

Motherhood on Mission: Purpose Amid the Mundane With Simona Gorton

00:00:00:02 - 00:00:28:17

Simona Gorton

But speaking to the young women, I think do what's right in front of you to do and I think have eyes to see the needs in your local church. I think that you spoke to that earlier. The local church is your training ground. It's not a short-term mission strip. Yeah. It's not some cool camp. It's not some day when I get to Bible school, or someday when I get to Africa today.

00:00:28:19 - 00:01:07:16

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 once again on another exciting foray into the world of missions with Scott Dunford, pastor of Western Hills Church in San Mateo, California. And whether you're listening to us today in the Apple Podcast app or Spotify or on a YouTube channel, or if you're one of the folks who's getting this through NRB-TV or the Wrath and Grace app, we're so thankful to each and every one of you and however you've chosen to tune in today.

00:01:07:19 - 00:01:27:20

Alex Kocman

Be sure to hit the subscribe button or the bell for notifications or follow whatever your platform has. And if you're on a platform such as Apple Podcasts or Spotify that allows for a review and a rating, go ahead and drop a positive review into that feed. It helps other people to be able to discover this content and be blessed by so.

00:01:28:00 - 00:01:40:23

Alex Kocman

Scott, it's good to see you today. And I feel like you're at a disadvantage today. My friend and my co-host, of course. We love that you're here on the show, but I wish you were here in person. I wish we got to co-host this show face to face like it used to be.

00:01:40:23 - 00:01:45:13

Scott Dunford

I think we need to move to California, where it's beautiful.

00:01:45:15 - 00:01:50:21

Alex Kocman

Right? And, of course, at the time of this recording, everything's going great in California right now.

00:01:50:23 - 00:01:53:03

Scott Dunford

It's just fine up here.

00:01:53:05 - 00:01:54:04

Alex Kocman

You're a long way.

00:01:54:05 - 00:01:56:03

Scott Dunford

I'm a long way from downtown LA. Let's just.

00:01:56:04 - 00:02:20:08

Alex Kocman

You do have a nice little slice of Paradise, my friend. And, but we've got things nice here in our Harrisburg, Pennsylvania studio here at the headquarters of ABWE, where I'm pleased to welcome our guest today, a friend of mine, a friend of my wife's and I. And also, full disclosure, also the wife of my employee who I introduced and recently Caleb, your husband, to someone as my second brain.

00:02:20:08 - 00:02:25:14

Alex Kocman

So without Caleb, I would collapse in on myself like a dying star. Some people. And that's.

00:02:25:14 - 00:02:26:05

Simona Gorton

What I.

00:02:26:07 - 00:02:41:16

Alex Kocman

Alex. Yes. How can you do so much? Well, Caleb Gorton is a big part of the reason why. But, aside from that, Simona, I actually emailed you before I ever knew Caleb. When we were working on getting some resources from 9Marks.

00:02:41:16 - 00:02:42:19

Simona Gorton

I had forgotten about that.

00:02:42:19 - 00:02:47:18

Alex Kocman

In fact, your old boss, Rick Denim, has been on the show before, and it's been several years.

00:02:47:18 - 00:02:48:12

Simona Gorton

Before my time.

00:02:48:12 - 00:03:05:10

Alex Kocman

Yeah, yeah, yeah, but, you previously served with 9Marks in that international resourcing, division of the Ministry, getting important materials on local church ecclesiology, onto the mission field and other important places where that need to be. But you're the author of a few works yourself, which I see you've brought.

00:03:05:12 - 00:03:12:16

Simona Gorton

Yes. Mothering against futility and better than we dreamed. Also a youth version of this biography on Elaine Townsend.

00:03:12:17 - 00:03:19:16

Alex Kocman

Yeah, yeah. Elaine Townsend. So people, if they don't know that name, that's the wife of Cameron Townsend, famously the founder of Wycliffe.

00:03:19:18 - 00:03:25:09

Simona Gorton

Yes. Translators also jars and kind of their family of logistics organizations.

