



Episode 5 Transcript

Liuan Huska Embodies What it Means to Be Hurting Yet Whole

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

book, chronic illness, people, journey, voice, body, writers, write, feel, chronic pain, connect, writing, experience, church, conversation, pain, hear, hurting, color, Chinese, Chinese-American

SPEAKERS

Ed Gilbreath, Maila Kim, Lori Neff, Liuan Huska

Maila 00:04

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

Ed 00:11

And I'm Ed Gilbreath. In every episode, you'll hear from authors of color as they share about the inspiring stories that led to the making of their books, as well as the challenges they had to endure and overcome along the way.

Maila 00:31

Hey, Ed, how are you doing?

Ed 00:33

I'm doing well. How are you, Maila?

Maila 00:35

I'm doing really well. I'm so excited for this conversation we had with Liuan Huska, author of *Hurting Yet Whole*.

Ed 00:42

Liuan is a very talented writer who writes very vulnerably about her journey as a person who suffers with chronic illness. I was really struck by the conversation and in many different ways, one of which is that my spouse suffers from an autoimmune disease and has struggled with



that kind of chronic pain, and just how it shapes your your daily life and how it often goes unnoticed or unknown by so many people, yet folks are silently suffering.

Maila 01:15

One of my best friends, she suffers with an unknown chronic illness. And I remember that just being a very lonely journey for her of just feeling like people just will never understand. And even as a good friend, I could never understand what she was going through. So I remember when I saw Liuan's book, I sent it to her. And I was like, we have this book coming out. And so I think that the topic of chronic illness is just one that hasn't been touched on as often. So I'm excited for Liuan to be able to even be a voice for those people.

Ed 01:47

Yeah, And beyond that, just very sort of practical insights about her journey. I think she's also able to help readers understand what it means for their their spiritual journeys as believers. She does a great job sort of showing how this chronic illness can affect our discipleship.

Maila 02:04

Talking to Liuan, she's so thoughtful, you know, you get the sense that every word that she says she's thought through, and she means it. And I really appreciated that conversation. And I think even with this podcast being about amplifying voices, I mean, Liuan is Chinese American, so we are amplifying her voice as a Chinese American woman. But even more so her voice not only as an ethnic minority, but in a conversation that is a minority in the church. I don't hear often about chronic illness. I think this conversation not only gives voice to Liuan as an author of color, but I think she really is amplifying the voices of silent sufferers in the church.

Ed 02:47

So let's get out of the way and let our listeners hear our conversation. Yeah.

Maila 03:04

We're excited to welcome Liuan Huska, author of *Hurting Yet Whole* to the Every Voice Now podcast today. So welcome. Liuan.

Ed 03:11

Yes, welcome.

Maila 03:12

It's good to be here. We're excited to have you on this episode today. Just even as we're starting off, can you tell our listeners a little bit about your ethnic background, where you live



and where you're originally from? So I was born in China. I moved to the US when I was three, with my mom and dad. And I grew up in California and Southeast Texas. At one point in my journey, my mom became undocumented. And she remarried someone who is undocumented, my stepdad. So that's definitely a part of my story. And I went to Wheaton College in the Midwest and married and so I'm still here after 10 or so years of graduating from Wheaton. And so what do you currently do? How would you describe your current vocation and calling?

Ed 04:00

Yeah,

Liuan 04:01

So I'm a freelance writer. I'm mainly write for Christian publications like CT and Sojourners and Christian Century and started out thinking I was going to be going into anthropology as, you know, a professor, but partway through, you know, grad school, I realized that I wanted to write for a larger audience. So that's what started me along the path to freelance writing.

Maila 04:27

And can you tell us I mean, you spoke a little bit about freelance writing, but at what point did you realize you wanted to be a writer, or when your writing journey really began?

Liuan 04:36

I have always loved to journal, that started when I was seven or eight years old. And it's been a way for me to process the world and my thoughts and emotions and come to new insights about the world. When I was in high school, I started I took a freshman journalism class where I got this assignment about, you know what, what is what was your first day of high school, I remember getting my paper back and everyone else had received 99. And I received 100. So it was like this moment for me where I felt like, Oh, I can do this. I'm good at this.

Ed 05:12

Good affirmation.

