

SHOWNOTES - Alberto Echeverri (10/50)

Thu, 7/21 1:13PM 30:06

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

alberto, dad, spent, gave, kids, colombia, fishing, gaston, thought, poppy, people, week, family, story, brothers, parents, life, call, fantastic, started

SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

 Scott Hilton (Host) 00:14

Well, welcome back to the less my dad podcast, I got my really I got my brother here today that's kind of different hadn't had any family. So we got, we need to talk Alberto, first of all about our relationship, because I know people, people wonder because we refer to each other as brothers. We're not biologically related. But you want to tell the story how we became brothers.

 00:37

Yeah, that'd be awesome. That'd be us. And so I finished medical school in Colombia and then and then I wanted to learn English. And I wanted to see if I can learn my my I had my surgical specialty here, my training in surgery here so. So I came here to Gaston State Community College with \$3,000. So lugga and my title, and then say, well, I'm gonna do because I gotta, I gotta linguish Or so I went to Gaston State Community College was the best program I can find, will last me six months of learning English. And then and then it was like \$500 a month at that time, tuition room and board. So with my with that, I thought, well, maybe after that maybe I can do some babies CD, you know who this person to be able to live like us and six months gonna be hard to learn English. Or there are parts of the country where it's \$1,000 a month tuition, room and board. So I couldn't, I couldn't. I couldn't do it in three months, we're not gonna learn English. So I found Gaston State Community College and they gave me the visa student visa came with that. And then, after six months, money ran out, and I didn't know what to do. And very gratefully, now, Scott's parents and Arisa Maryland law gave me an environment to live with them. Because my dream was to pass my medical medical board and to learn as Sergeant he United States. So so so I started living with with Maryland, Scott's parents and your house, and that was yes. And they failed me. They took me to school they and they helped me every way I could to pass my test. And after a year live with Scott and they let me move with with a with Scott's grandparents to in Birmingham, which at that time, I thought they were all in their 70s. And then they helped me to go to school to Well, I studied for my boards until I pass my board. So that's how, yeah, until Anthea, Sally was cut grandparents for the year. So that was a blessing to me until I pass my boards and move on to

 S

Scott Hilton (Host) 02:55

the school. So that's how we became brothers since a lot of people are confused because my wife is Hispanic. And people think that you're related to her somehow. But no, it's and people ask me all the time. Hi, how are you in Alberta related? And I usually tell them that I was adopted because I think my parents love you. They know I'm kidding. But but yeah, we have a closer relationship. And you know, Alberto, a lot of people know you as a doctor. And you're very well respected in this community. And they don't realize you you you had to start at the bottom. I mean, you didn't. Everything wasn't handed to you. I remember when you first got here, you were just a kid and you didn't have any money. You didn't have a car. You basically poor. Yeah. And you you've worked yourself crazy. I remember when you were building ships and a bottle bottle and you were practicing your surgical skills by building those chips.



03:59

At that time, that was the first company that BLSA bought our company. Yeah,

 S

Scott Hilton (Host) 04:03

your mom used to stay up. She taught you English by talking to you all night long. I love you. She's awesome. Yeah, so. So we're we're like brothers, but I just thought we should disclose that before we go any further. So I didn't get to meet your dad. I only met him one time when I was in Colombia and wasn't able to spend much time with him. But I know you had a special relationship with your daddy. So tell me about Tell me who he was. Tell me about



04:33

that. So I got a great parent. I was very blessed with a fantastic parents. So my dad was a civil engineer. He was a civil engineer and I'd have seven kids in his family. He was the only one who went to school. And but he raised five kids of all of us and everything that my dad was for the house everything was for the house he or he was a fantastic that he was always He was always present. He always provided for us. He always teach us he was tough. He was not easy. He was thought we were scared of him when we were little. But as we grow older, he became a friend. So that was just fantastic. I mean, I just, and I'm thinking back on the all the times that I spent with my dad, really, fishing was his passion. But he always saw so that was a great time I spend with my dad just fishing are the kinds of stories of 100 100 pound catfish. In the eastern plains of Colombia. We have just a beautiful man.