00:03:25:09 - 00:03:32:02

Alex Kocman

Now the Elaine Townsend book was first and that was 2022. Yes. And then this year mothering Against Futility came out.

00:03:32:04 - 00:03:38:22

Simona Gorton

Correct. Actually, better than we dreamed was 2017. The youth version was 2022. And then mothering against futility earlier this year.

00:03:38:22 - 00:03:59:03

Alex Kocman

Excellent. We'll dive into both. And I want to come back and talk more about the biography, even in our bonus episode, which, by the way, for those of you who aren't members of our premium subscription club, if you go to Michigan's podcast.com/premium for your gift of 999 per month, you'll get access to many member benefits, including our bonus show that we recorded each week after our main segment.

00:03:59:03 - 00:04:12:02

Alex Kocman

But on to kind of the meat of the discussion. Simona, just give us a little bit more of a snapshot of who you are, your writing ministry, your current season of life. You know, you've written on missions and mothering. So give us just a little bit more of a picture of who Simona is.

00:04:12:04 - 00:04:18:23

Simona Gorton

Yeah. So I grew up in the Pacific Northwest. I'm a bit of a transplant here, with my husband, Caleb, who grew up in the area.

00:04:19:01 - 00:04:23:12

Alex Kocman

But most people don't come to central Pennsylvania unless they have a reason. So. Yeah.

00:04:23:16 - 00:04:41:04

Simona Gorton

Well, we enjoy you here, but, Yeah, it's. I grew up with a deep passion for missions, and really, from the time I was about eight felt very significantly called to the mission field and was pretty much just the earthquake happened in Haiti. And I remember being about ten and being like, mom and dad, can I go?

00:04:41:04 - 00:04:44:08

Simona Gorton

I want to help. And they're like, maybe in a few years.

00:04:44:10 - 00:04:45:20

Alex Kocman

Your parents didn't just let you go.

00:04:45:21 - 00:04:47:21

Simona Gorton

I know, but there were there were another.

00:04:47:21 - 00:04:51:05

Alex Kocman

Quenching the spirit. I understand he were eight. I mean that's yeah. Yeah.

00:04:51:06 - 00:05:08:02

Simona Gorton

No, they were I think there was some letting go on their part because I think they did see the Lord's hand moving in my life. And I think they thought that I was going to the mission field for life also. And, headed to Bible college, really as kind of a preparation for that. Did some brief medical training.

00:05:08:02 - 00:05:28:21

Simona Gorton

And in the Lord's providence, that's not where he's letting me. I have gotten to aid in the work of missions, and that was such a privilege with the work of 9Marks, and just using skills that I didn't really think that the Lord was going to use or even realize that I had and laid on the altar other skills that I thought, of course, he could use.

00:05:28:21 - 00:05:51:00

Simona Gorton

And so I think that's part of my story, too, is almost a backwards missionary story. You hear stories of people saying, Lord, anywhere but Africa. I don't mean send me to Africa. And haha, he sent them to Africa. Yeah, and I was the opposite. I was Lord anywhere but the States. And I think part of that was on my on my end, really thinking that he was more working more overseas than he was here and sent him a.

00:05:51:00 - 00:05:54:02

Alex Kocman

Romanticization of the mission field.

00:05:54:03 - 00:06:05:10

Simona Gorton

No, I think I think I don't think it was, I think I was the missionary biographies I was reading were pretty hard core. You know, guys use three wives, all that, you know, one at a.

00:06:05:10 - 00:06:06:00

Alex Kocman

Time, one at a.

00:06:06:00 - 00:06:31:05

Simona Gorton

Time. I just I know the golden story. But. And then we had missionaries in our home, and I think I really worked to dispel illusions about what it would be like. And that doesn't mean I. I knew nobody knows everything when they go to the field, but, I don't think it was that. I think it was wanting to be part of something that was genuine and honest and seeing so many facades and so much buying into what the world is here and in the West.

