

Babies, Schools, and Church Planting in PNG With Bill and Lori Smith

00:00:00:04 - 00:00:24:02

Alex Kocman

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00:00:24:04 - 00:00:52:03

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, and I'm half of a man today because my co-host and partner in crime, Scott Dunford, is not joining us. But to more than make up for it, I'm joined by two friends in our studio here, whom I'll introduce in just a moment.

00:00:52:08 - 00:01:14:06

Alex Kocman

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00:01:14:06 - 00:01:30:15

Alex Kocman

And I think you'll see today, this is one of those episodes that we want more people to discover. So enough with the housekeeping items at the beginning. I want to introduce my friends, Bill and Lori Smith, missionaries with a hui for 37 years.

00:01:30:16 - 00:01:31:12

Lori Smith

That's right.

00:01:31:13 - 00:01:49:22

Alex Kocman

In Papua New Guinea. Yes. And, and of course, we'll talk about where that is. Some people, of course, know Papua New Guinea. Other people probably couldn't find it on the map. And so, we'll have to give some definitions and some terminology here. But we're so grateful for both of you, an incredible legacy of ministry that we'll talk about today.

00:01:49:22 - 00:02:12:07

Alex Kocman

And I truly I think I can say this, I don't I don't know more, I don't know people who've been more numerically fruitful, I guess, than you all, both in terms of the gospel ministry, the mercy ministry as well. And just the stories of your ministry. There's so much that the Lord has done through you both and your team.

00:02:12:09 - 00:02:24:20

Alex Kocman

Yeah, it's a team effort as well. So I want to really just invite our listeners in to kind of experience, you know, for the next 30 minutes what, by God's grace, he's been doing through you on the field these almost 40 years?

00:02:24:20 - 00:02:26:20

Lori Smith

Yeah, it's exciting to see what God has done.

00:02:27:00 - 00:02:38:05

Alex Kocman

So we'll start with you, Lori, since you're sitting here in ladies first, no offense. Absolutely. So who is Lori Smith? How did you end up in Papua New Guinea in the middle of the Pacific? Wherever, wherever Papua New Guinea is?

00:02:38:05 - 00:02:51:14

Lori Smith

It kind of started with my parents. My mom and dad loved missions. My mom and dad knew the Lord. Actually, I wrote their story. So if you want the full story, you can buy my book at three fold. Com by Lori Sheldon Smith.

00:02:51:15 - 00:02:53:03

Alex Kocman

And that's not this book that's sitting.

00:02:53:04 - 00:03:14:04

Lori Smith

That's a different book. Yeah, but my mom and dad had such a heart for God. And every missionary that came to our area came to my home. So God actually led me to Africa through a missionary nurse that was there. That's my hero, you know. So that's where I came in contact with away was at Togo, West Africa.

00:03:14:04 - 00:03:15:07

Lori Smith

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:03:15:09 - 00:03:19:00

Alex Kocman

Anyone who knows BWB know. Yes. That Togo.

00:03:19:02 - 00:03:23:09

Lori Smith

Yes. But absolutely. Yeah. But I got drawn to Papua New Guinea through this guy or.

00:03:23:11 - 00:03:25:09

Alex Kocman

Yeah. Yeah. How'd you end up in the mix?

00:03:25:13 - 00:03:36:14

Bill Smith

Well, we met in college, and she was going to Africa, and I was going back to Papua New Guinea, which is north of Australia. Obviously, unless you live in the Indian Ocean, it wasn't going to work.

00:03:36:19 - 00:03:38:08

Lori Smith

And be a long distance relationship.

00:03:38:12 - 00:03:40:13

Bill Smith

But God took her to Africa.

00:03:40:16 - 00:04:03:09

Lori Smith

Yeah, well, that's where God kind of showed me the vision of what he wanted me to do with medicine and church planning was there with, you know, the amazing family team, family that was there, the church planners that were doctors and, and God just put it all together and, gave me a love for it, but also for medical evangelism.

