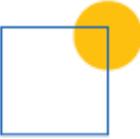




THE BLUEPRINT

Virtual Town Hall



Dark Hearts – The Forgotten Ones The Blueprint Virtual Town Hall September 29, 2020 Transcript

Moderator: Kenneth Braswell

Speakers: Kimberly Dent and Griff

Kenneth Braswell ([00:07](#)):

Hey everybody, this is Kenneth Braswell, CEO of Fathers Incorporated. This is one of the last panels that we have for today and I've saved. I know what all the other panelists would probably like try to get on me, but I'm going to say I saved the best for last. And so today we're going to spend a few minutes talking about the documentary that you just saw, Dark Hearts.

Kenneth Braswell ([00:31](#)):

And we're going to talk a little bit about co-parenting. My guest today, my good friend in the middle, Kimberley Dent, who serves as the executive director for the Fatherhood Initiative of the Ohio State. And one of my staff people went to Ohio State and he keeps telling me that I always got to say the in front of it. Every time I kept reading your title, I kept wanting to say, The Ohio State Fatherhood Commission, right? Is that how it goes?

Griff ([00:59](#)):

Actually they say the-

Kimberly Dent ([01:02](#)):

The Ohio State.

Griff ([01:02](#)):

Well, because I'm a big Michigan fan. You can just say the Buckeyes, that's it.

Kimberly Dent ([01:06](#)):

[inaudible 00:01:06], The Ohio State University, Buckeyes. That's right.



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Kenneth Braswell ([01:12](#)):

The Ohio State University.

Kimberly Dent ([01:14](#)):

That's right.

Kenneth Braswell ([01:15](#)):

And so she hails from that Midwest State, and my good friend, Griff, many of you know him from get up mornings with Erica Campbell, but he is so much more than that. He is a dad of five children, he is a son, he is a philanthropist, he's a reader, he's a comedian which he kind of downplays, 25 years in the game.

Kenneth Braswell ([01:39](#)):

But God always says, I put the right resources in you to fulfill your mission. And so you were saying something earlier, Griffin, you were talking about the comedian part and that leading to being a Lariat or Nobel peace prize. And the moment you said that the first two people I thought about was Richard Pryor and Dick Gregory. And my brain was like, man, those ... When you start talking in that space, you got to talk about those two guys.

Griff ([02:10](#)):

Well, I think it's very important for people to know that comedians ... Milton Burrow in his last interview with Larry King on CNN, he said there's comics and his comedians. Comics are people that say funny things, comedians are people that make things funny. I'm a comedian, Richard Pryor was a comedian, Dick Gregory was a comedian, because we're able to spin reality.

Griff ([02:37](#)):

It actually makes us a little smarter than the crowd. You know what I'm saying? For me it's very important, yes, I've made people laugh for 25 years, and I feel like I left them with something, but now I have to work on my ... I never looked at comedy as a legacy, and like, "Oh, your dad was ..." I don't want my kids to say your dad was Griff. I want my kids to say, "Oh, your dad started this new kind of group homes, or your father went to the judicial system and changed some laws for kids, or your dad went overseas and what."

Griff ([03:18](#)):

I need that, being funny is not my end all be all anymore. Of course, my first three, four years of comedy, that was important. But God just showed me so many other things man. And really, I just want to help just like you. That's why me and [UCO 00:03:37], we love to read, we love the kids, but we're really hard on fathers in the nicest way that we can be, because it's so important.



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Griff ([03:50](#)):

I went to a wedding over the weekend and I listened to people say, "Oh, this is my daughter, this is my step son, these are my two step sons, this is my son." I'm from a blended family, I've always been from a blended family. My father has been married five times, my mom's been married nine times. What I loathe more than anything is when they say, "This is my son, Darryl, and this is my step son Griff."

Griff ([04:17](#)):

All you got to say is, "These is my kids." I don't even know these people. You know what I'm saying? We're at McDonald's, yes, these are my kids. Let me get to number three, you don't have to ... Number one with a blended family, that's step kid, that, that. When you create that invisible wall, it's hard to break it down. It's hard because once you say this is my step son, nine years old, 10, by the time he 14, it doesn't feel like anything.

Griff ([04:48](#)):

It's like for me, I'd say I have five kids, I raised two that weren't mine, but I don't say step. And I've been in their lives, their whole life. They both call me dad. I worked, I was very intentional about making my son, my non biological son understand that I love him the same way I love my other two sons that also are in the house.