00:06:31:07 - 00:06:49:18

Simona Gorton

There was a story, I believe in God really, actually, about an Iranian believer and his wife who moved to California to host a podcast and a ministry that was supposed to benefit Iranian Christians. And they couldn't do it from Iran, of course. And they ended up moving back. They said it is too hard to stay awake.

00:06:49:20 - 00:07:05:11

Simona Gorton

And I think I was feeling that feeling. It's too hard to stay awake. I was reading these, these stories of men and women who couldn't afford to fall asleep. You know, that that just wasn't an option. And it was like, I want that. I want to be where God is working. I want to see him working. I want to that's what I want to spend my life on.

00:07:05:11 - 00:07:24:13

Simona Gorton

And so, there are challenges that missionaries on the field face, and there are challenges here. And I think, both of them are legitimate. But that was that was really kind of the feeling. And, anyway, so now I'm here in central Pennsylvania, with my husband and three kids and serving my local church, teaching 5th-7th grade Sunday school.

00:07:24:16 - 00:07:35:20

Simona Gorton

Yeah, women's Bible study, discipling my kids, you know, teaching them to memorize scripture right along with me and, yeah, categorizing them, doing all this wonderful, exciting. Yeah. Exciting things.

00:07:35:20 - 00:07:55:07

Alex Kocman

So, yeah. Excellent. Excellent ministry. And I know your passion for the local church is, a part of that as well. And for Caleb, your husband as well. And Scott, I know for you, you know, as a pastor, and this is often what we talk about on the show, you can't love, the mission that the Lord's given us without loving the bride of Christ as well.

00:07:55:07 - 00:07:55:23

Alex Kocman

Right, Scott?

00:07:56:01 - 00:08:05:14

Scott Dunford

Oh, that's for sure. Yeah. And I as chuckling to myself as you're saying, you know, it's hard to stay awake. Well, maybe that's why God made you a mother. Because mothers don't get to sleep.

00:08:05:16 - 00:08:06:10

Alex Kocman

Especially.

00:08:06:12 - 00:08:24:23

Scott Dunford

Of young kids. So, Yeah. Tell me a little bit more about your work with 9Marks. So I would say 9Marks. We tend to think of it as being, related to local church ministry, particularly in the States. And yet you were working with the International Resourcing. How did that shape your understanding of the church's role in global missions?

00:08:25:01 - 00:08:51:16

Simona Gorton

Really? In a very deep way. I actually went to Brazil to do some photojournalism work during the Olympics over there for Ligonier and wasn't 9Marks wasn't on my radar. I was actually going over to, in addition to the photojournalism, to intern with a Portuguese publishing house. And that didn't end up being what I did. It all. Rick Denham, who has been on the show previously, he had just been brought on as the international director for 9Marks.

00:08:51:16 - 00:09:00:10

Simona Gorton

He had just gone through the internship at CHBC, which is very intensive and lots of reading, lots of thinking, lots of paper writing. And just for.

00:09:00:15 - 00:09:05:15

Alex Kocman

Those who don't know, CHBC, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Mark Dever's church, yes, the nation's capital. Yeah.

00:09:05:20 - 00:09:32:01

Simona Gorton

Thank you. And so he put me through this mini internship, and he's a very energetic, very intense person. And so we'd be over lunch and he'd be talking my ear off about Baptist church polity and the role of the local church and missions. And I had grown up Presbyterian, so had a bit of a different understanding of that, and I wouldn't say thoroughly unhealthy and how I viewed missions, but certainly not with as much of an emphasis on the local church as, as I think is scriptural and biblical.

00:09:32:03 - 00:10:01:20

Simona Gorton

And so he was having me read compelling community interest in the vine and some of these just really key books about what it actually means to be a church and then how the role of missions grows out of that. Not kind of is, is, separate support for that. Yeah. And so that that was really changing my understanding and then started really working for him in an unofficial capacity, came back and was brought on actually to do more admin work and did a lot of, assisting him with meetings, organizing his schedule.

