



Episode 13 Transcript

Three Books that Dethrone White American Jesus

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Steve Tamayo, Helen Lee, Chandra Crane, Jonathan Walton

Maila 00:06

Welcome to The Every Voice Now Podcast, where we bring voices of color into the spotlight. I'm Maila Kim,

Ed Gilbreath 00:12

And I'm Ed Gilbreath. In these bonus episodes, you'll hear inspiring stories for people of color and underrepresented spaces and learn about the challenges they had to endure along the way.

Helen Lee 00:30

Hello, everyone, this is Helen Lee, producer of the Every Voice Now podcast. And today we have another special bonus episode for you all on a very intriguing topic, as we talk with three different authors about what it means to dethrone white American Jesus. You will hear from Jonathan Walton, author of *Twelve Lies that Hold America Captive*; Steve Tamayo, author of the LifeGuide Bible study on *Ethnic Identity*, and Chandra Crane, author of *Mixed Blessing*, who you may have heard on our episode number two this season. All three are on staff with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and all three are a key part of a conference called *Dethroning White American Jesus*, which is happening very soon. So you'll hear more about that event later on this episode. I am really grateful to these three authors of color for the kind of work they're doing. They are battling against the longstanding effects of white supremacy, white nationalism, and other problems that are entrenched in our systems and structures here in the US. And this is not easy work, by any means. But all of these three authors have been gracious, and yet uncompromising in their honesty and willingness to name the evils that surround us, while at the



same time inviting people into this journey from wherever their starting point might be in understanding these issues. So I want to invite you now to listen to these conversations with these three authors, all of whom carved out time in the middle of busy schedules and family life. And you'll hear some evidence of that, at points here and there. But I am so grateful for their work, their words, and these upcoming events that you'll hear more about. So let's dive in. Well, I'm excited to welcome Jonathan Walden, author of *Twelve Lies that Hold America Captive*, to The Every Voice Now Podcast today. So welcome, Jonathan.

Jonathan Walton 02:40

Hey, thank you so much for having me. I really appreciate it.

Helen Lee 02:43

Well, as I mentioned, it's been a little while since your book was published, so you actually have more perspective on this journey than some of our other guests. So give me a sense now, it's been a number of months or over a year, can you give me a sense of what as you look back, were the highlights and maybe even some of the lowlights of the process?

Jonathan Walton 03:02

The best highlight for me has been the feedback that I got from people post-insurrection, post-fake, false big lies about the election. These are literally chapters and verses in the book that I wrote that I said, "Hey, if we keep going down this road, this would happen." And so I had a just a really honest conversation with a friend. He said, "Jonathan, I just didn't believe you. I bought the book because I know you, but I didn't believe what you were saying." And he goes, "I really, I really wish I'd taken it seriously." And so that to me, is like a highlight and a low light. I'm so glad I wrote something relevant and helpful, that will be relevant and helpful for years. At the same time, I really wish I was wrong. So wish I was wrong about violence, about the church, about masculinity and patriarchy. I wish that I was off, but those things bore themselves out.

Helen Lee 03:50

Well, let's talk a little bit about promotion and marketing. Our team would always say things like, "Man, Jonathan, he knows how to market and promote his work," which is great because sometimes for authors what can be even harder than writing the book is having to go out and market and promote it. So tell me a little bit about where those instincts come from.

Jonathan Walton 04:13

The first book I wrote, I was 17 years old. My mother, I didn't know this at the time, but she mortgaged our house for me to be able to publish my first book of poetry.



Helen Lee 04:22

Oh my gosh.

