

[MUSIC PLAYING]

I didn't hear what you said, baby, because Gene and you and everybody's all on the same-- what'd you say?

Just couldn't shut her up.

Now, say that again.

Oh, you got me finally on?

Are those headphones working?

Yeah.

I don't know where-- Alan's not working now. We're going to have to deduct this from his check.

Yo, Alan?

Alan, if you're listening, give us a call at 526-4000.

I miss you, Alan.

Yeah. You know, Tom Robinson was singing in that song, all you gay women, all you gay men, come together, stand together, and each other's rights defend. To be gay is to be fighting all the prejudice and lies. Now, we know there aren't any prejudice and lies aimed at the gay groups that get together and call themselves churches, right?

Oh.

Do you get any problems from the, quote, "straight" heterosexual community? Or are you like, after hours, do you get all your flack from the, quote, "gay" community?

No, we receive periodic phone calls from people that tell us that we're a group of reprobates and that what we're doing is wrong and that we're all going to go to hell anyway. But we deal with that accordingly and we know better. So that's all that matters, is that we know better.

What about the AIDS problem? Because it's something that you can't turn your back on.

Yeah. We're very involved in the AIDS situation in the fact that our church members have really rallied to the cause in taking care of various AIDS patients that we have known, taking them into our homes and taking care of them and doing what we can to help fight that battle.

Jan do you have anything to add to that?

Yes, just that we are right now in the process of a proposal for a very large property, very large property. When God causes them to see that and we sign the papers on that, we're going to have something for this vision that brother Ronnie has, and that has to do with the AIDS people and our great need to help in that, an AIDS hospice and housing for this homeless and housing for these poor people and the hungry.

This community house that you were talking about earlier, where you've taken people off the streets and given them a place to live, you said that the people that there were straight.

That's right. We've had 12 people come into that house and only one of them-- we've taken them off this corner, at Taft and Westheimer, when they said, take care of our own. Well, our own, I think we're bridging that gap between the heterosexual and the homosexual community because all those people, only one of them was gay, period.

At that point in their life, Buddy, they really don't care who's on the other end, whether they're gay or straight, as long as someone's handing them food and clothing and place to stay.

Were those-- and I say kids. I don't know, I call everybody a kid, I think. Were those kids surprised to see you down there? Were they--

Certainly.

Jan, the first time we met and I saw her down there passing out sandwiches, Garland Ganter, our news director, he was after me because, Garland, I do a lot of work for the station I go out on interviews and talk to this person and that person, and I like to go on the interviews where you get the free lunch.

Well, come down and see us.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

It was really--

I was telling Garland Ganter, I said, Garland, there's this church, there's this gay church and they're down there passing out food. And he said, Buddy, you always go to the places where they're giving out the food.

It was really interesting, the first day that I went down, I spoke with some of the young people there on the street and asked them what their need was and gave them one of our church business cards and said, I'll be back. Well, the next day, when we appeared with food and clothing and things of that nature, they were very surprised. They said, you are back. We didn't think you would come back. And I said, well, we try to hold to our word. And they said, well, we've heard that before.

But we've proven to them that we did do what we came to do. And since that time, since November the 2nd, I think we figured up today-- sister Jan can verify this-- that we have served over 3,200 meals--

That's right.

--since November the 2nd.

When you say meal, what's that? What do you get?

Well, it started out a brown bag lunch that was a sandwich, fruit, and tea or coffee or whatever we could find in the way of a drink, depending on the weather. It's developed into now that we have the concession van, we have hot meals, stew, chicken and rice, whatever we can put together quickly and nutritional and tasty and be able to serve to them.

And what time does the dinner--

8 o'clock.

No, I'm not gonna be there.

And we're there every night. We do that seven nights a week, Buddy.

So these people were really surprised to see you come back?

I believe so.

Tell me the story that you told me about how you were walking down the street the first time with the sack full of--

Yes, we started it--

--hands full of sacks.

We started on a street over on Lovett, on this street as a matter of fact, on a corner, made our in a house on Lovett and crossed the street, headed to Westheimer. We were a group of us, and we were going to walk up and down the street and give out the food. And standing on the corner was a young man that we'll leave nameless right now. As we passed him by, I said, wait a minute. Well, let's just start right here. He didn't look like he was hungry or didn't really look like that, but I said, we got to start somewhere.

But I asked him if he was hungry, and he said, well, yeah. And I said, well, here, here's some food for you. And he said, where are y'all going? You're going to a party?