Liuan 05:13

Yes. And that started me on this journey of looking into what it could mean to write and that sort of journalism, but I mean, I'm here now.

Maila 05:23



So yeah, that's really cool. So at seven or eight years old, is really when it's routed, which is awesome. So I don't want to press into stereotypes or assume that my experience is the same as yours, even as an Asian American. But I remember in my undergrad experience, my sophomore year, I decided to study English. And my parents were like, what, that's not what we had planned and why, what are you gonna do with an English degree? So I'm wondering, what was your family's role in your writing journey? Were they supportive? Or they not?

Liuan 05:57

Yeah, I mean, I guess stereotypes exist for a reason. I had a similar experience to you my love where my family, especially because they were first generation immigrants, I think, really expected that their kids would be doing things that were like climbing up the socioeconomic ladder. And I think for them taking, you know, interest in fields that aren't known as moneymakers was a little scary for us.

Maila 06:32
Right.

Liuan 06:32

So even going to be in college, that was a little scary for them, because they didn't know the name of Wheaton College. And they were like, we'll pay for your tuition to go to Stanford or, you know, somewhere that made them feel like I was going somewhere in life. So that's always been a challenge to just stand my ground and say, I believe that I can trust that God will provide even if I'm not taking career steps in the direction of things that are immediately going to make a living. And that's not the case for everybody. I know, some people do have to, especially coming from working class families just make a living and honestly, like becoming a writer is really not an option for a lot of people. So my family has become more supportive of me throughout the years, as I've begun to find some places that I write for regularly. And they seem that I can start to do this as a career, but it's still honestly not easy.

Maila 07:41

Yeah, Thanks for sharing. I'm curious what your relationship is between your ethnic identity as a Chinese American, and your desire to write, what are ways in which your ethnicity actually helped or hindered your writing journey.

Liuan 07:55

I grew up in a Southeast Texas town where I was the only Chinese person in school and one of two Asian people in school. And I definitely felt like an outsider a lot of the time. And I think that experience of being, you're trying to figure out your place in the world, when it's not clear



what your place is, has fueled my desire to be able to connect with others and express myself and to figure out where I fit. And for me, writing has been how I process all of those things. And like I said, I've done it through journaling. And as I've been able to write for larger audiences, it's it's a way of finding those connections to connect with other people in in places where they felt alone and realize, oh, there's other people who share those experiences. I haven't written a ton about being Chinese American in particular. And that's something I would love to delve deeper into as I continue in my writing journey.

Maila 09:10

Yeah, In your book, *Hurting Yet Whole*, you write beautifully and even poetically, about the topic of chronic illness, and which we'll talk about later in the podcast. And somehow you clearly found ways to develop writing gifts, even without some of the foundational support of your family, like you shared earlier. And so what gave you the perseverance and the motivation to pursue the path of writing?

Liuan 09:33

Well, even without my family's full hearted support, I've had so many cheerleaders along the way. Like I mentioned, my high school journalism teacher and English teachers, college professors who have you know, just named my gifts and found ways to help me to develop them. So I definitely have them so grateful for the community of people that's been able to see and affirm what I've God has given me. And also, there's just something as when you asked about, you know, the motivation, there's just something so satisfying in intrinsically about being able to arrive at new insights in writing, and realize that I wouldn't have been able to come to those insights any other way except through writing. And so it's just sort of a self, like, I know, some writers say like, you can't not do it. And I sort of feel that way that it's just part of who I am. So I would do it whether I received the outside affirmation or not, but it's good to receive outside affirmation as well.

Maila 10:39

Who are your role models in the area of writing? And I'm curious if any of them were Asian American writers or writers of color?

10:46

Oh,

Liuan 10:47

One of the first Asian American writers that I came into contact with was Amy Tan. And her books are probably familiar to a lot of the Asian American audience. But she writes about the



immigrant experience and the Chinese American experience and and she's able to so eloquently communicate that feeling of being in between both worlds and, and people like that, like seeing people do that like two decades ago, three decades ago, definitely gave me like a sense of like, Okay, this is a path that other people have taken. And it's not easy, but I'm going to try to do it too.

Maila 11:25

Yeah, Well, we need to take a quick break. But when we return, we'll talk more with Liuan about her journey to getting published. So stay tuned. And thanks for listening to the Every Voice Now podcast. Ed, we are still stuck in this global pandemic. And we have no idea how long this will take. And so I'm sure everyone is wondering how we can thrive through these challenging days.