00:04:03:09 - 00:04:24:19

Alex Kocman

So, Bill, as people are thinking about, okay, Papua New Guinea, if you're somebody who's followed different mission organizations over the years, a lot of people are familiar with ETO with New Tribes Mission. Now, those 360, maybe they're familiar with some of the work of, Radius International or friends. They're the abusers. There's a lot of stories of unreached places becoming reached.

00:04:24:21 - 00:04:33:00

Alex Kocman

Yeah. And if you see people of Papua New Guinea and the Joshua Project, you're going to see it looks like there's a lot of Christians there. So what do you do with it's a Christian country, man.

00:04:33:02 - 00:05:07:19

Bill Smith

Yeah, actually I've done it's over. I grew up in New Tribes. I went to New Guinea in 1973. All these people you hear about, they were my uncles and aunts and I knew them. Yeah, but you know what? That's the thing. Papua New Guinea has been a country that has been reached in many ways, but its missions today is not just reaching people for Christ, it's developing them to be missionaries to reach more and more, people not just in Papua New Guinea, but the countries around us, Papua New Guinea has been a country receiving missionaries for 50, 60 years.

00:05:07:21 - 00:05:14:17

Bill Smith

Today it's become a country of sending missionaries and they need to be trained. And that's the niche that a BWR has.

00:05:14:22 - 00:05:25:01

Alex Kocman

So talk to me about that. That's actually a huge thought of sending missionaries from Papua New Guinea to what? To some of the other unreached tribes in the remote. How many islands are in Papua New Guinea?

00:05:25:01 - 00:05:39:15

Bill Smith

There's about 800 languages, which I have also 800 islands associated with property. And in the South Pacific, there's over a thousand islands in our region. And Papua New Guinea is the largest country in that region.

00:05:39:15 - 00:05:45:11

Alex Kocman

So you could just send missionaries to other parts of Papua New Guinea, and you'd never basically run out of work to do.

00:05:45:11 - 00:05:47:01

Bill Smith

Absolutely. No, you never would.

00:05:47:04 - 00:06:02:13

Alex Kocman

Yeah. Do they think of themselves as one country or do they just think, do they even know that there's a Papua New Guinea or some of these peoples so remote that do they have contact with each other on some of these, other islands and isolated people, groups or tribes? What does that look like?

00:06:02:14 - 00:06:22:02

Bill Smith

There are some probably very remote places that it will not have any contact with the outside, but that small. But the area of the South Pacific is a place where they would say missions. Been there a long time. Yeah. And they've reached the towns, they've reached the cities. But most people do not live in the towns and cities.

00:06:22:03 - 00:06:38:23

Bill Smith

Yeah. And so they're unreached people. And they're not counted because a lot of times they don't even know those people exist. I mean, there were do people groups that were discovered not far from where my parents lived back in 2001. The did people did not know they existed.

00:06:39:02 - 00:06:54:11

Alex Kocman

I was listening to a podcast on Sunday talking about they'd seen some footage on YouTube. Right. Of I think it was British documentarians were filming a tribal war, you know, with spears and, you know, darts and arrows and everything, you know, from the 60s.

00:06:54:11 - 00:07:24:02

Lori Smith

Well, that's the reality of Papua New Guinea. We have Western ization. Yeah. But under the surface is very remote thinking, very, spiritist concepts. Probably 50% of the patients in my clinic still have a fear of evil spirits. They have like, little pieces of ginger attached to their children to ward off evil spirits. And these some of them are like college graduates.

00:07:24:04 - 00:07:35:08

Lori Smith

So there's always that under the surface satanic influence that even though they might hold the form of Christianity. Yeah, they don't have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

00:07:35:08 - 00:07:52:14

Alex Kocman

Yeah, yeah. Bill, you said something similar in a promotional video that I've seen from your ministry. You know, they have a form of godliness or deny the power of it, and you're not trying to condemn believers over there. But so there's an outward formal Christian recognition of some sort. But then there's syncretism happening under. Exactly. Yeah. Okay. Yeah.

