

SHOWNOTES - Cris Mahy (21/50)

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SPEAKERS

Cris Mahy (Guest), Scott Hilton (Host)

S Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15
All right, welcome back to another episode of Ask my dad. We got Chris Murphy here in the studio with us. Welcome, Chris. Good to have you.

C Cris Mahy (Guest) 00:21
Wow. It's great to be here. Scott, thanks for inviting me.

S Scott Hilton (Host) 00:23
So, Chris, what's your what's your claim to fame? Is your three kids?

C Cris Mahy (Guest) 00:29
Actually, I would say yes. Three kids. Three kids, three grandkids. Awesome wife. And, and I think too, I was so excited about coming and sharing just because of, of you've heard the commercial before this is worth this. This is worth this. But this is priceless. And kids and grandkids are priceless in my life. So I was excited to share that.

S Scott Hilton (Host) 00:52
Let's get started. Just tell me about kids.

C Cris Mahy (Guest) 00:54
Well, I've got three. First one is Nathan, he's the oldest. He's around the late 30s. Right now, he probably wouldn't want me. He is a bit late 30s. Jordan's couple years behind him. He's mv

probably wouldn't want me. He is a bit later. 303, Jordan's couple years behind him. He's my second. Then Karina is our youngest. And she was actually adopted about 16 years ago and adopted her from Ukraine. beautiful young lady. Yeah. Yeah, awesome. Kids. I mean, you know, we you think in life, the things you want to accomplish. But I think the most valuable things is you can look at your wife and your kids, and see what really is worth something.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 01:32

Yeah. And so yeah, tell us about mercy soap, I want to hear about oh, my

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Cris Mahy (Guest) 01:36

goodness, I would love to go into the long version. But it was back in 2004. And I actually can remember praying, just asking God, I knew there was more. And I felt like, at that point in my life, I was receiving and hearing some things from him. But I remember praying this prayer, and we all know have heard before. Be careful what you pray for men. This was something that changed my life dramatically. And I prayed for God's father heart. And I said, Please give me your father heart. Well, then, of course, it was a good bit of time later, I was invited to Ukraine by a very good friend that has since passed away. And he served on a ministry board from England and they served orphan kids in Ukraine. So lo and behold, a miracle. I ended up receiving a revised passport, updated passport and the visa. And within just a couple of weeks, ended up in Ukraine. And the first couple of days, I was like, God, I know you wanted me here, but it just seems like you know, I just haven't seen it yet. And so I was there taking pictures for this ministry. The third day there. We went to an orphanage and this orphanage was about two hours from where we were staying at the time. And I was with a group of other people that were actually on this ministry board from England. So I thought, okay, cool, we're gonna go see an orphanage and, and at that time, we were fairly involved with, with big old France, we had, we were house, what we call resource parents. And so we had several kids that came in, lived with us for weekends and so forth. So we I thought I knew orphan kids, you know, I had been around him, and thought I, you know, had a good handle on what that was, and what that meant, until this trip and Ukraine and went to this orphanage. They showed us around the building, which I didn't want to see the building, I want to see kids. And so finally, they took us in this room. And the music began to play. And all these kids came in, just dressed in in this attire, like, I guess traditional folk, Ukrainian, dress up. And so they started dancing to this music. And as I watched that, I begin just to become emotional. And this one little girl I'll never forget, she was probably about 10 kept looking at me and looking away almost in shame. But look at me smile and look away in this like, and it rocked me. And what happened after that was just a an experience and a encounter with God that I'll never forget. In fact, when I even think about it, I get emotional. Because it was out like from inside out. I heard this voice say, Pray Jeremiah 29:11 over those kids. So I began to pray. I know the plans I have for you says the Lord plans for good and not for harm, for a hope and a future. And as I prayed, I began to weep. And I saw that girl again and some other kids started getting my attention. And these people that were with me thought I was crazy what's going on, you know, you got sick or something. And I really began to weep. And at that time, I felt it was just like God Took me and plugged me into 220. And I started shaking, I started shaking and crying. And I was just was like, I just I couldn't, I couldn't control myself. And now Steven taking pictures during this time, finally kind of got myself together. And they were ending their deal their program and all the kids. This one particular girl just just rocked me. And it was like, she was seeing right into my spirit in my soul. And they all left the room and I thought, Oh, my goodness, I'm never gonna see him again, you