00:10:01:22 - 00:10:25:05

Simona Gorton

I ended up, overseeing all of the translation projects around the world that 9Marks did. So they're active in over 60 languages. And you can go on their website, look at their international work. It's really exciting. And key to their international work, really is getting to know and developing trust with international partners, who are working on the ground, who are local and what has got out already.

00:10:25:05 - 00:10:53:20

Simona Gorton

Doing what? How can we help you? How can we come alongside this, this work and not kind of this agenda in this sort of well, you know, our step number two is, you know, it's

much more organic than that, which makes it a lot more time and a lot more relationship intensive. Yeah. But it's also just such a joy to know people in Italy and Romania and Uzbekistan and Syria who are all doing just incredible gospel work, in their roles and as a local church, as a, as a mission organization, things like that.

00:10:53:22 - 00:11:16:10

Alex Kocman

Yeah, I know missionaries with our organization, we have used nine Mark's materials on the field and have digital access to all of that. And that's blessed many, many people being able to lay a solid foundation. Shifting gears a little bit, though, again, you've got this mission's part of your persona and you've got, motherhood obviously also reflected in your writing as well.

00:11:16:10 - 00:11:37:02

Alex Kocman

So this book on the top of your stack, mothering against futility, walking through the book of Ecclesiastes. So that idea of futility, I mean, Ecclesiastes. Okay, we're talking about the same book that says, you know, vanity of vanity. Everything is vanity, right? It's, you know, depending on your perspective, it's not necessarily the most uplifting book, although I think it is.

00:11:37:04 - 00:11:47:07

Alex Kocman

But there's some hard lessons in that book. Motherhood, of course, is all sunshine and lollipops all the time. I've been told. Yes. Never difficult.

00:11:47:09 - 00:11:48:13

Simona Gorton

And who is your wife? Yeah.

00:11:48:13 - 00:12:08:17

Alex Kocman

Yeah, but. And my wife's reading this right now. Actually, it's in her stack, but, talk to us. What's the connection, then, that you're getting at between all that the book of Ecclesiastes is teaching us about the challenges of life and finding meaning, in eternal things and the fleeting this of temporal life, life under the sun, and motherhood.

00:12:08:19 - 00:12:23:08

Alex Kocman

And then this added component as well of mothering missionary, if you will. You know, you're not just mothering for the sake of raising three nice, happy adults, but you were mothering specifically with an end that they're going to be a part of what God is doing in the world.

00:12:23:09 - 00:12:24:01

Simona Gorton

Absolutely.

00:12:24:01 - 00:12:28:19

Alex Kocman

So how do those things connect? What's the what's the connective tissue between those ideas?

00:12:28:21 - 00:12:31:08

Simona Gorton

That's a that's a really small, simple question.

00:12:31:08 - 00:12:34:12

Alex Kocman

Yeah that's right. Yeah. Yeah five minutes. Yes.

00:12:34:14 - 00:12:57:18

Simona Gorton

No. Honestly this project started out of my own wrestling through the challenges of motherhood. And how do I get these things that I know to be true? I'm reading them in the word. I'm grounded theologically and I know the right answers. And yet I'm snapping at my kids and I'm frustrated, and my husband and I am doing the dishes because I'm so fed up that the kitchen is a wreck.

00:12:57:20 - 00:13:15:17

Simona Gorton

And that's not. And I know that's not that's not honoring to the Lord. And so there's all these things I'm doing every day over and over and over again laundry, dishes, disciplining children. And I'm just going to do it again tomorrow. And it's all adding. It's all adding up, and it feels like I'm spending my life doing stuff that doesn't matter.

00:13:15:19 - 00:13:43:18

Simona Gorton

Yeah, but I know it matters because God says it matters. And that's really where Ecclesiastes comes in, because there's kind of this dual message of vanity is, is kind of this sense of being a fleeting. It's this vapor. It's something that passes away quickly. And so all of these things that we're doing, the dishes themselves don't matter. But God does things through the dishes, through the fact that I feed people, through the fact that we're coming together as a family, talking over the dinner table, the fact that my heart attitudes are coming out when I'm frustrated that I don't get to do the dishes.