Griff ([05:16](#)):

I never took him to the side and said, "You're not my son or you're all good, but not like so." It was bit ... I overdid it, with them. Because I know ... I laugh and I look at it, but Cinderella had those step sisters, right? If one of them was cool, she could have been in the castle too. If I get twins, you get the twins no more. If you're telling me it wasn't one cool sister, I was like, "Hi, [inaudible 00:05:47], all Cinderella out. We are [inaudible 00:05:50]. Being a mean step anything, that's a choice.

Kenneth Braswell ([05:55](#)):

Right. Kim, just on that, because we're now, we're in the conversation now.

Kimberly Dent ([05:58](#)):

Yes, we are.

Kenneth Braswell ([06:01](#)):

When you think about the work that you're doing, and the thousands of fathers that you're working with from a comedian, or from a human lens, what's not funny about the work that you're doing?

Kimberly Dent ([06:14](#)):



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What's not funny is when we have moms and dads, or moms who are for the most part the gatekeeper. When she puts her needs, her feelings, her wants, her wishes before her child. That's what's not funny. When I took a look at your documentary, or the film, Dark Hearts. I mean, I tell you, it just filled me with such deep sadness, because it's exactly what happens on a daily basis.

Kimberly Dent ([06:53](#)):

And when you have the child who was always the victim, always the person that is hurt when we have moms and dads who can't come together, and co-parent, and come up with an amicable sort of way to focus on what's best for their child. That's what's not funny when children are caught in the middle of this tug of war.

Kimberly Dent ([07:22](#)):

And when you have dads, especially, black dads or just dads in general, who are doing the best that they can, but it's just never enough. It's never enough, and so when he went to bed, and they all laid their heads down, and it ended, my heart was just so heavy because it's what happens. And the child is the casualty, that child is the casualty.

Kimberly Dent ([07:50](#)):

That's what keeps me motivated in this work, it's what happens with our children when as the mother ... I'm just going to say the mother, because that's my experience. And I have to kind of go with Griff on the step thing, but I'm going to take it another level. Half brothers and sisters, because that's what's in my family. I am a product of father absence.

Kimberly Dent ([08:11](#)):

And so I've been married twice, two failed marriages, but I have a child from the first marriage, and two children from the second marriage. My ex husband from the second marriage treats my oldest daughter like his own, they're brothers and sisters, my two children don't say, that's my half sister. And she doesn't say, that's my half brother. That's my brother, and that's my sister, that's their family.

Kimberly Dent ([08:33](#)):

And so I agree with you. We have to take those labels off, right? But we also need to ensure that moms understand how they are hurting their children when they do not allow dad to do the best that he can, it might not be what she feels is the best. I think that this is the best I can do, and I am there, and that's the Dark Hearts. He was there, he was there with the ice cream sandwich, he was there at the park, he was there. He was there in the courtroom, right?

Kimberly Dent ([09:09](#)):



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And you had the child passed the picture, because in the child's mind that's what he sees. He in the middle, my mom and my dad, and he's holding both of their hands. And so that's what's not funny when women and moms, and believe me, I know about hurt feelings. I know how it is to be a woman's scorn. But once you get to the point where you put your child's needs before your own, then you have arrived, and you just sort of work through that every day.

Kimberly Dent ([09:40](#)):

It's not easy, I'm not trying to say, or take anything away from women who have been hurt, but you have to continue to walk towards what is going to be the best interest of your child. That's what's not funny.

Kenneth Braswell ([09:55](#)):

Griff, one of the things that we tried to do in the documentary was, we depicted my son in the middle as a placeholder to tell a story. But what we were trying to get out to people is that, your children are always there, but they're not visible. We made him visible in the documentary, but in real life, your children is not standing between the two of you in the courtroom, they're not standing between the two of you when you're on the corner arguing, they're not standing between the two of you when you're on the phone in the middle of the night yelling and screaming at each other. What is it that parents are missing when they don't see themselves through the eyes of their children?

Griff ([10:33](#)):

I was brought up around a lot of rage, and a lot of anger, and a lot of violence, and a lot of mental problems, a lot of dysfunction. And I think when you are heavy into that, nobody care what's going on with the kids, because they got their own problems. They don't even have their adult self together, let alone to have children. We become casualties of parents that were there and not there at the same time.