Jonathan Walton 04:23

And so yeah, so the average income in my town is about \$13,000 a year. I remember signing a contract, it was \$15,995 to print the first 1,000 books. At the end of the day, I knew that I had to sell those books. And so I sold them in Rotary Clubs and Lions Clubs in schools and libraries, and my town was 350 people. You know, the county is 12,000 people. These are not readers, right. But the reality is, we have to believe the words of we're writing our gifts to the people we're giving them to. And so that's where that comes from. So we actually sold I think 2500 copies Do that book, we sold them and then did another another round. And that's how I got to Colombia. And then how I published my following two books of poetry and toured and did all those things. And so I think that's where that's where it comes from. with the first three books that I wrote, I think self publishing made sense because it was poetry. And I also I think it made sense because I was ignorant. I had never been north of Richmond until I was 18 years old. This was a world that was totally new to me, like I would watch def poetry jam on HBO, like over and over again, like on my uncle's television, because he could afford cable, right? So that's the world that I was in. Once I came out, I remember walking down publishers row, like on Fifth Avenue and being like, could my books be there one day, and that's where I think we have to understand who we are and what we're trying to do. I was not and still am not writing to sell millions of books, I would love to do that. That'd be great fame and popularity, if your goal is to be famous and write popular things, we won't write anything that's prophetic. You just just won't do it. But if your goal is to actually speak truth, then you will write what needs to be written and come what may? That's good. I And to answer specifically, your question, if you believe in what you're writing, then publish the book, there's so many different platforms out there that you can use. And I think it's just understanding that when you write, you're taking a risk, and a publisher is willing to take that risk with you. If you don't have a publisher, take the risk yourself. Be intelligent steward your resources to do it, but just do it.

Helen Lee 07:01

Well, I want to switch gears and talk a little bit about your work with university Christian Fellowship. But tell me a little bit about first what your role is with the ministry and and also the relationship between students these days and reading.

Jonathan Walton 07:14

So for over a decade, I was the director of something called an urban project in New York City. And we, you know, had, you know, probably 20,000 people come through different programs the last 10 years. It's amazing. Yeah, I stopped counting. That's the sort of brochure I read



together. But I'm grateful for all those experiences and, and COVID effectively killed that program. When I came back from sabbatical, I looked at what we were doing and said, What is the most sustainable thing that we can do to still create resources and experiences that help lead people to Jesus help point the way to the Good Shepherd. And so I joined the multi ethnic initiatives team and brought the the IV D Team intervarsity, the experiential discipleship team, to the national movement, to see how we could partner and enhance the work that's already happening with the tools and gifts and strategies that we developed in New York and New Jersey.

Helen Lee 08:06

So I would love to hear a little bit more more about some of these things I'm hearing about I'm hearing about summer book clubs, I'm hearing about conferences. So talk to me about some of these new initiatives that are right around the corner,

Jonathan Walton 08:17

what Generation Z really needs. The front door is not a book, like the front door is social media, and not advertised social media, not native social media. It's like who do I know. And I respect and want to be like, that's who people follow. People do not follow brands, they follow people. And people become brands, but they look like individuals, institutional mistrust is still present for good reason. But I think people are looking for people to follow. And my hope would be that we create spaces where people follow Jesus, like don't like I don't need people to follow me as I follow Jesus, like, I'm not interested in that. Let's just follow Jesus together. And so I think that's what makes me excited about the things that we have coming up because they are products of collaboration and sharing information. So we're going to do a conference at the end of May called dethroning white American Jesus healing from Christian nationalism. And what that is going to speak to is we are not trying to convince people who believe their Christian nationalism is right to come to our conference, we can convince them otherwise. That's not who this conference is for. The conference is for people who have suffered under the race based class based gender based hierarchy that exists in our country, and how Jesus can speak to that, which is why it's disconcerting to certain demographics. They don't feel like this conference is for them.

Helen Lee 09:42

Is this an online conference?

Jonathan Walton 09:47

I love the strategy there that makes so much sense. And it fits with everything you've been saying about giving Gen Z a front door through some mediums that they are more comfortable



with and joy and just use all the time. And then the book becomes a 201 is this conference and then the subsequent book clubs open beyond just University Christian Fellowship, where is it? I think that's another thing that we've learned. And I talked about pretty regularly, like, no one downstream of colonization, which is everybody, right? kennis has been disciplined out of white supremacy, like out of patriarchy, like out of these things. And so I can't send a student to a church. And I know where the pastor went to seminary, and say, yeah, you'll be accepted. And it'll be just fine. Like, so no, like this discipleship is for everyone. Because the church is desperate for leaders who can actually lead people out of what I would say the three if colonization and white supremacy was at with a three legged stool, right? race, gender, and class. And like, we have to disciple people out of idolatry. And I think it starts there. And so I'm excited to offer that to everybody.

