

0 (5s):

What does the average week look like for you? Sure. It may start with church on a Sunday morning, but by Monday, can any of us remember what the sermon was about? We spend so much of our time on just making it through the week, helping our children with online school, balancing our job and our family life, finding time for our spouse or significant other. But most of what we do related to our faith is crammed in about 80 minutes on a Sunday. Did you know that in a week there are 10,080 minutes. If we're spending only 80 of those focusing on our faith, what are we doing with the other 10,000? That's what this podcast is all about.

0 (52s):

All right. Welcome

1 (53s):

Everybody to the 10,000 podcasts. We are so glad that you are joining us today. I'm actually joined by a special guest. My name is Matt Wolf. I'm a lead pastor here at arise church, and I'm joined now by Sawyer trap, who is actually on vacation in Beantown, leaving in the middle of winter to go to where it's even colder than Colorado in the Northeast in Boston. But I'm joined by a very special guest Kenton Shan. One of our elders here at the church. Good friend of ours. Some of you guys know him in the church and if not Contin, could you just introduce yourself? Sure. Yeah. As Matt said, my name is Kenton Chan. I'm one of the elders here at arise, church, Denver, my wife, Erin, and I have been really blessed to be a part of this entire church community for probably about seven or eight years now.

1 (1m 40s):

And that's just an amazing as we kind of look back on our experience and growth in this community as to just how much we've grown because of the love that we've been shown by everyone at arise church. Yeah. And I'm sure I'm going to miss something because you and your wife do so much, but you know, you came in as members of our church started serving. You've served on the worship team. You've served as a kids ministry teacher in elevate kids. You then you became a leader in our, in one of our ministries organizing, coordinating our Denver rescue mission, you know, local outreach stuff. And then just a few years ago, you came onto our elder board as well.

1 (2m 23s):

So I'm sure you've done other stuff, but you know, we just have really moved and progressed to taken on more and more responsibility and leadership. And we love that about you and about your wife. Erin has been awesome, but not only have you guys done that, but now you guys have really actually been for several years now, been, been sensing a call by God to go into more vocational ministry. Meaning, you know, we're all in ministry, of course, but this would be ministry that would be, you know, your profession, your career. So tell me a little bit about how you started sensing that and what that process cause I know it's been quite a journey.

2 (3m 2s):

Yeah, it really has. You know, as we've gotten to share with people, this vision that we have for just sharing the gospel, Aaron grew up in the church, actually, both of us grew up in separate churches, of course. And Aaron just always had a heart for permissions. She went on many short-term trips and was baptized, I believe when she was in eighth grade. And even when we got married for dad even said as much that he, he always thought that, that she was going to be living abroad somewhere probably in Latin America and they'd hardly ever see her because she had such a heart for other cultures.

2 (3m 46s):

I was a little bit different. I really didn't grow up with that type of experience. There was very little emphasis on sharing faith and it really just for me had become something that, you know, I, I maybe knew a lot about because I was in church for probably almost every Sunday for the better part of my first 12 or 13 years of life. So I knew a lot, but it really hadn't sunk into the point where it was something that I truly believed in. And it really was just a few years ago, probably about four or five. Now that we had just returned from a trip to Taiwan where my family is originally from, at that time, I also happened to be reading a book called radical by pastor David Platt.

2 (4m 38s):

And as I kind of looked around at the things that we saw in Taiwan and was really reading this book that was really focused on this idea that, that we've sort of, as Christians maybe allowed our faith to be mixed unintentionally with the idea of the American dream. And we've missed the bigger picture of God's global mission to, to just bring people into his kingdom from every nation and people. I just started to really hear that message. And one day just approached Aaron with this idea that, Hey, I wonder if God might be calling us to move outside of the United States and just share the love of Christ with other people who may not have the same privileges and access that, that our friends and family do here in the U S

1 (5m 30s):

Sure. And, and that's, that's a really big move. So what happened, you know, cause I'm sure there might be some people listening who may be experiencing that or wondering is God leading me to do something like this. What, what kind of confirmed that for you? And you were ready to go, was there some like divine voice, did God, you know, show up in a, in a cloud or a lightning storm or something like that? How did, how did you get confirmation about this?