Griff ([11:09](#)):

I would probably equate that to being worse, if you had parents that were there, but weren't there mentally for you. Kenneth and I always laugh, I always say my dad had a bad '80s and '90s a little bit, but we're cool now. And when I think back at maybe how horrible I was treated back then, it just makes me reflect now as a man and know that my father didn't have a father.

Griff ([11:47](#)):

My father wasn't afforded a relationship where somebody put his arm around him and said, "I'm proud of you man, or man you're making great decisions out there, or boy look at you, I see you ..." He didn't have that, I mean, when you don't have that, it's a very dark abyss that can really ... And it can go a number of ways, I just had not even really lunched.



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Griff ([12:18](#)):

I flew into Atlanta last Saturday to go to a funeral and taped some stuff. But soon as I landed my 21 year old daughter Uber me to grant park and she was like, "Dad, let's just walk around the park and talk." And as I listened to her, and we walked, I had my suitcase, and we talked. It just ... I made her that way, you know what I'm saying? I made her somebody that needs quality time from a man that needs you to hear what she's saying, to look her in the eye.

Griff ([12:53](#)):

And I was so proud of her, just the decision she's making at 21, and living on our own, and really talking to me about stuff that I would expect her to talk to me about, because I raised her that way. But there's a difference between saying you can tell me anything, and then they tell you, and you yell at them, and you break that trust. Or you be quiet, and in your head you go crazy. But while you're sitting there you go, and then what?

Griff ([13:28](#)):

I'm like Kenneth, I'm very intentional at my fathering, I understand, I just got off of text with my 29 year old son, my oldest. And the way we laugh, and talk about comic books, and cartoons, and Anna Mae, and stuff that I kept him around his whole life. [inaudible 00:13:49] comes out tomorrow and he already threatened me like a child. You know what I mean? It just feels good. It feels good Kenneth when you do it right.

Kenneth Braswell ([14:01](#)):

Absolutely.

Griff ([14:01](#)):

You know what I'm saying? When I was with the son that I told you about, that wasn't my biological son that I raised, gave me the blues, wow, I mean, dude ran away from home seven times in one year. He stole my 45 caliber pistol, he got kicked out of high school, he got kicked out of college, he got kicked out of the army, but he left last Saturday to Arizona to start his family.

Griff ([14:30](#)):

And before he left last weekend, I had a chance to get with him, and talk to him about some things, and he wanted to hear that from me. He wanted to say pops that ... And I said, you did good son. You did good-

Kimberly Dent ([14:45](#)):

[crosstalk 00:14:45].

Griff ([14:45](#)):



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And in the end that's what children want to hear.

Kimberly Dent ([14:51](#)):

And that's what I didn't have. It's absolutely that the conversation that you had with your daughter, that's what I didn't have. I didn't have that male role model, and that's what happens, and this is my conversation with moms as well. There're certain things as moms we can't give our kids, certain things as a mom I can't get my daughters when it comes to men, right?

Kimberly Dent ([15:10](#)):

There're certain things as a mom I can't give my son when it comes to growing into a black male, right? And so with you just being there, your presence, even with all of the things that your son went through, maybe trying to express himself in how torn up in the turmoil that was going on inside of him, you were still at the end of the day, I'm proud of you son.

Kimberly Dent ([15:33](#)):

And so now he goes to his family, and that's what ... I didn't have that. At my divorce, that's not what I wanted for our kids. I didn't want for my daughters what I had, which was not having a father. I knew I had to work through that place where I can move out of the way to allow their dad to be their dad.

Griff ([15:54](#)):

But you're such a unicorn, you're such a unicorn amongst women because ... And I won't say unicorn might be strong, but it's so much, I mean, when we just hear, we won't even deal with the generation now. Think about our generation, and our cousins, and our aunties, and stuff there's oh, it's some black woman that's going to the grave lying on a man. You know what I'm saying? That ain't your father, you know what I'm saying? Just lying and not trying to fix that or not ... You know what I'm saying?

Griff ([16:29](#)):

I think it's very important now, so the relationship didn't work out. You cannot divorce the kids. You cannot ... If that's step daughter and you was the only man in her life for 10 years, you don't get to say, "Hi, [inaudible 00:16:47] your mama." You know what I'm saying? But that's easier said than done, and of course I've had 15 examples.