00:07:52:14 - 00:07:55:07

Alex Kocman

With what? With animistic religion.

00:07:55:07 - 00:07:56:08

Lori Smith

Animistic. Yeah.

00:07:56:10 - 00:08:01:04

Alex Kocman

Yeah. What other influences are there or is it all just sort of. It's the demonic. It's the occult.

00:08:01:07 - 00:08:17:07

Lori Smith

It's the occult. Yeah, I mean Satan, we're in his front door, you know, and it's a reality. The Satan is alive and he's real. And these people have seen that they've lived that they're ancestral worship of Satan. It's a stronghold for him. You don't.

00:08:17:07 - 00:08:18:07

Alex Kocman

Break that overnight, you.

00:08:18:13 - 00:08:19:06

Lori Smith

Know.

00:08:19:08 - 00:08:33:12

Alex Kocman

So I want to connect some dots here too, because you have a ministry in the clinic. Yes. But you've talked about training missionaries to go out from there. So talk to me about the Baptist Bible College and Carioca is the capital, is that right or. No, no.

00:08:33:12 - 00:08:34:00

Bill Smith

No, not.

00:08:34:00 - 00:08:35:13

Lori Smith

At all. Just one of the larger cities, one of.

00:08:35:13 - 00:08:50:10

Alex Kocman

The larger cities. Okay, so in one of these larger cities, there is a Baptist Bible college. And you minister on that campus and a lot is happening there. Talk to me about that, because again, that sounds like a very established ministry, but there's more work to be done, of course. Right.

00:08:50:10 - 00:09:08:23

Bill Smith

That's right. It's a school. It's 50 years old. We have almost 500 graduates. They've gone out and started a little over 200 churches. Okay. And God's doing things. Yes. And now some of those graduates and some have pastoring churches that have also started multiple generations of churches after that.

00:09:08:23 - 00:09:13:15

Alex Kocman

Have you ever added all that up. Do you know what that what that comes to what with all the daughter and granddaughter churches?

00:09:13:15 - 00:09:38:10

Bill Smith

It's about 300. Yeah, yeah, that's a rough estimate. Well, but it's also not just in Papua New Guinea. It's also in the islands around us. And so we see them reaching out across national borders Indonesia, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands. I've had the privilege of being up, sending pastor of a Papa Gideon going to the mission field.

00:09:38:11 - 00:10:01:01

Bill Smith

Yeah. And that is the gospel. That's the book of acts, right? They're sending missionaries who now also send missionaries. Yeah, yeah, it's been fantastic. And GBK Roca Baptist Bible College is a training school that's accredited in Papua New Guinea for training pastors, for training Christian educators. And we're expanding that because we want to affect all sectors of our society with the gospel.

00:10:01:03 - 00:10:03:21

Bill Smith

Medical workers, you name it, other things as well.

00:10:04:01 - 00:10:05:10

Alex Kocman

How many students do you have right now?

00:10:05:11 - 00:10:12:07

Bill Smith

We have 70 on our main campus, and we do also have two satellite campuses. So a little over 100 students.

00:10:12:07 - 00:10:18:07

Alex Kocman

So these believers come from a Christian background, or they're converted out of tribal religions or a mix of.

00:10:18:07 - 00:10:19:07

Lori Smith

Both a mix.

00:10:19:07 - 00:10:20:13

Bill Smith

A mix. Definitely a mix.

00:10:20:13 - 00:10:27:05

Alex Kocman

Yeah, yeah. What what's the education program will look like? Is it is it all Bible? Is it theology and practical? What's that combination?