2 (5m 55s):

Yeah, I, you know, I, I know I always wish for this. I just wish God would send me an email or a text with what he wants us to do, but, but it, it usually is not that that clear cut and for us, it definitely was not, it really was spending time in God's word and the Bible over a period of time, really with fresh eyes, I hadn't grown up reading the Bible at all as a practice. And when I finally did start reading it about 10 or 15 years ago, when I first truly started to believe in Christ, even then, I think it was still with a very self-focused perspective.

2 (6m 37s):

And as I kind of started to, to see what David Platt was teaching, not because it was his words, but because he kept pointing us to what God was showing us throughout the Bible from Genesis all the way throughout revelation, just understanding that it was never, yes, God loves me, but it's not about me. It's about his kingdom and I'm being brought in to that. And if I've been rescued, how can I, you know, sit in the lifeboat and not reach out to others who are drowning?

1 (7m 10s):

Oh, that's good. I like that. And you know, I believe that there can be that specific call that people have to go into full-time vocational, you know, career ministry, like, like you have sense, like I sensed a long time ago, but I really feel like God has a call for each person that we are called into vocational ministry. Even though it might not be our career. We are called to some kind of ministry. It may be to be a doctor or a lawyer or a teacher or a parent staying at home with your kids, but everyone is called into some kind of ministry. So I think we all can like learn from your story cause we should be searching the scripture, stop thinking about ourselves and how has God planted me, where I am with my gifts, my skills, my temperament, all the things around me to do what he's called me to do maybe in the business world, maybe in academia or teaching in the school system or in the government or, or maybe it is to, you know, pick up your roots and go across the globe to tell people about Jesus, but we all have that calling.

1 (8m 13s):

So I think it is important for us to all like prayerfully say, what, what is God calling me to do? I, I, yeah, absolutely. So, you know, there is some, you know, different circumstances over the last year that have kind of led you to the point where you're saying, Hey, we're leaving this summer now. So tell me a little bit about some of those recent changes that have happened over the last year, year and a half.

2 (8m 39s):

Yeah. So over the last year, when, when you're thinking about making this type of move, or really anytime you're making a move in your life and you follow Jesus, there should be prayer involved. And there certainly has been pretty much every day for the last four or five years for me and Aaron specifically as it regards to moving abroad and over the last year. And, and really even even more so the last three months, as I mentioned in my message, a couple of weeks ago, we started to see that, that these prayers that we had been waiting to be answered suddenly were all being answered.

2 (9m 24s):

And there was no reason for all of these requests really to be answered at the same time. You know, just to give a quick example that I've been able to share with a lot of people who are curious about our situation. As you know, we've got a two year old daughter now, and when we first started talking about missions, we didn't have a daughter. So it was just the two of us. It's a much different situation when you're thinking about

moving abroad with a two year old daughter. And so one of the things we've prayed so much about is having a, a place that is safe for Judah to be, to feel at home, to feel loved, not just by us, but by her neighbors, a place where she can get an education, because we do think that education is so important errands, a high school art teacher, you know, we're both college graduates.

2 (10m 18s):

Like we understand the importance of education, health access to health. Good health care has been important because Erin went through so many health struggles for self growing up, but it wasn't just those things. It was also that we wanted that safety, but at the same time, we felt this, this calling this desire to share the, the true Jesus that's revealed in the Bible with people who, who maybe have never even heard about Jesus. And when you think about how quickly information is disseminated in our world right now, you know, a lot of times you're talking about moving to places that are in the middle of nowhere, in a desert, in a jungle high, up in the mountains with out access to a relatively safe community and good education and good healthcare.

2 (11m 12s):

And all these different conflicting requests suddenly were answered by God in these last three months through this job opportunity that Aaron's been given through our different fi partners in ministry who are supporting us both prayerfully and financially, these sorts of things really are all coming together at once.

1 (11m 36s):

Yeah. That's amazing. So in particular, I mean, there's some more details to it, but you know, it seemed like there was two huge answers to prayer over the last year for you guys. I mean, we've been journeying with you guys now for a few years on this, Melissa and I, you know, I remember sitting down, I don't even know where it was we got, or we were hanging out somewhere for a meal or something and you like, Hey, we're thinking about being missionaries. And I remember that first conversation, but over this last year, like you guys were thinking about going to Bolivia South America, it seemed like some doors were open there. And then boom, there was a big answer to prayer w like with your job and then with, you know, where you guys are going now. So could you talk a little bit about those two answers to prayer?