Griff ([16:55](#)):

I know and I wouldn't do as a kid, I was like, "Man, when I have a kid, I'm going to just build them up, I'm going to just ... Oh, man, I'm going to just tell him how proud I am of them." I can't wait to have a son, so I could throw a baseball in front of the house a little, and not get mad at him when I throw the baseball past them. You know



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what I mean?

Griff ([17:19](#)):

It's every day correcting, correcting, correcting. Me and my ex wife have been married twice, and I won't say I've had two failed marriages, because I got kids out the first one who are awesome. And then I got kids out the second one who were just as awesome. It wasn't that I failed in marriage, I just failed in making sure I ... I have to be honest with myself, when I was a little kid, and I was saying, man, when I have kids, when I have kids, when I have kids, I never said when I have a wife.

Griff ([17:52](#)):

When I have a wife, when I have a relationship, when I get me somebody, I never, that wasn't my thought. I'm an amazing father, and I'm an okay husband, you know what I'm saying? And instead of working on the betterment of the relationship, I just poured it into the kids. And how can you really be mad at somebody that was going to practice this, and picking up, and being there, and getting pants, shirts, and it's kind of a give or take, you know what I mean? It's definitely like [crosstalk 00:18:35].

Kenneth Braswell ([18:36](#)):

But when you think about that so close-

Griff ([18:37](#)):

[crosstalk 00:18:37], but he is a good ... My kids ain't never had a dad that good myself.

Kenneth Braswell ([18:43](#)):

When you think about it, one of the things that we try to highlight a little bit and Kim, this lens to some of the work that you're doing with these guys in Ohio, my good friend, Shawn Dove and I did some series of workshops in New York City and we called them, my man is Funny, but I ain't laughing, right?

Kenneth Braswell ([19:04](#)):

And so on the other side of the pain that we are experiencing in these relationships that aren't working out, like we dream for them to work out, is this issue of finances, right? And money, because that's kind of what it boils down to sometime. If you ain't contributing what I think you should be contributing to the financial stability of this family, then you ain't this, and you ain't that, and you ain't this.

Kenneth Braswell ([19:32](#)):

When you're looking at your gas Kim, how does that intersect, that pain intersect with the reality particularly now during COVID, and black men in particular, black fathers have always caught a migraine when the country



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was in recession, while everybody else had a headache. And so now, you've got dads that are out there who are piling up in arrears, because they lost their job as a result of this.

Kenneth Braswell ([20:01](#)):

In addition to that, somebody said this way the other day to me, and they were talking about the stimulus package. And then he says, "A group of people came together and decided that they were going to give \$600, or whatever the amount to families, to everybody in the country." And someone in the room stood up and said, "Whoa, hold on one moment, what about the guys who don't pay child support?" "Oh, we ain't giving them nothing."

Kenneth Braswell ([20:30](#)):

It was the only cohort of people that they decided not to help in this country, and that primarily represents low income fathers of color, how does that intersect with what we're talking about as it relates to the pain?

Kimberly Dent ([20:47](#)):

That's really great, great question and great few questions. And just again speaking on my experience, I started my government work here in Ohio at the County Child Support Agency here in Columbus and Franklin County. And I had 900 plus families in my caseload. And so that's what I would hear every day, like Ms. Dent, where's my payment. Ms. Dent, I promise I'm trying, I'm trying to find a job, but my license is suspended.

Kimberly Dent ([21:17](#)):

I heard that for a few years and then the middle, I kept thinking there's a child, right? So you have custodial parent, noncustodial parent, and that's what you take a look at in the world of child support. Because that's what I did, that was my job. I was an enforcement officer at Franklin County Child Support.

Kimberly Dent ([21:34](#)):

Then when I went to the State Office of Child Support, we were really focused on changing some policy, because some of the ways that we engage families in the child support system just did not make sense whatsoever. And not all of the policies, but some of the policies, for example, like driver's license suspension, you're going to suspend the license and then you tell the person, well, you know what, we'll reinstate it, once you do one of these things, pay all of the arrears, which again, that will never really happen.