00:10:27:05 - 00:10:47:02

Bill Smith

It's. Yes, there's a theology to get a bachelor's degree in theology. They learn Greek in Hebrew. They also learn a lot of practical skills. Marriage and family too. Just the ability to preach. And it's been a fantastic to see them develop. And now many of our teachers are popping in Gideons.

00:10:47:04 - 00:11:11:14

Alex Kocman

Did you know that it can take anywhere from 18 to 24 months or more for the average missionary to raise their financial support? The journey to the field is an arduous one, and for some missionaries it goes by quicker than others. Other missionaries are waiting for the right prayer and financial partners to come alongside them and hold the rope for them as they go out to reach the lost.

00:11:11:16 - 00:11:33:18

Alex Kocman

And so would you consider praying for and maybe adopting an ABW pre field missionary, somebody that's already been commissioned and sent out from their local church, and the only thing keeping them from having a fruitful ministry on the field is simply their ability to get there. You can go to a.b.e.org/pre field and find a pre field missionary.

00:11:33:18 - 00:11:54:11

Alex Kocman

Whether you just want to pray for them or whether the Lord would lead you to give to one of their ministries, find one that you can support today at a.org/pre field. And of course there's so much that we need to do to instill a biblical view of marriage and a family, both in our churches in the States but also in Papua New Guinea.

00:11:54:11 - 00:12:20:11

Alex Kocman

Yeah Lori that's part of your ministry as well. Tell me what are the women of Papua New Guinea taught that an unborn child is because they're told they're not told necessarily. If you're coming from an animistic or tribal background, always that, you know, it's been a baby made in the image of God. Oh, no. They're inheriting all sorts of false assumptions, even about pregnancies and things like that in the context of your clinic.

00:12:20:14 - 00:12:44:16

Lori Smith

And there's a lot of superstition as well. I mean, I've actually been physically hit when women find out through our ultrasound machine that they have twins. Life in PNG is hard for women. Women are kind of a non-entity in much of the cultural thought process. They are purchased, they belong to their husbands. I.

00:12:44:21 - 00:12:45:08

Alex Kocman

Chattel.

00:12:45:10 - 00:13:10:19

Lori Smith

A woman. Yeah. She's not known for herself. She's the woman. The wife of a man. She's the mother of her son. You know, so, women, it's a really difficult, difficult situation for many of them. And especially with, with babies, a lot of them have no concept. They have no science background to understand how babies are forming.

00:13:10:19 - 00:13:34:14

Lori Smith

But it's human life with within them. That's why it's been such a blessing to have the ultrasound machine. We can take those women into the secret weaving room of God and introduce them to the beautiful little human life that's growing inside of them. It is life transforming when they see their pregnancy is a human being.

00:13:34:16 - 00:13:44:20

Alex Kocman

One of the things I think when people think about, let's talk about abortion, yes, people think and probably for good reason. We tend to think of that as a problem in the developed world.

00:13:45:02 - 00:13:45:21

Lori Smith

Oh, no.

00:13:46:03 - 00:13:48:13

Alex Kocman

Yeah, it's a massive problem in a very undeveloped.

00:13:48:18 - 00:13:49:10

Lori Smith

Yes.

00:13:49:12 - 00:13:50:01

Alex Kocman

Country.

00:13:50:01 - 00:13:50:17

Lori Smith

Yes.

00:13:50:19 - 00:14:03:02

Alex Kocman

Why is that? What is the is I think I've heard or maybe read in some of your, your newsletters. I mean, that kind of a, you know, sorry for children listening to this. Here's your warning. 321. But you know, there's a rape culture.

00:14:03:06 - 00:14:03:15

Lori Smith

Oh here.

00:14:03:17 - 00:14:08:05

Alex Kocman

In, Papua New Guinea. What what's happening there? At a spiritual.

00:14:08:05 - 00:14:45:19

Lori Smith

Level, women have. No, they're not appreciated women. Their role is basically being subservient to the man. So they're owned. It is not it's not abnormal for a young woman to be raped or to be abused sexually. And it's been a challenge for us in the clinic because it's almost like it's accepted. They expect it. It's a part of their culture that women, something that women have to deal with because they don't have the respect, they don't have the love and protection within their family clan.