 S

Scott Hilton (Host) 05:35

100 pound cat fish. Yeah.



05:37



Wow. So yeah, that was that was two or three one day.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 05:41

Wow. See, they're five. You're right. We're five. And your dad was a civil engineer, but he's still found time to take you fishing and to do do all those



05:51

things. Yeah, yeah, he, he will have to do the age of 50. He has some business with his brothers in real estate. He was able to retire early. And, and then so he, but he still even before that he made time for fishing for all of us. So

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 06:07

how do you add your dad fun time with five kids to to delegate his time with each other? No, I



06:14

think he just made it. I don't know how he did it, to be honest with you. But we were blessed with a lot of help. But but it's still, my mother was always at home. My dad was working, but he always went out to spend time with all of us.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 06:29

What kind of things do you think he What values do you think he instilled in you that you've carried on and trying to pass on to your kids?



06:37

I mean, he was I mean, I mean, you know, whatever you see in that was you become really. And then he was a role model. He always worked hard. He always worked hard. He he he was not a happy person. But But I think he always there and everything was for the house, everything he porches and everything was for the house and fishing. He loved fishing, and camping. He loved that. But I think good family to be together.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 07:09

What kind of stuff? You talked about camping and fishing. What do you think it was that he did that really built your family as a unit that kind of helps you to come together as a kid, you're still close to your siblings? Yeah, that's



07:22

correct. That's correct.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 07:23

What do you think he did, that they sort of helped build that family bond that those memories that you have that that have held y'all together for all these years? You



07:33

know, I think looking back, I think he always wanted to, we always eat together. And when it's time for dinner, when it's dinner time, everybody has to be at the table. Yeah. And and I think it's always spent, especially at the table that for shifts he would have been he was always there for us what I mean,

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 07:52

so he was home at night.



07:55

He liked parties, whether he liked the I mean, he has friends and he liked music and but he just said everything was at home.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 08:03

Yeah, that's a theme that we're finding as we do more and more of these interviews that the the the guests who have great relationships with their kids and quite frankly, the the kids who were grown up to be great kids. The common theme is that dinner time table we did a we did an interview with a guy who said that the one piece of furniture in his house that meant more than anything was the dinner table. And when the kids are all grown and gone they gave away all their furniture except the dinner table. You have you have a very busy schedule. You start your day at four o'clock in the morning when you exercise then you go into urine surgery by six o'clock I think that's a little late. So okay at 730 you exercise from four to 730 But you're you have a busy day and then a lot of times I know you're you're working until six at night or was midnight and then you're on call how have you found time when especially when Lily and Natalie were at home? How did you find time to a way to make time with them.



09:14

But it was hard because that when you're out on call with us it was really hard to be honest with you because at the time there were I wish I had just been on call you had to be on call or you had to switch with your partners to be off to for special the more special dates you know

you had to switch with your partners to be on to for special and more special dates you know, yeah. But it was hard because sometimes I still in the hospital and just be with them all the time for all the events but my wife was wonderful trying to Hey, you gotta be here for

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 09:42

you have a good wife kept you organized.



09:45

She She is fantastic. Shoot the message of kids is you need to be there for your kids.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 09:51

Anything in particular was there a special moment that you have or a special little event or something that happened that really sticks in your mind about your dad something he did.



10:03

He I know he was always there for me he was always praying for me he was always wishing the best for me and and the one thing he really specialty was after I finished medical school and then he invited me to go fishing with him just me or him to the Pacific Ocean and and that was a complete a one week completely we had to get a flight from Bogota to managing managing to the coast to Bahia Solano and then we had to get on our on the boat on the on the ocean to get to this place that I've run a fishing club and we spent a whole week there with him. So efficient. They've sufficient Yeah, I was very special guys are very expensive. And others were expensive. But he and I was was much cheaper. Yeah. So that was those two media releases. They may very important I spent that me and him on that trip. Yeah. And you carried

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 11:02

that on. I remember when I think it was Natalie. You and Natalie went on a camping? Ranch. Yeah, J H ranch. That was fun. So you've carried on, tell me some things you've done with your girls that have been special like that through the years. I know you went to JH ranch and spent that week but you've done some other things with them. Can you think of anything in particular that you've done anything with