And I said, yes, we are. We're going down to Westheimer, we're going to give out food. And he said, well, look, can I join you? I told him, yes.

He said, but can I have one more bag? And I said, well, sure. And he took two, and he stuck the tops of them into his jeans and pulled his shirt off and went on.

Later on that night, God spoke to me and said that this boy needed to go to work at a certain place. And we told him that, and told him we'd be back the next night, that he needed to be there and he was going to have a job interview. And he was there that night, and then the following morning we took him to that job interview I did. And we had to sit and wait for a little while, and he spoke to me.

And I said, well, how do you get food and those cigarettes that you've got there? We didn't provide those for you. How did you get your food and cigarettes and everything prior to us coming there? Because he told me he had a wife and lived in an abandoned house and didn't have water or anything, period, nothing.

And he said, well, that until we came along that he was standing on that corner that night when we gave him that food waiting for someone to come by and pick him up, that he might prostitute his body in order to gain money to feed his wife and himself and to buy the cigarettes and provide for their needs. And that night we saved him from doing that because we provided what he needed.

That's right. That's right.

So we all know-- I mean, you and I know, the folks out there that are tuned to the Mighty 90 this morning may not know. A lot of those people down on the streets aren't there because they want to be there.

This one didn't.

Right?

This one didn't want to be there. Thank God he's in our halfway house now.

Is there hope later on --

Absolutely.

--for the gay community?

Absolutely. Yes.

The person like me that stood up when he was a kid and told the evangelists that he was gay, and it took them about an hour and a half to figure out what I was trying to tell them. Then when they did, they decided I shouldn't be teaching Sunday school and they took my kids away from me. And I just said, God don't want me and I don't want him. So is there hope for us?

Oh, absolutely, Buddy. There is hope in Jesus.

Yes.

And the thing of it is, God does want you and me and people just like us, Terry and Jan. God wants all of us.

There's a song that they play in the bars all the time that the Happy Goodmans sing.

*Looking for a City.*

*Looking for a City.*

Yeah. Is that it? Is that the--

That's it.

--name of it?

That's it.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

You know what that song reminds me of?

What?

Gay Pride Week, 1987.

Yeah.

That's right.

Were you down there? You know what I'm talking about? What am I talking about? Huh? Does anybody know? Come on. Don't just say yes if you don't know.

When the crowd all joined in and the whole crowd was singing that song and marching, right?

Uh-huh.

Wasn't that a scream? And Ray Hill was walking down the street with that megaphone and all those policemen on those horses were standing back there, waiting to get the crowd, and everybody just kind of filed out. It was really nice to be there in that sea of humanity in front of Mary's and hear that song playing. And then everybody kind of marched over to the gay fest site and that went on. And it's all going to happen again.

Yes.

1988. And maybe that Sunday before the parade there's going to be a big bump. What was that? There's going to be a gathering of all these homosexual churches, churches, down there, maybe across from the disco Kroger store. You never know, when you get all these preachers together, what they're gonna do.

That's right.

That's the truth.

You never know what they're going to do. So we'll just have to keep informed as to what's going to happen with that. Also, Gay Pride Week 1988's going to be the first broadcast of *After Hours*. That was born at Robert and Lloyd's house one night during dinner.

Lloyd and Robert were talking about-- well, it was really Robert's idea, talking about having an after hours dance. And that just kind of happened. It's going to happen. We're going to be there. And Ronnie, you wanted to say something about the caller that called in?

Yes. We addressed the question that the caller asked, and I just wanted to send a little message to him, I guess you'd say, is, don't ever let anyone convince you that God does not love you even though you are gay because God does. And if more of us could realize that and realize that we can have a personal relationship with the Lord and that we know that we love Jesus, how much better off we would all be if we could just realize that we have that capability of having that personal, walking, talking, relationship with God just as well as anybody else.

If somebody is listening to this morning and they've heard that, they grew up with that, and for some reason they believed all the garbage that Jerry Falwell and all those other people had been dishing out to us over the years, and they didn't want to call in and get on the radio where everybody in Houston and beyond could hear them, can they call you at the church?

Oh, certainly. Certainly. They could call Community Gospel Church. The phone number is area code 713-863-8846, and we have a ministerial staff that will be happy to visit with anyone that wants to call. We welcome those calls.

Jan you look like he had something to say. You said you wanted to touch on something.

