

Multidimensional Assessment

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The person who has been interviewed and is written about for this paper is a man named Matt Kim. A South Korean American man who is 35 years of age. Has graduated with a bachelor of History and is fluent in both English and Korean. He was born in Manhattan, New York in 1988 and had lived his entire life as a Christian but has recently only been a "practicing" Christian. His occupation is being a promoted coffee worker at Wells Cafe and also a church coordinator for missions and worship in Crystal Church. He currently lives alone at this time in New York and is single. To continue, Matt's hobbies have been reflected in what he does and have studied, which is his love of the history of any kind, especially from the Bible. Then reflected by his work, the love of coffee perfection.

Early Childhood

Biological Dimension

Matt was born healthy at the Manhattan Hospital in New York on May 31st of 1987. He was able to get fed and taken care of by both of his parents growing up. Meaning he was able to be fed nutrition, this continuing to his early childhood. Matt was a very active boy, running around a lot; being very energetic. Meaning his physical growth and gross motor skills were developing properly.

Psychological Dimension

Matt and the family once moved to Korea in Pre-K but would often get lost in the house. He later moved back to America where they lived in New York in an apartment complex. Which may have affected his speech at such a young age. Matt had trouble speaking to the point where had to meet with a pathologist.

Growing up in a Korean home, he was taught and spoke Korean after his speech impingement was treated. Even before having the speech issue, he would be in a household where the main language spoken was Korean due to his parents immigrating to America.

Social Dimension

Due to speech impingement, there was a lack of social interaction with other kids at such a young age. Like for his kindergarten schoolmates. Yet Matt has said that as active as he was, that was also with the kids in his Pre-K to Kindergarten.

As for Matt's self-identity with race and sex, he was aware but nothing to a point that affected him to different life choices.

As for family-wise, Matt has his dad and mother and his older brother who grew up with love and care for one another. As for his parents, they would give much love and care for him, however, as the Korean dynamics in the family, physical and verbal affections were low.

Spiritual Dimension

Matt was born and raised in a Christian Protestant family. Matt himself was not yet a Christian. The family has been to churches at this time.

Theories

Autonomy versus doubt is the theory from Erik Erikson's stage theories where this one, the child is learning of their self-control and sufficiency. "Children at this age are fast becoming more independent, trying out all kinds of activities, and learning many self-care skills that facilitate their autonomy." (Ashford, 2017, p. 179). This theory was slightly implemented for Matt as he has grown to be in the self-control of himself.

Matt continuously developed his motor skills to language skills throughout his playtime and with his family. However, his social skills were still developing.

Protective Factors

These factors go from having both parents, a loving older brother, being active in school and being educated at an early age, fed well and under the roof. These are protective factors as they provide an early positive start on his environment compared to many other kids.

Risk Factors

These factors would be: Parents not showing as much affection, not being able to make friends due to speech impingement, and living in an apartment where the living condition could be better.

Overall Assessment

Overall, Matt seems to have grown up in what may be called “normal” in a traditional Korean family. Where the parents care for the child but seem to neglect of usual Western affection for their kids. However, the parents were not noted to be harsh on Matt either. Yet having his environment the way it is, there could have been some underlying connections with the cause of his speech impingement.

Interventions

If there was anything that can be done that was already intervened, was the Pathologist that was called for Matt’s trouble of speaking. However, on the other note, an invention of what the family may have been needed. Perhaps a Social Worker or a family therapist to provide reasons not to neglect their child of love or too little, which would have helped in Matt’s development positively.

Middle Childhood**Biological Dimension**

Matt's physical activity had only decreased as he was growing up from elementary to Middle School; which is him being aged 5 to 12. Nothing was mentioned about how active he was or what he has physically done to keep him stay active. However, the understanding of his daily routine was to wake up, go to school, eat, and learn, come back home to eat and do homework, then would go to sleep to repeat the next day. Yet as he grows, the moving muscle develops for higher gross motor skills.

Besides just his daily routine, playing with his Gameboy was also a part of his life as well, the same as any later advanced game systems he would play growing up. Games became a hobby for him during his elementary and middle school stage.

Psychological Dimension

Matt growing up in school learning how to read and write was one thing, but to continue in education to middle school is an achievement in itself. Throughout his time, Matt would be aware of his emotions, at the same time learn about others' emotions. Like doing the social role-taking skills at effect.

