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Karess Linzer:

Welcome to the Vanderbloemen Leadership Podcast. I'm your host, Karess Linzer, Marketing Coordinator here at Vanderbloemen. This week, William talks with Pastor Samuel Rodriguez, President of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference and Senior Pastor of New Season Church, one of America's fastest growing megachurches.

Karess Linzer:

Pastor Sam has advised multiple presidents of the United States and frequently consults with Congress advancing immigration and criminal justice reform, as well as religious freedom. He has been described by Time Magazine in the New York Times as one of America's most influential voices. Sam strongly believes that the world is desperately in need of a generation that will stand up and proclaim that there's only one way to heaven and that's through Jesus Christ, and he embodies this through his work. He is a movie producer and the author of multiple books, including his recent release, From Survive to Thrive, where he shares his guiding beacons for life, marriage, ministry, relationships, management, and beyond.

Karess Linzer:

On today's podcast conversation, Pastor Sam discusses his life goal of reconciling Billy Graham's message with Dr. King's march by advancing the Lamb's Agenda. He shares about how to never sacrifice truth for social or political expediency, rebuking victimhood, and the slippery slope of cancel culture happening in America today. This conversation provides lots of encouragement for aligning our head, heart, and hand to be fully dependent on God instead of society. Here's William's conversation with Sam Rodriguez.

William Vanderbloemen:

Well, hey everybody, coming to you on a Friday afternoon and so excited to have a friend Sam Rodriguez, Pastor Sam to many if you've been on his blog, he is something else. You know, Sam, my kids said to me one time, this thing you do, this podcast, it's almost like you're Jimmy Fallon for the church. I'm like, "What?" I get to talk to the most interesting people and I don't have to do anything except to let them talk. So it's just great to have you on Sam. Serves as a pastor, he's also a leader of the National Hispanic Leadership Convention, or... Is that right? Committee? No. Let me get the last part wrong.

Sam Rodriguez:

Conference... conference. It doesn't matter. Council, conference, convention, committee, if there's a C there. It's just...

William Vanderbloemen:

And you'd likely see me [inaudible 00:02:22] in the national spotlight. He has become... In my estimation, he's become a bit of a Billy Graham in his part of the King that he's working in. We got a lot of mutual friends. We've been in a lot of green rooms together. Thank you Sam for making time for us. I really appreciate it.

Sam Rodriguez:

I am honored to be, William. Truly grateful. Thank you for having me. And the Billy Graham thing... I think Billy's going, "What?" And I'm like flirid, so thank you for that. That's more than gracious. That's grace on steroids, but thank you for that.

William Vanderbloemen:

Well, I think people would be blessed just to hear a little of your story. Our listenership is a very broad one and you got Presbyterians sitting, listening like this, and then you got some of our friends they're sitting listening like this, and people may not know you. So tell us a little of your story, your journey from Pennsylvania to where you are now and just how God has used you.

Sam Rodriguez:

Yeah. I'm Sam Rodriguez from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. That's my story and I'm seeing to it. Bethlehem, hence, my messianic complex. I'm a Pennsylvania boy, went to Penn State, graduated from Lehigh University. It's that Pennsylvania work ethic. My dad was a Mack Truck worker retired now. So I grew up right across the street from Bethlehem Steel. And that work ethic is still part of my DNA, my cultural DNA. It helped bring my worldview.

Sam Rodriguez:

At 14, I'm a math nerd. My parents are not preachers. I'm a math and science guy. I grew up obsessed with Star Trek. My grandma put me to watch television when I was three years old, as she was babysitting me and Star Trek was it. So I became a lifelong Trekkie, a strong affinity for mathematics and science of faith and science guy. I may preach like Curt, but I think like Spock. So that's who I am.

Sam Rodriguez:

At 14 years old, growing up in at Assemblies of God Church, an interesting happened to me on my way to the park. This teen challenged the choir director, stopped in the middle of a song and says... and part of your audience may not be comfortable with this, but it happened and I lived it and there was a young lady in the crowd who sighed and who became my wife, was now my wife for 31 years, but parents were there. My pastor was there, and so was the church. This guy comes out and he says, "There's a Sammy in the audience." And I really feel impressed with a word from heaven for Sammy. "Sammy, you're going to pray over presidents one day." Presidents of the United States. I was 14.

