

FIELD ASSIGNMENT # 4

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SS 112 Interpersonal Cross-Cultural Communication  
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Fall 2017

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My week thirteen field assignment about a relationship I formed with a local owner of a moving company named Jack St. John from the country of Haiti. I have been knowing him for years and refer him a lot of business. He is young entrepreneur and always try to inspire those younger and I had a chance to bond with him as someone he could look up too. Jack still carries a rich Haitian tradition in his family and their number one goal and drive is to never live as their ancestors lived and lives in Haiti. He works very hard and puts in numerous eighteen hour days to provide for his family here and those still in Haiti. Everything about him expresses his culture. I notice even when he is out on jobs and it's time for lunch he always has a prepared lunch of authentic Haitian foods. Jack has a wife and two kids but his household composition consist of many more members. He has his mother, father, sister, brother-in-law, and their children all under his roof and they all operate cohesively has a unit. This could never work for an American family for three male figures to live in one house but respect in recognize each other as strong men.

One topic that Jack and I often talk about is religion. In his country witchcraft is one of the most popular religions. Many of his family members practice and believe in witchcraft. This is one reason why Jack's family is so grateful that they were able to come to America so they can be free to worship God and have the free liberty to do it. He explained that in Haiti it is difficult to openly express that you are Christian and it's not that you are afraid but when you come from a long line of witchdoctors it is against the family heritage. I shared with me that his mother was witnessed to by a Christian missionary when he was a boy and she raised them to believe in Christ. They attribute their life of living the American dream to their faith and belief in Jesus.

Jack has adapted well and you could never tell he was Haitian until you began to hear him talk. His ascent would not give it away but the love he expresses for his country and the desire to see it fruitful. When I encounter Jack or any of his Haitian friends I can readily sense they will never give up believing that Haiti will be a great nation one day and that day will be when that nation accepts Jesus.