

Transcript of Oral History Interview with “Angie”

Interviewee: “Angie”

Interviewer: Speaker 1

Date: Unknown

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Abstract: “Angie” discusses how COVID-19 has affected their faith. They also talk about changes to their religious community, how they feel about online church services, and their experience attendings another church’s drive-thru service. There’s also discussion about the various community service activities their religious community has engaged in during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaker 1 00:00

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

“Angie” 00:09

I think it has strengthened my faith actually. I don't know what all this means and I don't, you know, I don't necessarily mean is like, God sent or anything like that, but it definitely I feel like it's God allowed, where he's allowed the thing to happen for some reason, and so whether it's to get our attention whether it's to, I don't know, I don't know, but I feel like there's almost like a forced stillness, right, and I think in this for stillness, it'd be wise to take advantage of that time and really kind of strengthen beings. I mean, I feel like I have studied more, I have been a little bit more attentive, and kind of shame on me that it's something like this to make that happen. But, but, you know, in any, in any case, I'd be down to teen I feel like my personal walk has, has gotten strengthened from this, especially working at the hospital and being a nurse and all that is just, you know, I've been doing a lot more brain, right. Every time I walk to the hospital every time, I take care of COVID patients. And so, it has definitely increased that faith that I have.

Speaker 1 01:24

Perfect. All right. Second question. Is your religious community still gathering, currently?

“Angie” 01:35

No, they are not.

Speaker 1 01:36

So, they are they doing services like online? I know some of the churches here they're going virtual with doing services, yes, remotely to where people can tune in and watch it online via video.

“Angie” 01:53

They are doing some of that. I don't know. I kind of feel. I don't know how I feel about that. So, I feel like we could have gotten more creative. So, my church did shut down completely, and they got to get like

the pastor and like a choir kind of got together and tried to like, pre-record several services, and then they'll just use them as needed.

Speaker 1 02:20

Mm hmm.

“Angie” 02:23

But it funny enough that the church also allows another church in the community to come use their parking lot on Sunday. So, I actually went to the drive thru Sunday church, and they basically had like a three, four, member praise team that we're all six feet apart. Of course, with mics, everybody pulled up in the parking lot, either set in their car or had a picnic chair, at the front of their car. And everybody will distance appropriately. We were all gathered there together. So, we had a normal church service outside. I feel like that was creative, and I know, I really enjoy that. So, I've been doing that at this at this other church, but my personal church, I feel like we shut down really easily without even trying to like, maybe possibly be a little more creative.

Speaker 1 03:19

Yeah, I haven't heard of like the drive thru services. So that's definitely a creative way to allow people just to still, gather, and still have that worship without, you know, still keeping in mind that, okay, you still need to be aware and cautious and still keep, you know, the distance of the six feet. But it's still, you know, people still also to get out the house as well, and have some type of normalcy, to, you know, what they enjoy doing, and when it comes to worship.

“Angie” 03:58

I just thought it was brilliant.

Speaker 1 03:59

Yeah, that's definitely, you know, a good alternative to you know, doing it online. That is very creative. I haven't heard of that one at this point. Okay, and about other than the normal worship service. Tori explained that, okay, you went to another church service, and it was, you know, via the drive like a drive thru church service. What other things would you normally participate in, that you're no longer doing because it's affected by the COVID-19? So, any other things in your religious community that you would normally partake of other than the regular services that has been stopped or canceled due to that?

“Angie” 04:53

I don't normally like I mean, I participate in just like different ministries that are active when we're present. Right, outside of that, you know, it's pretty, pretty slim to none. I mean, I do like, I'm active in the choir, I'm active in some of the health ministry, but we haven't really been able to do that. Even when they got together to record the several services. They kind of asked me not to come, I think they're a little terrified that I work in the hospital, and so I was, I was really, you know, I was kind of offended, and I was, um, you know, it just kind of, you know, I'm just, I'm just not. I don't, I don't know, it's so it's definitely affected my, just my whole outlook, I guess. My participation, even, even online and

even. Yeah, but I mean, I did go and help, but I don't I don't really participate in things that would when we're not really meeting in present looking at the church. I don't, I haven't even watched the video.

Speaker 1 06:08

All right. And then the last question is, is your religious community supplying or engaged in any kind of community service in attempt to alleviate issues caused by the pandemic? And if so, what are those efforts?

“Angie” 06:29

Um, yes, they have, which I think actually was a good thing, and I actually, I did participate in something I did go and help out with that last week. So, they basically had a big, kind of a cookout for people in the community. My Church is located in a really bad community and kind of a really low-income community. So, they had a kind of a big cookout where we handed out hot lunches. So, we brought, and they actually contracted the caterers that are in the church. So, it actually gave you know, some of the church members continued business. Yeah, they're small businesses. Yeah. And contracted them. And they brought out their huge grills and they, you know, grilled chicken and sides and we all say six feet apart, wore masks, and we had people drive through and they actually had the Charleston police come to help direct the car. So, they knew there would be a butt-ton of people. So, it was in so they had the police, they're helping to direct the cars and like the whole community, were able to come in and come and get like, hot cookout food, like really good food. And they may have not been able to have, Yeah, it was awesome. So, I did help out with that.

Speaker 1 07:41

Good, because as you know, is, like you say, is providing work, you know, to the caterers that would otherwise have no work. But then it also provides food to those in the community who may not, you know, have, you know, a meal like that a hot meal to go to because of you know, the area that it is like, say low income. So that's definitely great. It also builds, to me something like that seems like it will boost people spirits. Yeah, just showing that, okay. We want to do and contribute to the community and do what we can to assist during this time. So that, that definitely sounds like that's something that I'm pretty sure they were grateful, you know, for to have a hot meal and to just know that people do care during this time for them during this situation.

“Angie” 08:37

They were, it was a very just the atmosphere was just very upbeat. It was very positive. And people were really appreciative. And even the police were really appreciative, and, yeah, like, it was nice. And they're going to do it again next week.

Speaker 1 08:50

Oh, good, I'm sure they'll be looking forward to that.

“Angie” 08:54

So yeah, they, they have that, and I feel like that's a good way to kind of just reach out.

Speaker 1 09:00

Right, well nice. Well, thank you so much, Angie, for participating in my little religion homework assignment. I definitely appreciate it and thank you for everything that you're doing on the front line with helping you know the patients at the hospitals you know, during this time is definitely appreciated.

“Angie” 09:21

Thank you very much. I appreciate it. This was nice.

Speaker 1 09:26

You're welcome.