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### Interview #2

For this interview, I interviewed one of my coworkers, Felipe, and this was very interesting because he is African American as well as born in the south. He was born and raised in North Carolina where his parents raised him with Christian principles. They attended a baptist church throughout his youth but they also moved around because his father was part of the military so it was difficult for him to make steady friends and it caused him to become more and more introverted. His family taught him how to pray before every meal and to not curse which he abided by and held these principles dear to his heart but it all changed once he went to college. His dream is to be in the NBA and he has great faith that God will lead him there but he struggles with depression and anxiety which is messing up his life. He has gone to three different colleges and he knows about God and knows that he is living a life that doesn't satisfy God but he can't seem to figure out how to be on good terms with God. I invite him to church and he says he is willing to go but with his girlfriend and close friends influencing to be part of the world, he has no idea what to do.

The greatest factor in the life of Felipe is the fact that he suffers from constant depression and anxiety. I've attempted to preach the gospel to him and he is receptive but when he opens up to me he explains that he feels tied to the world and God is seeking for him but he

can't let go of what he has. He mentioned to me that when he falls into his depression mode he begins to see evil spirits and feels like he is trapped in his own body. He secludes himself from people and calls out of work. I've advised him to seek help and he does have a therapist but doesn't use it. He is here in New Jersey by himself and his family is down South which could be one of the top reasons why he feels the way he feels and isn't able to go back to church or living a Godly life. Since he was raised baptist as well as in a military home, everything was done at a specific time and with an order. Now that he has this freedom to do whatever he wants, I believe it is another reason why it is so difficult for him to go back to his roots.

One of the most interesting ideas that I came away with from this interview is that someone can know about Jesus and worshipped him for a long time and know that they need Jesus because their lives are a wreck without Him but yet not follow Him and decide to live however they want. This idea bewilders me because for me it is like I know I need Jesus so I make the decision to constantly be with Him and in His presence so for someone to say that they know they need Jesus and everything is a disaster because he isn't in the picture but choose to leave Him out and not follow Him is crazy. I feel like this is one of the areas that I would deal with directly in our second meeting because I believe that this is a large reason for his suffering and having to deal with anxiety and depression.

In conclusion, Felipe was very receptive to the gospel and was willing to hear me out and see what I had to say to him. I didn't even have to invite him to church this time around because he asked about the church and the times that we hold service. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, we haven't had a church for some time now but once this is all over then he said he would like to

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check it out and see. He said that my life and knowledge of scripture inspires him a lot and it

makes him want to go to church and seek Christ more. We didn't do a prayer of salvation because he felt like he would pray it and then go right back to his old life. One of his biggest challenges is women and he feels like that is another reason why he doesn't go back to church and seek Christ. These factors affect him in a negative way but he is willing and needs a push in order to begin developing a relationship with Christ.