Helen Lee 12:58

Thank you, Jonathan, for being on our show for just taking a few minutes to talk about both these experiences in your book and your publishing journey. Really, really appreciate it. We will make sure we link to all those things in the show notes and help people find you and get your social media handles in our show notes as well. So we'll do all those things. Thank you again, Jonathan.

Jonathan Walton 13:28

Thank you, ma'am.

Helen Lee 13:30

We need to take a quick break. But when we return, we'll talk with our next guest, Steve Tamayo, author of the lifetime Bible study ethnic identity, and we'll talk about his publishing experience, including the topic of what it's like to face critique and criticism as an author, so stay tuned. And thanks for listening to the Every Voice Now podcast.

Ed Gilbreath 13:55

It won't surprise you to know that we think reading is a great way to feed your heart, mind and soul, and IVP can help.

Maila 14:03

Visit EveryVoiceNow.com and you'll find new and forthcoming releases from IVP by authors of color and stay tuned for a special discount on today's featured books.

Helen Lee 14:18



Welcome back to The Every Voice Now Podcast. I'm Helen Lee and with us today is our guest Steve Tamayo, the author of the LifeGuide Bible study Ethnic Identity. And later in the show, we'll share how you can receive a special discount on Steve's book, as well as on all of the books that we're mentioning in this episode. So welcome, Steve.

Steve Tamayo 14:38
Thanks for having me.

Helen Lee 14:39
Well, Steve, I'd love for you to start by giving us a little bit of background on your just personal backstory. Where did you grow up? What's your ethnic background and then just share some highlights of your own ethnic identity journey, if you will.

Steve Tamayo 14:52
I grew up in Tampa, Florida. My family has bounced around all over the place. My dad and his family are from Cuba. That's their heritage and my mother. Her dad is from Spain and her mom is white and from South Carolina, and actually in a pretty extraordinary story, in and of herself, moved from South Carolina to Ebor city in Tampa, in the 1940s. As a white woman, and really remarkable crossing ethnic and cultural lines.

Helen Lee 15:32
You have a fascinating history and heritage. Tell me a little bit about how that was all played out in your own family as a child growing up? How did those intersections manifest themselves in your own family life?

Steve Tamayo 15:46
So my family is very visibly diverse. So my dad has darker skin, darker hair, more Hispanic, traditionally Hispanic looking features. I'm blonde, I have blue eyes, light skin. And actually, I have three brothers and every other one of us, we've got a blonde, blonde kid, a brown kid, a blonde kid, and a brown kid. And growing up, I actually grew up in many ways, loving my Latino heritage, and at the same time struggling to figure out what it means to be ethnically mixed. Trying to figure out what that means has been incredibly confusing.

Helen Lee 16:32
What helps you get through the confusion? What were the things that led you to places of clarity and self acceptance of your own ethnic identity?

Steve Tamayo 16:42



Books are always good, I don't know the right answer, right? That's like a Sunday school. It's like the Sunday the Sunday school answer is to always say Jesus; on an IVP podcast always say books.

Helen Lee 16:52

Absolutely.

Steve Tamayo 16:54

Books have been incredibly helpful. Having mentors and conversations of various different ethnic backgrounds have been highly impactful. And lastly, and maybe this is a on ramp to talking about the Bible study, engaging Scripture. I had this experience as a college student. I was leading a Bible study on Ephesians, and was totally prepared to find the gospel in Ephesians. "For it's by grace we've been saved through faith, not from yourself, as the gift of God, not by work so that no one can boast," like looking for the gospel. And I was shocked to find ethnicity in Ephesians. And over the years, I have found ethnicity everywhere in the Bible, that God has so much to say about our ethnic heritage and our ethnic identity. I wasn't expecting to find that. I grew up around Catholic theology, white evangelical theology, and just had no understanding that the Bible, spoke about ethnicity, understood ethnic brokenness, understood assimilation, and offered guidance for me.