00:14:45:21 - 00:14:56:07

Lori Smith

So it's a huge, huge issue for us. But they don't respond to that crisis like women in Western worlds. They just anticipate that's just a part of life.

00:14:56:08 - 00:15:08:20

Alex Kocman

And what's amazing to me is that the brokenness and the ministry opportunities that you have, yeah, is happening right on top of this campus ministry at a Baptist Bible college. So it's the same Baptist clinic, right?

00:15:08:20 - 00:15:09:06

Lori Smith

Right.

00:15:09:08 - 00:15:13:03

Alex Kocman

Is on the campus of is it the main campus of. Yes.

00:15:13:05 - 00:15:14:03

Bill Smith

On campus. Yeah.

00:15:14:04 - 00:15:17:02

Alex Kocman

So this is this is happening in the same space.

00:15:17:02 - 00:15:17:07

Lori Smith

That.

00:15:17:11 - 00:15:26:03

Alex Kocman

Training pastors. Yes. And future missionaries. You're also seeing how many what in excess of what, 20,000 patients coming through.

00:15:26:07 - 00:15:45:11

Lori Smith

Yeah, it's about 150 people a day is what we end up seeing. How many staff do you have? There's myself and one more practitioner and we just took on to, brand new nurses, which is exciting because they're girls from our ministry. One I actually delivered her. Okay, so that's really cool. Yeah. Now she's like my coworker. Yeah, I'm pretty good.

00:15:45:11 - 00:15:45:15

Lori Smith

Okay.

00:15:45:16 - 00:15:51:17

Alex Kocman

I'm not good at math. How do you see 150 people a day with four clinicians?

00:15:51:17 - 00:15:54:18

Lori Smith

Yeah, yeah, it's we work continually all day long.

00:15:54:18 - 00:15:55:18

Alex Kocman

Band aid. There you go.

00:15:55:18 - 00:16:20:13

Lori Smith

Oh, no. No, we do a head to toe physical examination in ten minutes. Wow. We have very limited resources as far as blood testing. And you know, we don't have, we don't have X-rays and, you know, CT scans. It's we have to do the old fashioned head to toe physical examination, and it's really kind of cool because God's Spirit just guides us as well.

00:16:20:17 - 00:16:45:13

Lori Smith

And as we give loving, hands on care what an opportunity that is to share the gospel with people you know, because Christ touched as he healed, you know, that physical connection in the state. Sometimes doctors ask you what's going on. We physically touch every single patient and in a loving way, demonstrate that we care, you know, because people don't care what you know until they know that you care.

00:16:45:14 - 00:16:49:15

Alex Kocman

So a lot there, there's probably a whole theology of, yeah, when Jesus touched people.

00:16:49:15 - 00:17:00:23

Lori Smith

Yeah. He didn't I mean, he was God. He didn't have to. But that human connection is so important. I've had many people say, you touched me and I feel better. Well, because they feel love.

00:17:00:23 - 00:17:12:00

Alex Kocman

They feel like how many of those who are coming through, a lot of them are mothers with unplanned or undesired pregnancies to the pregnancy. Ministry is a big piece. Yeah, it's a full medical clinic.

00:17:12:01 - 00:17:12:16

Lori Smith

Yes, but.

00:17:12:16 - 00:17:14:05

Alex Kocman

That's a major emphasis.

00:17:14:06 - 00:17:31:09

Lori Smith

And I have had the privilege of delivering so many little babies whose mom were introduced to them via the ultrasound machine, and they chose life. And now those little babies are growing up. And now I see them as young women having children. Yeah. What a joy that is.

00:17:31:13 - 00:17:48:19

Alex Kocman

So we'll talk a little bit more about this in our overtime conversation for our premium subscribers. We'll do a second after the show. So for those of you who support the work here, but you've not only delivered many children, you've fostered or adopted many.