Ed 11:51

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 11:58

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 book.

Ed 12:16

Welcome back to the Every Voice Now podcast. I'm Ed Gilbreath. And with us today is our guest, Liuan Huska, author of *Hurting Yet Whole*, which officially releases on December 8. Let's talk about the genesis of your book idea.

Liuan 12:30

When I first graduated from college, I about a year out from that, I started having this little pain in my ankle and it started going up my body to my knee in my lower back and different places, I thought it was going to be like a two week thing that I would get over but it obviously became a much longer and bigger part of my life. So that was when I started to wrestle with the ideas of what does it mean to be in a body and understand Jesus's healing even as I am hurting, and it doesn't appear that I'm being healed. That was what started a big theological, personal search for, if not answers, at least different ways to understand what I was going through. I went to the University of Chicago to get my master's degree. And after that was when I decided that I didn't want to continue in academia. So then I started a blog actually called *Body and Being* which was kind of dealing with some of the issues that I was struggling with at the time. Out of that I started getting published in some various blogs like



Hermeneutics, which was the CT Women's blog. And so being connected with that group of women that were writers for Hermeneutics, and seeing that they were just people that you know, had everyday lives, and there were a couple women of color in that group, just helped me to put together my experiences and my questions around like embodiment with what could happen in the publishing world. And I thought, oh, like, I can write about this, and I can, maybe it's something that would connect with other people. And so being in a community of others that had been written books already and realizing I could belong, there was what gave me that initial idea. I could turn my experiences into a book.

Ed 14:24

Your book *Hurting Yet Whole* tackles the subject of chronic illness in a thoughtful, vulnerable way. What was your process of writing the book and how difficult was it to share your own personal challenges and frustrations in this journey?

Liuan 14:36

So the worst of my pain happened in about a three year segment. Like I said, just directly after I finished my undergrad degree at we in through about three years, I actually got pregnant with our first child. And it was really interesting. I don't know exactly what happened, but something shifted in my body and my joints and I actually started having less pain. It doesn't mean I have no pain. Now it kind of just comes and goes. But being out of the pain in a really constant despairing sort of like existential despair state was what gave me them the mental space to even begin to process those emotions and questions that I was having, then I kind of went into this whole phase of being a mom. And that is also its own set of limits and vulnerabilities, I think just being able to know these are my limits, and I only have a certain amount of time in the day, or I really need to get sleep, I can't just keep pounding away, you know, into the middle of the night, has actually I write about in the book that it kind of can crystallize your calling, because you just can't, you don't have the energy to try a million different things. So you start to really hone in on what what is important and what and just make priorities. So in some ways, I feel like having having limits, even having things that are just burdening your body don't have to be a hindrance, but can provide like a narrow channel so that you like know which way you're going with doing. But I would say that I wasn't until I was really out of the diagnostic woods of chronic pain, that I was actually able to process those experiences. I'm not sure if I would have been able to write the book, if I was still in as much pain as I had been at the beginning.

Ed 16:27

You write in *Hurting Yet Whole* that "chronic illness pulls the rug out from under our old identities, interests, and life pursuits. We no longer know who we are, or who God is, we must



find a new way to be." That was a powerful line. Tell us more about how this was true for you? And how did you ultimately find the that new way to be? What identities did you have to let go of to become more fully whole?

Liuan 16:53

Oh, Thanks for pointing out that line. That was so true for me. I always saw myself as a doer, a writer, a dancer, a hiker, an outdoors person, an academic and when, when you can't do those things, then, you know, I started to wonder, Well, what am I if I'm not the one, if I can't do the things that once made up my identity? And yeah, so I had to let go of this sense that if I was smart enough, or resourceful enough, or prayerful enough, or, you know, if I could just Google and you know, just keep researching, then I could figure out how to get out of this, I had to let go of that, that sense that I could, I could do it. And I realized that I couldn't always do it, I couldn't make my agenda happen when it came to my body. And so letting go of that it left me in this place where I had to ask what is left if I'm not all these things that I do. And I came to the conclusion that what makes us human and valuable isn't about what we're capable of doing, but about how we're able to connect and relate to others, and join up with others, as you know, as the body of Christ, and as just a human being in this world. So that's where I came down as, as my identities. I'm valuable because I'm a human being. And I'm made in God's image.