00:13:43:20 - 00:14:03:01

Simona Gorton

And so really, this kind of balance of mundanity and eternity that come together in Ecclesiastes in a really unique way. And so, no, it's not a hopeless book. It's filled with so much hope. And I think holding that in balance, that concept, on the one hand, that what we're seeing in front of us, what we can touch and see and taste is not all there is.

00:14:03:03 - 00:14:25:20

Simona Gorton

And if we think there is, then Ecclesiastes has a pretty strong message of, you don't get to take things with you beyond the grave. You know all your striving for these things that the world loves, that doesn't, that doesn't end up with you don't end up with anything at the end of the day. But on the other hand, God gives us all of these good things, all these earthy things to enjoy and to use and to make the most up for his glory.

00:14:25:22 - 00:14:50:01

Simona Gorton

And so as I'm mothering, we get to see we get to see the food that we put on the table as a manifestation of our joy in the Lord and our joy and redemption. And so instead of complaining and groaning about having to do all of these things, really seeing that as following the steps of Christ where Christ made himself of no reputation, Christ didn't grasp after his rights, he was willing to lay them down.

00:14:50:01 - 00:15:13:19

Simona Gorton

And so when I'm scraping oatmeal off the floor and grumbling in my heart that, you know, I could be doing so much more with my life, that's not what Christ did. And I think that's been a really humbling reminder for me, and humbling realization that I'm really putting myself above my Lord when I'm, when I'm failing to recognize the honor and the dignity that he has given to this work of mothering.

00:15:13:20 - 00:15:30:11

Alex Kocman

You used to turn a phrase in there that I. I guess it was intentional. I don't know if you developed this more in the book or not, but you said the dishes don't matter, but what they're used for does. I love that, right? Having eaten at your house? It's true. I can attest to that. What's on those dishes matters.

00:15:30:12 - 00:15:50:05

Alex Kocman

But, you know, the laundry. Okay. Does the laundry matter? No, but the people wearing the clothes matter, right? Everything can be connected to something that's eternal. In in value. And, Scott, for you. For your wife, Tara, for the years that you spent on the mission field. You know, I think you could attest as much as any missionary on the field.

00:15:50:06 - 00:16:01:06

Alex Kocman

Okay? Most of life is mundane, right? Laundry didn't stop when you were living in East Asia for those years. Give you a chance to comment on that. And also follow.

00:16:01:06 - 00:16:36:05

Scott Dunford

Up. Yeah. Well, I mean that that's just one of the lies I think, of, of modern day ministry is that we think the bigger is better and platform matters, and, and all of these things, when the reality is I think the ball tends to get move forward inch by inch. You know, in our homes, around our tables, people that are being they're being shown hospitality in our lives, one on one discussions in discipleship, obviously within the context of a local church and, well, often, you know, I think the pastors like me, you know, or the conference speakers like Alex, you know, get, get the headlines.

00:16:36:07 - 00:17:10:19

Scott Dunford

I've seen this even in my own ministry, just recently, you know, my wife works, it's really difficult to make a living here in California. But, you know, she hosts these meals at her home. And, just watching how relationships in our church are taking massive leaps forward because of her hard work and hospitality that I get to just kind of, like, flit around the coattails of, but she's shining in the kitchen and around the table and, and how that just builds relationships in ways that, that I, you know, could preach 100 messages and not be able to accomplish.

00:17:10:21 - 00:17:32:20

Scott Dunford

So when we talk about, talk about missions, the work of missions and the women behind that, how do you how do you think church is not just in talking about, obviously, feeding and cooking, although that obviously, sometimes plays a part in things. But how do you think churches can better care for and mobilize women, especially moms, on mission, whether that's at home or abroad?

00:17:32:20 - 00:17:35:02

Scott Dunford

How do we elevate that and encourage that?