00:17:48:21 - 00:17:49:08

Lori Smith

Yes.

00:17:49:09 - 00:18:02:01

Alex Kocman

And I if you're driving, listening to this podcast, you might need to pull over on the side of the road so that you don't, you know, fly off the side of the road. Because how many children are we talking about that you've taken in?

00:18:02:03 - 00:18:10:13

Lori Smith

Well, we have had 104 foster children. And what a joy that span to watch God's story unfold. You know, just.

00:18:10:13 - 00:18:12:14

Alex Kocman

Not all simultaneously.

00:18:12:15 - 00:18:13:18

Lori Smith

Not all.

00:18:13:20 - 00:18:16:02

Bill Smith

Cumulative. Yes.

00:18:16:04 - 00:18:22:23

Lori Smith

That is similar to our oldest is now. 28.

00:18:23:01 - 00:18:27:03

Alex Kocman

How does that work. Do you're saying there's 104 people who call you mom and.

00:18:27:05 - 00:18:58:04

Lori Smith

Yes, yes. Yeah. And many of them, we still have a relationship with them and I will always be their mom and they'll call it sometimes they'll call me mama or mommy and their biological mom or their adopted mom, something else. But we have that connection forever, and they don't remember being in my home. Many of them are transitioned by the time they're one, but they're told, and we have continued that relationship with their families, and many of their families have come to a saving knowledge in Jesus Christ.

00:18:58:10 - 00:19:05:00

Lori Smith

Because those babies for in our home. Yeah. So yeah. So it's not just a physical family. It's a spiritual family now.

00:19:05:00 - 00:19:07:15

Alex Kocman

So you're full of stories.

00:19:07:15 - 00:19:08:00

Lori Smith

Yeah.

00:19:08:01 - 00:19:13:04

Alex Kocman

Give us, give us like your favorite story that you, you go to, you know, in presentations and.

00:19:13:08 - 00:19:35:19

Lori Smith

Oh man Judy hope she just recently she's like on one of our newer stories. We God led us into an area years ago where we did our mobile clinic and we found a huge HIV population in that area. Well, God use that need to help us start a church. And there's a viable church in that village.

00:19:35:20 - 00:20:05:00

Lori Smith

Well, a young woman got pregnant. She had no idea why she felt so sick. But unable to go for any prenatal care, she went to the hospital, found out that she had Aids in labor and delivery. Her little baby was born premature. Beautiful baby girl. Mom died four days later. And so here was a grandmother just buried her daughter, and she now was the guardian of a premature HIV.

00:20:05:00 - 00:20:34:17

Lori Smith

Very highly exposed baby in the nursery. She had no idea what she's going to do. She's a widow. She was a woman that was struggling just for her own survival. And she prayed, God, if you will send someone to help me. Well, I happened to be visiting another one of my patients in the bed right next door to this grandma who just prayed, God, if you will send someone to help me at the clinic.

00:20:34:21 - 00:21:06:03

Lori Smith

She was now at the hospital. Hospital? Provincial hospital. Well. And so I walked in and was talking with the woman next to her, sharing Christ. And she said, you're my angel and you are taking in that sweet little premature baby. HIV exposed. God got a hold of her grandma's heart. And the gospel bomb explosion came up in her life, and she became a whole new person.

00:21:06:05 - 00:21:38:00

Lori Smith

But then we got to watch God's miracle unfold in the life of that sweet little baby girl. She was named Judy after her mom. But I added hope because there's a hope. Not only the hope of the gospel, but we have a God, Alex, that does miracles today and every day we get to see those miracles unfold. There is no explanation how a little tiny baby could go from an HIV positive status to at one year her blood test just started to become negative.

00:21:38:03 - 00:21:49:12

Lori Smith

Well, I transitioned a healthy little baby girl into her grandmother's arms. Well, just three months ago. She has. Yeah, she has one more, but, you know.