Ed 18:23

Related to that, what kind of impact do you hope your book will have on the broader church? And what impact do you hope it will have among readers of color?

Liuan 18:30

My sense within evangelical circles is that there's there's this overcoming mentality that we'll be victorious over, whatever it is, and we'll sort of push our way through with our spiritual perseverance. And that's how we're going to get there. And it didn't work for me. And I think it doesn't work for so many people. And so then we're kind of stuck with what it was God faithful? Did I hear God when he was calling me to do this in this or and then I can't do it anymore. So does that, like, where does that leave me in my relationship with God? And I think a lot of people are kind of wrestling with that as it's become from that sort of culture of like, like being like, transcending our human limits in order to become like spiritual, spiritually, well, people. And so I really hope that my book will challenge those ideas and invite readers into a different way of relating with the world and relating with God in our bodies and what we feel like it's God's calling for us that I don't think it has to be separate from our bodies. You know, we always feel like maybe we get the sense that we just have to overcome our body's limits in order to do what God has called us to, you know, the truth I gained out of



being chronic pain is that our bodies are part of our calling. And we have to have to learn to make peace with that and embrace that. And related to that just on the topic of our bodies as part of who we are, I hope that this message will resonate with readers of color who are often felt we're supposed to like kind of leave our skin color or you know, our ethnic background to the side in order to like become a fully participating member of society and leave those parts of our identity that might feel like liabilities to the outside world. And my message to readers of colors that those are the the parts of who you are, that feel the most vulnerable, and where you feel, almost the most limited and constrained can often be the places where God really uses you to connect with others. Henry Nouwen and uses the phrase "wounded healer." And I really love Brother Roger of Taize, he has this quote, "in the wounds where the pangs of anxiety are seizing, creative forces are being born." And that was such such a powerful word to me in the times that I was struggling and just so anxious and wondering why was I having all these problems? And what was, is it my fault, and just to know that that's where God meets us, in those places where we feel most vulnerable, I hope that our readers will connect with that.

Ed 21:07

We're going to wrap up this segment. But before we do I just have one more craft question about the journey of actually writing the book. What's some advice, one piece of advice you would want to offer to writers of color who wish to become published authors themselves?

Liuan 21:22

So when I was writing my book, I was trying to universalize my experiences in some way and leave out or maybe just gloss over some of the experiences that felt most specific and part of my ethnic identity, but maybe not part of the larger conversation or things that white women readers who make up a lot of the book buying population would connect with. And then when I was getting feedback from one of the outside readers for this book, who was a white woman reader, she started to ask questions about those places where I was identifying my ethnic journey, but then sort of like jumping into something else and saying, wait, I want to hear about that. And that really clued me into the need to bring all of ourselves to the table, and to even offer those parts of ourselves that feel are the most private or personal or marginalized, and to write specifically into those experiences. So I would say to writers of color, just bring your full selves to the table. And I think when when we are able to bring those those personal parts of ourselves that are the most vulnerable, then that's what will connect with readers.

Ed 22:35

Yeah, We need to take one more break. But when we return, we'll continue our conversation with Liuan, and why she was the right person to have written *Hurting Yet Whole*. But first, it's



time for our Behind the Books segment where we pull back the curtain and find out more of the story behind the scenes here at IVP. Today, you'll hear from Lori Neff, who served as Liuan's marketing manager.