Kimberly Dent ([22:07](#)):

Give us a job, when you tell us the place that you're working, and we send a wage withholding there, and we get that first payment in, we'll reinstate your driver's license. The question was, wasn't that sort of like the cart before the horse, he needs the license to go find the job so that he can then give you the information so forth



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and so on.

Kimberly Dent ([22:24](#)):

We changed policy here in Ohio, but one of the pieces that I kind of thought about more so, sitting in the seat here in Fatherhood, after leaving the State Office of Child Support is, the emphasis of the money and the financial support. Now, I will say in order for you to be a responsible father, and to be a good father, right? To be a good parent, there has to be this financial piece that you provide to your child. Your children need-

Griff ([22:52](#)):

Absolutely, even if you're mad about it.

Kimberly Dent ([22:55](#)):

Yes, you got it [inaudible 00:22:56] take care of the kids that way, but there's so much more that your children are looking to dad for. And for example, I asked my 34 year old, she just turned 34, and we had a great party for her this weekend with my second ex-husband there. I asked her, "What did you get for your ninth birthday? Or what did you get for Christmas when you were 10?" Kids don't remember that stuff, right? Kids do not always recall the financial pieces of what you did for them as children.

Griff ([23:28](#)):

Never.

Kimberly Dent ([23:29](#)):

They don't remember when they were five, the Jordan's that they got, right? They don't remember-

Griff ([23:35](#)):

They remember you told them this, shut up one time in the car, because you was on the phone with the police. And all they remember is, you told me to shut up. I was 11, we you was passing that 7/11, right there.

Kimberly Dent ([23:49](#)):

Right there. They remember this Griff, they remember the time, they remember ... Oh, I remember when daddy used to take us out and get the Christmas tree. They don't remember [inaudible 00:23:59] was under the tree, right? And so that's my encouragement for low income fathers is that, I know it breaks your heart, not to be able to actually buy the things all the time that they want. The kids don't always remember how we stood in line for Tickle Me Elmo, and all that. I don't even remember some of the other things that we just [crosstalk 00:24:22].

Griff ([24:24](#)):



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You're right. I got it one your age almost. That was the Tickle Me Elmo or Phoebe, or whatever.

Kimberly Dent ([24:28](#)):

Phoebe's and all that stuff, it was all the rave, right? You had to stand in line, people spending their last to do that. The kids don't remember that stuff, they remember ... They have memories of their times together. With the stimulus checks, I'm going to talk a little bit about that. And so when the stimulus checks were released, and no one really thought about what's going to happen now with fathers who have child support arrears.

Kimberly Dent ([24:56](#)):

Well, they're not going to get their stimulus checks. They were garnished and they were sent to the Child Support State Agencies in order to pay on their child support arrears. And it was very disheartening for a lot of fathers in our program, because that money was not supposed to be looked at that way. It really was for everyone that was experiencing this negative impact of COVID. COVID took us out our game, right?

Kimberly Dent ([25:22](#)):

And so it was like here's this money for everybody to get, and even fathers that had child support arrears should have gotten that money. I'm sorry, they just should have received that money. And that's why I understand why they're so frustrated and there's this feeling that they are looked at differently than other populations in our country, I understand, because of how we just do not put them where they really do deserve to be, right?

Kimberly Dent ([25:57](#)):

This is this child's father, this is this child's father, whatever it is that we need to do to make sure that we embrace, support, empower, encourage black fathers, fathers of color, or brown and black fathers, or just fathers in general, we need to do that. And that's why in this system that I'm in, we will make sure that we support that in Ohio.

Kimberly Dent ([26:21](#)):

Because it's so much better when they have that father who is encouraged, and who is supported, where he can be the best father, and he can be the best parent partner, or the best husband that he could possibly be. The financial piece I understand it, because that was my government work in the past. But today it's not just about what dad can pull out of his wallet, it's just not, [crosstalk 00:26:52].

Kenneth Braswell ([26:53](#)):

Griff, I want to ask you a question. BeCause we got about seven more minutes and I want-

Griff ([26:59](#)):



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And I turned into a radio host when I'm at duty [inaudible 00:27:03]. I just start interviewing other people.

Kenneth Braswell ([27:06](#)):

You're right, [crosstalk 00:27:07].

Griff ([27:06](#)):

Doing work in Ohio.