Yes. I just really feel God poured out this vision of this street ministry upon me and told me to bring it back and share it with everyone and say, God said, feed my sheep. And it's for you and it's for you and it's for you. It's for everybody. You need to be doing that.

He said, feed my sheep from that baloney sandwich to that bowl of stew to the nurturing and the love and the word, God's word, to just the friendship, Buddy, the look in your eyes when you look at them, that you don't turn your head away. You don't turn your head away from them. If they can see you love them, then they can visualize. They can see Jesus through you, that you could love them, too.

That's right.

And I think that we are-- apart from the vision that God gave me of feed my sheep, I think it's expanded even more than that. And that is that I think we are helping to bridge that gap between the heterosexual and the homosexual community, and I'm just really on fire about that. I'm really excited about it.

I can't think of her name. Jan-- I can't think of her name now, with the MCC church, Reverend Jan-- no, that's not right. Reverend somebody with the MCC church here in Houston. She used to pastor the church and we interviewed her.

Jeri Ann Harvey.

Jeri Ann Harvey, thank you, sir. She was here, and we went down with the microphone and did an interview with her. And she said that the gay churches were teaching the straight churches how to love again.

Amen. Amen.

Really neat thing, Buddy, in the respect of our Community House is in bridging that gap, to this date all of our residents at Community House have given their heart to the Lord, and some of them have become members of our church. So we can no longer say that we are a church of totally gay people because we have heterosexual members now. And that's really wonderful to see us worshipping God together in spirit and in truth.

When Reverend Laura was here with the Church of the Rock folks, she had a hard time with when I was saying a gay church. She said, we're a church full of-- I don't know what she-- a church full of Christians that happen to be gay, somewhere along that line.

We're a Christian church first, ministering to gay people.

That just happen to be gay.

That's right.

Happen to be, secondary.

That's right.

Secondary.

Well, if you have questions for us, we're still waiting to hear from you.

Call us up.

The number's 526-4000. I don't know where Alan is. Alan is out there somewhere, I'm sure.

Alan. Come out, come out, wherever you are.

Come out, come out, wherever you are. Next week, *Timeline*. *Timeline* takes a look back at over the-- well over the past 15 years. This is kind of a nice quiet way to end up the year. *After Hours* has only been here since September the 6th, and Roger and I were starting down the stairs tonight and I said, oh, Lord, we go through this every Saturday night. We gather up the stuff and go to the radio station.

And we only do it because you're important to us. People like Ronnie Pigg and Jan only work their heart out at Community Gospel Church because they feel like you're important to them.

Amen.

Amen.

People at Church of the rock and MCCR and all those other churches in the city only work and strive hard because they feel you're important to them. And I am a strong believer in us coming together as a community and standing up and joining hands and walking out there and putting that smile on the face that no one can wipe off. And I want to see the gay community of Houston do something.

We were talking earlier about things we were going to be talking about in the next few weeks. There's a police officer in El Paso. I called down there last night. They got snow on the ground in El Paso.

Can you imagine being a police officer in El Paso and being a lesbian and having to deal with that in the city of that size? I mean, it'd be bad enough in Houston. And especially with 2106, that law up there that says we're all crooks.

That's right.

And I can answer that with stealing, and I think that the man up there will forgive me for stealing because I'm only stealing words from Harvey Milk. And I've said it before. If you don't know who Harvey Milk is, for God's sake, run out and buy a book and read all about them and he'll tell you all about them.

But Harvey was elected to the city supervisor position in San Francisco. And he got up, and the national press was there and he said, there are laws in this state that prohibit people of the same sex from marrying, but there is no law in this state or in the universe that says I can't love someone, and I want to introduce my lover. And there are no laws anywhere that can tell you who you can love--

That's true.

--and who you can sleep with. I have a wonderful man out in the lobby that is my salvation and has gotten me through some very tough times.

He's also very cute.

We've also had a very rough year because he quit his job after 10 years to go back to school, and that was a big change. And doing this program every week is a big change. Everything is a change. We go through it every day, and thank God for changes.

But 1988 is going to be a wonderful year for the gay community of Houston. We're going to see wonderful things happen.

Buddy, I think it's the year that we're all going to unite, like we used to be and become one as a group. I think that would be just super.

Yeah. And Angela Passaretti with the Montrose Counseling Center was in here last week, and Angela said, I can see gay people coming out of the closet all over the city and it happening. And I've talked about numbers and how many people, and there are people in that HDLPC that say, oh, well, there aren't that many gay people. And they're gay people that will tell you there aren't that many gay people.