2 (12m 18s):

Yeah, absolutely. And I just forget about all these different prayers that have been answered. So we were planning to have to have me leave. My company May 1st of 2020. In fact, we had just booked a trip to Hawaii. We left on February 29th of last year, and we're getting back on March the 13th or 14, something like that. I forget the exact date. And, and we were kind of thinking of this as like our final, our last family vacation before we really make this huge push to move to Bolivia. And as you all know, a pandemic hit and the day I was supposed to return to work was the first day of stay at home orders.

2 (13m 5s):

And so as we kind of talked about what was happening in the world at that time, we were like, there's no way we can, I can quit my job in the middle of a pandemic, not knowing what's going to happen. Next. Our meetings with potential partners had, had slowed down quite a bit. And so we really didn't feel like that was the right time and the right decision. So May 1st came and went and I kept on working seven days later. My company announced that due to the pandemic and large parts of the pandemic, many other factors of course went into it, but they were offering a voluntary severance package to, to employees at the company.

2 (13m 51s):

And normally that's not something I would have been eligible for being only 38 years old and only about 10 years of service, usually not eligible for voluntary separation with a severance, but this time was different. And not only was I eligible is also the largest severance package ever offered by my company. And so this was a honestly a huge answer to prayer because having a family, having a house and a mortgage and bills to pay makes it really difficult to quit your job in order to focus full-time on moving abroad, which often might take at least a year or two, if not longer than that.

2 (14m 36s):

And so that was a huge question Mark in our mind, and we have no doubt that God came through in an unbelievable way for us to have income over these these few months between November 2nd, when I left and now leaving in August of 2021. And then you mentioned in terms of changing location, you know, we have not, we're, we're kind of being careful about where we're going, but Aaron was offered a teaching position and it was not in Bolivia, but as we prayed about it, it's actually still sometimes hard, especially for Aaron to talk about because we love Bolivia so much.

2 (15m 22s):

And she loves the Latin culture and knows some Spanish and things were just seemed like they made sense for us to go to somewhere in Latin America. And yet this opportunity presented itself on my last day of work. And as we talked about it and prayed about it, we just kind of came to the conclusion that we've trusted God so far and he's come through. So how can we not trust him in this next step, even though it's in a completely different direction than we initially thought.

1 (15m 53s):

Yeah. And it's amazing in this new location, like you said, you're not giving specifics out except to people who, you know, closely because of some of the legalities and just the area. But, but I think you guys are saying it's in, in North Africa and you know, God is really paving the way and it's really cool. Like I love the details of this. Like God has prep has provided a job for Erin, a place for you guys to live a place for Judah to go to school, like God is, has gone before you, and is paving this way in a completely different way that any of us could have imagined like a few years ago, I would never have imagined that there would be, you know, a company paying you for a year so that you have time to prepare and raise funds so that you can be a missionary, a secular company, like how amazing is that?

1 (16m 40s):

And then, you know, this other job that I believe is another secular job that Aaron's been offered. I it's not a Christian organization, correct? Correct. But, but she's going to have this job, which gives you an in which give you connections with, to give you relationships, a place to live a school for Judy. I mean, incredible way that our God works, isn't it? Yeah. It truly, it is true that the cattle on a thousand Hills belong to our God. Like he has all the money, all the resources, all the people, he can do things he can move people's hearts. And you know, if, when we just wait and pray, like it's so cool to see God open these doors like he has for you guys. Yeah. So it makes me really excited for you. So one of the reasons why I wanted to have you on this podcast, let's talk about that.

1 (17m 24s):

But the other thing was two weeks ago, you delivered a message to our church, which I thought was really great. And it was on the concept of Jesus. And is he gone? So if you're listening to this right now and you haven't listened to that message, maybe pause right now, go listen to that message in our arise, Denver feed, and then come back and listen to this. What was the title of your message Canton? The title

2 (17m 50s):

Of the message was what would you say?