Sam Rodriguez:

I ended up advising three presidents, President George W. Bush, President Obama and President Trump. There's a fine line between the prophetic and the pathetic, but praise God on that occasion, it was on point. I'm the byproduct of just growing up in an evangelical home, believing God for a purpose and destiny to help push the world towards righteousness and justice, truth and love. My life's mission statement is to reconcile Billy Graham's message of Dr. King's march. That's my objective, to reconcile Billy Graham with Dr. King and what I call advancing the Lamb's Agenda.

William Vanderbloemen:

That is so good. That is so good. All right. The president... Are they asking you like, "What do I wear to church?" Are they asking you like, "How do I solve [crosstalk 00:05:48]?"

Sam Rodriguez:

The president? No, no, no. God bless George W. Bush brought me in. I worked with Carl Rowan, they brought me in a number of issues. Family issues, immigration issues, education issues. President Obama... I served on the Fatherhood Task Force. I, actually, was a member of the very short-lived. I mean, very short lived... Abortion Reduction Task Force. And I advised President Obama in a number of issues regarding immigration, religious liberty. Then, with President Trump on... You name it, A to Z. And from A to Z... I mean, everything from life issues to religious liberty of biblical justice, criminal justice reform, Israel... you name it. The full gamut, the A to Z gamut.

William Vanderbloemen:

Even like... Big Mac or a quarter pounder? Like that?

Sam Rodriguez:

Never discussed that Big Mac, quarter pounder issue with the former phone is, but it possibly would have been an agenda item if you would have been elected for a second term.

William Vanderbloemen:

Oh, such an [inaudible 00:07:07]. Let me ask you a question. When I was a pastor, a senior pastor of a church here in Houston, of Cali, we had more corporate leadership than I could shake a stick at, and I was 31. I think hindsight, looking back, I found myself getting too enamored with the power that I was getting to talk to. In fact... let's talk about Billy Graham. I've read it in a couple of places that he never had a big moral failure, totally squeaky clean. But if you ask him where he feels like he failed, one of the things that I've heard him say is, "I underestimated what being close to the president would do to me." He was talking about Nixon and it's just interesting.

William Vanderbloemen:

So, what clearly you've gotten through that well? What do you do to protect yourself and your soul from becoming too enamored with whoever it is you're pastoring to? Because I think every pastor that's listening probably has a big donor, a big corporate person. The thing there... to try and get something done. So what would be some pointers? You've been at the highest levels and come through it unscathed. What have you learned about protecting yourself from the temptation to be enamored with all that?

Sam Rodriguez:

Only by the grace of God, 1 Corinthians 15:10, coming out unscathed because I'm cognizant of the fact. That with the moment, I'm self-aware that power may corrupt. Power has this corruptive, enticing, coercive, manipulative element to it and you have to channel that power. There's a rubric that guides me every time I would visit President Bush or Obama or President Trump, and I would be called into the White House. I walked out, and my wife can attest to this. My kids can because it's something that we use at home that we actually like internalize.

Sam Rodriguez:

Here's the outline. Never sacrifice truth on the ultra political expediency or cultural expediency. Never sacrifice truth. Number two, you are what you tolerate. So if I tolerate an environment and atmosphere that's coercive, manipulative, that's corrupt and immoral, then I become that. I always walked into, "I have a role here. I'm going to speak whatever I truly believe the Lord has permitted me to speak or say,

or share." Then I'm going to leave, and I'm not going to drink the Kool-Aid. I am what I tolerate, and today's complacency is tomorrow's captivity. So I won't be complacent as it pertains to taking the opportunity for granted or even the possibility of being controlled for granted.

Sam Rodriguez:

So I always wanted to keep an independent voice for President Trump, Obama and slightly for President Bush, not that much. But there were moments that I had to speak up against some of the policies or rhetoric or tone... and I did. I would come home and go to sleep at night comfortable knowing that I spoke truth to power according to scripture. And for whatever reason, it kept me invited and they continued to invite me. So here we are to tell about it.

William Vanderbloemen:

Wow. Wow. Well, let me flip it around then because it's seductive to be around power. But, when I look today... I'm going to get in trouble here. So... [Crosstalk 00:10:31].

Sam Rodriguez:

Don't get in trouble. It is green tea, by the way.

William Vanderbloemen:

[crosstalk 00:10:33] Uncle Sam, cancel me. But the whole cancel, everything culture. And I'm saying this to a guy you're dedicating a good part of your ministry toward helping non-white part of the population in a great, great way. But like... Put race aside. There's this bigger thing going on. Like when I see Prince Harry talk about how awful something was or how vulnerable Oprah's being about how bad this was in her life. I told Mike Davis, seems like the road toward being someone that gets a platform right now is showing how wounded you are. And it's so seductive. It makes me want to figure out how to claim victimhood and [inaudible 00:11:14].