I know that we're there. I know we're here. I also know that loving is wonderful. I know that there's nothing wrong with loving. I know there's a thing out there called AIDS that has killed a lot of our brothers and sisters, and continues to kill a lot of our brothers and sisters.

I know there are publications like *Cosmopolitan* that on the cover of January '88, there's an article that tells how women are safe and secure, and a lot of people are feeding garbage to folks that think that just because they're not gay that they're not going to be threatened. And I think that's very frightening. I think it's very frightening that *Time* magazine has Gorbachev as the Man of the Year.

Yes.

And we could go on and on and on about frightening. But 1988 is going to be a good year.

That's right, it really is.

Buddy, the Bible says that a house divided against itself can't stand. And if we as a community realize that there is strength in unity, then we'll realize that divided we cannot stand. But united we can stand and we can go forth, and we can make a proclamation to this world that we're not going to be satisfied to be second class citizens anymore.

One thing that we teach at our church is that we are children of the king and we are of royalty. And we're not beggars anymore, but we're children of royalty. And if our community were united in this effort of fighting this horrible disease that has stricken not only our community, but in every phase of life now it's beginning to reach out and take its hold. But if we will unite together, we can conquer anything.

It's really hitting the minorities right now.

That's right.

The Black and Hispanic communities. It's really tearing them up. And I had a Black minister call here at the station and talk to me two or three weeks ago, and he said, we don't have any place to turn--

That's right.

--because the government certainly isn't going to help.

Certainly.

And speaking of help, we were at the Gay Pride Parade planning committee meeting, whatever it was called. I don't know what it was called, the first meeting of everybody getting together that was interested in Gay Pride 1988. And I said, well, we can have the greatest parade in the world and have the greatest whatever in the world, but if the community doesn't come out, then we've wasted our time.

And this woman told me, she said, well, it's not our place to bring the community out. And after we got in the car, I told Roger, I said, that's crazy because if we can't set an example for these young people-- and when I say young people, I don't mean just 16 and 17-year-olds, I mean 70 and 80-year-old young, gay, men and women that's that have hidden and worried all their lives. If we can't do it, and if we continue to do it just like I did at work tonight, last night, stand there and let the jokes and the lies be spread about us, then who's going to back us up? It's certainly not going to be the White House.

That's right.

And I can't wait for next fall when George Bush gets sworn in and we have to deal with him for four years.

Please.

Another exciting aspect of our ministry there at Community Gospel, Buddy, is we shared with you the vision of the street ministry and the AIDS hospice. Our future plans include housing for elderly gay people, where they can be around people that are just like them and not have to worry about going back into the closet after all of the years of being openly gay, and then suddenly here I am alone and old and nobody wants me, what am I going to do. We're going to be there for those people, too. So we're excited about that.

That's great. I had a question.

What's that?

Brother Ronnie, Jan, do y'all accept clothes and fooding for the street ministry?

I was hoping somebody would say something about that.

Well, I asked, OK?

Yes, we accept any food donations and clothing donations to either Community House and the street ministry. We can use anything people want to donate. We'll be happy to pick it up. And they can just call the church at 863-8846, and someone there will take the message. And we'll be happy to pick up anything people want to donate to us.

Or you'll find this out on the corner of Taft and Westheimer every night. You can just drop it by to us and see firsthand what's happening.

And what time are you out there?

We're out there Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 8 o'clock, and Friday at 8 o'clock, and then Thursday and Sunday we're out there at 5:00. That's because those are church nights for us, and we go out early and then take the people to church with us.

Just look for the big white van that says, Community Gospel Outreach Ministry. You can't miss it.

That is a neat van. I drove by the church the other day, and I just got so excited seeing that big man out there. I said, all right.

If you want to see something exciting, look out when the nice brother Ronnie drives it.

So if somebody wanted to make a cash donation or food donation or clothing donation, what's the number again at the church?

The phone number is 863-8846. Or if they want to make a donation to send in the mail, they can send it to Post Office Box 66158. That's Houston, Texas, here. Zip code is 77266.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

You're on, Terry.

I'm on. All right. That was Sandi Patty and "Lift Up the Lord." I know that one by heart.

Oh, wasn't that wonderful the way that was -

[LAUGHTER]

You just cued that one right on target, Buddy.

What are all these records? I'm just putting this stuff away. I've got a song I want to play for you right quick.

All right.

It's called-- it's from Don Francisco's album. It's called "I Could Never Promise You."

