

Interviewee: Pastor Grettan

Manhattan Pentecostal Church

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Interviewee: Pastor Grettan

21

61

On what hip-hop culture is...

11:50-12:24

Music, the dress, the lifestyle, you know...three or four scantily clad women following you wherever you go. While you listen to the musical (mimics a hip-hop song). It's a culture, it's a mentality, it's a...it's impacting young people like no form of music ever has.

104

Interviewer: Worldwide...

Interviewee: Worldwide! Unbelievable! Absolutely an obsessive phenomenon.

On how to change the youth....

12:42-13:30

Yah, but I don't, you know what? My guess is you never reach young people like that. Coz if you think about it, if you go back a couple of generations...there is always this disconnect between generations. And so when I was younger there was long hair and hippies and jeans. You know, you slice your jeans; you buy jeans brand new and then you take a razor and slice 'em up. And an older generation thought that was horrible. And then before then it was Elvis Presley generation. When Elvis Presley came out and shook his hips ah! Uh! Shaking his hips, you know. And so every generation has a perception of what the younger generation doing as horrible. And when you say "proper" to younger people you probably [gonna end up] ... throwing up a huge war.

105

153

13:31-14:15

Somehow I think there's got to be a way of incorporating what they like in doing some, some careful adjustment to bringing...because I think there are proper things here, there are right and proper things. And there is a great deal about hip-hop culture that is obviously very bad. You know. A culture of violence, demeaning women, cursing, you know, of just... "It's a least common denominator lifestyle." It exults everything that is kinda degrading in many ways. It doesn't exult family values, positive values.

On youth programming in the church...

16:27-

Interviewee: Pastor Grettan

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

150

17:17-18:21

Interviewer: What do you mean by "the good life?"

Interviewee:

All of the nice middle... you know. Cars in the garage. Just owning a home, and a stable life. Being not living the death life of America. You know. It is possible to have a descent stable life in this country. There is a fundamentally high standard of living in America even for poor people. What is poor in America is probably rich in some other places. Of course people do not realize that; that if you have 35c worth of change in your pocket you are among the richest people in the world. A lot of people could not imagine that. You know. I mean even homeless people, not that that is an exulted state, but even homeless people have, have far better...you have organizations that will feed them, you have shelter where they can go. It just doesn't exist in a lot of places.

154

155

18:22-18:50

...teaching values, teaching growth and development. 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...

Talking about his ideas of education and the direction of the church in regards to education...

26:37-27:20

Ah, Mm, well at this point I am not sure what else I can say about it. Like I said, you know. Adding things to the life of youth and then the kinda meaning that the community needs in terms of single mothers. There is a tremendous impact on families and futures when you have situations where fathers are not around. And I think the church is... can be a tremendous avenue for meeting, addressing those needs. Filling in areas and creating programs that can help people.

27:21-27:58

Interviewee: Pastor Grettan

We thought about having a day care here. You know. 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...get ourselves into places we can realistically begin to think about doing even one of these effectively. So there are all kinds of things we wanted to do. Everything takes money. The church never has enough money...

116

Interviewer: How do you get funding?

Interviewer:

28:02-28:50

Well, there is money; there is federal money for faith-based initiatives. And I know, I heard of many people who have done some very, very...have gotten well-funded for a lot of things. Again, I don't know, I have never; I seem to have never been able to get a hold of grant writers, some of them who really understand these processes. So we've never really launched into it, but, eh... I would like to get funded for these programs.

152

On future educational programming in the church...

34:34-35:18

We don't have anything that I can state as concrete. I mean, every Wednesday we send our young people on Sunday school. And some of my Sunday school teachers do a lot of creative things. But as far as something official, something that is structured, something that has a measurable objective built into it, that kind of thing, we do not have anything official like that. Again, we are still formative in terms of so much of what we do. And when you have a church, and you have a predominantly low income population; you have a lot of transition: folks who come to church one Sunday and you won't see them for three more Sundays.

119

35:19-

So it can be very, very difficult to establish consistent...you know. You got to establish consistent programs whether they benefit that's a different story. So it's very common for people to come to church one Sunday and not see them for two Sundays and then they show up. Life in New York is kinda, its kinda difficult getting around.

105

On learning from the youth and learning how to serve the community: Youth and youth "translators."

42:53-44:37

Interviewee: Pastor Grettan

I mean, what's gonna work, eventually, what will always work, and this is probably always true in America, ... you always have to find what I call, I use the term "translators." And translators are people who can speak the culture, the language of the culture. My son is a "translator" because he is young and can speak to the young people, but he can talk to me, too. You know. If you gonna cross into, if you gonna cross a language barrier; you need somebody who can speak Japanese and English or Korean and English or Spanish and English or whatever route you go into you need someone who is adept at both, who understands how to get in and out of both cultures. You have to have "translators."

And if you gonna talk to younger people, you gonna find somebody who you can cultivate as leader, who knows how to do hip-hop and yet they got these things inside them; these gifts yearning for...

They can do some "translation" for you. They can reach at young people. And they can be a positive... you know. They are the ones on the hook. They are the positive influence that draws other young people and it becomes the venue for...you know, for building a group of good leaders. You build leaders who can build programs.