1 (17m 52s):

What would you say? And we'll link to that here in the podcast as well, but go listen to that and then come back and listen to the rest of this as we talk a little bit deeper, but so, so tell me why you picked this topic.

2 (18m 5s):

Yeah. This topic was, you know, honestly, fairly easy for me to prepare for because it had changed my life. And as you mentioned, it was ultimately about Jesus's claims about himself is Jesus God, or is he not? Because I, you know, especially when I was in high school and college really fell into the camp of, you know, Jesus was a really good moral teacher. There are great things that all people, no matter who you are, can learn from him, but, but there's no reason to believe that he is. God certainly, there's no reason to believe that he ever claimed to be God.

2 (18m 47s):

And remember, this is coming from someone that spent almost every Sunday in church, in Sunday school. So, so it was a topic that I was passionate about that I think changes lives, but maybe even as Christians, we don't always necessarily think about or, or let sink in as much as I, I hope it is because when, when this doctrine really takes hold of your heart, I think it changes how you see people, how you love them and how you have conversations with them. Even sometimes when they don't want to have those conversations.

1 (19m 24s):

Th that's right. So we have those conversations, content, and there's there's conversations that we have with people and often, and I've had these before people will say, yeah, Jesus is great. Like, I don't know if I've ever met someone. Who's like, I hate Jesus. Just don't like the guy, like, what did he ever add to the world? Almost everyone. Even the most ardent atheist is like, yeah, there's some cool things about Jesus. What he did, what he said is pretty great, pretty amazing. I mean, he's counted up there in most, every religion of the world with one of the great moral teachers, if not profits. And yet we go a step beyond that as, as Christians, as followers of Jesus that we're saying, no, no, no, he's not just good. Like you said, is your big idea. He's God. And I love that big idea of man.

1 (20m 4s):

You nailed it. Jesus is not just good. He's God. So when we're having these conversations with our friends, with our relatives, with our, you know, people we meet and they're like, Oh yeah, I think it's great that you, you like Jesus, but, but I don't know. What do we do with the, in those conversations? What do we say? How do we handle them?

2 (20m 23s):

Yeah. To me. And you know, I'm, I'm not a Bible scholar. I didn't even go to seminary. I didn't even go to a Bible college. I went to the university of Colorado, go buffs, go right away. But, but I think that it starts with just being convinced in your own mind and your own heart of, of what Jesus said and how do we know what Jesus said? Well, it's through, what's recorded in the Bible. You know, you don't have to understand everything that's written there, but you need to understand at least that this idea of, of Jesus being God, isn't something that came out of nowhere. This is something that was taught by, by his apostles.

2 (21m 8s):

The ones who will walk, walk the earth with him were part of his ministry, saw him die and eventually went on to spread his message around the world. And so this is something that has been a part of the Christian tradition, 4,000, basically 2000 years. And yet for almost as long, there have been as many, there have been people who have denied that. And so we need to understand that it's something that can be understood and you need to believe it yourself first.

1 (21m 42s):

That's good. Okay. So you and your message did an excellent job. I mean, you covered so much. It's, it's powerful. Like I encourage people to go back and like steady, take some notes on his message, even if you heard it the first time, because you did, you went through four or five passages and said, Hey, look at this story in Matthew, Jesus claims to be, God, look at this story in Mark, Jesus claims to be, God, look at this story. Look at this story in John Jesus claims to be God again and again, and again, and again, it's not us putting that into his mouth. He said it. And then he proved it with his death and then resurrection, he proved that he is God. So like that, that's you, you, you gave us a great way to make that claim. So we could just

take those scriptures. And if we were sitting down with someone, Hey, it just looked, Jesus, didn't just say he's a good guy or a good teacher.

1 (22m 27s):

He claimed to be God. So then what's the next step Contin when someone's like, okay. Yeah, that's what Jesus said. Well, what does that mean for me? Yeah.

2 (22m 38s):

You know, I, I would, and I don't claim to be super successful at having these conversations, but I'm trying more and more just to follow up with, with questions for whoever you're having that conversation with. You know, if they really are willing to engage in this conversation with you, ask them about, you know, who, who do you think Jesus is? And why do you believe that? Where are you getting this information from and what are, and, and what are your sources? And really just starting to understand their perspective. Because I think what we'll find, at least in my experiences that a lot of people have formed these opinions, not based on anything that they've specifically tried to find out for themselves, but really just based on things they've heard, other people say things that they want to believe themselves, whether or not it's in the Bible.

