**Oliver Crenshaw**

**Interviewed July 2021**

Matt

All right, Oliver. So, I'm just going to go over these questions. What was your daily routine prior to COVID-19?

Oliver

Just the usual, get up, go outside, go to my religious meetings. And get on the bus, go to the laundromat. Go and get some to eat, things like that.

Matt

Those are your daily activities? Okay. And then how did COVID-19 impact your life?

Oliver

Well, I stayed at home. And subsequently, my stamina went down. And I had to order my food from the supermarket which was good because then lost a little weight because I wasn't eating Chinese food all the time. I was cooking my own food.

Matt

And what about your family? You know how it might have affected them?

Oliver

Well, I just have one sister who got it. I didn't know about it until after she recovered.

Matt

She was diagnosed with COVID-19? And she, she recovered fully?

Oliver

Yeah.

Matt

What about your other family? Even if they weren't, you know, diagnosed with COVID-19, how were they affected by the pandemic? The children and any other family members?

Oliver

Fortunately, everybody was okay. Nobody contracted it. And they took the quarantine well.

Matt

What about your community? So, any community that you're a part of. How did COVID-19 affect your community?

Oliver

Well like I said I'm one of Jehovah's Witnesses and for the whole year, or even up to this point which has been well over a year now, they shut down all the congregations worldwide. And they don't even go out and preach from door to door anymore either. Until further notice, but we are on Zoom. That's where we get our meeting.

Matt

The Jehovah's Witness?

Oliver

Right.

Matt

Okay. And you kept up with that during COVID-19?

Oliver

Even here, I dial into the Zoom meetings.

Matt

Okay. I was going to say something else. Oh, you mentioned your stamina was affected due to COVID-19.

Oliver

Right because I didn't go out.

Matt

And prior to that you were going out, walking around, doing things, staying active. Since then, would you say you got your stamina back?

Oliver

Well, you know, it's about up to 80%. But when I say stamina meaning that prior to that, even before COVID-19 I had a pulmonary embolism. So, I was recovering from that, and I'm still recovering from it. So, I guess I'm up to about 80%, something like that.

Matt

Okay. What are your concerns or hopes for the future when it comes to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Oliver

I guess like everyone else I hope we get to somewhere close to normal. Move around and go to restaurants, visit family.

Matt

Have you been able to visit your family recently?

Oliver

No. My son, he lives in Florida. And my daughter, she has a four-year-old. And everyone else is pretty much deceased.

Matt

And you said you were never diagnosed with COVID-19?

Oliver

No.

Matt

Okay. And you said your sister had been diagnosed, but she recovered fully. Right. You talked to her during that time?

Oliver

No, because I didn't know it until after the fact.

Matt

Okay, did she say how it affected her or anything about what the what it felt like, what the process was, her going through that notion of what has been lost in the past year, you know?

Oliver

No.

Matt

Okay. What do you feel like you've lost in the past year, meaning the pandemic year 2020? What do you feel like you lost?

Oliver

Well, I don't think I've lost anything because I'm pretty much optimistic about everything, you know, so it hasn't really affected me mentally, or things like that, psychologically, for the fact that you haven't visited a lot of people, but that hasn't had that much of an impact on me from that perspective.

Matt

What about what do you say has been gained, if anything from the past year?

Oliver

Well, I've reconnected with my doctors and also pandemic lessened enough that I was able to go to the doctor, you know, and get my eyeglasses, which I needed. And I think that was beneficial. So now I can get the medications, I need et cetera, et cetera.

Matt

During that whole time, you hadn't been in contact with any of your primary care physicians? Well, I guess maybe it may have been in contact.

Oliver

It was just on phone but not in the office.

Matt

Okay. Awesome. You said you quarantined yourself, was that just as a precaution? You wanted to make sure that you weren't definitely getting in contact?

Oliver

Absolutely. That was a concern. Especially since at that particular time, the hospitals were getting close to having you know, no ventilators, no room for people, you know, and so, yeah.

Matt

And you said you had a pulmonary embolism? When was that?

Oliver

About two years ago.

Matt

Two years ago, so kind of a little before the pandemic?

Oliver

Right.

Matt

Okay. And do you feel like your health was compromised due to that?

Oliver

Possibly yes, because that's one of the reasons why I've stayed in house because COVID was mostly affecting people from the lungs, you know, not being able to breathe. And so, they talked about people with pre-existing conditions and their health being compromised, so I felt that I was one of the ones who would be in a compromising position medically.

Matt

This is the last question that I would have. If you could talk to your past self and give some advice about the coming year, what advice would you give?

Oliver

To try go for walks.

Matt

To go for walks? Just to keep your stamina up?

Oliver

I think the best thing I did during that was to start cooking for myself again instead of magazine ordering from Chinese store and ordering from other places because I was ordering DoorDash a lot. But I was able to, you know, buy food and buy grains and vegetables and stuff. And my health did improve because of that.

Matt

Okay. Definitely one of the things that you write in the past year was a better, healthier way of living.

Oliver

Right.

Matt

And you kept cooking afterwards.