

Methodist University Community Oral History Project  
Methodist University  
Fayetteville, NC

**Shane Alcorn**

Interview Conducted by  
Carl Dyke  
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Descriptive Table of Contents:

- 0:40 -this is the second Donald Trump rally he's attended; previous one was in December (2015)  
-reflects that at the age of sixty-nine, Trump can perceive that the country "is on the wrong track"
- 1:30 -America is partially in a place we "wouldn't want to find ourselves in," headed for disaster  
-America's history includes problems--for instance, suffering of Native Americans (he is partially Native American)
- 2:35 -America is in jeopardy: economy "going down the tubes," "Radical Islam" a threat to our culture  
-terrorist activity a problem throughout the world; refers to attacks in France, Belgium, United Kingdom
- 3:16 -notes that the above-mentioned targets of terrorism have strict gun laws  
-Donald Trump isn't perfect; you can't find a perfect presidential candidate
- 3:55 -but Alcorn's disagreements with Trump are comparatively "petty"  
-refers to "tremendous trade imbalance" with Asia and Mexico
- 4:35 -America's high corporate taxes allow businesses to go overseas; that contradicts government's obligation to be "for the people"  
-doesn't fault companies for trying to profit; faults government for penalizing job-creating businesses
- 5:25 -Trump can do something about America's decline  
-other politicians might be able to do something about this, but "they're all talk, and no action"
- 5:34 -decries torpid politicians via James 2:17: "faith without works is dead"  
-expresses hope for getting America "back on the track:" doesn't expect perfection, but wants it 95% perfect rather than 22%
- 6:12 -expresses excitement to be here to support Trump  
-bases excitement about Trump on Trump's business success; dismisses Trump's bankruptcies as unimportant compared to overall success
- 6:50 -recalled seeing Trump buildings in Manila, Philippines  
-this suggests facility with dealing with international governments, overrules lack of conventional experience
- 7:27 -Trump's experience outpaces that of John Kasich, Ted Cruz  
-hopes that Kasich or Cruz might enter the cabinet
- 7:42 -Alcorn doesn't read what Cruz says, but thinks he's good overall  
-Trump vs. Cruz: praises Cruz for being "constitutionally conservative," but finds him so conservative as to alienate people
- 8:28 -Trump, by contrast, has only been registered as a Republican for twelve or thirteen years  
-Trump's experience differentiates him  
[interview cuts out]

Interview of

**SHANE ALCORN**

Interviewed by

**CARL DYKE**

0:01

**DYKE:** Good. Okay. So that'll just pick you up; you don't have to speak into it or anything. Alright, so this is Carl Dyke. I'm talking with Shane Alcorn at the Donald Trump rally at Fayetteville Coliseum.

3.9.16. Shane, thank you so much.

0:24

**ALCORN:** Thank you. Oh, I'm sorry.

0:26

**DYKE:** No worries. So we are interested in anything that you want to say about how you're feeling about this event, what you're thinking, how you came to be here.

0:39

**ALCORN:** Well, first of all, let me say I'm very excited to be here. This is my second Donald Trump rally. I came to the first one on December the 4th of last year in Raleigh. But I'm very excited. I'm actually very happy to be here. I feel like that, you know, Donald Trump is basically—he's sixty-nine years old. I'm thirty-six, so he's well old enough to be my father, actually. I think he's—. During the course of sixty-nine years, you've seen a lot of stuff take place in our country, in our nation, and he's seen the good things that's taken place, the bad things, and the ugly things. And I think that he basically realizes

that the country is on the wrong track; it's headed for actually a place that we as a nation really wouldn't want to find ourselves in. And actually I think we're actually partially there, actually at the moment. And I think he realizes that if something isn't done to gain control of the ship that's getting out of control—and we're headed towards a disaster as a nation.

1:52

**DYKE:** Gotcha. Yeah. So when you think of things that—the wrong path, and then what the right path would look like. So where's the wrong and where's the right?

2:03

**ALCORN:** Well, honestly I think that our country started off with a good footing, and—. We have some bad things that's happened during the course of our history, I mean, the Native American Indians suffered greatly, you know, and I have a lot of Native American Indian in me as well. However, I think a lot more good has been done throughout the course of the history, more than it has been of wrong. And that our nation right now is in jeopardy. Financially, our economy is really going down the tubes. Radical Islam is really posing a major threat to our country. And as our history, our [portrait?], everything, they're really out to hurt us, and that's very evident of what's going on not only in America, unfortunately, but throughout the world. Who would [have] ever thought that there would be such activity of terrorists taking place in Paris, France, or Belgium, and the United Kingdom? And they're very strict on people there, they don't allow a lot of guns there. I mean, [in] fact, it's almost, people are not allowed to protect themselves over in a lot of European countries. So those threats now have come within our country. And I really believe that Donald Trump wants to do something about that. He's not the perfect—nobody's perfect, you know? We can all agree to disagree on certain little small issues, but—

3:43

**DYKE:** I'm kind of perfect, but—. [Laughs]

3:46

**ALCORN:** Yeah, yeah. So, you know, I think that that's just something—if people are looking for the perfect presidential candidate, well good luck, because you're never gonna find one. However, with that being said, I believe that there's more good about him than there is small little petty stuff that we may not agree on. I think he stands for the country; I think he believes that the economy is in trouble. A lot of our jobs has been shipped to other nations. As he says, we do have a tremendous trade imbalance with Asian countries such as China, Japan; we have a lot of trade imbalance with Mexico. A fifty-some billion dollar trade imbalance per year, that's pretty incredible.