William Vanderbloemen:

I was just thinking the flip side of this power thing is actually what you've just written on. It's this, "Don't be a victim. Don't just try and survive." Tell us about your book, but tell me what you're learning, because I feel like there is a great movement. I'm going to sound little on out there, but there's a movement of the enemy to have us all be victims. It's just the worst. Correct me if I'm wrong, I'm getting in trouble.

Sam Rodriguez:

Nope. Nope. Quite the opposite. I feel like I'm speaking to my kindred spirit here. You had me at hello. I'm your echo chamber. I'm actually going to get you in more trouble for having me on this podcast because I'm just going to call it out. There is nothing redemptive from the cancel culture. I truly believe the cancel culture is antithetical to scripture. As a preacher, as a student of the word, I can tell you it's not biblical. It's anti-Christ. It's anti-Christian. It's anti-Romans 8:37, "We are more than conquerors." You can't be both a lifelong victim and a conqueror. Make up your mind. This idea of perpetual victimization is antithetical to the word of God. Absolutely. This idea of cancellation in perpetuity, there's no redemption, no forgiveness, it's anti-Christ. It's anti the blood of Jesus.

Sam Rodriguez:

Just a lack of forgiveness, of redemption, of reconciliation, of restoration. You name it. That cancel culture is a culture that comes from the womb of darkness for the purpose of exacerbating perpetual victimization in order for people to depend on government or cultural influencers and making them their God. So I just can't, I can't do it. I'm going to use strong terms here. I repudiate it. I rebuke it. I refuse it. Every Christian should wake up and not drink the Kool-Aid. Every pastor should preach against the cancel culture because it's out of alignment of the word of God. And we have to stop being politically correct.

Sam Rodriguez:

My goodness. My children are watching and my children's children are watching and we're going to be held accountable for our silence. "Oh, we don't want to offend. We don't want people to be trolling us. We don't want to be deplatformed." Are you kidding me? So we're sacrificing truth on the altar of political, cultural or sexual expediency? So we care more about our followers and about the one we follow? Absolutely not. You got me, I'm sorry. Not irritated, but you activated the righteous indignation button in Sam Rodriguez. Because it's just so wrong.

Sam Rodriguez:

When I speak to Hispanic Americans across the country, the first thing I tell them is you're not victims. We're not victims and we're not doing this. We're not going to be asking for handouts. Quite the opposite. The Hispanic American community in America will be the community that will help America stand up, reaffirm itself to what I do believe. It's American exceptionalism. God over man, man over government. This country is exceptional. We're a blessed nation. We're not perfect, but we are blessed indeed. No other nation has been such a blessing to the entire world like America and to a great degree, Israel. We are a blessed nation indeed. So I don't drink the Kool-Aid of victimization. "Oh, I'm being vulnerable." Vulnerability in the presence of God leads to victory. Vulnerability on social media platforms and the presence of men, that leads to captivity. Captive.

William Vanderbloemen:

Oh, no. You say it again. You got to say it again. Say it right there. That's it.

Sam Rodriguez:

Vulnerability in the presence of God leads to victory. Vulnerability on social media platforms leads to captivity.

William Vanderbloemen:

Wow.

Sam Rodriguez:

You'll be held captive because people will affirm your wound and you'll get addicted to an affirmation of wounds. To be honest, wounds that may or may not necessarily be there is still bleeding. Time does heal. God heals above all. We've all been through things. Come on, I've been through things. We've all been through journeys. It has nothing to do with your pigmentation. This obsession with race is idolatry. We're worshipping race and we're doing it from church pulpits where we preach more about race than we do about Jesus. Are you kidding me? Hey, I passed your church. It's 45% White, 35% Black, 15%

Latino and Asian. I had an incredible year in the past year navigating around everything. [crosstalk 00:15:57] I want to thank the world.

William Vanderbloemen:

How do you still have a job? Like [crosstalk 00:16:01] how do you preach that? Because, I mean... Now, let me back up. Let me back up. As a white dude, who did a very good job of being born and that's about what I can say. I will be the first say. I got an unfair advantage just because of how I was born. I do believe there's a real need for reconciliation. I am a hundred and 10% in favor of saying, "We better make earth look like heaven's going to look, where every tribe and every nation a hundred percent." What I'm stuck on is...

