

Bridgeway Community Church  
Series: Conversations of Hope  
Interview by Dr. David Anderson with Edgar Sandoval  
February 21, 2021

## **Conversations of HOPE**

### **With Edgar Sandoval**

CEO of World Vision

**DA: Who IS World Vision regarding humanitarian relief in a godly way?**

Edgar: World Vision is a 70 year old Christian ministry. We go to the hardest places in the world. We fight for peoples' dignity, for justice. We lift and empower and come along side communities so they can life themselves out of poverty.

**DA: How you first came to know the Lord as your lord and savior?**

Edgar: My career was great. I was climbing the corporate ladder. I had a wonderful wife and young family. I grew up in church but Jesus wasn't the center of my life. But I knew it wasn't good enough and I was searching. There were two defining elements that lead to a turning point in my life. One was a person, my boss Steve. He was different. He projected this peace, this joy and I wondered what does he have that I don't? Second was a Promise Keepers conference in Dallas. Where I grew up in Latin America, the idea of men as promise keepers was an oxymoron unfortunately. There were over 10,000 men at this event singing, praying, listening to Bible-based messages. For me, this was very weird, I felt out of place. I thought, "What am I doing here?" Then the band started playing a song that touched me deeply. 'Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness. Open my eyes, let me see.' During that song, I realized I had never bowed down to Christ with humility. I had never worshiped God with all my mind, heart and soul. That's when the spirit of God met me. Everything in my life started to change.

"I learned and I continue to learn today that surrendering to the Holy Spirit is really the most important thing anyone can do and it is the beginning of everything good thing that happens in our lives."

**DA: Talk to us about your immigrant experience in America.**

Edgar: I was born in Los Angeles to immigrant parents from Guatemala. But when I was a little boy, my family moved back to Guatemala and then to Venezuela where I grew up. Then as a teenager, my family fell apart so at 18 I returned to the US. All I

had was my passport and \$50 and could not speak English. I really was an immigrant in my own country. But my American dream was to study engineering. But to make ends meet I did minimum wage jobs like flipping burgers at Burger King. My big break through was getting accepted into Rutgers University and graduating with a BA in Sociology AND a BA of Science in Engineering with a minor in math. Later I earn my MBA from the Wharton School of Business and my my American dream was starting to unfold.

**DA: Can you tell us about your time at Proctor & Gamble and the “Like a Girl” campaign?**

Edgar: I love talking about the “Like a Girl” campaign because I have 3 daughters and a passion for empowering young women and girls. In our research we found out that around the world regardless of economic status, religion, etc. when girls hit puberty they lost confidence in their dreams. That is just not right. God created us male and female in his image and has a purpose for all of us.

“I declare this loss of self-confidence among young girls our public enemy #1 and we were committed to defeat it...[I wrote to my team] we’re going to develop a new advertising campaign that changes the world one girl at a time.”

[Edgar has 4 kids - oldest is a boy, then 3 girls]

**DA: How has the Corona virus in 2020 impacted you personally?**

Edgar: My daughter Andrea has a compromised immune system so we have had to be very careful as a family. I have been working from home and doing everything we can to keep her from being infected. Our plans might have changed, but we were virus free, we have a well built house with food and clean water, we can zoom our friends and stream church. We have been dealing with our disappointments and pray for those who have lost so much.

**DA: Similar to the “Like a Girl” campaign, at World Vision you have something called “Chosen.” Tell us about it.**

Edgar: When I was COO of World Vision I was broken by the plight of vulnerable children around the world and what were we as an organization going to do about it. The solution was an answer to a question: What if we put the power to choose in the child’s hand?

“Children are change agents. We believe they are image bearers of God, beautiful messengers through whom God speaks...a way that brings new meaning to choosing and being chosen. Something that is at the heart of God our father.”

Ephesians 1:4-6

For he [God the Father] **chose** us in him [Christ] before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

<https://www.worldvision.org/chosen>

**DA: What has it been like as you have rolled this campaign out?**

Edgar: We were really excited as an organization to launch this campaign and then COVID hit and we had to shut everything down. But our team pivoted immediately and began using technology for Chosen events around the world. We are ready now to unveil this campaign to the world. Because of COVID those children who were vulnerable are even now MORE vulnerable: poverty, child labor, child trafficking, girls being married way too young. Chosen enables us to come along side these kids and say it doesn't have to be this way.

**DA: As you think about racism, racial unrest in this country and bridge building, would you speak to that? Second, what word of hope do you have give us as a nation and as the church?**

Edgar: We know we are living in difficult times and they are not always joyful. “But I do find joy in the knowledge that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. What seems clear is that the enemy is seeking to divide us and maybe even succeeding during these times of unimaginably division in our country. Families are becoming estranged. Believers in the same Bible are trading insults. We need to ask ourselves I think a more profound question: Who are we putting our hope in? I don't know if things are going to get better, but I know this: my hope is only in Jesus. My identity is only in Christ because apart from Christ I can't do anything. I will stay rooted in the true vine. I will continue to yield to the Holy Spirit to transform me so that I can be God's instrument here on earth. I will not yoke myself with anyone or anything that does not show the fruit of the Spirit because if there's no fruit well, it's not in the vine, right? This is a time for brother and sisters in Christ can examine ourselves. Take the plank out of our own eye before we take the speck out of our brother's eye.”

“We need each other and we need Jesus. The metaphor of the body of Christ which the apostle Paul illustrates in 1 Corinthians 12 is so appropriate at a time like this. Not only do we need each other to function and to accomplish our mission, but as a body we cannot ignore the signs of pains and trouble. If one part suffers, we all suffer. As it relates to racial justice, if our black sisters and brothers are hurting, we also hurt with

them. That's what happens when you are in the body of Christ. So my prayer is that through Christ, we will find more that unites us than to divide us."

"At World Vision we are honored to have relationships with church across the country representing many races. We want to engage in conversations and listen and learn. That's why we started a year long experience for churches called "May We Be One." Not because we have the answers but because bringing together pastors with the experts who do, we want to...journey together to explore and be in conversations about racism so that we can all play a role in getting rid of it. That's what we are hoping to do."

John 15:5

[Jesus speaking] "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-- unless, of course, you fail the test?

Matthew 7:3-5

[Jesus speaking] "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

1 Corinthians 12:26-27

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.