

Transcript of Interview with Interviewee by Interviewer

Interviewee: Interviewee

Interviewer: Interviewer

Date:

Location (Interviewee):

Location (Interviewer):

Abstract: The interviewee discusses how COVID-19 affected their faith and beliefs. Interviewee also talks about how their congregation has adapted to using Zoom in order to livestream their services.

Interviewer 0:00

How has COVID-19 affected your faith or beliefs?

Interviewee 0:05

I think that the COVID-19 pandemic has strengthened my faith and my beliefs. I find myself looking to the Lord more and more each day as we wait for a solution. My personal practice has grown and has grown with my family, as we have more time together to pray. We are able to support our members who need help whether they need us to bring them groceries. So I think it's really showing us how strong of a community we can be if we just continue to praise God and know that his almighty power is, is more than we'll ever have. So we just have to let go and let God.

Interviewer 1:01

Right. And is your religious community still gathering currently in any way? Like, how is COVID-19 affected your participation in your religious community?

Interviewee 1:14

Yes, yes, the community is still gathering. We have an account on Zoom. And we've been using that as our main reach out to our congregation. We meet our normal times for our normal services. Actually find that we have more participants now that everyone is able to do this from the comfort of their home. We have optional cameras, so we want to make sure everyone can be there. So if people don't feel like getting ready or don't want to be seen on camera, we don't push for that. As long as you're able to hear the message and hear the Word of God. That's all that we're here for. So we've had to modify some things, such as our testimonies and stuff like that.

We have people pre sign up before service if they have something that they want to say, just to you know, make sure it's kind of harder to retain control over the internet. So that's kind of been one of the only drawbacks, but besides that, and you know, the music and the dancing and stuff like that we pretty much just have our- our word. And the music ministry has been really good at mixing some of our old performances. So we have that music, and it still feels like we're all in a room together, praising the Lord.

Interviewer 2:45

And is your religious community supplying or engaging in any kind of community service in an attempt to help alleviate issues caused by the pandemic? If so, what kind of efforts have they taken to help?

Interviewee 2:59

Uh, yeah, we do have a lot of elderly members of our congregation who have needed things like grocer- groceries brought to them or them taken to pick up medication. So we've, we've done what we can. We have a really good group, in our, in our youths, they've really stepped up to, to kind of be caregivers in a way. So we're, we're really just trying to keep our, our community together. We're in a community that's not well supported, I guess I'll say. So, we really just have us. A lot of us don't have extended family members, so we rely on each other. And obviously, we all share the love of God. So we've been really trying to help our community first. But obviously, we'd love to be a part of anything bigger. We're just- we're a smaller church and, and there's some members that that really need some help. So we have been doing what we can to bring them groceries to sanitize things for them to make sure everybody has their medication, make sure those who are- have any immunity issues are taking care of. And so far, efforts seem to be paying off a lot within our church. So you know, I thank God for my health. I thank God that I'm able to be somebody who is able to help another member of the congregation. But yeah, that that's, that's how we've been getting by in this, in this pandemic.

Interviewer 4:43

Right. Thank you so much for sitting down and having this interview with me Cassidy. I really appreciate it. And I hope you have a great day and stay safe. Bye bye.