**Carleen Bayne**

**Interviewed March 2021**

Matt

Hi, Carleen. So, I'm going to ask you a couple questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first one is what was your daily routine prior to COVID-19?

Carleen

Spending time with my kids all the time and being around family. Laugh, shopping and stuff like that. Going to the movies. Stuff like that.

Matt

Okay. And how has COVID-19 impacted your life now?

Carleen

I think it's impacted everything. I'm more careful now not to touch everything.

Matt

Okay, what about with your family? How has it impacted your family and how you interact with your family?

Carleen

Again, it's been tough, I can't go. Well, I can see my family, but it's just that we got to wear masks and try not to be around other people.

Matt

Okay. Could you go over sort of your daily routine? Now that COVID-19 has been, you know, kind of continuing to go on compared to what it was prior to COVID-19. Like, if you could have your ideal day, what would it be and what has it been like since COVID-19?

Carleen

Now I'm just more cautious. I can't really get on SEPTA or ride into places without wearing a mask. Before we don't have to wear masks and now we are extra careful about being in public places and stuff like that.

Matt

Okay, have you ever been diagnosed with COVID-19?

Carleen

No, I have not.

Matt

Okay, why do you think that is?

Carleen

Because I'm more cautious like I always wash my hands.

Matt

Yeah, yeah. Sorry, go ahead.

Carleen

I always wash my hands and I always wear my mask other than around my boyfriend, but that's another story.

Matt

Okay. Do you feel like you've been seeing your family less and that has also, you know, it's not good to not see your family. But do you feel like that has also contributed to not being diagnosed with COVID-19? Either family or friends even?

Carleen

I've never been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Matt

I mean, because you weren't diagnosed with COVID-19 do you feel like that's because you saw your family less?

Carleen

Of course, of course. I think that's for everybody.

Matt

So, you took it pretty seriously?

Carleen

Oh yeah.

Matt

Okay. What made you take it seriously? Would you say it was just the news coverage? Or do you feel like you were informed yourself on how you could potentially impact your life?

Carleen

News coverage, and then also when I go to the temple, and my main temple is in New York, so I'm a Buddhist too. So when my priest got the COVID and the main temple in Japan, everything's closed down. So that's more my main focus being to protect myself and other people so they won't get it.

Matt

Okay. Do you feel like your faith has helped you through it all?

Unknown

Oh, yes, most definitely.

Matt

Okay, could you describe a little more about how it helps?

Carleen

It calms me, even though I'm a Buddhist I chant *Nam Myōhō Renge Kyō* for world peace. So, I tried to tell other people about my practice, you know, to change their karma for good karma rather than bad karma. You know, this is part of me being right here. Me not paying my rent. That's one thing, why I'm here. And then I had to start from the beginning, do it all over again. I was in the shelter before, that's how I lost my house, not paying my rent. And I was at my previous house for nine years. But yeah, this pandemic is crazy. Making everybody in the world go crazy, and it's not a good crazy, it’s very bad. Yeah. That's why I try to remain humble but I'm a human, too. So, I have emotions too just like everybody else.

Matt

Very true. Yeah. That's really good insight. I appreciate that. Have you ever had anybody or known anybody that was diagnosed with COVID-19?

Carleen

Yes, my priest. He was in a hospital for like a month and then he recovered. My close friend's grandmother who had COVID-19 and passed away from it.

Matt

So, your close friend's grandmother?

Carleen

Yes, mmhmm.

Matt

That's unfortunate. When did she pass away? Was it like last year or was it more recent?

Unknown

Oh, last year it was like, eight months into the pandemic.

Matt

Yeah. Yeah. Sort of like in the middle, I guess.

Carleen

Yeah, hmm.

Matt

Okay. Okay. And your priest again, I want to ask more about that. You said your priest is in Japan?

Carleen

No, he's located in New York.

Matt

Oh okay, okay gotcha.

Carleen

But our main temple is at Mount Fuji in Japan.

Matt

Oh, gotcha. Okay. I was a little confused by that. Were you going to New York before COVID-19 to go to the main temple?

Carleen

No, I'm planning on going there hopefully this year or next year when this pandemic stop or whatever, they find a cure for it. When all the stuff is over with and I have enough savings I'm gonna’ be able to go. I say, between now and in two years.

Matt

Okay. Yeah, that actually leads me to the final question I was gonna’ ask you is, besides that, you know, going to New York to the main temple, what are your hopes for the future in regards to the pandemic? And kind of us getting over the curve, I guess?

Carleen

Hopefully, things will get better and they find a cure for it.

Matt

So what are your concerns for the future? If there's like a more grim picture, what would be your concerns when it comes to the pandemic?

Carleen

Can you repeat that again?

Matt

What if it's more grim rather than your hopes? What would be your main concerns for the pandemic?

Carleen

Oh, I don't have no concern. I guess for people to wear their mask, stay six feet apart, or try to stay safe, and do more cleaning.

Matt

So, your concerns are that it may ramp up if people don't do those things?

Carleen

Right, yeah.

Matt

Okay, well, I don't have any other questions. Julianne might need to follow up with some questions though.

Carleen

Okay.

Julianne

Carleen, thanks so much for everything you shared. Just from listening to what you said, were you evicted during the pandemic?

Carleen

Oh, no, I was evicted, like two years ago. Two years. So, I'm like currently, trying to, you know, well for the past year, I've been saving. So, I'm at the shelter and trying to save my money so I can be able to be on my own.

Julianne

Trying to get back on your feet during the pandemic must be extra challenging.

Carleen

Right, right. It's more slower now since the pandemic hit.

Julianne

I bet. Everything is. Would you be comfortable sharing with me your story of disability? Like how you identify as disabled?

Carleen

What I get for social security, or what?

Julianne

Yeah, just how or why you identify as disabled. Just however much you want to share is fine.

Carleen

Okay, well, I have scoliosis in my spine, it means my spine is crooked and receive SSI since 2009. I have five kids so after I had my youngest child, she was two. So that's when I received social security for my back because I was unable to work. And I was complaining about my back and stuff.

Julianne

Have you been able to still safely go to like your doctor's appointments and everything during the pandemic?

Carleen

Yeah, yeah.

Julianne

That's good.

Carleen

Yeah.

Julianne

That's good. Well, that's all I have. I really appreciate everything you shared.