11:29

my winter to Colombia several times? Yeah, because your family we've been together longer with them and the trip to Colombia and I took it to the eastern plains so so when my dad died we went to he wanted his ashes thrown into the river and so I took my kids there that was

really special for them to be able to go with me and my more than other friends that went all with us and we spent a week then they start playing so that was fantastic. It has some memories and so the stories but the funny stories is I'm not sure if I tell you right now

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 12:07

we can we can edit out anything you just go ahead No Listen, I know this so there's no but go go for finally



12:17

finally started with that is we're here in the middle of the river. This is the Monica Sears river with a metal rear This is a big reader I like cooler by like a kusari with the size of it by this real current. So with this real current a lot of wind and this is like a sprinter you look at the race all the time there. And then we start we're several boats aluminum boats in the middle of the river. And that we started throwing the the ashes in the throwing the ashes in the in the and the river. The wind here and

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 12:52

dad hit her in the face I guess everybody thinks you're this doctor that is operates all the time. But you've got a really funny personality you're you're a lot of fun to be with and you like to laugh and tell jokes and make jokes. And those are the kinds of things that I think give our children a sense of security and knowing that the dad's okay. You know, and he can dad knows how to have fun. He's not all serious. And he's got a job. He's there's a very serious job but, but they know that you can, you can still have fun. And there's one thing about the extra warehouse. It's fun.



13:33

Yeah, it's fun. Yeah. And we need to be good role models to them. See what I mean? So we're trying to train to be the best we can and ISIS. Well, yeah,

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 13:42

one of the things I know about you that I admire is you don't take yourself too seriously. Some people take themselves too seriously. They think they, you know, they think wow, I'm successful. I'm respected. You know, I'm looked at in the community, but you're just you're just the same old guy that I knew 30 years ago now, I guess. It moved into my room while I was going to college.



14:08

Yeah. But so I'm very thankful what I think just my mother was fantastic. And cute to remind

me because every time I complain about something my mother used to say Be thankful for what for what you got you stand for what you got. And I never forget that.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 14:23

Yeah, every time that you and I have ever prayed together. You started by saying thank you. You're a very thankful and humble person. I think the world needs to hear that. I don't recall one time that Alberto has prayed and we've as families and and life groups together. We've prayed together a lot and every time you started by saying thankful and I think that's a trait that we as dads need to do let our children learn. So tell me Alberto, what do you think it takes likes to be a great dad, you're a great dad, your kids are gonna say that. What do you think? What do you think it takes?



15:06

Well, you just say, well, thanks. I mean, you had to provide for the ambition to provide for them presents I really present, be present and depresses them to be sure that you know they are there. It takes affection, I love to have my case, I love my daughter Malia, I love hugging them. And, and I will lead them to grow and be a teacher to them to you know, just when we need to teach our kids just what right from wrong. And, and commandment, I mean, the commandment to be good that to them. Consistency is really important. In order to be consistent with everything. Always to be a great dad thing is to always stand out by you, as your mom, you know, you you respect the parent to your child in front of them. The respect that to the parent, I think that's important. I think

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 16:05

it's good that we made any mistakes as a dad, of course. What kind of things do you think you've done that you do different if you had number?



16:18

Samsung, I had done this like, not listening. Sometimes I don't listen. Sometimes I know, I've been on a trip with my Lily and the car. And instead of trying to get a conversation with her, I started calling my friends angry on the phone with my friends. And just and I just realized that later, so I just broke my heart because I lost the moment that I could have some good quality time with my Lily and and to connect with her better. And just there's just something I wish when I leave my league and spend some quality time so

S


Scott Hilton (Host) 16:53

we get preoccupied with our lives and we forget that they have a life too. And they need they need our undivided attention. Yeah, sometime I think we're I think we're all guilty of that. If you could sum it up and one sentence this this is how this is what it takes to be a great dad. What

do you think you could put it in one sentence? What what would be the top thing that you would say?