know? And, and Right, right. When all this was happening, I knew what it was. It was like God was saying, take these kids to be yours. And I said, I'm calling you to be a father. And I remember saying to God, I said, Well, I'm already a dad. And he said, No, you didn't hear me, I'm calling you to be a father. And, and after that, I just, I lost it again. And they finally got myself together. And I thought, okay, the kids are gone, the people started talking, we were kind of walking around. And all of a sudden, two boys came back in the room. And I wanted to talk to him, of course, I couldn't because they're, they only speak Russian, Ukrainian. And then all of a sudden, all the kids are coming back in the room. And I was like, Oh, my goodness, maybe I'm going to meet this little girl. And so then the kid saw my camera, and they wanted to get a picture with me. So I sat in a chair, and gave him the camera to to somebody, one of the folks was with me. And just as I sat down, you know, who came over sat in my lap, the little girl, the girl. And I could at that point, I started losing it again. But I knew I had to keep it together for the picture. So you know, they took the picture. And I got a picture with her. And it turned out there's her two brothers. And then no, she had brothers. And then that was it. After that, I was like, Oh, my goodness, where do I sign I want to take them home. You know, I had no idea about the adoption process. And it was clueless. And so to make a long story short, I went home, I said, Karen, we've got to adopt. And she said, site what? And she was like, I don't remember what you ate over there. We gotta get you better. And so after that, it was a series of events that happened. But eventually, we started the adoption process. We went back to Ukraine, almost nine months later, after we started this, the adoption process. And through another series of events ended up going to probably the most remote part of Ukraine, which was still had some communist stronghold, and met Karina and in ended up adopting her. So what happened was, we were getting ready to bring her home after the court case, and, and we were there a lot longer in Ukraine than we felt like we were going to be fact almost three months. And so we had adopted her that we had to leave her for 30 days, Ukraine losses, you have to leave and gives chance for whoever family members or whatever to petition for her not to be adopted. So we left her for 30 days came back, we were getting ready to come home. And I told the government officials were there said, Someday we'll bring her back. And at that time, they said, No, we'll never see her again. You know, we know that. You'll take her and she's probably not going to be in a good place. And they thought that we're going to do all kinds of stuff to her and just just awful. We we brought her home. Two year later actually went back to see the children and in the orphanage there were about 80 kids in that orphanage. When we left originally, they were calling us mom and dad and they were crying. The orphanage officials didn't know to keep us from the kids. Typically when you go to to adopt, all you can meet with as your child you're potentially going to adopt and that's pretty common in most countries. They didn't know that. So we would when we would visit with Karina we visited with almost 80 other children. So by the time we left, they were call his mom and dad and they were crying and they were like, of course they're speaking Russian we couldn't tell but through the interpreter we found out they were just what are you coming back? Don't leave me you know and and why is Karina so lucky, you know, and I'm just just really emotional. So we took her in at home. I came back a year later. And the orphanage was very reluctant to let me in because government law states you cannot go into an orphanage unless you have official permission, which we'd already adopted Karina so we really didn't have permission. A year after that. Brought Karina back. And I can remember sitting in the offices of those government officials. And they actually were so mad You'd say your they began to cry. And I was like, oh my goodness, you know what is going on? And, and we said, we said, well, this is here's Karina, and I told you that God would make a difference in our life. And you can see. And they said, through their tears, and just just them being so emotional here, these this really, very staunch Russian people are emotional, and which is very, very unusual. And they said at that time, they said, You said you'd bring her back and we didn't believe you. But now we want to tell you that just because of your faithfulness of bringing her back, we not only will open up the orphanage to

you, anytime you want to come, you can bring anybody you want with you and tell them about your God. And that's how mercy soap started. And so we would come here after a year bringing teams and going into the orphanage. And within about 10 years got that orphanage had to close because there were no other kids. They were all adopted and given that's in Coronavirus and families.