Sam Rodriguez:

But do you really believe that in 2021, you have an unfair advantage? Do you really believe that? In 2021, you have an unfair advantage?

William Vanderbloemen:

I don't know yet. I don't know yet.

Sam Rodriguez:

... about that. I don't know about it, I really don't. And I'm not like, negating. Look, I'm not negating that there are still vestiges of racism. America is not a racist nation, but we still have vestiges of racism. And we confront them in the name of Jesus, without a doubt. Not in the name of a movement that's anti-Christian by the way. Oh, goodness gracious. If you wanted to beat racism, if you want to defeat pornography, drug addiction, whatever it may be, you do it in the name of Jesus, not in the name of a movement that is anti-Christian and anti-biblical values and biblical truth.

Sam Rodriguez:

But I just don't think... I don't want... And again, my daughter's marrying a wonderful African-American, brilliant young man. And why brilliant? He graduated with his bachelor's at the age of 20, an athlete captain. He was sort of the captain of the Idaho State Football Team, brilliant, anointed, gifted, and an athlete. So I'm a blessed future father-in-law and they are getting married next year.

Sam Rodriguez:

So I have conversations all the time. I just don't want black kids or white kids or Latino kids born with a disadvantage of saying, "Oh my goodness, white kids." You're automatically the perpetrators of an evil and you're guilty for what your great, great, great, great, great. That's not Christian. So I don't want white kids... This idea of critical race theory is... that's not Christian. This idea that if you're born white, you're born with certain guilt or, "No, we have to stop and I love you man, I'm with you." But we got to stop putting the onus on a generation. How are you rolled by being born white? Not that you're saying that.

Sam Rodriguez:

But listen. What did I do to be born Latino? My forefathers are from Spain. They've made a pit stop in Puerto Rico and I ended up in Pennsylvania, right? So I'm 80% Spain. What does that make me? I have this California Tan baby that's working for me. So what does that make me? I'm just tired of the idea of

just putting this whole race thing out there and separating people by the color of their skin. If we really are against racism, we're against all racism. Racism against blacks, racism against Latinos, Asians and white. So, anyone who's anti-white is a racist. Anyone who's anti-black is a racist. Anyone who's anti-New York Yankees must be born again. These are all the different shit. You get me right?

William Vanderbloemen:

Wow.

Sam Rodriguez:

My green tea got me wired, man.

William Vanderbloemen:

Wow. Wow. I wish you'd tell me how you feel about things. I think, Sam, the race issue obviously has dominated the front and center. But for me, we crossed a line last year. We did our 25,000 interview with a pastor, for jobs.

Sam Rodriguez:

Oh, wow.

William Vanderbloemen:

People hire us to help them find their key staff. So we've now done 25,000 face-to-face interviews and we're going to write a book about it because it's pretty cool what you see. But I'll tell you what, I think it is definitely less than 5%. We're doing a study, but I bet it ends up being about 1% of people who have told me that they actually got fired and for good reason.

William Vanderbloemen:

Usually it's, "Here's what happened to me. Here's what they did to me. Here's how I'm not at fault. Here's how..." And where I go immediately is I hear the Lord looking at Adam and Adam saying, "No, no, no. Lord, the woman, the one you gave me..."

Sam Rodriguez:

He didn't.

William Vanderbloemen:

... He didn't do it. The snake made me do it. Like our default position as people who need Jesus, is a position of saying, "Somebody did something to me. I didn't have any ownership." I'm just wondering, set aside the agendas of the last year. The deeper issue for me is an inability of humans to own their stuff. I don't know how you get to victory and thriving without that step. So that's what made me pivot to thinking... You've probably got a copy of your book sitting around. You've got to. Yes. Every good author, from Survive to Thrive. That has got to be at the heart of this book somewhere. Like, tell me what you think when I say that. Like, am I off base?

Sam Rodriguez:

You're totally on it, seriously. I think I've got a kindred spirit here. You don't know it, you may be a Puerto Rican. Listen. No, it's true. It's the lack of personal responsibility. The lack of owning. Again, scapegoating, projecting, deflecting. This continual idea of I'm offended. I'm offended. You're easily offended. By the way, I'm offended by people that are easily offended. Put a hashtag for that. It's wild. You and I, we know, we're being a bit whimsical about it and a big tongue in cheek, because we need to laugh. We're coming out of a weeping season, right? But man, this cancer is growing. Not just in American society. You know, it was wild to me like the wildest moment, the past four months. I travel a lot to Europe for speaking conferences a lot. I've been locked in and not able to travel for Europe for about a year-and-a-half now here.