Kenneth Braswell ([27:10](#)):

You're right. But we going to come back, this is an ongoing conversation. But I've always in this conversation because of the short amount of time, I just want to address this because they're going to be those folks out there, particularly moms that are out there and say, "Yeah, but that's not my situation." There was a character in one of my favorite movies, Life, and his name was, Can't Get Right.

Griff ([27:32](#)):

Man.

Kenneth Braswell ([27:33](#)):

And so Griff, there's some mother out there, right? And I've had those mothers come through me and they tell me their story and they say, and I'll give them all this advice and they'll go, "But Kenny, I did that, Kenny, I did that, Kenny, I did that." And I get to the space where it's kind of like, "Man, I don't know what else to tell you right now. Right now you wait, Can't Get Right."

Griff ([27:54](#)):

That dude is a loser, and it's not you, if you've done everything. I've made sure the kids have pictures of him in the house. I've made sure not to lean on him and talk to him crazy in front of the boy. I made sure I've offered to bring the boys to a park and just say, "Aw, man, your dad at the park, we're at the park, well done I'll come back." I've done that, I'm not leaning on him with child support.

Griff ([28:24](#)):

Then you should be mad at yourself because you got a proper loser, and there are proper losers out here. And it's a timeframe to be angry. Me and my ex wife my last ex wife, I don't know how I'm going to start saying that. One of my exes, I stopped putting child support on the ... When I sent it, I started putting love support. When I started putting love support, it changed my mind, because I love Jameson. I don't kind of like Jameson. I love that little girl.



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Griff ([29:08](#)):

When I start putting love support for Jameson, my spirit change. Now I wasn't saying, "Dinnah got paid his money, but Dinnah just ..." I started saying, "Aw, anything for Jamie." You know what I'm saying? If you got no money for our daughter. And again, I'm not Can't Get Right. I go very hard on counseling, on making sure I'm mentally okay and fit all the time, because I got a different kind of job.

Griff ([29:44](#)):

But for the ones that can't get right, man, then your son will know that their dad can't get right. You don't have to tell him, it gets bad. I remember when mom brought us to the mall and he said he was coming, he didn't come. I'd say I feel sorry for you ladies, but I don't. You had to know, I'm sure nobody get where the dude and say, he's sorry, but I'm going to make him work. But some of them do, some of them want to make a project out of a man, I'm a big thing. Then we go have a baby and that's going to make him more responsible.

Kenneth Braswell ([30:25](#)):

No, that's not happening.

Kimberly Dent ([30:27](#)):

[crosstalk 00:30:27].

Griff ([30:28](#)):

30 chance that he changes, but he still can't change. Now, when their kids reach 34 and 38, I just talked to a 40 something year old dude the other day and was like, "I'm about to go meet my dad for the first time." That broke my heart a little bit as a parent. I'm not going to lie, wow, what is [inaudible 00:30:52]. What a dude who missed ... You miss 40 something years.

Griff ([30:59](#)):

And so even with their [inaudible 00:31:01], but here go the crazy part. He going in with all this expectation, but the dad still might not give it to him. [inaudible 00:31:09] to do in five minutes. "Man, when you was nine, I was trying." You know what I'm saying? I just hope you cool now. So I can say, "Oh man, I met my dad, we going to try to do some more things.

Kimberly Dent ([31:22](#)):

You take it one day at a time, you take it one day-

Griff ([31:24](#)):



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[inaudible 00:31:24], because I say all the time, Kim, my father and I had a tough beginning, and now we're cool. But he still don't text, and he still doesn't call me. And he still doesn't make sure I'm ... So I make sure I do it, I do it for him. I know he's not able, and it doesn't hurt my feelings, and it doesn't make me angry, because I know the forgiveness that I gave for him was from the Lord. It's not for me to say, and he don't even do ... You know what I'm saying? At this point, you got some grandkids that think you are the man. Keep that storyline going.

Kenneth Braswell (32:08):

I thought you going to say, keep that lie alive.

Griff (32:12):

No, just storyline going on forever.

Kenneth Braswell (32:19):

[crosstalk 00:32:19].

Kimberly Dent (32:23):

Memories, right? If you say, you're going to be at the mall, you might not have the money to buy a pretzel at the mall, but you showed up, the presence you showed up. And that's the encouragement that I want, because that's what the child is going to remember. They're not going to remember you bought at the mall that day. They're going to remember, I used to meet you at the mall every Saturday.