00:21:49:16 - 00:21:52:01

Alex Kocman

No, you don't. So she said. And she's how old.

00:21:52:01 - 00:22:01:02

Lori Smith

Now she's going to be. Let's see. She's going to be 19 months this month. When I go back to Peggy, we do her last blood test.

00:22:01:04 - 00:22:02:00

Alex Kocman

And so far.

00:22:02:00 - 00:22:02:17

Lori Smith

So far.

00:22:02:17 - 00:22:03:20

Alex Kocman

She's HIV negative.

00:22:03:20 - 00:22:15:07

Lori Smith

HIV negative. Wow. By God's amazing grace. And now she gets to grow up in the church. That God used our baby ministry years ago to begin. My goodness. Yeah. Yeah.

00:22:15:07 - 00:22:16:21

Alex Kocman

So and there's I mean there's dozens.

00:22:16:23 - 00:22:18:20

Lori Smith

Oh there's so many. So many, by the.

00:22:18:20 - 00:22:21:15

Alex Kocman

Way, there's tell us about this book in front of us too, while we're here.

00:22:21:17 - 00:22:40:06

Lori Smith

God has done so many miracles and we just need to celebrate God. He is the greatest author of all. And so we recorded just a few in this. But miracles of grace unfolding one baby at a time. And we just really encourage you all to read these stories. This is God, this is missions. This is happening today. Yeah.

00:22:40:08 - 00:22:48:17

Lori Smith

So we appreciate people reading these stories and connecting with our baby ministry because God is starting churches one baby at a time. It's been really cool.

00:22:48:18 - 00:22:51:07

Alex Kocman

Yeah man. And this is on Amazon right?

00:22:51:07 - 00:22:58:09

Lori Smith

Amazon Barnes and Noble Walmart.com it. It's over. We're getting the we're getting the idea.

00:22:58:09 - 00:23:00:12

Alex Kocman

Figure out a way to get it on our website.

00:23:00:14 - 00:23:03:23

Lori Smith

Awesome. Audiobook is on the way. So hey, it's going to be you.

00:23:04:00 - 00:23:04:23

Alex Kocman

They're writing that.

00:23:05:01 - 00:23:12:01

Lori Smith

They are actually having a professional because if I did it, you know, Alex, you know, I love to tell stories. I won't stay on script.

00:23:12:03 - 00:23:14:15

Alex Kocman

I'll tell you, audio book narration is exhausting.

00:23:14:15 - 00:23:15:08

Lori Smith

Yeah, yeah.

00:23:15:12 - 00:23:18:23

Alex Kocman

That won't be too bad. I'm a speaker. And then an hour in, I hate my life.

00:23:19:00 - 00:23:26:07

Lori Smith

Oh, no. I would love to do it. But I would just go into the stories and I would go off script and I would tell other stories, so it would never end.

00:23:26:08 - 00:23:48:11

Alex Kocman

Yeah. Well, and yet this episode must. And I do want to say this. There's need there's a I'm blown away by how the Lord's working through you. And people can learn more. They can look for you on our website. Yeah. EPW Eyeborgs PNG. Yeah. For Papua New Guinea. So that way you don't have to worry about how to spell Papua New Guinea.

00:23:48:11 - 00:24:03:12

Alex Kocman

You're right. You don't have to worry about the U.S. and there's just yeah, but there is need huge. So there's ongoing cost in a couple of categories. One is for the Bible College, right. Two is for the clinic.

00:24:03:12 - 00:24:05:02

Lori Smith

Yes. And the baby ministry.

00:24:05:02 - 00:24:10:17

Alex Kocman

In fact, you're packing a medical shipping container right now. Yes. What what's involved in that?