4:30

**DYKE:** Yeah. That's a lot of money.

4:33

**ALCORN:** Yeah, it's a lot of money. And unfortunately a lot of our country is having to pay a high percentage of corporate tax. It's more appealing for them to go overseas so that they can escape the corporate tax that our government, which is supposed to be for the people, is imposing on these companies. So, I mean, I'm not finding the companies at fault for trying to make as much profit as they can; I find fault with our government that's penalizing them, and they're the ones that's creating jobs. They're the ones that's providing jobs for the people.

5:07

**DYKE:** Gotcha. Yeah.

5:10

**ALCORN:** So I think it's unfortunate, you know. And I think Mr. Trump realizes that, and he's speaking up for the people. And I'm sure he realizes he's lived a full life, and he don't want to leave this country to his grandchildren in worser off shape than when he came here. And he can do something about it. I believe a lot of politicians can do something about it, but like he says, they're all talk and no action. Even the Bible says faith without works is dead. You can speak a good talk, but if you don't have works to back up what you're talking about, it's null and void. So I think that Mr. Trump, basically, he realizes where our country, it's like a derailed train, you know. You're not just going to leave a derailed train off of somebody's yard or over in the place; you're gonna get the train back on the tracks again. And we can get this country back on the track. We may not get it one hundred percent perfect, but I'd like to get it ninety-five or ninety percent perfect rather than twenty-two percent and on the decline. I'm excited! You know, I'm very happy. I mean, I could be a lot of places right now. I could be in Grand Cayman Islands right now, but I don't want to be there, I want to be here to support Trump, you know.

6:23

**DYKE:** So do you see him doing anything in particular that you like, or is it more sort of a vision?

6:29

**ALCORN:** Yeah, I do. I see that he has a very successful company. I mean, I know people point out to the fact that, you know, he's been bankrupt four times or whatever, but I mean his company's so large that, yeah, he did have certain limbs or certain sects of his company that maybe didn't do that great.

But overall, his company's done very well. Even when I was in the Philippines last year in May, I was riding a taxi in Manila, and I'm, like, looking at some great buildings in the city there, and I'm talking to the taxi driver, and he said, yeah, this is Mr. Trump's building. And I'm like, what!?! I didn't know he had buildings over in Manila, you know. So people say he don't have no experience. I disagree, because he's dealt with international governments for many years, international cities, mayors, and prime ministers, and presidents. He's dealt with these people for thirty-plus years. I mean, he's got more experience than governor [John] Kasich of Ohio. He's got more experience of Senator Ted Cruz. I mean, I'm not knocking them. I think that they may have some good parts. In fact, I would like to see some of them maybe in perhaps the Cabinet, or the administration. I think they have some good things to offer. I think Senator Cruz has some good things to offer. I don't agree with a lot of stuff Senator Cruz says, but I do think that overall he has some good things. But my point is, we need Mr. Trump to be president. I think America desperately needs Mr. Trump to be our president. And I couldn't think of anybody else better than him.

8:00

**DYKE:** Yeah. So, okay, so, when you distinguish Trump and Cruz, like, where do you see the distinction?

8:08

**ALCORN:** Experience. I think Mr. Cruz, he's constitutionally conservative, which is wonderful. But at the same time, you know, you can alienate people as well. You can be so constitutionally conservative that you wind up, you know, alienating people. I think Mr. Trump, twelve, thirteen years or more he's been registered as a Republican, but being registered Republican don't mean nothing. It's your experience. And I think that the difference between Cruz and Mr. Trump is experience. I can't imagine Mr. Cruz

dealing with foreign governments, you know, fifteen, twenty years ago, you know. But Donald Trump's been doing it for over thirty years, most of my adult life, I imagine—I'm thirty-six years old.

8:58

**DYKE:** So you just feel like Cruz would be learning on the job, whereas Trump would hit the ground running.

9:00

**ALCORN:** Absolutely. I mean, I'm sure he got some things that he knows how to do, but overall, he don't have near as much experience as Mr. Trump has. And that's why, you know, I'm very excited to be—. I'm really hoping, and I'm praying, that Mr. Trump will win the— [Recording cut off.]