All of his experience so far has challenged him to grow in middle school; to learn friendship skills on who to pick to truly be called his friend. To be less socially awkward, and build more self-confidence. At elementary school, he won a school art competition. This shows both his creativity, practiced skills, and the self-worth of feeling that he is capable of achieving his goals; that he isn't a nobody (his self-esteem being low due to bullying in school)

At the time of middle school, Matt began to attend Crystal Church (the same one he attends now after years of attending). There he was able to have an easier time developing his personality; being less socially awkward and growing to be kind and thoughtful.

The church was a major effect on his life, as he was taught how to feel and express his emotions appropriately. But most importantly on how to forgive; not hold grudges. This was important because Matt's friends in elementary school were not his friends. His "friends" were only using him. Adding on, he would get bullied in elementary school as well. So the importance of his brothers and sisters in the church was needed for his good for the upcoming middle school.

Also in his middle school time, Matt's cousin passed away. This with the news of the Columbine Highschool Massacre, was the beginning of Matt's understanding of death.

Social Dimension

To add to the Psychological statements, but to not be repetitive, Matt had been bullied but only learn skills to make better friends for his middle school. Thanks to his church members being a considerable part of his social life, without them, he would suffer from learning certain skills that would affect his development., like forgiveness and being in other's shoes. Matt's self-identity of race came to awareness. The elementary school he attends to were majority Latinos and his middle schools were majority Caucasian. This different environment has opened Matt's eyes to race. Affected his own identity as a Korean American but saw no major difference from one another just based on race.

Matt was also in a club in middle school. Meaning he was socializing with same-aged peers while doing activities at his time. Yet it was not easy to get to a new school as he had no prior friends to join him, so would have to start from scratch. His parents were relatively nonchalant yet still family love with one another. As for his older brother, they were very close, doing anything together growing up. At the time of middle school, the Kim Family had moved from their New York apartment to Townhall Harrison, Westchester and he would live there till he went to college and after, moved out.

Spiritual Dimension

For Matt's spirituality, he would still consider himself a Christian as he would still continuously go to Crystal church and share the faith with others. However, it was around this time that his family would stop attending church. It was after a disagreement with leadership in the church, his family left and never turned back.

Theories

Industry vs. inferiority was at definite play. His whole life from elementary to middle school he was challenged to develop his mind and personality with constantly new people and with the old.

Protective Factors

Factors would go to his environment with his old school teaching him how to make friends in the new school. Being able to learn how to socialize and make friends was key. Being accepted in the youth group and making peers that believe in the same religion was also a major protective factor as it gives a sense of similarity and family to Matt. With that, having faith in God to relieve certain stresses was a key factor as well. Another factor is the bond with his older brother, practically doing everything together, which was as said, "awesome" throughout his childhood.

Risk Factors

Starting with his family, being nonchalant with his parents can be a factor where love like the Western style is not given. As in kisses, hugs, or acknowledgment were lacking. Another factor was the fact that Matt continued in the church lifestyle while the rest of his family members that he lives with do not. The parents consider themselves Christians but Matt disagrees based on their lifestyle. While his brother is a non-believer.

Another risk factor was the news of death that occurred around him. The Columbine Highschool Massacre and the Passing of His Cousin.

Overall Assessment

It seems that Matt has a great connection with his brother but not so much with his parents; no real chemistry. However, the new well-picked friends from school and those who he can call his brothers and sisters from the church can be seen as making up for the lack of emotional connection he doesn't get from his parents.

Other than that, the experience of children near his age dying for whatever reason has taught him that school is not safe from the crazy danger outside in the real world. While at the same time can lead to a revelation of how precious a person's life is.

Interventions

Intentions such as the church and friends were one thing but the use of adults can be brought to light more. For example, the Pastors or Facilitators in the Youth Group Services with their small group time can empathize with Matt and be a part of his growth psychologically and socially. Or a guidance counselor, which in fact, there was one in Matt's time at his middle school who prayed with him after sharing about the death of his cousin. Actions like these that may seem irrelevant would go a long way to teach Matt what he can do in his time of despair and stress.

Adolescence

Biological Dimension

Matt begins to be physically active again by joining the Lacrosse team in his high school for two years (Freshman to Sophomore). Other than that, he would still be fed well, and having high metabolism he would not gain weight negatively.