Yes.

Everybody needs to buy that album. That's wonderful. Those songs are great.

As Jan looks at it. Isn't it a great cover?

We're putting in a plug for Don here.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hi.

Had to make you quit talking.

Well, Ronnie just let us talk, and I just love to talk to him.

I'd love to have this done in a wedding, if I could marry my man out there. But--

You can marry your man.

--gay people can't get married.

Sure.

Really?

You can be married by God, and that's the only one that counts, right?

Yeah.

All right, the Community Gospel has holy unions.

Oh, really?

Yeah.

Gay people getting married?

That's right. Mine and my spouse-- mine and my spouse. I and my spouse are married, yes, we are.

My spouse and I.

Thank you. I knew it was something.

So what does somebody want to say to get us out of here?

Brother Ronnie, take it.

Oh, I'd just like to say--

Yeah, because we're running out of time.

We've really enjoyed the opportunity to be here with Buddy and Terry and--

Yes, we have.

--and to share with you what the Lord is doing at Community Gospel and what we're trying to do for our community, and not only for our community, but for the people that are homeless and hungry. And for anybody that's in a need, we're trying to do something to help fulfill that need. So we appreciate the opportunity to share with you. And I'll let sister jam share a little with you.

We want to thank you especially for this opportunity, or I do. This is our first opportunity to let the community know or hear from us about what's happening out there and what God said, and we really appreciate that.

I was just mentioning, yes, to we take donations. Last night, as we stood out there, some people came from Fort Worth. They'd heard about the street ministry that we're doing here and God spoke to them about it. They brought us over 600 cans of food, 600 cans of food, just from a small church. They heard about it in Fort Worth. They brought it to us.

They brought us over 20 bags of clothing. We need coats. There are cold and hungry people out there.

That's right.

Coats and blankets and food of any kind. And we thank you.

Terry, tell us about-- tell us about next week, Terry.

Next week, January 3, is *Timeline* from the Pacifica radio archives. This is a documentary and traces important events in the gay history, starting with the eyewitness accounts of the Stonewall riots in New York. This was in June of 1969.

Then you got Miss Anita Bryant, anti-gay. And on January 10, we have a very special tribute to Harvey Milk. And then on January 17, we have *Closet Classics*, hot dance music from past and present, during week number 1 of KPFT winter marathon.

Week number 1?

Week number 1.

That Marathon, that's where you--

We got some exciting things coming up.

That's where you come on and you say, I want to keep KPFT on the air for another 18 years.

Right. And I want to help with the transmitter fund.

Yeah.

Yeah.

I want to thank you guys for coming by this morning.

Thank you. We'd like to invite everybody over to our church, Buddy. Our services are Sunday morning at 11:00, Sunday evenings at 6:30, and Thursday evenings at 7:30. Everybody come visit us.

What's that address again?

3014 Center Street. We're at the corner of Studemont and Center at the Pentecostal Family of Montrose.

And before we go, I want to say happy birthday to Lloyd. Lloyd's with the Gay Fathers of Houston and Lloyd just had a birthday. He's 139 years old. And I don't know how old he is.

Happy birthday, Lloyd.

Anyway, Lloyd's out there. Happy birthday, baby.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Well, join us next week. Got a lot of wonderful things happening. 1988, when we see, it'll be a brand new year. And it's going to be a year of wonderful things for Houston's gay community.

Yes, it will.

That's right.

And if anybody finds Alan, tell him to call home.

Yeah. Alan, call home.

Terry, are you going to be here next week?

I'm going to be here, with bells on my shoes.

OK. And Reverend Ronnie, are you all going to come back and see us?

We'd love to, Buddy, any time. We appreciate the opportunity.

Jan, you going to be down there passing out food?

Every night, Buddy. Come join us.

Come join us for a good meal.

There you go.

Don't tell Buddy that. He'll be there.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Well, it's time for us to get out of here. Stay tuned for *Stepchild 213* with Michael Davis coming up at you on KPFT Houston, your Pacifica listener-sponsored radio station for the Texas Gulf Coast. So we'll see you next week with *Timeline*, a very, very special program, and all those TV preachers that come on and say call your friends and tell them.

Well, give them a call because we've got some wonderful things happening. And until next week, get that closet door off, and come back and see us, OK? We'll see you then. Bye.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

KPFT Houston.

Black people will not run from America. If white Rhodesia want to run in the Olympics, then white America can run in the Olympics.