S Scott Hilton (Host) 11:13

That's the way it should be hammers absolutely love it. Let me go back and there's something that brought Chris Mae to the point that he's a compassionate guy. And by the way, you're on staff at the Church of the highlands. Yes. Guest and you didn't throw didn't care and help to kind of bring that congregation here

C Cris Mahy (Guest) 11:32

gotten used some of our relationship and, and we've been here now six years, I think six going on seven.

S Scott Hilton (Host) 11:38

But I want to go back way back. Okay, back way back. ask you about your dad, your family. Yeah. Tell me about that.

C Cris Mahy (Guest) 11:45

My dad was a brilliant, incredible man. He was he was he was a college professor, a school teacher, college professor was actually from Canada, and his parents, my grandparents were pastors in the Salvation Army. And, and so his his background was very much that he was a consummate musician. Very, very, I mean, just such a high level musician, hood. And, and so he brought all of us kids are four of us that way. And so I started very early on in the music industry, or in the music area, and being being wrapped and letting that be pretty involved in my life. Obviously, as a kid, you know, sports were important and so forth. But he always put an emphasis on that, and, and growing up, there were some things about my dad that have really stuck with me. And even as I was really recalling, before coming today, some things that he instilled in my life or major. And he was, he was very dedicated man, he, he loved us. As many in that generation, they didn't necessarily verbalize it a lot, right. But he wouldn't fail to hug us. But some things that really impacted me were every Sunday after church, he wouldn't go and sleep or do his own thing, he would gather all of his kids together, and go out to the local park. And we play for two hours or more. And at that started very young, but then eventually, more kids would come and stay at our house, and we had more and more kids and they would come. But what would happen is they would all not want us to come to their house, they wanted to come to ours, because we were playing these games, you know, are you saying he was involved at all? Yeah, he was out there. I can remember even in high school what I thought it was a macho athlete, you know, and I can remember playing tag football and lay him on the ground. You know, like, I got to do this later thinking what Chris, what did you just do? Put your dad on the ground. But But afterwards, not just after, but later, thinking back, I realized, Oh, my

goodness, that was an incredible sacrifice. And what he was instilling was a consistent involvement in our lives. And obviously there'll be other times he went to school a lot of his life. So a lot of what I remember is when he would be off at university getting a higher degree, you know, and so he would be gone summers, but he still, despite that, was very intentional of spending time with us.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:37

So how many of you were there?

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Cris Mahy (Guest) 14:38

There are four of us, or Yeah,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:39

I was the oldest of it. I'm going to ask you a question. That I'm just taking a little survey. There's not a right or wrong answer, but I'm just kind of wondering how often did your family sit down for dinner together?

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Cris Mahy (Guest) 14:52

Those were, we were we were a family that I think probably a lot of families back in the very middle class. Last, if not last, never, very seldom did we go out to eat as a matter of fact, a, an incredible privilege was going to McDonald's and my dad was a coupon guy. So he would pull these little coupons and give us, you know, you get a, you receive a burger, and then you get us free fry, you know, or something like that. So he would give those to us. It was funny, even when after I was married, we'd come home, and we'd go to McDonald's. So I'll give us coupons. He'd still do it when we're older. But we just did not eat out. But so we ate at home. And those, those times around the table were extremely valuable. As a matter of fact, I even I even did this with my kids. But once in a while it would be family meeting night, you know, and so we would eat dinner. And then afterwards we have he call it family conference. And so we thought that was just a big word for oh, and what's that going to talk about? Now, you know, but scuze me once in a while he would he would share a scripture verse, or he would just talk about, excuse me, different family issues, something going on, maybe, you know, maybe something going on in the family, or even something relative to what was happening in the nation at the time, when I would try family conferences, and I don't remember this me reacting this way. But I know 100% I did. But my boys were like, ah. And so they would, they would react like oh my goodness, what are we doing this for? You know, and, but I remember I'm going to see this through, because I know it impacted me even though I probably didn't like it. But it showed me that he cared enough to not just verbalize something but to to allow us to be a part of, of communication and dialogue that you don't see in families nowadays. And so that's what I grew up with.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 17:00