Helen Lee 18:07

Yes, well, you have obviously distilled that working out of those questions into your Bible study, I'm holding it up. I know that our podcast listeners can't see what I'm holding up. But it's, Steve's Bible study, which is titled, Ethnic Identity: Bringing Your Full Self to God. So this message that you're communicating, even in the title of your Bible study is healing in and of itself.

Steve Tamayo 18:30

I'm really glad to hear that I have found as I've worked through this content, with people in church, with religious leaders, with college students and faculty over the years, that one of the things that they find as they engage with what the Bible has to say about ethnicity, is they do find healing. Sometimes they find healing for wounds they didn't even register as wounds.

Helen Lee 18:56

I think that what you're doing in this Bible study is demonstrating how Scripture has all this guidance, all this information, all this evidence that God cares about our ethnicity, and has been very intentional in the way he has designed us all with that kind of identity. So I would love for you to talk even a little bit about how for you writing this particular Bible study, how was that for you potentially as a healing process?



Steve Tamayo 19:26

You know, it, it was, it was a process that had healing at the end of it. I wrote it and then it was months before I got edits back. And I remember opening up the doc and rereading it. And Stephen King talks about this in his book *On Writing* where he talks about taking your writing and just dropping it in a desk drawer and leaving it there for six months. I read it and I'm like, "This is great." My first thought was actually that the editor had already gone through and made changes. That was what I thought. I was so surprised by how engaging the conversation was, throughout the questions, and how it managed to be both accessible and pretty deep. And I also just felt this delight that it wasn't centered only on white voices. It includes a white perspective. But there are times where it's very clearly written by a mixed person, an ethnically mixed person. Where I asked "Think about your ethnic heritages," and it's pluralized, no one else may notice that. Actually, Chandra will notice that. No one else may notice that. But it just felt like a delight to see something in a voice like mine out there. I feel humbled to know that I have colleagues who could have produced something very similar. And that, that my writing is unique, because that comes from me, not unique because no one else could have addressed the topic. And I do appreciate the way that having a community around me, it takes a little bit of the pressure off. It's not, hey, if I don't write this, no one will. It's like, I get to write this. And then to hear from so many people as they're engaging with it. Like, yes, I've wanted something like this.

Helen Lee 21:24

Mhmm. Yeah, your study was absolutely a gift and will continue to be a gift and a blessing for I think, for generations, seriously, in terms of the topic it addresses and I can just imagine generations of students and InterVarsity staff, using it with students, it'll have just ramifications for generations to come. I'm guessing you probably also have experienced a little bit of the of the dark side of writing, too. I'm wondering if you could tell us a little bit about that piece of it. Have you experienced critique and criticism, and especially given the nature of the topic, because I think this topic is still a little touchy in the church where there's a lot of different opinions about it. So give me a sense of what that journey has been like?

Steve Tamayo 22:07

Well, I'll just tell you a quick story. So one of the things that InterVarsity Press does for for IVP authors is they do some social media advertising. And they put up a copy of the Ethnic Identity Bible study with a quote. It was wonderful. I so appreciated them marketing the book. And then I watched the comments rolling in. And there were things that people said in the comments for the ad, that if I read them out loud, you wouldn't be able to publish this episode. There were comments that were dismissive, that were cruel, that were insulting, that were accusatory, questioning my faith and my orthodoxy. And people who made those comments acknowledging



that they had not read the book, that they had not, they'd not, they not even looked at the sample of the Bible study that was online.

Helen Lee 23:12

judging the book by the cover only, or by the title

Steve Tamayo 23:15

Literally, literally judging the book by its cover. And it I felt this tremendous pain, and humiliation and tension. And I ended up having comments in the direct messages of Facebook with many of these people. I had one person who published an article criticizing the Bible study, among other things. And it was actually a college student. And I detected humanity there and sweetness. And we actually hopped on, I reached out to her via Twitter, we had hopped on a Zoom call. And she was gracious. She was kind, she gave me feedback on the sample chapter that she had engaged with. And we had a human moment. We don't agree on everything. And yet I felt so grateful that it wasn't just a critic taking a shot in the dark, but a human being connecting with another human being actually sent her a copy of *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer, a great IVP book that she was interested in reading, and I found connection in this, which is, which is I think there's this narrative happening that says that conversations about ethnic identity, about race about culture, that we need to move into our own corners and camps, and wag our fingers at people who disagree with us and, and label them as evil. And I've actually found it to be an opportunity to show love and lean into, maybe some of that's my mixed ethnic heritage. I would like to think that some of that is my walk with Jesus, that it creates a new capacity to love people who are different from me, which is at the heart of racial reconciliation.