Sam Rodriguez:

But when the president of France, one of the most liberal nations on the planet, Macron. When he issued a statement to his entire country, say, "We need to push back on America's cancel culture." Do your Google due diligence on this. That wild. Even in the past two weeks, their parliament passed a law that builds firewalls against cancel culture elements and even other elements that are currently not just percolating, but at leading in Americans cultural conversation today. When liberal Europe is saying, "These Americans are way too far to the lab. We cross the Rubicon and ladies, Dorothy, we're not in Kansas anymore."

Sam Rodriguez:

We need to really be cognizant of the fact that we're going down a slippery slope. We're teaching our children not to take personal responsibility, to become perpetual victims, to be easily offended about everything. We're creating this culture, this lifelong, forever lacking backbone.

Sam Rodriguez:

Imagine this during World War II. Can you imagine this? The greatest generation? Imagine this. Imagine this in World War I. My wife's grandfather fought in World War I. My uncle died in Korea. My cousin died in Iraq. Again, it's anti-American but more importantly it's anti-Christian. And we do need to speak up about it. We can-

William Vanderbloemen:

Then what are the steps? You're feeling down, you're feeling like you've been done wrong. You get tempted into... How do you move out of that ditch to surviving and then to thriving? Walk me through the map that you've got.

Sam Rodriguez:

Yeah. I wrote about it and I talked about perpetual victimization. I talked about repudiating the notion of being easily offended. I basically break down these three areas in my body. So in spirit, in life and in relationships, every single human being is either an Egypt, the desert or the promised land. You're either failing, which is Egypt surviving, which is the desert or in the promise land, which is thriving. Of course, if you have a relationship with Jesus' verdict, he's speaking, you're thriving.

Sam Rodriguez:

Well, speaking horizontally in life. Even in ministry, in your career or whatever it may be. You're either failing, surviving or thriving. Which one is it? The vast majority of people never come out of survival

mode. Never. They never come out of this mode of eating manna every day. I'm going around in circles of complaining about what took place in Egypt or we'd rather go back to Egypt. This was the conversation that literally took place. And there's a generation that dies in the desert because they're always whining and complaining. They literally blind and complains themselves to death. That's not my wording, that's from the Book of Numbers. That's pretty amazing. They died because they whined and complained. Whiners and complainers never ever enter the promised land.

William Vanderbloemen:

[crosstalk 00:25:19] What's the... Okay. I don't want to do that anymore. Tell me what to do.

Sam Rodriguez:

Okay. There's a pivot. And the pivot is you have to align your heart, your head, and your hand. What does that mean? You have to align your head which is your cognitive domain. Your reason, which is the Thomas Aquinas component of all pastors out there. Faith and reason, not St. Augustine, that's more your heart. It's your thinking process, your thoughts. What do you think? What are you reading? What's your input? What information? What data is coming into your mind? Hence, renew your mind daily. Take every thought into captivity. You are what you think. When your thinking is in alignment with your emotions, your aspect of domain. When your feelings do not be led by feelings.

Sam Rodriguez:

I grew up in a generation... I'm an 80s kid, but there was a band called Boston back in the late 70s. More than a feeling, a classic rock song. I have that on my Jeep Rubicon Wrangler playlist when I go out because you have to have more than a feeling, and some Aerosmith too. That's a different story for another day.

Sam Rodriguez:

But anyway, back to the point. Are we led by feelings by what we feel, what we know? So the head has to lead the way. This has to follow suit, and this cannot be in conflict. And then the hand is the practical. What are you doing? Your actions have to match your thoughts which have to be in alignment with your emotions. I write about that in the book. The heart, the head and the hand, and you could do it all scripturally. All through prayer for deliberation, having a relationship with Jesus, being filled with God's beautiful, precious, Holy Spirit being led by the spirit on a daily basis, Galatians 5:16. "Knowing that the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives inside of you," Romans 8:11, you can do it.

Sam Rodriguez:

I did it. Sam Rodriguez could have slipped to the area that the pit of perpetual victimization of the world is out to get me. Oh, woe is me of categorizations that put lids on us. Like the government puts a lid by checking boxes. Do you realize that? Check here, check here. Check here. Check here. No, I refuse to check the boxes. I read.