00:17:35:05 - 00:18:00:01

Simona Gorton

That's a great question. And I think the answer, at least from where I'm sitting, is a little bit indirect. I think when a church really elevates the ordinary means of grace or elevates spiritual disciplines, elevates the work of Sunday school teachers, elevates the work of mothering and training children. I think that kind of we're not necessarily being spoken to directly as mothers always in that, but I think those are all of the things that we're doing.

00:18:00:01 - 00:18:23:22

Simona Gorton

Those are all the things that we should be doing and putting our energies towards. And so to, to imply, oh, there's other things out there that should be done or to always be talking about kind of like you were saying, the conference speakers or the celebrity preachers who the Lord does, does genuinely use. I think we really buy into the world's understanding of what glory is and what what's honorable and what's worthy of pursuing.

00:18:24:00 - 00:18:47:13

Simona Gorton

First Corinthians 127 says, God has chosen what is foolish to shame the wise in the world. He's chosen what's weak to shame the strong. And I think we say, we, we say we agree. But then when it comes to what we're, what we're striving for and what we talk about as wonderful and amazing and what has resonated with us and who has impacted us, it's not it that's not always reflected.

00:18:47:14 - 00:19:00:13

Simona Gorton

And so I think similar to what you were saying, I've looked around me recently at just the opportunities that God has given me in my little corner of on glorious little central Pennsylvania and glorious.

00:19:00:15 - 00:19:03:21

Alex Kocman

And you've got a glorious little slice of country.

00:19:03:21 - 00:19:31:12

Simona Gorton

We do. We do. Yeah. But, you know, it's I think at one point in my life I thought I was going to be in Iraq for, you know, teaching, teaching at a classical school over there. And it's kind of that intensity of what we think God calls his people to, which is sometimes what he does.

And I think there was kind of a generation of people that kind of bought into the radical kind of the David Platt radical concept, which I think has a lot of value.

00:19:31:12 - 00:19:49:23

Simona Gorton

I mean, we should be doing radical things for God, but I think there's a flip side. Michael Horton actually wrote his book ordinary kind of as a as a corollary to that. And I was deeply impacted by both books. Yeah. When they came out and just this realization of, we can sort of everybody wants to help on this cool missions trip.

00:19:49:23 - 00:20:06:07

Simona Gorton

Nobody wants to help mom take out the trash. Right. And that, I think, really has impacted my view of what my role is as a woman. Like what? What's my taking out the trash and what are things that people think, oh, anybody can do that. Any Christian can do that. But I, I have this skill, I have this gifting.

00:20:06:07 - 00:20:17:11

Simona Gorton

And I think that's a really dangerous concept because it, it, it enables you to kind of avoid things that God has put right in front of you, things that you can do to be serving the little things right.

00:20:17:11 - 00:20:18:05

Alex Kocman

You won't get more that.

00:20:18:05 - 00:20:18:12

Simona Gorton

Can bear.

00:20:18:18 - 00:20:41:20

Alex Kocman

All of the small things. Yeah, absolutely. Yeah. So you talk about the ordinary means of grace. If you've read or if any of our listeners have read C.S. Lewis His Space trilogy, the third book, the group at Saint Anne's. Yes. You know, they know that they're in the middle of a cosmic battle. You know, they know that there's angelic and demonic forces, you know, crossing swords all around them.

00:20:41:20 - 00:21:02:09

Alex Kocman

There's this sort of, academic, almost deep state conspiracy that's conspiring with satanic forces. If you haven't read the novel, folks need to go out and get a copy of it. That Hideous Strength, I think, is one of the most important novels of the 20th century. But the group at Saint Anne's who are with, with one exception, Christians.

00:21:02:11 - 00:21:22:19

Alex Kocman

Their way of engaging in that battle is frighteningly ordinary. And they're reading books and they're discussing literature and history, and they're praying and they're gardening and they're just doing life together, which sounds like a very know, trendy way of, you know, doing that. We're doing life together. But that but that's what the.

