

Feb. 8, 2007

21

Time Linda

Pastor Grattan

Eckson

16:24 So what are some the things your doing with youth programming here?

Well, again, like I say, I would like to have, ah...more of these, things like these relationship forums. More things that educate in terms of healthy relationships. You know. Hopefully these young people get married one day, produce healthy families. Hh... a good, you know, culture. And things like good parenting; good fatherhood, good motherhood. You know. Good financial sense. There is a lot of money in America and a lot of people do not know how to touch that. And it's not so much a matter of being rich, but being able kind live the good life. You know. There are ways to do that if you know how to handle money, if you know how...

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200

110

201

17:17 What do you mean by the good life?

All the nice middle... you know. Cars in the garage, owning a home and having a stable life, being not living the death life of America.

Yah.

17:36 -

Right.

It's possible to have a decent and stable life in this country. There is a fundamentally high standard of living in America even for poor people; that is way above the standards of the world.

202

You know. What is poor in America is probably rich in most places. You know. Of course a lot of people don't realize that, but I heard that if you have 35c worth of change you are among the richest in the world. A lot of people couldn't imagine that.

That's so true.

18:02

Right.

You know. Even homeless people in America, not that that is an exalted state, but even homeless people in most cases have far better...

Because you have organizations that will feed them, you have shelters where they can go. It just doesn't exist in a lot of places; it just doesn't exist in a lot of places.

18:22

Young people... values, teaching values, teaching growth and development. I think so much of what our society perpetuates does not gender maturity and growth in young people. We live in a kinda of contradictory society. We get offended, we get highly offended and we kick hoopla over the wardrobe malfunction of Janet Jackson.

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18:50 Laughs

Laughs

18:51 -

A wardrobe malfunction of Janet Jackson. Now... it's unbelievable how the media "oh! That was the most horrible thing in the universe," yet we sell sex everyday. Stop lying. It's so hypocritical. A wardrobe, you saw a boob so what? Going to the airport, you see them all the time, no body thinks twice about it. You know. It's, we are so hypocritical about it.

203

19:00 Right

19:16 Right

204

So much of it is money driven and we use sex to sell so much. And we freak out of some sister. It's just a stupid stuff they did, you know. Slap them a \$50 000 fine and call them back. You know and just get on with it.

205

19:32 -

There is so much more we have to be concerned with. So much of our society doesn't promote development and growth in our young people. It's kinda all superficial you know. And I think the church has... can powerfully impact those kinds of things. If you can find ways to tap into young people. I hear there's Christian rap in Phoenix.

19:59 Oh! Yah!

20:07 -

Yah! There is supposed to be a lot of Christian rap, I do not know what Christian rap is, but I hear there's a lot. They have

Laughs

- 20:11 Eheh, right, right. battles; they have rap battles, which is good. It's good than having real battles. Step
- 20:17 Yah!  
Eheh, eheh. groups: do you know what step-teams are? I saw one at the Apollo Theater a couple of months back, it absolutely blew my mind. Best step team I have ever seen in my life, they were incredible. And they were about maybe 10 to 14. Unbelievable. Absolutely unbelievable. That is the kind of stuff you can really... you know. You get people focused on things like that.
- 20:40 And, you know, we are talking about education, I mean, there is so much you can learn by being on a step-team.
- 20:47 -
- Right, right, I am always amazed. I am always amazed that we... when I came up, we grew up with music class. I don't think a lot of kids have music class these days. And we had music class and we had art class. I can do music, I hate doing art, but we grew up with these things. Those were normal parts of our school education. And it astounds me that basic knowledge that I got in basically a lower class neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio, kids don't even begin to get today.
- 21:25 -
- It just common stuff that we were taught in school, had in school. They don't even begin to get today. It amazes me. You know. None of this stuff: basic historical education, music education, art education, these were the things that you were taught and stuff doesn't exist today. What they teaching? And they are in school at 09:00 in the morning and by 02:00. We were in school at 08:00-08:30 and we didn't get out until like 30:00-30:30 in the afternoon.
- 22:00 Yah, me too.