 17:20

Yes, love them is love, love, just love your kids and ask God for for wisdom.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 17:25

A Berto is so ironic that you say that? Let me let me take you back to this very room. I don't know. 10 weeks ago, I sat here with with my dad. And I asked him this exact same question I just asked you. And he gave me the exact same answer. But verbatim verbatim and that, just love your kids. Just love your kids. So, Berta wheat, you know, I'm gonna give you a chance to say yes to say something. You had the good fortune of having really? You've got your dad. He's passed now. But you kind of had a second dad. You had your father in law was passed now. Yeah. And then you had kind of the third dad was who's my mom, my mom and dad. So I want to give you an opportunity to and I have a reason for doing this. It's not just so we can take time but I want to give you an opportunity first of all to say something as if your dad were here if your dad were here. What would you say to him?

 18:43

Oh, wow. That thank you for everything. Thank you for everything you've done for me. Say thank you for your for your love, your patience, your kindness for always taking care of my mother and loving my mother. Thank you for all you leave for all children. I will measure that we really listen least talking to him. It was great that

 Scott Hilton (Host) 19:18

you kind of had the good fortune of having Kathy's dad and brother in law. It was awesome. He was passed on to Oh would you say to Mr. Wallace,

 19:30

you you are raise a wonderful daughter. Raise a wonderful family. You're a great role model. You're fantastic which we spend more time together as we should be here with us to see our kids, grow with them and see them grow longer. Thank you for everything for Julian for the time we spent together.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 19:55

Finally, you know I have the privilege of call myself your brother. Because my mom and dad feel like you're their son. And I want to give you the opportunity to speak to to our mom and dad. And you can just look in that camera right there. Is there something you'd like to say to

them?



20:20

How Yeah, how he had Everly? Marilena Norris. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for taking taking care of me from the beginning since I came here to Gaston. Thank you for loving me taking me to school filled me. And, and I really will not be here with not because of y'all. So I really have you more than you don't think that you don't you cannot imagine. My love for God is deep in my heart. And I'm just so glad I still you're happy you're here and you're you're always been there for me. And now we know you're praying hard for me and my family. And I just loved y'all today. Y'all are wonderful. And I love y'all very much.



Scott Hilton (Host) 21:06

Berta, we have a little gift for you. We would like to share with you.



21:15

Hi, I'm so happy to have this opportunity to share about my sweet, wonderful Alberto. You know, God just orchestrated his life to bring him to Gaston. And forever I will be changed. You know, he just walked into my Sunday school class when when Sunday morning and he walked straight up to me and kissed me right there. And with that it changed our lives forever. You know, we will be married 29 years this May May 1. And I'm so grateful to God for bringing him into our lives. But I wanted to share one little story that is so special to me in the girls. One year we were in Bogota, Colombia. And if you're not familiar with that, it's kind of cold, like 55 degrees all the time. So people bundle up. We were on the on the way to the mall with his sister. And we stopped at a red light. When Alberto looked outside, and we all saw a family that was obviously from outside the city. And the dad didn't have shoes on. Alberto immediately took off his shoes, a roll down the window and handed his shoes out to this. This dad. We were in shock. What are you going to do? We're going to the mall. He said I can get another pair but he he needed a pair of shoes. And that just you know, it really did surprise us. But it did impress us. And from that moment, we need to you know before that, that is exemplary of Alberto. He does things like that all the time. And we know that's because God has just put a special heart of love for people in him. I am so grateful to God for Alberta and I'm so grateful for out to Alberta. And I'm so grateful to be calling him. That's my husband. No, thank you.