00:21:22:21 - 00:21:24:00

Simona Gorton

Authentic way, you know.

00:21:24:00 - 00:21:39:19

Alex Kocman

I can take away. Yeah, yeah. That's right. And they're relevant. Yes. But, it's out of that that the battle is ultimately won without spoiling the ending of the book, but it doesn't at all look like, you know, you would think, okay, if you were in that setting knowing what's happening in the story of the book, okay.

00:21:39:19 - 00:22:05:14

Alex Kocman

You know, you would be prepping, you'd be you'd be full on doomsday, Piper, and justifiably so. Yeah. And so, there's so much more that could be said there. But the way that we engage the mission is through ordinary things. It's not the ordinary or radical. Sometimes it's be radical by being ordinary. So maybe, a question that comes out of that then, is that how with that understanding, how do you build that into your children?

00:22:05:16 - 00:22:36:00

Alex Kocman

How do you teach them to, desire to live for more, but also to appreciate the ordinary? What are some ways that you're developing your children and specifically as you think about that, too, over a follow up question, I'm thinking about a type of young lady that we interact with. No, I don't have any one particular on my mind, but it is a type of young lady who will reach out to our missions sending organization or will, sometimes approach us as elders in our church about being sent to the mission field?

00:22:36:02 - 00:22:52:06

Alex Kocman

Maybe listening to this podcast, the type of young lady who, in her mind, the worst thing that could happen is not that she would be called to Africa. The worst thing that could happen is that she could be a stay at home mom in central Pennsylvania. You know what I mean? That that's too ordinary. She doesn't.

00:22:52:08 - 00:23:10:01

Alex Kocman

Yeah. And she wants to go to the mission field to escape that sort of mundane, way of things going. So how do you, you know, how do you raise your kids to teach them otherwise? How do you speak to that kind of mentality in a younger person? So that they can appreciate what you're sharing.

00:23:10:03 - 00:23:40:04

Simona Gorton

And one of the things that I've been even recently really convicted about instilling in them, as I've been convicted of in my own heart. It's funny how often those two go together, things that you are realizing I don't do this well. And here, here it is. You know, a weakness in my own children, is simply speaking, in speaking in biblical terms about virtues that that they should be cultivating in the same way that their mother should be cultivating, and to work with them on memorizing Scripture that speaks to that.

00:23:40:06 - 00:23:58:23

Simona Gorton

And so as I'm discipling them and working through the inevitable 30, you know, every 30s there's a squabble and not just to be like, oh, be nice to be nice, right? But to say, no, let's, let's recite together what is love? You know, what are the fruits of the spirit and identify those and say, okay, is that what was happening?

00:23:58:23 - 00:24:08:23

Simona Gorton

And so and even thinking in my own heart saying, mommy needs to work on that too, I get frustrated and I need to cultivate that. Yeah. And so I think it starts with them valuing what God values.

00:24:09:01 - 00:24:15:21

Alex Kocman

In other words, the goal is not just you're having a global impact. The goal is actually sanctification and character development. First it is.

00:24:16:02 - 00:24:31:07

Simona Gorton

It is because if I want them to be 18 year olds that care about the work of the gospel around the world, they need to not care about what their friends are liking their recent picture on Instagram. And so I think it starts with that because my kids are very little. Yeah. And they don't have phones yet and they won't for a while.

00:24:31:09 - 00:24:50:12

Simona Gorton

But kind of that understanding of what, what do I think is important and what do I think is valuable? And do I care more about whether they can write all their letters properly or do I care? I, I do care about that. Yeah, but do I care whether they are showing a genuine, caring compassion to their siblings or to some, their friend who just broke their leg and now can't play with them on the trampoline?

00:24:50:12 - 00:25:09:19

Simona Gorton

Right. And so I think when I'm cultivating in them the things and speaking of those things as important, that really helps them. In the very early stages of that, and if you ask me that question in ten years, then the answer might be more fully developed. Yeah, yeah. But speaking to the young women, I think do what's right in front of you to do.