Helen Lee 25:13

Absolutely. I'm really grateful for you sharing that story. And our time is going super fast. So I know we could spend so much more talking about the nuances of your publishing journey. But I'd love to hear a little bit about what it is you're doing right now for InterVarsity because I feel like I've heard about it. But I don't know if I know all the details so explain what it is you do for those who are listening.

Steve Tamayo 25:35

Yeah, I work for InterVarsity's Creative Labs and Multiethnic Initiatives. And I also work for InterVarsity's Latino fellowship. So one of the things that our Creative Labs team is doing is trying to figure out how do we build relationships with college students before they get to campus, or when they're not on campus. We're using things like advertising, content marketing, all kinds of innovative strategies to try to build those relationships. Because that's the context in which real discipleship happens. So what we're offering is reading in community. So every



month, they're going to get an opportunity to dialogue and interact with the author, they're going to get an opportunity to dialogue with each other, to process applications steps, and then they're going to get an email, letting them know what their next steps are. So if you've read the Ethnic Identity LifeGuide Bible study, what do you do next? And I think that what do you do next is incredibly important. Even if the next step is to read another book, that's okay. What we don't want is for students to have their journey stop. So we're making this available, it's going to be available for free, people can actually get a discount on the books, through the IVED reads program.

Helen Lee 27:00

You're creating here as a way to create that sense of community with those students, which I think is wonderful, as well as encouraging them to read great books. Well, we will make sure we get that link in our show notes so people can find out more if they're interested. So thank you so much for all that great information and also for just sharing your story with us, Steve, it was really delightful to have you on the show.

Steve Tamayo 27:22

Thanks, Helen.

Helen Lee 27:23

Well, we need to take one more break. But when we return, we'll continue our conversation with Chandra Crane, author of *Mixed Blessing*, and she'll tell us about some other innovative events that are happening in the days ahead that will showcase all of these books and authors you're hearing about today. We'll be right back.

Promo 28:42

Helen Lee 28:46

You're listening to The Every Voice Now Podcast. And I'm Helen Lee. Today, we've been talking with three of our authors of color, all of whom were also staff workers at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. And now I'm excited to welcome back to The Every Voice Now Podcast. Chandra Crane, author of *Mixed Blessing*. Nice to have you back, Chandra.

Chandra Crane 29:05

Thanks, Helen. It's great to be back. The enneagram four part of me is just tickled to sound so professional, "Welcome back."



Helen Lee 29:13

And indeed, you are the only author we've had back for a second time. So you are unique indeed. And that should feel good to your enneagram four soul. Yes. And so of course your book released in the middle of the pandemic, which is crazy as well. Just tell me a little bit about how that journey has gone for you these past number of months. What surprised you, what has been challenging, perhaps just anything you want to share about what you have seen and experienced these last few months?

Chandra Crane 29:41

It's been a lot. It's been a lot of work. It's been a lot to process. It's been a lot with everything else, of course, going on in life, both personally and then just for the entire world. I think one thing that surprised me was how much virtual actually brought; there's still a loss, right? There's still a loss of not getting to have an in-person book launch party and not getting to travel around. But I think I am pleasantly surprised and really grateful, the ways in which having the virtual aspect actually really brought connection I wasn't expecting. I've also been really excited at how my creative side has come out with having to adjust and adapt and make the best of it. In fact, seeing the ways in which things have come about that never could have in a pre-COVID world.

Helen Lee 30:41

I would love to know if there have been any particularly meaningful interactions with readers that have really touched you.

