Alex Kocman

But you would say it's not a complete Bible because it doesn't have every passage of Scripture. There's obviously passages that aren't narrative that you're not able to include.

Help me understand that, because this is a bigger conversation, not just in the media world or the Bible translation world, but in the missions world as well. We have, all sorts of people, groups that are in need of Christ that are not literate.

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Alex Kocman

They're primarily oral cultures. Certainly, we're in a culture that's very visual. Some have said that the young, up and coming generation right now is kind of a post literate generation, very, very visual, interacting more with, you know, glyphs on a screen, more so than the printed letter. How do you see all of that coming into play with what you would say?

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Alex Kocman

It constitutes Scripture versus a paraphrase of Scripture or a summary of Scripture.

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Steve Cleary

So we don't use the term. I mean, it's a great question, Alex. And I realize we're way into conversation that we probably didn't expect to be in, but I'm really enjoying it. We would never consider ourselves paraphrase because we're not we're not paraphrasing it. We're actually using word for word words that are in the Scripture in and in our scripts.

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Steve Cleary

Summary would be maybe a good word, but, you know, the narrative thread and we are not a replacement for the entire Bible. We are no a replacement, and we would never desire to be that. And whenever we can, we will link people to a word for word Bible. But let's look at some stats for a minute.

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Steve Cleary

And I did this at a recent missions event. I asked the audience. I said, Does God care about the New Testament? And I said, this is not hypothetical. I really want an answer. And of course everybody said, yes, God cares about the Old Testament. I said, do you care about the Old Testament? And they were kind of thrown off by the question.

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Steve Cleary

And of course they all said, yes, we care about the New Testament. I said, what percentage of people learn orally? So, Alex, you mentioned oral a couple times. Now what percentage of people learn orally? These are really smart leaders of Bible agencies. American Bible Society is there. Jesus film is there. Faith comes by hearing. Is there other leaders?

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Steve Cleary

They all said 75 to 80% of the world are oral learners. So then I finally asked, how many old Testaments do we have orally? There are 7159 languages in the world. How many are done orally? The answer is less than 100. So how do we reach the world? In a way, they communicate in their communication style. So it is not.

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Steve Cleary

And I said, we have 2300 translations of the New Testament and 700 translations of the Old Testament. And I can tell you a lot of those languages are not even read, and only in less than 100 audios. We can't really say we care about the Old Testament and how we've approached it to translate the word for word Bible and entire Bible.

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Steve Cleary

Nearly 800,000 words. You know, it takes 10 to 12 years and millions of dollars. So I have to ask the question, what if you could do a narrative translation and have it translated in a year for \$0.10 on the dollar? Wouldn't that be better than leaving people without the Bible? But right now, our strategy is kind of an all or nothing strategy, and I can tell you it's closer to nothing than close at all.

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Alex Kocman

And of course, of all of the printed translations that we have, those could all be read aloud. You're saying we have less than 100 recorded audio renderings of those translations? Am I understanding you correctly with that statistic?

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Steve Cleary

Yes. But I'm also going to challenge what you just said. And you said 700 can be read. That is not a true statement. So we have 700 translations, but they can't be read. The reason for that is because we study and we've tried to do this, and it just came out in the UN. The UN just released a study that only 351 languages worldwide are taught in schools.

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Steve Cleary

So if only 351 languages are taught, how do we how do we get people to read 700 languages? Right? I mean, that's a question I'd love to have answered. I don't know the answer to that.

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Alex Kocman

Well, and this is why, traditionally, missionaries have often come in teaching literacy, because that that's going to factor in at some point in interpreting the written word of Scripture. Absolutely. So talk to us a little bit more about this project. What other

safeguards or filters are you think thinking through not just theologically or strategically, but theologically? You don't want to come to the text of Scripture with an agenda.

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Alex Kocman

But what is your goal? What is your, end point that you'd like to see happen as a result of this? And then also, where are you bringing, to, to advise, what voices are speaking into the end product.

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Steve Cleary

So the biggest voice we have is with Sal. So for those who have not heard of Sal, they are a sister ministry to, Wycliffe Bible Translators. The biggest translation, you know, ministry out there. Sal is a sister ministry to them, an excellent organization. We rely on them for the for the script, for the script, verification.

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Steve Cleary

And we accept every single edit they give us unless they give us options and we choose a different option. If I say, would you be okay if I said it this way, we send it back to them for approval. So it's 100% approved by ISIL that this is sound biblical. This is a sound biblical, production of a biblical narrative.

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Steve Cleary

And so that's our safeguard. And we're not adding in any explanations. We're not adding in any, any, any theology. Where theology becomes an issue is when we give emotional expressions to somebody, because that can convey a message. Right. And so I give the example of, job's wife. We all know job's wife. So curse God and die. Why does she say that?

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Steve Cleary

How does she say that? How I portray her as a character will give her theology right? If she met a God, is she bitter or does she have pity on her husband? And to know that he is such a man of God, that the only way he'll ever die is if he curses God and she sees him in pain.