Lori Neff 23:03

I'm Lori Neff, I'm one of the marketing managers at InterVarsity Press. I do remember the first time I saw this book proposal come in, and honestly, I was really excited for a couple of reasons. First of all, I had met Liuan before, and I knew her and encountered her as a very thoughtful woman with a lot to contribute in many areas in faith in the physical body conversation and parenting and, and just a lot of different areas. And so when I saw the topic I was delighted. Having a thoughtful book, around the topic of pain is so important. I think there are many layers of insensitivity to the issue and maybe some shame, or just a misunderstanding around physical pain that I am just really delighted that InterVarsity Press is publishing this book and that Liuan has done such a great theological work around this topic. I think I have most appreciated her integration of faith and our spirit in the body. I think my observation of many Christians has been we tend to separate those two. And I've appreciated that integration in her book and also how we don't have to deny or push away the painful parts of our lives, which, that extends, I think that concept is important for those who have physical pain, but also any pain, you can maybe translate some of these concepts to mental anguish or other kinds of pain. I just think that for me personally, that's been a really important part of my growth in life has been accepting these things and also saying that God work in them. I believe that voices from non-white spaces are so important to listen to on every topic. And I love hearing non-white perspectives on issues of faith. And I love that that's important as well to IVP. I really hope that this book brings a measure of freedom, and, and hope to people who are dealing with pain or chronic illness, I also hope that it'll shed light on another way for the church to encounter this topic. I am someone who has not thus far in my life dealt with chronic pain or illness. And I want to be a good companion to those who are experiencing that. And so I've appreciated reading about Liuan's experience in her thinking around how to approach it, especially from a faith perspective so that we can be better companions in the church and in our communities.

Maila 26:14

You're listening to the Every Voice Now podcast, and I'm Maila Kim. Today, we've been talking with Liuan Huska, author of *Hurting Yet Whole*, which can be found wherever books are sold starting December 8. Liuan, let's talk more about your voice and the importance of your voice to this conversation. Why does your particular ethnic voice matter in the subject of chronic illness?



Liuan 26:35

Thanks for that question. So in the communities that I've come from, in Chinese American communities, I think there's a tendency, there's a technical word for it, which is somatizing, to translate some of our like emotional and spiritual struggles into just physical symptoms. So we don't deal a lot with our emotions. I think that's a stereotype. But I experienced that in my own upbringing. And so then, as those, those things are not dealt with it, it kind of comes out in physical ways. But then on the sort of the evangelical Christian side of things, one of the big things I heard when I was dealing with my chronic pain is you can be well, as long as you're spiritually well. So leave your body to the side and focus on all the things that God is calling you to do. And just do those things without taking into account your body or your limits. And so I am trying to bring those two different experiences that I've had together, one where we're kind of like overly focused on the body and kind of the body is all there is. My, my mom often told me growing up, if you don't have your health, then you don't have anything, you don't have your money making ability, you don't have ability to provide for yourself in the future. I think being able to join my experiences of Chinese American into the evangelical Christian conversation around, it has been so fraught, right, around bodies, and what does it mean to be a body and to be able to say we both have bodies, but we also are bodies. So it's it's a real tension between, you know, being able to embrace our bodies as part of who we are, but also knowing that we are more than our bodies. And so I'm hoping that speaking into it, from my perspective, will add a different angle to it.

Maila 28:29

And kind of related to that, it seems like there aren't many Asian American Christian voices talking about topics such as bodies and chronic illness. And I'm wondering what your thoughts are, is there a shame factor in Asian American authors tackling honest and vulnerable subjects like this?

Liuan 28:47

Absolutely. There's definitely a shame factor. You know, for a lot of Asian American communities, including the Chinese church where I spent some time in high school, we like to project this image to wider church and wider society that we're doing well, you know, that we're making it and assimilating into American society. So bringing up the issues that we struggle with, whether that's mental health or family dysfunction, or chronic pain, that feels really uncomfortable. I think it feels as if we're not living up to that model minority stereotype. And if we're not, maybe we fear that we'll lose some status in society. But also, I think beyond the cultural value of saving face, which is so prevalent in Asian communities, the idea of like keeping up an image to the outside world, I think there's something even deeper going on. I think it has to do with the immigrant experience. In my own family, my mom and stepdad were



undocumented immigrants in my growing up years. So they ran a Chinese restaurant because they couldn't get a lot of jobs that require a work visa or legal status. And we were doing well and saving up and we bought a house in a nice neighborhood and all of that. But there is this underlying emotional current that I felt growing up of fear and hiding. So for many Asian American communities, we live with this generational trauma of being without a voice and without ways to constructively deal with our issues. And one way that we respond when we don't have a voice, and this goes for anyone who's experienced trauma, is that we stop paying attention to the pain and we just white knuckle our way through it, we just try to get past the pain.

Maila 30:38

It feels like your book is giving voice to a group of silent sufferers in the church. And so as you did your research for the book, and spoke with different people who've struggled with chronic illness, how did it feel for you to give voice to their struggle, and also yours?