Scott Hilton (Host) 17:00

Yeah, we're we're we're discovering that. Most of the people who we interview who've two's children have gone on to really do great things. They say, yeah, man, we had, we had dinner five times a week. It's It's amazing. As busy as folks are, yeah, if they can do that. So as a father, what do you think it takes for you to be to be a great dad

C Cris Mahy (Guest) 17:27


number one, I realized I didn't need to be perfect. I just needed to be present. Number two, to be interested and involved in their life. Don't be separate. Don't be in it doesn't mean be hovering parent, but it does mean be interested. You know, and truly, not just faking it, but truly being interested in them. Also, also authentic and putting the interest of them in front of yourself. I can't be selfish is That's exactly right. You can't be selfish. Another one I wrote down was be intentional, not swayed by the reactions or responses. And the story I told you of having family conferences, or I would do fun things, like at New Year's, like, letting everybody paint what the whole year meant to them or, or I would, you know, just different things like that. And sometimes I go over really dad, you know, that's just like, you know, but I realized I can't be swayed. Because they they get silly, you know, because later they're gonna go, Oh, my goodness, you know, and in some some way that's going to impact and


S Scott Hilton (Host) 18:42


sometimes dads just have to be kind of goofy. We just have to accept the fact that they're gonna think, Oh, he's weird, right? One day, they'll understand. Absolutely.


C Cris Mahy (Guest) 18:51


I think that I really do. And then another thing I think is really important before the last one is speak consistently and powerfully into their future. I think many times as a dad, we miss that. And what I mean by speak into their future The Bible says, you can speak things that are not as though they are and that's in that something as a dad, you have authority spiritually into your children's life. And I think it's so important. I did that with my boys at night when I put them to bed and I pray for them. But I would speak different things in their life not really even realizing then what I was doing and then with Karina is very intentional speaking into her life. I can remember before she stepped on the plane the first time coming home with us, and the orphanage directors and the government officials said she's she sickly? She'll never be healthy in her life. She's dumb. She'll never gotta give me she'll she'll never amount to anything. And I can remember, before stepping on that plane, I said, God, she's going to be healthy. And she's going to be intelligent and smart. And she's going to rise above the words that were spoken to her. And she's all of that today. Oh, my goodness. Let me just give you one example. She didn't have an easy time in high school, you know it, but it was adjusting if she never knew English at 11 years old. And so she had to catch up. But finally she, she went to Southern Union for a couple of years on a dance scholarship, took four years off and worked in different different things, returned back to Auburn, because my background is architecture. And she came to me one day, and he wanted to be an architecture. And I was like, Oh, baby, really, that's really hard. But she really wanted to she wanted to pursue that. And Scott, she went to Auburn. Out of the five semesters, six semesters, she was on the honor roll five times five of those.


 Scott Hilton (Host) 20:58
So this little girl that the the official said, Yeah.

 Cris Mahy (Guest) 21:02
And she graduated. I mean, I didn't even approach that myself. But it was car. Whatever that is, louder, come Lottie in a hand. And as she walked down as she stood up, when they acknowledged her at the graduation at Auburn, Karen and I bawled, because it wasn't anything about us, it was just the miracle of God in her life. So. So that's what I mean by speaking into their future. And I believe it is absolutely so important and vital, and real.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 21:37
I want to give you a chance to speak to your dad, at nine years old. Okay. All right. What we're going to do is have you look into this camera right here, all right, and I just want you to say whatever you want to, what do you want to say to your dad?

 Cris Mahy (Guest) 21:52
Dad, first of all, I want to tell you, that, that I love you, deeply. And, and truly, and I so appreciate in ways more ways that you can imagine the consistency and the value you put in us as children, I thank you for, for being faithful, first of all and foremost to God and, and being a a powerful intercessor. On our part, I know, you spent many, many mornings lifting us up in prayer that we didn't even know about until later. And I want to thank you for the investment you made in all of our lives. I thank you that you instilled in me by the by the presence of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, what it means to be a dad and the value that is so important that we put on others, our own children and our wife by elevating her to the what God has intended. And then to others. And I want to tell you that because of of the way that that you lived your life, my life is better. And I want to tell you, thank you and I love you more than you'll ever know.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 23:14
Chris, your kids have sent you a little gift. And I think there might even be a surprise there for you. Oh really, right, that's gonna show you that.