Sam Rodriguez:

And like, "Sam, are you a minority?" A minority of what? Because Uncle Sam says so? Uncle Sam may be an uncle. He'll never be my Heavenly Father. I write about that in the book. That we can't be more dependent on government, that we are in God. And if you want to thrive, if you want to continue to make bricks without straw, continue to look for political solutions and for Uncle Sam to somehow affirm

your perpetual victimization mentality. If you want to thrive, be filled with God's precious spirit. Have a personal relationship with Jesus and enjoy living an abundant life. According to John 10:10, the latter part.

William Vanderbloemen:

That's good. That is so good. Yeah. Anybody ever suggest decaf to you, Sam?

Sam Rodriguez:

It's green tea. It can't get healthier than that. It's green tea.

William Vanderbloemen:

Just wondering, just a question. That's all. Asking for it for him.

Sam Rodriguez:

It's 5:00 somewhere. It's green tea.

William Vanderbloemen:

Yes, there you go. There you go. Hey, let me just close out our time. I would love for people to know a little bit more about the Hispanic Christian Leadership. I'm going to get it wrong.

Sam Rodriguez:

[crosstalk 00:28:36] No worries. By the way, I'm offended. I'm offended by you getting the acronym wrong.

William Vanderbloemen:

There you go. The acronyms are off, but tell us about that. I'm so fascinated and we're doing so much more work with congregations who have noticed, not because of a political agenda. They've just noticed, "Oh wow, the neighborhood changed or it's changing and it's time to change or there's a biblical mandate for us to be serving the people that [crosstalk 00:29:04]."

Sam Rodriguez:

There is.

William Vanderbloemen:

That's all. So this is like right at the heart of what we're doing. I'm thinking like, one out of four or five searches we do now, we'll [crosstalk 00:29:13] go with God's person, but it probably needs to be XYZ.

Sam Rodriguez:

Not for political, and that's why I appreciate you. I appreciate who you are and what you do. I know we're joking here a lot and I enjoy it, but I'm a fan. I accepted doing this podcast and doing what we're doing here with the Zoom, because I'm a fan. And your ethos resonates with who I am and who I am in Christ and what I will achieve in advance to the King of heaven. I encouraged diversity, not because of political correctness, but because the kingdom is diverse. So serve the community around you. I believe all people are beautiful. White people are beautiful. Black people are beautiful. Latino people are crazy

and beautiful. Asian people are beautiful. And because everyone is beautiful carrying the image of God, you should diversify your staff to be reflective of the community you want to reach.

Sam Rodriguez:

And now it's not just geographical in light of what has happened in COVID, it's online community. So your online community outreach, if your lens is global, your stage and your trustee boards, your board of elders, whatever polity you engage in, should be reflective of the world you're trying to reach. No longer just the city, but the world that you're attempting to reach.

Sam Rodriguez:

With that being said, we have over 42,000 churches in the network certified annually through Liberty Counsel, so there's a legal firm that takes care of the certification process. Beautiful community, fastest growing Christian community in America, and God is using it mightily. We are the growth for The Assemblies of God, The Southern Baptist, The Church of God, Foursquare, Christian Missionary Alliance, International Pentecostal Holiness Church, and so many other denominations and networks. So it's an amazing demographic and I am blessed to serve it.

Sam Rodriguez:

My objective is to really advance the Lamb's Agenda. I don't think donkeys and elephants will ever save us. I do believe in the Lamb's Agenda and it's reconciling Billy Graham's message of salvation exclusively through Christ with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's march for justice. If we can reconcile righteousness and justice, truth and love, we'll change the world. And that's what the Hispanic American community's going to do. We're the reconcilers, we're the ones in the middle. So we're the ones going like, "All right, you're all fighting again or it looks like it. Let's come in there in the middle and let's just bring people together, that ministry of reconciliation." So I'm blessed to serve this amazing community.

William Vanderbloemen:

Well, we'll put in the show notes all the links to the NHCLC... I think that's right, the book and your blog. And if you're not on our list for show notes, just go to vanderblast.com. and we won't beat up your email with a bunch of other stuff, but we'll send you notes and a preview of what's coming.

William Vanderbloemen:

Sam, I am so encouraged to talk to you. A year where sometimes right, sometimes not, we've had to sort of walk on eggshells with what we say. It's refreshing to hear, just a real, honest, here's-where-I-am opinion. That's all. Thanks, and thanks for what you're doing for the kingdom and for fulfilling that prophecy from way back.

Sam Rodriguez:

Yeah. No, thank you for having me. "It's righteousness and justice, truth and love," Psalm 89:14. We can really change the world. Thank you for who you are and what you're doing.

William Vanderbloemen:

Thanks so much, Sam, and thanks for joining us.

Anna Baker:

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