2 (23m 33s):

And this is coming from Christians and non-Christians alike. We often just have these pre-formed opinions and don't necessarily know why we hold them as strongly as we hold our opinions.

1 (23m 47s):

Yeah. That that's so good. Like, why do you believe this? Well, I heard a professor in college say at once, or I watched this YouTube video and they're like, okay, like, have you ever looked into this yourself? So I think that's really good. Push back a little bit. Where are you getting your view of Jesus? You, you also kind of referenced it just quickly in your message, but I believe you were referencing the, the trilemma that CS Lewis laid out. Do you know what I'm talking about? Oh yeah. So what is that? And how could we use that concept? That CS Lewis kind of, he, I think he made famous in his book, mere Christianity. What is the trend lemme and how can we use it to really push people to, to make a decision about Jesus?

2 (24m 30s):

Yeah. You know, that book has definitely been transformative to me. And just to paraphrase him, CS Lewis says in mere Christianity, that, that Jesus, based on what we see in Jesus's life, he's either a liar, a lunatic or Lord, and Jesus didn't leave any other option available to us. And he didn't intend to. I also like, and I know Matt, you're familiar with Timothy Keller's addendum to that. He actually says that there's maybe one L that gets left off and that's that Jesus could have been a legend. And so I tried to address that as well, in my message. And so when we look at, at the trilemma or the quad, lemme of Timothy Keller, we, we really start to understand that that it's absolutely true.



2 (25m 20s):

Jesus makes certain claims that exclusive claims that by the way, also are super inclusive, the most inclusive, exclusive claims you could think of if you want, if you will, but there's just no room to think that he was just a good teacher. He's either a liar, lunatic or Lord,

1 (25m 41s):

Right? Yeah. So the default position that most people have is that he was a good teacher, a good prophet. Like if you actually look what Jesus said, he's either a liar, like deliberately trying to deceive people, a lunatic that he's just crazy in, you know, we, we should just ignore him cause he's should be thrown in the loony bin. Or like you mentioned, Tim, Keller's update with the legend. Like this is just made up after the fact. But when you actually study it, it wasn't made up after the fact he did say it. So I think you can, that's why I just said the trilemma, because I think the legendary one, we can throw out like Luke in the first century investigated all these people. I witness interviews, you know, we've been going through the gospel of Luke over the last year, almost a year and a half now in the church on and off.

1 (26m 27s):

But like, there's, there's legitimate claims for four different sources who had all their songs. He was like, Jesus said this. So that leaves either the first three options, right. Liar, lunatic, or Lord, you cannot stay and say he was a good moral teacher. Yep. Cause say someone has God, that's either totally deceiving or crazy. Or he actually is God, he is who he says he is. And I think you made a pretty compelling case that he is who he says he is. So, so yeah, you could, you could take those, those ways as you're talking about to encourage people, to have those conversations. So Contin what if someone says like, wow, I, I never, you know, you're right.

1 (27m 9s):

I've never even thought about this. He can't just be a good teacher. I think maybe he has God, what do we do then continuing those conversations.

2 (27m 17s):

You know, I think that's a wonderful opportunity then just to, you know, press the issue. Don't be afraid to lean into that conversation and say, you know, if Jesus is God, then what does that mean for you? And for me? And I think it's so important to when you're having a conversation with someone that, that conversation is about you. And about that person, it's a, not about someone else. Who's not in the room with you because that's just a distraction to what, to what you're trying to talk to that person about. So if Jesus is God, what does that mean for you? And for me?

2 (27m 57s):

Well, if Jesus is God, then that means that his words are to be believed. And not only that, let's also talk about the other two pillars of, of Christianity really, because yeah, Jesus might be God, but that doesn't

necessarily mean anything in my mind anyways, because if, if we don't also have his death and his resurrection accompanying it, because through his life, he told us who he is, why he came through his death. He paid that penalty. As I mentioned in my sermon that only God has the ability to forgive the offenses against him.