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Steve Cleary

We actually took the approach of the latter and we went through ancient writings. We went through the, Septuagint, and we researched deeply not to give my impression of what she did, but to give a scholarly look. And of course, in the Old Testament, we research a lot of Jewish writings, and the Jewish community sees her as a sympathetic woman who just wanted her husband not to be in pain anymore.

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Steve Cleary

He was in such dire pain, and he was still this man of God. And I think that's actually confirmed by the fact that she was, you know, a lot of Americans. When I asked them, they thought job's wife died with all the sons and daughters and animals, but she lived. God blessed her with, you know, the most beautiful woman in the land.

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Steve Cleary

And so we so, so we see that story. That's where we're it's we have to be very careful about how we give emotional expressions to characters because that can portray, you know, meaning in it. And I think that's a the biggest danger we have that we're continually in prayer and we get feedback and we do deep, deep dives and research.

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Steve Cleary

And we also use historic research. Anytime after the flood, we can start using archeology. We can start using, you know, like when we're saying, what year was Joseph Held? You know, in the end, the Jewish people held in captivity in Egypt, there's three different theories on that. We went to the person who we think has done the most research, and we use his we use our own.

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Steve Cleary

We use his conclusion of what reign? Who was Pharaoh? What reign happened when Joseph, you know, traveled? It was what was sold into slavery in in Egypt. So, you know, it's never going to be perfect. It's done by people. And I hope and I hope a lot of people do it better than me in the years to come.

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Steve Cleary

We happen to be the first to do it this way, but I certainly hope we're not the last. That I hope people can build on what we do and make it better and better.

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Scott Dunford

How do you decide which narratives to include? And obviously you can't include everything in a, in a, in a, series like this. How are you making the decisions about what to include and what not to include?

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Steve Cleary

We should we include everything that story, every event. So, early on, I left out when I first started working on this many years ago, I left out, Noah getting drunk and cursing his grandson. I'm like, you know, what's the purpose of that? I don't need to do that. And I

actually looked at some research how other people had handled it, and I was shocked at some of the people that were handling it.

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Steve Cleary

And then I heard about this, these people that were very poor community and had a hard time bringing people to Christ because all the fathers were alcoholics. And so the family was, you know, devastated because all their money was spent, was spent on alcohol. And I thought, man, how can I leave that? How can I leave that event out?

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Steve Cleary

I mean, I literally repented and I put it back in because I said, there's a lot of people that are going to identify with what? No, it did. Now, there's a lot of theology to why he did it. Should it be done? It should not have done it. You know, the two brothers who don't look on him and shame the one brother who tells on him that he's naked and we don't answer those questions.

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Steve Cleary

We ask those questions in our resources, but we never answer them. But we did include it, and we've decided to include everything. So you look at just in Genesis, you have the attack on DNA, right? I mean, DNA is sexually assaulted. Two sons of Jacob go in and kill all the men and pilferage the town. You have Tim.

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Steve Cleary

Tamar and Tamar is dresses like a prostitute and, you know, has sex.

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Alex Kocman

It's a raid in our book is sexual.

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Steve Cleary

Now, I have asked other writers, I'm like, do you include all of these in, you know, your stuff on Genesis? And they said, no. And then I presented at a, Anglican bishops meeting, conference, who's about 200 bishops in the room. And I showed the clip on Diana being attacked. And I thought I, you know, I knew I may be banned from ever speaking again to this group, but they came up to me after and they said, I mean, these are some archbishops.

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Steve Cleary

They said, thank you for being willing to put that in there, because in all the years I've been in church, no one has ever talked about this. And I'm telling you, young people are asking, younger people are interested, not just because the fact that it's R-rated, but they want to know it reveals how men dealt with other people, how God, how God dealt with man.

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Steve Cleary

And it opens up a huge conversation which is very healthy to understand God. And so we include every event. Yeah, we will include, you know, people stabbing kings. So we will include,

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Alex Kocman

You got to include Elgon. I mean, that's my 12 year old wants to my four year old wants to see that in vivid animated detail. That's, that's like a top favorite, common household Bible story about for you, Scott and your boys over the years. There's so much Scott that comes to mind about, you know, how do you contextualize Scripture and missionaries and those in the missions community?

00:25:00:17 - 00:25:07:23

Alex Kocman

Scott, we've been talking for generations about the importance of the metanarrative of Scripture going from Genesis to Revelation. Right?

00:25:08:01 - 00:25:22:03

Scott Dunford

And for sure. So, yeah, that's it's interesting to see how you how you accomplish that. So you've also done something on the life of Christ where you've done the whole life of Christ in 3D animation. What are some of your goals, with that?

00:25:22:04 - 00:25:42:18

Steve Cleary

Well, we're currently in we're currently in production. And the interesting thing about the life of Christ is we're is we're doing a true harmonization of the four gospels. We're using this resource that was, you know, done by somebody else and other, another person that spent ten years literally taking every verse of every scripture of the four Gospels and putting them in chronological order.