23:13

The best thing about my puppy is his personality. He can walk up to any stranger and become their friend, or make them laugh in about five seconds. That's the best thing about him. We can't take him anywhere because he always has jokes. We go to a seafood restaurant. He has to ask the waiter or waitress. How do you order a fish taco? May I have a fish taco please. So funny every time. He always lights up the whole room because he's so nice and friendly and always giving out hugs. He's the star of the show. Man we have so many stories and memories from high school football games screaming go every time they make a touchdown to medical mission trips in Costa Rica to go into Colombia to see family and understanding the culture. So

that would make a big impact on our lives later. And I'm very thankful and blessed that we got to experience that man one time there was a possum in our garage and poppy shot it with three arrows and it still didn't die. We put it outside and the next morning we were gonna take it to the trash and it was just gone. completely disappeared. still a mystery unsolved. But one of the best memories was playing golf with him all the time. Everywhere we traveled we'd make plans to go play golf and get better at our game. This one time at Panama City Beach to play golf. And on the last two holes the story so funny, and I found a baby snake on the green so it was my idea to put the baby snake in the hole to scare the men behind us. Puppy was in on it for a few seconds we get on the golf cart go to the next hole probably look something good. We have turned around with that snake out of thin air. We can't do that. We turn Turn around he right before those men woke up to the green Poppy poles to sneak out of the hole, one man jumps back scared. We get on the golf cart. We call my mom to get there immediately to pick us up. We skipped the next hole. We got in the car and we're like, go go go. Before we get we didn't want to get in trouble. And oh my word that guilt my dad could never handle if he gave a man a heart attack because of that. So it's been an amazing time with poppy always making memories. And I'm so thankful for that. He's always gave me an amazing life. He's always supported me in everything I did. He's devoted he has sacrificed for our family. He has shown me and Lily true love. selfless love has taught us patience, taught us to be kind to others no matter what. And that made such an impact on my life growing up watching them how we treat others. And I couldn't have been any other way. And that's my dad.



26:03

Emily, it's very daughter to Alberto. It's very, one of the things I like best about my dad is his laugh. He's so funny and so loud. And I think sometimes I laugh like him. And it makes me laugh even harder thinking about his laugh, and how sweet he is to everybody whenever he sees people out in public, and he doesn't know that he still says hello. And that's one thing that I've taken with me to college, everybody I see I say hello to, and it served me well. And I've made a lot of friends that way. So thank you for that. Um, one of my favorite stories about Alberto is when we were at the Browns one night and our family friends. And he started laughing so hard from a story we were telling that he was the rock. And this is really funny to think about him throwing up like that, and things like that. But lately I've been thinking a lot about when we were kids, and we would go to school and he would drive me and my sister. And we would sing Colombian songs. And we would say the Lord's Prayer in Spanish. And I've been thinking about that a lot lately. Father of it, I would one thing I would like to thank you for is just showing me an example of what it means to be a man of Christ and like a father of Christ. And I really appreciate it. I think you're one of the greatest people in the world. And I would not give you up for anything. So just wanted to say that. I love you. Thanks.



Scott Hilton (Host) 27:29

So how does it feel? Now that your kids are grown and out of the house? To have them look up to you like That's awesome,



27:37

man. I just I just make cry. Barry Grier. That's fantastic. That's awesome. Oh, Mikey. They're so awesome. They are separations. So blase.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 27:49

So Alberto. There's a phrase that comes to mind when I think of you because we used to watch a lot of ballgames together. Yeah. And your famous phrase was you can do it you can do as far as you can. And you everybody at the school knew that when somebody said you can do it, you can do it. That was Berto actually. That's right. So I think it's fitting that we close our time by maybe you look in the camera again. Okay? And speak to that young man's out there where you were 35 years ago. Okay. And tell him you can do it. You can become a great father.

P

28:35

It's right. You can do it. You can be a great father you you can. You can be a role model. You can ask God for wisdom that you're that you can be the best you can be and, and nothing is impossible without God. With God, nothing's impossible. We've got and and there's just every time you have a think or question about it, just remember that you can do it and we can cross any obstacles that we can. We can have had in the past, we can cross those obstacles and be successful at the end.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 29:15

You can do it, you can do it. That's right. Thank you for being here.

P

29:19

Thank you so much for the playlists.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 29:21

I think we're gonna inspire somebody. I think that's the whole purpose is that young man will be inspired. You can do it. You can. Thanks, Bert. So thank you for having me. conclude this episode of the investment dad podcast where we're trying to inspire young fathers to become great dads and break cycles of generational fatherlessness. be back next week with another great story. Thanks