Liuan 30:56

One of the big things that I heard, especially among women that I talked to, and it's interesting, as I reached out to different people to ask them to share their stories with me, I interviewed almost all women and one man, and that obviously raised so many questions for me on why and women do experience autoimmune disorders, in particular, at a higher rate than men. I think that the stat is like three quarters of autoimmune disorders are, are women, there's a lot of sense of like, my pain has been dismissed or ignored among medical communities, but also in the church. One woman told me as she was having a conversation with another church member, so and so has Fibromyalgia that must be a fake illness, right? Like you don't really have fibromyalgia. So there's definitely a sense of being unheard and just dismissed, like we're having fake issues. We're overreacting. And so it felt really empowering to say, yes, there's so many of us, and we're not alone. And this is this is real. At the same time, I think there's still a question for me of whether it will resonate with a wider audience, you know, because this experience has been so marginalized or just put into the corner of these are the people that we minister to, but I don't we don't know, like if they have any bigger place within the church. So I'm really hoping that this book will start to show people that are the experiences of chronic illness and suffering aren't marginal to either being a human or being a follower of Jesus, but are really central to how we are able to understand our calling as Christians, as embodied Christians that were able to put these voices into the center instead of in the aisles.

Maila 32:53

Who are the people or the groups of people who have helped amplify your voice?



Liuan 32:58

I have been connected with a group of women who wrote for Christianity Today's Hermeneutics, and they've been such an encouragement, especially Marlena Graves, she is one of the other IVP authors who just wrote *The Way Up Is Down*, she's one of these women, Michelle Van Loon, Katelyn Beaty, being connected with this group of women has been so important for me to just have connections, honestly, because as someone who comes from an immigrant family, and I don't have a lot of that social or cultural capital, that being like, you know, in a family that's been within evangelical circles for generations has, I just don't know a lot of people within the sphere. So just having been invited into that circle in particular, and being able to call on those women for help, and, and having them see me as part of their group and as appear has been really helpful. Then beyond that to like, just, I've just reached out to lots of other people of color writers of color, like Helen Lee actually was someone that I reached out to way back when I was starting out thinking about publishing this book, because she was someone I saw that was in the Christian publishing world that I could relate to. All these interactions have just built up and given me the confidence to put myself out there.

Maila 34:26

Well, Liuan, we've come to the end of our time together. But before we go, can you share with our listeners how they can reach you or how they can find you online?

Liuan 34:35

So I'm on Twitter @liuanhuska. And then my website is the same. So www.liuanhuska.com and I'd love to hear from anybody.

Maila 34:47

Well, thank you. It's been awesome having you on our show today.

Liuan 34:51

You're welcome.

Maila 34:52

And just a note for our listeners that you can find Liuan's book at ivpress.com, and if you use the code EVN40, you can get 40% off plus free US shipping. So that's a great way to get a great deal on Liuan's book.

Ed 35:08



Thanks everyone for listening to the Every Voice Now podcast brought to you by IVP. Our producer is Helen Lee, and our sound engineer is Jonathan Clauson. If you are enjoying our show, we'd be grateful if you'd share about it with your friends. Please review and recommend us on iTunes, Spotify, or wherever you listen to your favorite podcasts.

Maila 35:28

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.

[More About Luan Huska](#)

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About the Hosts:



Maila Kim, Co-Host

Maila is IVP's events marketing coordinator; she holds a B.A. in English Language & Literature and a B.A. in Communication Studies from the University of Michigan, and an M.A. in Christian Formation & Ministry with a concentration in Bible & Theology from Wheaton College Graduate School. She enjoys photography, growing and caring for her plants, and listening to podcasts such as *This American Life*, *Invisibilia*, and *Unlocking Us*. Follow Maila on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

Ed Gilbreath, Co-Host

Formerly an editor at IVP, Ed is currently an executive leader at Christianity Today; he earned his bachelor's in communication arts from Judson University and a master's in philosophy of history from Olivet Nazarene University. He is also the author of two IVP books: *Reconciliation Blues* and *Birmingham Revolution*. Ed loves listening to an eclectic mix of music, reading narrative nonfiction books on American history and pop culture, and taking long walks while listening to podcasts such as NPR's *How I Built This*, *The Daily*, *Pass the Mic*, and CT's *Quick to Listen*. Follow Ed on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).





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