00:24:10:18 - 00:24:31:01

Lori Smith

Well, it's a 40ft high cube container that we just need medicine. We have no medicine in PNG. We are at a crisis zone. Band crisis. We have no band aids. Nothing. But the government doesn't. As well. And so our hospitals, all of our medical care in PNG is in crisis. We need medicine. It's not available even to purchase within PNG.

00:24:31:03 - 00:24:38:03

Lori Smith

We need to bring medicine. And these people are suffering. People are dying. So please pray with us. Yeah.

00:24:38:05 - 00:24:42:00

Alex Kocman

And I don't want this to be lost on people as well. That's just the day to day.

00:24:42:01 - 00:24:43:05

Lori Smith

That's the day to day.

00:24:43:07 - 00:24:47:04

Alex Kocman

The Greek Baptist Bible College has been there 50 years.

00:24:47:06 - 00:24:47:15

Bill Smith

That's right.

00:24:47:15 - 00:25:12:00

Alex Kocman

And buildings fall into disrepair. Yeah, over 50 years. And there's the need to expand. There's a lot, you know, 800 language groups to reach within, Papua New Guinea. So there's work to be done through. If you look up on our website, the Oka project is what we're calling it. But to renovate, expand both the clinic. Yes. And the Bible college housing for missionaries.

00:25:12:00 - 00:25:20:06

Alex Kocman

Bill, talk to us a little bit about. So it's a \$6.7 million need. We've seen about a million and a half come through so far.

00:25:20:06 - 00:25:21:04

Bill Smith

About 1.3.

00:25:21:08 - 00:25:25:02

Alex Kocman

Okay. 1.3. So what can we do if we raise the rest of that?

00:25:25:04 - 00:25:45:03

Bill Smith

We need to build some classrooms. We need to build some faculty houses, dormitories, the clinic ministry. We got a new building being built. Right now, we need people who are willing to come as builders. Yeah, I'm a teacher. You don't want me building anything. That's disaster. Okay? We need people that got those skills. Yeah, and you name it.

00:25:45:03 - 00:26:03:23

Bill Smith

Plumbers, electricians. Audience. Yes. We need those people. We need people that to help build this, financially. Yeah, it's a lot of money, but we train these people, not just to be students, but become teachers and equip others to do it. We see this ministry expanding go forward. Yeah.

00:26:04:00 - 00:26:24:17

Alex Kocman

Yeah, absolutely. And, we'll have a page up at abwe.org/png. We'll give people all the opportunities to learn more about your ministries and to give, to one of those as well. And you know, we've talked so much about the family, and I want to continue with that in our overtime. And maybe we're just thinking about our families in the States as well here.

00:26:24:17 - 00:26:49:22

Alex Kocman

Even if you're especially if you're a Christian man, how can you lead your family better and in a more biblical manner? We do want to let you know that in the book *How to Lead Your Family*. Doctor Joel Beaky, who many of you know offers a biblical and practical guide to leading in the home as a prophet, priest, and king, and the model of Christ drawing from decades of pastoral and family life experience, this short read is packed with wisdom and encouragement to help men lead with conviction and grace.

00:26:49:23 - 00:27:13:23

Alex Kocman

You can go to rhb.org and use the code LEADEABWE, all caps, to get 20% off. New customers will also receive a 10% coupon with their email subscription. After their first order offer ends on September 30th. So lots of good resources, lots of places that we want people to go. We also want people to go to abwe.org/png to learn more about your ministry.

00:27:13:23 - 00:27:44:06

Alex Kocman

Now you've got so many more stories, and I need to know what it's like to foster 104 children again, not all at once, but in in sequence. And we're going to talk a little bit more about that on our overtime edition, this special after show that we recorded for our premium subscribers. So to get access to that go to missionspodcast.com/premium and or you can use the subscribe button in your Apple Podcast app and listen to part two with Lori and Bill Smith.

00:27:44:06 - 00:27:50:09

Alex Kocman

But until then, we'll see you in our next episode. Go make disciples of all the nations.