Griff (32:46):

Now, you're going to tell your kids, me and your grandpa used to be right here by the food court. And we would just sit and play crossword puzzles or whatever. My mom taught us a long time ago. It's not about nothing other than making memories. You know what I'm saying? He would say, y'all want to go Magic Mountain, and then it cost me \$300 and we can't eat tonight, go to park and not ... Or you want to go to a park, have some extra money, go get some kites. You know what I'm saying?

Griff (33:17):

She really put it on us, and it made me say, "I want the memory." I want the ... Every time I pass this park, I go, "Man, you're crazy. Grandma made these kite backwards." They didn't even fly, but we laughed the whole day. I'm for the memory, I'm for it's better getting presents on Christmas, let's go for a walk at the park.

Kimberly Dent (33:45):

[crosstalk 00:33:45].



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Griff ([33:45](#)):

Chris Tucker's jokes in his last one, he talks about how his mother always wanted to do his homework and it was always wrong. He was always fighting her not to do her homework with him.

Kimberly Dent ([33:56](#)):

I was going to get-

Griff ([33:56](#)):

In our last closing minutes, I want you guys to give some motivating, encouraging words to this set of co-parents. These are the co-parents who are actually still ... They're together, they still making it happen. They live in the same household, but since mid-March they been on lock down, have not been able to get space from each other, and they are maintaining, but they did these separate vacations, like nobody's business. Like what's the motivating word for those two individuals who are trying to navigate this co-parenting space under these conditions.

Kimberly Dent ([34:40](#)):

Woohoo. The word that comes to mind, first of all, we talked about resilient families. I had a conversation last week about the definition of a resilient family. When we think about resilient families, that's it like a government word. They like to talk about family sufficiency, and family resiliency, and everyone kind of focuses on that dollar sign, right? That losing jobs, again, took a lot of families off their game.

Kimberly Dent ([35:08](#)):

If you can't be a resilient family, just because there's no income coming in, then you might want to redefine a question, refining foundation in your resiliency, right? And when you talk about a resilient family, is a family that can come out of COVID stronger than when COVID started. Even when there's this loss of income or loss of job, how strong was your spiritual resiliency and your emotional resiliency?

Kimberly Dent ([35:38](#)):

Where was your foundation or was it just built upon the fact that somebody made some good money, and you guys meshed well because she had a good job, he had a good job. And what I say to those that are still intact, and they're still in the household, I wish I was in your shoes. Because your children are going to see you sort of fighting through all of these COVID issues.

Kimberly Dent ([36:05](#)):

Everybody has their set of COVID issues, some COVID issues or lack of food, right? Some were lack of, again, of a job, lack of being able to go out and you're all kind of stuck in the household. How did your family survive

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COVID-19, right? There's going to be a lot of stories. How resilient was your family, right? So patience, patience and always find self care, you've got to find a way to kind of step away and unplug just a little bit for some sanity, but then you go back to that strong foundation of your family.

Kimberly Dent ([36:42](#)):

Sit down and define the resiliency of your family. How resilient is your family, and find those bright spots, because I'm going to tell you, as dark this COVID is, wasn't is, I find some bright spots. I find some bright spots in COVID, and what COVID had done for, not just my family, but some other families, and just an engagement.

Kimberly Dent ([37:03](#)):

Just this in and of itself, you're in my home, this is intimate. This is an intimate setting, we're invited into Griff's home. Ken thank you for inviting me into your home. I mean, under any other circumstance, I probably would never have come into any of your homes before. There's this connection that COVID has done for some folks, right? That would be my thing to just make sure that you remain healthy in yourself, and remain healthy in your family, and sometimes that means just unplug. But then remember to come back together and start to define your family resiliency.

Griff ([37:41](#)):

That's really good Kimberly, I would say simply, have you been in the book? Have you opened up some pages and found out what valleys were for great people that were here before you? When you think about all, we're in a wilderness right now. God has put the planet in a wilderness, but what you need to know biblically about a wilderness, is God will provide during the wilderness in a form of manna. Manna absolutely means what is it?

Griff ([38:20](#)):

When you talk about manna, you have to say, I got this manna of good health, I got this manna of a relationship, I got this manna of my kids are healthy, I got this manna of them still working, I got this manna that I'm still breathing, I got this manna that I could walk around. If you can't start becoming grateful for what you have in your kids, in your family, all part of that gratefulness, it's going to be tough for you to get the glory when it's over. Because the only thing that come from a wilderness is victory. Man, Like you were just saying Kimberly, when we come out of this, Oh, the relationship is going to be stronger.