2 (28m 39s):

And then through his resurrection, he gave us that visible sign of, of his power over all of creation. So it's really these three pillars. And you know, I don't, you don't have time on a Sunday morning to cover everything. So you talk about one thing and hope that it will lead to the next conversation,

1 (28m 60s):

Right? Yeah. That's so good. Contin, I love that. And if you're listening to this, we we've said this before, but if you are going to have a conversation like maybe, you know, ahead of time, if you're going to have this conversation with someone and you kind of want to press them, like, Hey Jesus, isn't just good. He's God, let us know ahead of time. You can email me and Wolfe at [arise, denver.com](mailto:arise@denver.com). I'll be praying for you. If you mentioned Kenton, I'll send this to him. We'll both be praying for you at the moment you're having this conversation. And then we would love to hear from you. Maybe it just is a spur of the moment conversation and it comes up. Someone asks you about it, or you just get into it. Let us know afterwards. We would love to hear your story of telling other people about Jesus, to pray for you, encourage you. We love those stories. So you can always send them Emma Wolfe at [arise, denver.com](mailto:arise@denver.com).

1 (29m 42s):

And we would just love to encourage you on that and help you. Or on the other hand, maybe you run into an obstacle. Someone says something that completely throws you off kilter. And you're like, what the heck? You know, I never would've thought of that. We would love to help you with that as well. So you can email reach out with those things and guess what? I still run into things. I'm like, I never thought of that. Never have heard of that, but we want to help you. We'll get you the resources we'll coach you through it. We're here for you in that. And I think Kenton would, would be more than willing to do the same thing or they're willing to be definitely. Yeah. And, and Kenton, I mean, so, so this message was practical to you. It, it transformed your life to know that Jesus has God and now you're going to a country made up with, I think you said like 90% of the nation is in a religion that believes that Jesus is good, but not gone.

1 (30m 32s):

So this is very practical for you. W you know, thinking ahead to that, like, what are you doing to get ready for that?

2 (30m 42s):

You know, the first thing certainly is going to be prayer because we can't do anything by ourselves. So on a daily basis, I'm asking God to soften the hearts of not only the people that, that we're going to encounter, but

soften my own heart, because in order to be a vehicle that God's going to use for change in a loving way, you've got to have an affinity for the people that you are encountering. So I'm praying not only for the people where we're going, but also for our own hearts. And then from there just being, being willing to ask them about their beliefs.

2 (31m 23s):

Because as I mentioned to me, the, the biggest way to make headway in a conversation with someone is to do so lovingly, you're not going to win a debate. And all of a sudden help convert someone to Christianity. You're going to show them most of the time, over a period of time, through your love and wanting to know who they are. And, and remember that for some people, not all, but for some people challenging their position on Jesus sometimes can be challenging, not just a, a religion that they may believe may be hold very loosely, but especially where we're going. And I know we have many neighbors like that here in the Denver Metro area.

2 (32m 6s):

You're challenging their entire way of life, their family, their social status, how they interact with their, their loved ones, pretty much everything in their life and everything they've done up until that point. Right? So it has to be done in love. It cannot be done with any air of arrogance

1 (32m 28s):

That's right on will kids. And I'm so excited for you guys in this next step of the journey and help. Thank you for helping me, helping our church grow a little bit. And with his podcast to learn a little bit more, dive deeper into what we were about. We really appreciate

0 (32m 40s):

It because we are all about helping people bring God into their 10,000 minutes, not just the 80 minutes on the Sunday morning, you're on this podcast. So thank you for listening. Thank you Contin for joining us and we'll have to have you again before you head overseas. Yeah. Thanks for having me, Matt. Okay. Talk to you then. Bye. Much for listening. This is soya traffic and associate pastor here at arise, church, Denver. We want to encourage you to do three things. First is to subscribe, to make sure you're getting the podcast each and every week to help bring God into your 10,000. We'd also love it. If you would share this, if you would make this not only a part of your life, but a part of somebody else's.

0 (33m 23s):

And then finally, if you are benefited by anything that we do, either as a church or on this podcast, we would love it. If you would give, you can do that arise. [denver.com/give](https://denver.com/give) to continue to support the mission and impact that we're having on this community. And then the lives of the people of our church, and those discovering us for the first time. Thank you so much for listening and we'll see you next time.