Chandra Crane 30:47

One particular brother that I've been able to connect with over Twitter is mixed. So he saw some of my tweets, and we started interacting. And when he said, "I'm thinking about my mixed heritage, maybe for the first time," that was so powerful, that was so powerful. And recently having another conversation with him on Twitter, where I got to explain, I thought they were joking when they said, "Tell me more about this mixed Jesus." And I said, "Well, I don't know if you're serious or not. But here's what I'll tell you." Getting to explain that to them, was so powerful. I just was giddy for the rest of the day.

Helen Lee 31:37

You mentioned several tweets you used to be able to explain this idea of mixed Jesus. For our listeners for whom this might be a new concept, can you just encapsulate the content and what you shared in those tweets?

Chandra Crane 31:47



Jesus' intention, the triune God's intention was always for the kingdom to be multiethnic. And it's not even that Jesus was mixed. It's that Jesus was Jewish, and Jewish was always supposed to be mixed. The Jewish kingdom, which is the kingdom, right, the people of God was always intended to be more than a pure bloodline, and lineage. And we see that in Jesus, because it's not even that there are mixed folks included in Jesus heritage and they're all upstanding citizens and fantastic. And it's also not that they're all Jewish folks included, and some of them were broken, great, it's both. Jesus has some sketchy lineage, don't we all? So it is these women who have been much maligned, which is entirely different theological conversation in some ways. It is Ruth, it is Rahab, it is Bathsheba, it is Tamar. They are the ones who have come through many odds, who have made some choices that we might even consider to be scandalous, who have endured, right? And so all of these characters, and these women, and these ethnicities, were always part of God's plan. We see his intent for the nations and his love of different ethnicities and his diverse kingdom, reflected in the lineage of Jesus. It's right there, Matthew 1, if we have ears to hear, right, really to listen.

Helen Lee 33:23

Right. Well, this conversation actually fits in perfectly with this conference that we've been talking about. So just tell us a little bit more about that from your perspective, why it's important for us to even be thinking about a theme like that, and how your book concepts and ideas really fit in with that conference theme.

Chandra Crane 33:40

I think in this cultural moment, some folks would say that it can be an agree-to-disagree type thing, or it can be just a negotiable; I think you're going to be doing just as much work on either side. Either. We're going to be doing the work to see Brown, Middle Eastern, North African, multiethnic Jesus, where he is already and where he belongs on his throne. We're going to be doing active work to blindly continue to support our enthroning of a white American Jesus. I don't think there's a simple "Oh, well, I'm just gonna stay out of this. It doesn't concern me anymore." It's been made very clear. You're either going to do the work for or against the kingdom. And so I want to do the work for the kingdom. I want to be where Jesus is. And so drawing on that theme of, we're either going to work for or against, but there's no neutral ground. I want to be very, very clear in where I stand. I want to do the work to be where Jesus is with the marginalized. That feels like a very strong calling to me. And so that's where things like the conference and the reading club and the book come in, is this is where, this is the work I will do, is the work I'll continue to do, to say "No, I stand with the marginalized." I reject the alluring call of power and privilege. Instead, I will steward them. And I, God willing with the power of the Holy Spirit, I will steward them well.



Helen Lee 35:19

In your work with InterVarsity, you obviously work with both students and faculty. So you're in that university setting and world. Is it different in that context with the younger generation?

Chandra Crane 35:30

Serving faculty, certainly. But with the summer reads, we're definitely targeting this next generation of students, these Gen Z students, I think they are hungry to take away all thrones, I think they've seen so much abuse of power, that they definitely want white American Jesus off the throne. But they see, believers and non believers, they see their own hunger to occupy the throne as well. And so they're wary of it. And so I think the good news we can give them is, Jesus is still on the throne, which, right, that was lobbied at us after Trump was elected. "Don't be so anxious, Jesus is on the throne." But, no, Jesus, really, Brown, scarred, beautiful, but not attractive to men. He is sitting on his throne. Jesus always been on the throne. But the principalities and the powers, they are still strong, they're in their death throes, they're still taking us with them as best they can. So here's work to do.

