

Practitioner Interview
Angelina Rivera
Nyack College

I interviewed Paquita Mason a Christian MSW who sees herself and who practices social work from a Christian perspective in that she sees herself as a Christian first in all areas of her life and including her profession. She explained that her Christianity is always with her, she does not leave her Christian values behind and her Christianity is not compromised at her workplace. At Paquita's workplace she is allowed to work independently where she treats every client with respect no matter what their belief or faith is and she will pray with a client by request only.

Paquita expressed that she does not change her lens at all when she is dealing with clients and she said that she stands on a verse of Scripture, Matthew 7:1 where she does not judge any clients in any way. Paquita does not judge her clients because she expresses that her job is to guide her clients into making better decisions for their lives. Paquita treats every client as though they were a family member, she never rushes them or corrects their grammar and she

gives them the time they need to express themselves and to talk out their issues. Paquita is very patient and knowledgeable but says she is a 'no-nonsense', 'street minded' therapist who will not be manipulated by her clients.

Paquita always knew she wanted to help people, especially the 'forgotten' population of people. She originally wanted to become a nurse but she failed the state boards and she followed a path to social work because in her heart she always knew she wanted to help people. Today Paquita works with both secular and Christians clients.