

Transcription of Oral History Interview with Speaker 2

Interviewee: Speaker 2

Interviewer: Speaker 1

Date: Unknown

Location (Interviewee): Unknown

Location (Interviewer): Unknown

Transcription Equipment: Otter.ai

Interview Technology: Unknown

Abstract: Speaker 2 talks about how the COVID-19 pandemic has had a positive impact on their faith as well as how that belief has influenced their view of the pandemic. They also talk about the changes their religious community made to keep people safe and what community service activated they have been engaged in.

Speaker 1 0:00

First question: how has COVID-19 affected your faith or beliefs?

Speaker 2 0:05

Ah well, it's certainly helped me turn to reassuring scriptures. To get back into how you connect with God and how God is with us all the time, so you rely more on that providence of God, that presence of God, knowing that, you know, things are out of our control, but yet God is still there. God is still in charge. So, that's kind of what he's done for me.

Speaker 1 0:33

Is your religious community still gathering currently? And how has COVID-19 affected your participation in your religious community?

Speaker 2 0:41

Well, yeah, well, we're gathering by Zoom. And not by seeing each other next, and touching each other, we stopped all of those kinds of gatherings where people come in. There's a lot more work for me, putting out inspirational messages throughout the week rather than just the sermon on Sunday morning, so, and I have that too, with a Zoom. So more phone calls, emails, trying to remain in contact with people and connected. So we still have that connection with each other. But that's the changes that I have experienced here with COVID.

Speaker 1 1:26

Is your religious community supplying or engaged in any kind of community service and attempt to help alleviate issues caused by the pandemic? If so, what are those efforts?

Speaker 2 1:37

Well, that's a, it's more of a personal thing, because we have people who are making masks for neighbors, for health care workers, or other people around. So there's some of that going on here with, with our group. As far as a concerted effort, as a whole group, no, we don't have a whole lot other than providing support to other agencies that do help in local situations. So like Brethren Disaster Ministries, we're working and trying to help with supplies, going to hospitals and things like that. And that's both in the United States and around the world, from New York to Rwanda to South Sudan and Puerto Rico. So the other thing that we do is encouraging people to stay apart, to encourage healthy practices, to maintain your two meters, six feet apart. And even now, it's encouraging people to start wearing masks when they enter closed spaces, like

grocery stores so you are not passing things around. Unfortunately, it's getting crowded on our walking and running areas that we have to wear the masks out there too, so. Those are things that we encourage. So that's how to deal with this stuff.

Speaker 1 3:02

All right. Thank you.

Speaker 2 3:03

Yeah. You're welcome, Joseph.