Psychological Dimension

To keep it short, Matt has experienced many deaths and now even more. From a kid in school being in a coma and then passing away shortly, to the major event on September 11th, 2001; Matt experienced on live news with his classmate of the planes crashing to the second building. This had a tremendous impact on Matt's view of life even further, especially when it was all in his freshman year. The lesson is that nowhere is safe and that anything can happen.

Social Dimension

The immense amount of death he had experienced in his life, caused Matt to be more appreciative of the people he meet in his life. As he would never know when the last moments of anyone can be. This would affect the groups of friends that he make but most importantly his personality and social skills developed to the point of high maturity and sympathy.

Matt had continued to be in his church throughout high school with roles like being a part of the praise team and being a youth group leader. Also, the Lacrosse team he was on helped him make friends and learned about teamwork. Altogether, Matt has grown to be efficient in communicating and listening as a team member, brother, and leader.

Spiritual Dimension

Matt would still attend crystal church even without his family but has bonded even closer to the church members, as he was entrusted with positions for his youth group. His relationship with God was at a level where he would be called "lukewarm" but other than that, he has worked and attended many events that are a part of the church.

Theories

Identity versus identity confusion was the theory that is included. The 3 stages of adolescents of learning more about himself, his passion, his talents, his desires of the opposite

sex, and friendship advancement were relevant in his time in high school. While at the same time to discover what is more important and what truly is something that wants from what he needs were developed.

Protective Factors

Protective factors were: his friends, his brother for a short while, his family in Christ at church, and the adults that cared for his education. All attributed to his growth of becoming a young man.

Risk Factors

Risk factors were: not so much with his family as they were still detached, but the detachment also came with his older brother after his brother left for college. From then on, the young relationship that had with one another would soon fade to a distant connection with one another.

Overall Assessment

Matt has seen and lived through a lot of deaths and minor separations like with his brother. However, his relationship with his friend groups and his church grew to the point of comfortability; as a part of life.

Interventions

The only intervention that I could think of is perhaps therapy or counseling to talk over his experience in life so far. However, the fact that Matt was able to turn the deaths he saw as a lesson to appreciate life more as an intervention itself in God's wisdom. Including the fact that the space for his community in school and church was always accessible.

Emerging and Young Adulthood

Biological Dimension

In college, there was no physical activity like sports mentioned besides occasional exercises to stay healthy. This continued after his graduation and still in his young adulthood until 2020 in his adulthood, he experienced burnout and got health issues from overworking. Matt would have to watch his diet, and choice of food like no spicy food, and somehow stay physically healthy with exercises even with also the knee pains that he would easily get.

Psychological Dimension

In college, from age 18 to 22, Matt developed the importance of time management and what he should prioritize for his future career/life. That is he was exposed to an immense amount of freedom, he would also abuse the freedom away from his studies. Until in Junior year he “buckled down” and got serious. This shift of concentration stuck with him throughout his entire life his work career and later his home church.

Matt would graduate with a degree in history and use his education in his career in coffee making; where he would use his developed skills of reading and writing at his several jobs where he makes those masterful coffees (even a hobby of his).

Social Dimension

When Matt left for his dorm in a rural area of New York for his college from 2005 to 2010, he would be apart from his family, prior friends, and church members that he had a significant amount of time. However, there as well, he would make friends that he still today is with and had also been exposed to even more diversity of race, culture, and religions compared to his high school days.

From 2016 to 2021, Matt decided to move out from the family home that he came back to after college and live closer to the cafe he was working at for more pay. However doing so, also had him leave his home church for those amount of years.

Throughout those years, Matt had his share of breakups, dating again, and breaking up again. Which caused signs of depression, loneliness, and a sense of worthlessness psychologically.

Spiritual Dimension

Matt was still a believer in Christ and had extracurriculars with Christian groups in college. At the same time, he would attend a local church as he was too far away from his home church. After graduating and moving back, he would go back to church and his home but moved out entirely of both places to work at the cafe in the cities.

He would attend another local church that he does not have a relation to anymore at this time, and through the many breakups, he learned the importance of the relationship with God before women. That Matt would strive to seek marriage overall besides other things that learned were unnecessary.

Theories

Continuing on Erikson's theory, Matt's life is on intimacy vs. isolation. His college life was difficult but grew up with many friends and a girlfriend. However, in his young adulthood, he would leave the church and his friends but with only his girlfriend and work. After the breakup, Matt would be by himself in his apartment just working day and night; isolated. Then the intimacy would come as Matt would go to date a few more people but all was short-lived.