Kimberly Dent ([39:06](#)):

That's it.

Griff ([39:07](#)):

The businesses that's going to be stronger. The apologies that you made during COVID, that's turning into



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something else becomes stronger. It's all about getting time to yourself, getting healed spiritually. Spiritually is where we're all crazy, it's in our mind, it's not in our job. Good thing for me and Kenneth, because we can't do nothing, but it's in our mind, we got to change our mindset.

Griff ([39:38](#)):

Your one mindset was, well, I'm going to be this way. You new mindset was, I should be a better saver. I need to read books to communicate better with my spouse, I need to learn what roadblocks is for my kids. So I can jump on and play with them too. If there wasn't none of the things that you've done since March, then 21, going to suck for you. How about that? Because everybody can't come to Canaan land.

Griff ([40:10](#)):

Everybody's scary, some people's scary to go to Canaan land, and it's right there. It's right there. I'm an entertainer, so for me, but somebody say we got you something in April. Hi, they send me half my deposit, and I don't think about it again until March. You know what I'm saying? For me, all kinds of ... I just said two weeks ago, I will not apologize for having a great 2020, no more. I'm having an amazing 2020. I'm amazed.

Kimberly Dent ([40:43](#)):

Good for you.

Griff ([40:44](#)):

The radio region is picking up more affiliates. I'm in a new relationship, that's not new that I love. And it's helping my health, and it's making me feel, and now because I said with y'all that I wasn't the best husband in the world. I can be that now, I can work that now. I ain't got no fears, I can't blame it on that now. I'm about to give it all to a wife, you know what I'm saying? [crosstalk 00:41:15] she's about to catch all these John C. Maxwell books. All these Priscilla Shirer sermons, she's going to catch ... Boy, you know what I'm saying?

Kimberly Dent ([41:27](#)):

[crosstalk 00:41:27].

Griff ([41:30](#)):

It's about changing, it's about adapting, and it's about being grateful and thankful. I'm okay. But we don't have no bread, but Jesus, we got somewhere to stay. God, we got food to it. Lord, we're still together. People dying every day from COVID but not our family. If you're not thankful for the little things, how is God going to bless you with a lot?

Kenneth Braswell ([41:57](#)):



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Amen. You guys are incredible.

Kimberly Dent ([42:00](#)):

I mean, the ones of you at home that have little kids, they're watching you. You might not think they watched and they hear everything. They're watching you work through this COVID-19, just take that on [crosstalk 00:42:12].

Griff ([42:11](#)):

The kid is mine, they're saying, "My parents fell apart during COVID-19.

Kenneth Braswell ([42:22](#)):

Blessed guys, thank you so much. You guys reminded me quick, Griff, you reminded me of that couple that David Allen Grin, and Kim Wayins used to play on in Living Color-

Griff ([42:32](#)):

Boy, boy.

Kenneth Braswell ([42:35](#)):

And they were always in this gateway, and we're still together.

Griff ([42:40](#)):

Still together.

Kimberly Dent ([42:40](#)):

Yes, we're still together.

Kenneth Braswell ([42:47](#)):

That's good.

Kimberly Dent ([42:47](#)):

That's perfect, right there.

Kenneth Braswell ([42:47](#)):

Thank you so much guys, this was incredible. You've given a lot to think about, and I'm sure people are going to be talking about all of this conversation that we're having. And again, this is not the end of the conversation.



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This is the continuing of a conversation we're going to be spending the next year specifically focused on talking about black fathers. And re-imagining how we should be seeing black fathers today differently than we saw black fathers, 30 and 40 years ago.

Kenneth Braswell ([43:15](#)):

And how we should be seeing fathers 20 years from now, because fathers 20 years from now, they're going to be a new breed. These kids are different breed today, they're not the same father as we are. They're not the same fathers that came before us, these are different children. They're extremely different and we're going to have to be able to speak their language, to keep up with them. Thank you again. And man, I bless you both Kim, Griff, talk to you soon.

Griff ([43:42](#)):

You guys take care and stay blessed.

Kimberly Dent ([43:44](#)):

You too.