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I am like gees! We had study hall where we had to study and if you got detention you had to do 20 division problems. I mean, with like ten digit long division problems, just do that. We did...and these kids, you know, don't know how to do any of this stuff today. It's amazing to me.

22:23

It's amazing because there is technology out there; computers, resources that most of us did not have access to in those years.

22:33

22:46 Laughs

I know, I know. They had a line in Time Magazine. They said, "the richer are getting richer and the poor are playing video games. And there is some truth to it. You know. There is some real truth to it.

22:56 There's a lot of competition for kids' attention these days...

Yah, there's a big market, they got money.

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23:03 It's a huge market, the video game industry.

23:15 There are so many programs now in community colleges.

Its serious bucks!

23:19 -

There is two sides to it, I mean; it's hard to argue against video games. There is highly educational potential to video games. There so much you can do with them. And the military use them too.

23:32 For training.

Yah, for training. It's incredible tool. And really is. There is certainly nothing, absolutely nothing wrong with recreational video games.  
Rights, right. We are talking about, "it takes this much time, it supports the culture of

violence," when  
speaking of earlier...

- 24:14 How safe is it to play  
outside anywhere  
anymore? I mean, when we were kids we went outside  
in the morning and didn't come back until it  
was dark and rode our bikes all day along.  
They are all mall-rats; they are all mall-rats.  
That's what they love; it's the mall.
- 22:19 Laughs That's true, too. They would not kidnap you  
those days. Laughs
- 24:27 There is a high school  
inside the mall? Laughs
- 24:28 Do you know this  
place? Got a high school, got a Mall of America  
with a high school inside, in an amusement  
park.
- There is a high school inside the Mall of  
America, I sure is.
- No!
- Really?
- 24:45 They have to! I think it is the largest mall in the world.  
I think it's between Minneapolis, St Paul.  
It's got a high school in it. You know. They  
got credit cards
- 24:57 There is a lot of...  
Does he really? You can imagine. Credit cards and cell  
phones! It's insane, it's insane.
- 25:02 I hear my grandson has a cell phone.
- 25:07 So it's one of those  
"just-incase cell  
phones  
25:17 "
- He sure does. He's got a prepaid cell phone.  
He's got a cell phone.

210

It amazing growing up with technology like that. I call text-messaging being a generational divide. I am just on the other side because I never got (laughs)...

25:30

I know it's unreal, it's unreal. I would text more if the things were designed right, but.

It's hard to do.

25:41

It's hard for us to do.

Right, right, exactly, exactly.

They seem to, they have these contests. I mean, there is this one kid who is the fastest texter in the word. You know. They have these contests. These kids... (Mimics the sound of text-messaging). You see smoke come out of their finger tips or something I don't know.

26:00

They is a term that has been developed for that. They call them "serial texters," or something.

Yes.

Really?

Those are the people who spend time sending text messages.

Incredible.

26:23

I know

Well, if I can bring you back to the idea of education. You talked a little bit about your own idea of education and where you are talking this church in terms of where you guys wanna go.

26:37

Ah, mm, at this point I am not sure what else I can say about it. Like I said, you know, adding things to the lives of youth; and the kind of meaning that the community needs in terms of single mothers. There is a tremendous impact on families and futures when you have situations where the father is not around.

27:06

And I think the church is a...can be a tremendous venue for kinda addressing those kinds of needs; feeling areas and creating programs that can help people. We would... we thought about having a day care here.

27:24 Hhhhmmm.

After school programs. There is probably a tremendous need for tutoring programs. And these are ideas that are kinda hanging there right now. It just takes time for us to formulate, to get ourselves into place where we can begin to think more realistically about doing even one of these things effectively. There are all kinds of things you wanna do. Everything for us takes money and the church never really has enough money. Uh...but...

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28:00