Protective Factors

These factors are the fact that Matt had gained friends from college that are still his close friends. While at the same time, moving to his new job helped him earn a lot of money.

Risk Factors

These factors were his many breakups, and loss of church family, older brother, and friends due to distancing. These can leave Matt in a state of isolation and of the continuous desire for relationships that he was not able to probability obtain.

Overall Assessment

Overall, Matt had a roller coaster of high positive to high negativity in his life.

Interventions

The intervention here can be a social group that brings Matt in. Even though he attends a local church, the fact that he left with no bridges goes to show that he had no connections with them; not being much of a social group that would be of his needs. If anything, a person like a genuine friend, or a therapist free of charge would have been needed in Matt's life. Yet as Matt stated, in the interview, God had shown him the error of his ways with his prior romantic relationships. That Matt was lacking in the relationship with God, and if it wasn't for the fact that Matt still holds dear to his spiritual religion, he would have stayed strayed to continue to date the person he broke up with. Perhaps his time in the local church taught him that.

Middle Adulthood

Biological Dimension

As Matt is at the age of 35 now he has only improved of health to the point where it does not stubborn him in his day to day to work life. He still needs to be careful of his diet.

Psychological Dimension

Matt is at the point where he has much knowledge and experience in all sorts of things where he can become a mentor. He came back to Crystal church in the year 2021 after quitting his job for the needed break from his past mistakes and issues that were still fresh. After time went by, Matt in the year 2022, would go back to being a part of the church. His wisdom would

go far and contributes to the church's need in many ways.

Social Dimension

Matt is a church worship coordinator, a praise team leader for the modern Youth group and English Ministries, and a mission coordinator for the Church summer mission trip to Dayton, Ohio. Matt has explained that he feels great to be accepted, and feels good to have a purpose again. The purpose is to a mentor position for the younger generations and his leadership skills for anything that the church needs.

Now, recently in the year beginning of 2023, Matt's Aunt whom he lived with when coming back had passed away. It was devastating to him at a time when he needed to mourn. Another time of experiencing death but in a much closer setting, to someone he loved and felt closest to being his mother.

Spiritual Dimension

Matt's spirituality can be said as an all-time high compared to his past version of himself. That he had never felt so good to serve God in the church. Even though he does not share it in such an exciting manner, he expresses thankfulness to be back and given a role that he can be entrusted for.

Theories

The 7th stage of Erikson's theory is Generativity vs. Stagnation. It's where Matt as an adult and now at the beginning of midlife is where he wants to make his legacy. Not only is his work still on coffee making but the church is even now his career. A time of work that he can be proud of for others to get the fruits of his labors.

Protective Factors

These factors are: Matt is back in church and was able to recover mentally and emotionally, thanks to the brothers that were with him on day one at his time of church but now all are grown up. Even like the kids he was a Sunday school for if they gave him the acceptance and love needed to allow Matt to tackle the inner conflict of his broken heart.

Risk Factors

These factors were the fact still his relationship with his parents is still at a distance and that he even wishes to build a closer relationship with them, as they are at their house, retired, and just living life without much to do (from what it seems). On the other hand, Matt's aunt that had passed away was like a strike on his heart; a major negative effect on his psychology.

Overall Assessment

It seems that Matt was not able to take a break from the deaths around him. However, he held strong and cried out tears for his loss. As Matt is "broken" in his body and his heart, he still shows strength every day and especially on Sunday when it is shown to the members that he is still willing to move forward.

Interventions

Not that Matt has all that he needs, but there is a Pastor that he connects with weekly, and on Sundays, even I try to give him the respect and care that he deserves. This is including the fact that others give him that attention as well. However, Matt can still use someone who can be physically and emotionally there for him in his time of trouble. That is intervention by a social worker, or when Matt is allowed, God will send him the one he can call his love.

Conclusion

To conclude, Matt had quite a story. At first glance of him, he is seen as any normal person but then again what is "normal"? Everybody has their own story, and they are their own

main character of it. Throughout his stages of development, he has surely developed to be the man that he is now. From death to new life, Matt has almost certainly seen it all but more to come. Like recently, his older brother, who now has a wife, had just gotten their first kid born. The love is still there in the bridges that Matt has built, and in the end, after all the misery, the LORD can still provide fruits of Matt's serving labor.

References

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