Helen Lee 36:37

One of the things I love about hearing you talk about the work you and Jonathan and Steve are doing, and of course, others in the Multiethnic ministries is, it's such a more nuanced and complex conversation, than sometimes what I see in the church, which is very much race as a black-white binary kind of conversation, so just talk to me a little bit about that, from your own experience, and even from writing the book. What do you feel like you have come to believe strongly about the role that mixed identity Christians can play in this conversation, then what's what's loss if their voices aren't there at the table?

Chandra Crane 37:13

When we're not there? The conversation is just flatter. It has no nuance, I say that's important, it can. But in general, the conversation if the conversation is missing any marginalized group. That's a loss. And I think, when we look at Revelation 21, the kingdom is multiethnic, there are multi ethnic individuals in the kingdom, namely Jesus himself. But I feel like when a mixed person enters the room, because we change the space by our very nature, because we break down those dichotomies, because we bring a little bit of awkwardness, because the world does know how to react to us. Not because there's anything inherently wrong with being multiethnic, but because in fact, multiethnicity is the norm, but monoethnic folks don't know what to do with us, so it feels awkward. We are a small part of dethroning white American Jesus, because there's no nuance in white American Jesus, right? There's no multiethnicity in him. There's no kindness or gentleness in him. So we walk in and just stand there next to this throne which has been usurped and just kind of shrug our shoulders like, that's not the whole story. That disrupts



spaces, that changes the narrative, that changes the norms, it makes a difference. And I think it empowers other people of other diverse lineage and of other marginalized communities to also speak up.

Helen Lee 38:41

Yeah. Well, I think this is giving us an amazing taste of what the conference will be like. If you are enjoying this conversation, the nuances of it, the richness of it, the complexity of it, I think that is what you'll be able to expect from Dethroning White American Jesus, the conference, as well as the summer book club with all three of your books, which all do an amazing job at disrupting this exact narrative that you're talking about. So I am so grateful to you, Chandra, to your colleagues Jonathan and Steve, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what emerges from the summer, and all the events you have planned. So thank you so much for all of that.

Chandra Crane 39:19

Thank you, this has been great.

Helen Lee 39:21

And I want to share with all of you that you can find all three of these books we've been talking about today at ivpress.com and if you use the code EVN40, EVN40, you can get 40% off all these books and more and free US shipping, so visit our site at ivpress.com to get that wonderful deal on these great books by Jonathan, Steve, and Chandra.

Ed Gilbreath 39:48

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Mails 40:08

And we love getting your feedback. So get in touch with us with your comments, critiques or questions. You can find us on Instagram and Twitter @EveryVoiceNow or you can email us at evn@ivpress.com and join us next time for another inspiring episode of Every Voice Now.

About the Guests:

Jonathan P. Walton is an area ministry director for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's New York/New Jersey region. He previously served for ten years as director of the New York City



Urban Project. He writes regularly for Huffington Post, medium.com, and is the author of three books of poetry and short stories.

Steve Tamayo serves as a strategist for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, working in the Latino Fellowship and the Creative Labs. In these roles, he equips and resources InterVarsity's national pivot to online ministry. He is the showrunner for the podcasts *Con Confianza* and *Ministry During the Disruption*.

Chandra Crane is a resource specialist for the multiethnic initiatives department of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and a member of the multiethnic Redeemer Church in Jackson, Mississippi. She has written for *In All Things*, *The Well*, and *The Witness: A Black Christian Collective*. She has spoken and led worship at several local and national conferences and has also participated in online discussions for *Christianity Today*.

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About the Host:



Helen Lee, Producer and Creator

Helen is the associate director of strategic partnerships and initiatives; she has a B.A. from Williams College in bioethics, an M.A. from Wheaton College Graduate School in interdisciplinary studies, and an MBA from Babson College in entrepreneurship. She enjoys reading novels by authors of color, finding spots of natural beauty wherever she can, and listening to podcasts such as *Serial*, *The Rewatchables*, *Filmspotting*, and *The*

Disrupters. You can find Helen on Twitter and Instagram @HelenLeeBooks.

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Music: ["Staring at the Sun" by Gyom](#)