 23:24
Hey, Dad, I just want to thank you just for being a father, a friend, and a mentor. In my life in Jordan, and Karina is life. And honestly, in so many other's lives you, you took it upon yourself to be a father to the fatherless, especially to the orphans, in Ukraine. And you've just showed our entire family, what it is to be to have a servant's heart but a father's heart and I want to thank you so much for that. And I can't wait to be able to express that to my kids to packs and

Paisley and, and also to other kids all around the world. So thank you so much for that. One thing I love about my dad, but it also drives me insane, is how long he takes doing certain things, especially when we're with the family. But over the years, I've realized the reason he takes so long doing things is because he wants to enjoy every single moment. And that's one thing he's taught me is doesn't matter what you're doing, especially when you're with friends and family. Enjoy it. Soak it in, take it in and love every minute that you have with your people. Go



24:40

Hey, Papa. Thank you for PAM baseball. Me. You



24:51

can you say hi? That's you. That's right. Say hi. Can you say hi to Papa If that's you, my small little guy, and he's probably going to talk throughout this whole thing, but I am Jordan. Yeah. So I'm Chris's second son, middle child between Nathan, and Karina. And I'm here today to talk about that. So, first thing I have to say is my favorite thing about Chris. So dad, my favorite thing about you, it's no surprise to anybody who knows you as your gentleness and your kindness. You would you would give the shirt off your back to anybody that's in need. And I sure know that I don't think anybody wants you to do that. Because I know how poorly you just keep that thing on theory you would do that for anybody. You are so gentle, and kind to everyone you know, that's including friends and family and Gadson. That's including our friends and loved ones in Ukraine. And it's certainly one of my favorite things about you, although there are many gems that make up Christopher Carl may. But Dad, I love that you are gentle and kind man. Love you.



26:34

So the thing that I love the most about you is how loving and caring you are to those around you, and how you will do anything to help. My favorite story about you is you and your friends eating and I'm tempted to pay for like a month and then getting some type of award and discount. I think that's hilarious, but so awesome. And then I want to thank you for always encouraging me and our family to be our best to do our best and for teaching me how to love. I appreciate you and



27:12

hello from you. Well, I don't know how we can say something in very short time. Because my English can take only one hour for speech. But I will try. Because not only me must stay here but also 1000 kids who wants to say thank you so much, Chris. And we want to we really appreciate for all of you for all of what you're doing for us for all of your big heart for us. And from the bottom of my heart that just want to say thank you so much, and we love you. And thank you for for one day you asked me can I become your spiritual father. And as you know, I didn't have in my vocabulary I didn't have word father. So I accept that I was confused. But I accept that. And I'm so thankful because you changed my life. After God, you changed my life.

Because you became my father and I'm so appreciate so thankful. I pray for you. And let's pray together for Ukraine because I really want to see you again here allow you Glory to Ukraine and let's stop work together. Wow.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 28:32

I think I'm speechless.

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Cris Mahy (Guest) 28:36

i The something that while I was watching my son's and I wrote this down I didn't say it but there's not much better in life than seeing your investment in your kids translate in to them raising their kids. And, and I mean, I just I just am speechless. Yeah, when I have that opportunity to see that and to and to hear that. And the last person that spoke was Ilona Kovalenko, which there's there are a number of Ukrainian. Now there are adults that are my spiritual kids and she she is one that was fatherless. She didn't have a father. She has a mother but not a father. And early on is probably been 1012 years ago. God asked me to ask her if I could be her spiritual father, which there isn't a father it's it's Papa in Ukrainian but and since then she has blossomed and and has evolved into this incredible powerful woman of God then has made an incredible difference. And so all that to say the vestment in in your kids is worth it as Ross Thank you so much God thank you inspired somebody. Thank you. Thank you so much man appreciate

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Scott Hilton (Host) 30:09

it anything else to say? That's concludes this episode of this my dad where we're inspiring fathers to become great dads and we're seeking to break generational cycles of fatherlessness. See you next week.