00:25:09:21 - 00:25:29:07

Simona Gorton

And I think have eyes to see the needs in your local church. I think that you spoke to that earlier. The local church is your training ground. It's not a short term mission trip. Yeah. It's

not some cool camp. It's not some day when I get to Bible school, or someday when I get to Africa today, it is.

00:25:29:07 - 00:25:50:05

Simona Gorton

And think outside the box. Be creative. Right. Do some babysitting for your pastor's family. Bring somebody a meal. Like, think about ways that you can serve a church. Maybe no other young person is serving, and maybe you're equipped to do that. Maybe you can head up and help coordinate nursery schedules. Maybe you can, come to church and help fold bulletins.

00:25:50:05 - 00:26:06:23

Simona Gorton

I mean, are you wanting to do great work for Christ? Well, we'll be tired at the end of the day because you have been serving people and don't kind of control your bad turns is not bad. And expanding hours. If you want to be expanded for the gospel, I guarantee there are ways you can be expanding yourself. Yeah, that you're not.

00:26:06:23 - 00:26:11:19

Simona Gorton

And you have far more time than you realize as a as a single young person.

00:26:11:19 - 00:26:15:12

Alex Kocman

Yeah, absolutely. So Scott 30 seconds last words.

00:26:15:14 - 00:26:34:14

Scott Dunford

Yeah. I mean I just want to say to my younger self as well as to you and other dads out there, like, I think one of the best things we can do is not take for granted, wives that are really great at what they do. But, you know, I think a lot of women can we can sow seeds of discontent in their hearts by not valuing what they do and not healing in it.

00:26:34:14 - 00:27:02:12

Scott Dunford

And if all we're highlighting is the up front people, then we are sowing those seeds of discontent and in our children to say that's not valuable and that's not gospel work. And so I think that's one thing I would like to tell my younger self is like, hey, really work hard to value this pitch in and help. Don't just assume that just because your wife is really good at these things, that that they shouldn't be praising, that you shouldn't be participating because we're sending subtle messages to our kids and our wives.

00:27:02:14 - 00:27:07:04

Scott Dunford

When we don't give honor, we're honors do. That'd be my last word.

00:27:07:06 - 00:27:29:10

Alex Kocman

It's a good word. And I guess Elaine Townsend is kind of a model of some of these principles and concepts as well. You know, someone who is doing the wife thing, in, in a context. And so I want to dive into that more with you, in our bonus segment for subscribers. And so, if you're in the Apple Podcast app, you can click and join the subscription directly within your podcast app.

00:27:29:12 - 00:27:46:11

Alex Kocman

Otherwise you can go to missionspodcast.com/premium and join. And for your generous gift of about \$10 per month, join our group chat. You'll get a special gift. It may or may not

be the branded mug sitting on the counter. I'll let you decide what you think that gift is. And of course you'll get access to our bonus show as well.

00:27:46:13 - 00:27:48:10

Alex Kocman

How can people get Ahold of the book?

00:27:48:12 - 00:27:54:03

Simona Gorton

On Amazon? Really? Anywhere books are sold? Christian Focus website, Westminster Bookstore, lots of great.

00:27:54:03 - 00:27:57:10

Alex Kocman

Places. And do you have a social media handle that people can reach out to?

00:27:57:12 - 00:28:01:06

Simona Gorton

I do, it's, that's on Instagram. Simona L Gorton.

00:28:01:08 - 00:28:23:19

Alex Kocman

All right. Very good. Yeah. And of course you can reach out to us Alex at Missions podcast.com is my email. We'd love to hear from you if you have any suggestions for future guests or topics that we should cover. Of course, the Missions Podcast is a ministry of ABWE. To learn more about taking your next steps in the Great Commission and, putting your life to use, even in radical or ordinary ways, whatever that looks like.

00:28:23:19 - 00:28:29:21

Alex Kocman

You can go to abwe.org until our next episode. Go make disciples of all the nations.