00:25:42:20 - 00:26:07:07

Steve Cleary

Now, obviously, there's some debate to when certain things happened. You know, even the calling of the disciples was the two callings, how two different things happened. So there is some judgment calls we have to take, but we really look to, the wisdom of others who have

already been down this path. But the exciting thing that that to me is, you know, I've probably read the Gospels 50 times in my Christian life, maybe 100, but I've never read them like this.

00:26:07:09 - 00:26:26:12

Steve Cleary

So you just take like, the temptation of Christ. Not one gospel gives all the details of what happened when Christ was tempted. So different, different gospels give, give another piece of the puzzle. So one gospel talks about how the angels fed him after it, which is to me really cool that the angels came and fed Jesus. But it's only in one gospel.

00:26:26:14 - 00:26:42:10

Steve Cleary

Only one gospel says, bow down. I believe it's the bow down and worship me and I will give all this to you. I think it's only one gospel that reveals that temptation, and one gospel kind of leaves it alone and just says he was tempted. But then. Then they give details of what happened when he came back from the temptation.

00:26:42:11 - 00:27:01:20

Steve Cleary

You know, the woman at the well, the Samaritan. It's only revealed in one gospel. So by truly merging them, you get a complete picture. And I, I kind of grew up in church saying that it was people telling me that the four gospels were four different viewpoints, and I see it as four different pieces of a beautiful, beautiful story.

00:27:01:22 - 00:27:22:16

Steve Cleary

And when you bring them all together, I mean, it just comes to life. And I'm just learning things I've never learned in my entire Christian life about the life of Christ. And so, currently,

I think it'll be about 40 episodes. The episodes are about seven minutes long. I'm scripting right now this week, episode 14. We have released episode one, two and three.

00:27:22:16 - 00:27:34:00

Steve Cleary

We're finalizing episode four, five and six is a production, so we haven't finished it yet. We're definitely looking to finish it in the next 18 months. Yeah, and we've already started releasing it.

00:27:34:02 - 00:27:35:12

Alex Kocman

But lots to do.

00:27:35:14 - 00:27:50:23

Steve Cleary

Yeah. Emerging, has been a it's been a journey of my lifetime. It's just, you know, you do something to emerge when you're working with Genesis. You do get into merging when you start with Exodus. But the four gospels to put them together is one story. One beautiful story. It's just amazing to me.

00:27:51:00 - 00:28:11:16

Alex Kocman

Stephen 30s, what's the one takeaway that you would have for pastors, for missionaries, for others that are in ministry, front lines of gospel advance, that you would want them to know either about this project or maybe more so than just this project, what this has taught you about just the power of Scripture to work in people's hearts.

00:28:11:18 - 00:28:43:05

Steve Cleary

And in an age where the American Bible Society says that Bible engagement is down 35% in America, we are seeing starve people starving for visual, biblical material. If you invest in visual, if you show things to your youth group, they will come, they will talk, they will discuss. Everything we produce is free. And so if you go to the I Bible app, if you search us on Google I Bible, everything we produce is free for you to use and is visual, can be shared on a phone and if you want to translate it, you want to work with us.

00:28:43:05 - 00:28:50:20

Steve Cleary

Like the group in Togo, you mentioned before the call, were 100% will join you and even help fund languages.

00:28:51:00 - 00:29:15:05

Alex Kocman

Well, thank you for joining us, Steve. And, we're going to stay around for our bonus episode. For those of you who subscribe at [Missionspodcast.com/premium](https://missionspodcast.com/premium). And we're going to talk more about, some of the issues of orality here. Okay. What do we do with people who can't interact with the written texts of Scripture, the way that we've received it?

00:29:15:06 - 00:29:40:16

Alex Kocman

And how are they to be led to faith? We'll talk about those issues. We'll also dive a little bit into Pilgrim's Progress. I know something that's very close to Scott's heart and my heart and my children's hearts, and perhaps your heart as well. And so all of that is in our overtime show, which you can get for your gift of \$9.99 per month to help sustain this ministry and get content into the hands of those that are bringing the gospel forward, go to [missionspodcast.com/premium](https://missionspodcast.com/premium).

00:29:40:21 - 00:30:01:05

Alex Kocman

And while you're there, you can check out all sorts of past episodes. They're heading back into our archives, going all the way back to 2017. We've been at this for just a little while, haven't we? Of course. The missions podcast is a ministry of ABWE, the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, a global family of ministries ministering for almost 100 years now.

00:30:01:05 - 00:30:18:03

Alex Kocman

And to take your next steps in the Great Commission, you can go to [bwp.org](http://bwp.org) until our next episode. Thank you for joining us. Write to us, [alex@missionspodcast.com](mailto:alex@missionspodcast.com) with any questions or comments or suggestions for future shows. And until our next show, go make disciples of all the nations.