

Pastoral Interview Report

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Patient: *Michele X* Room: XXXX Station:XXXX Age: 28 Date: *May-28-1993*

Setting

I came into Room XXXX and saw Mrs. X sitting on her bed somewhat bored not knowing what to do. She looked not sick at all. I noticed a manner familiar to German ways and in beginning to speak I also encountered familiar pronunciation and intellectual habits. (C: Counselor, P: Patient)

| Content and Process | Interviewer's Impression |
|---|--|
| <p>C: Are you Michele? P: Yes. C: Hello my Name is Christoph I am from the Chaplains-Office (point to badge) P: Oh, hello (disinterested look) (Pause) C: Are you from Germany or so? You last name sounds very German. P: No, why do you think so? But my parents came from there. C: Can you speak German? P: No. Just English. C: Well you look very German, you language definitely has a German accent and the way you behave is also very familiar to me. P: So you are from Germany? C: Yes. I lived there all my life (Conversation concerning German heritage) C: I am studying now at Fuller Seminary to become a Minister and this here is a kind of Internship for that. P: I have heard that there are a lot of strange religious things in Los Angeles. After what I heard from David Koresh I think it is better to be safe, especially here in Los Angeles. C: Not everybody thinks that he is Jesus Christ. P: That's true C: And I think one should definitely draw the line when Preachers demand from their congregation to switch off their brain. P: So what denomination are you from? C: I don't fit into the structure here. Originally I am from the Protestant Church in Germany. I have been visiting a number of churches here. P: I have heard good things about Pentecostal churches. I like their style. C: I have been attending some Charismatic Churches around here too. P: No, I don't mean Charismatic I mean those with a lot of feeling in the singing and healing and so on. C: Yes, I am now attending a Presbyterian Church who does just that. P: Aha (Pause. This thread does not lead further.)</p> | <p>At first she was very disinterested and ignored me.</p> <p>I mentioned this because of what I thought when I first saw her. It was a good way to begin a conversation.</p> <p>An attempt to switch the subject to more spiritual matters. Looks like there is no affiliation at all with Churches.</p> <p>She looked very intellectual so this would certainly be an important point for her.</p> <p>Pentecostal worship is often an attraction for rationalizing people. Was I wrong in assuming her without church? She does not know the terminology so my assumption was right.</p> |

C: Do you have somebody who comes and visits you here?
P: I don't have any family in LA. They are all back in Tennessee. I came here two years ago and I just have one good friend here. I did not make more friends as I expected. LA is very difficult.
I came here because of a job, but I was fired several months ago.
C: So you are here in USC because you do not have medical insurance?
P: You got me there. Yes true. <Slowly> When I see my situation I see that it might be time to go back to Tennessee.
C: Hmm. That is a reasonable thought. At least you have your family there.
(Pause)
P: What are you planning to do when you are finished with your studies?
C: At the moment I am thinking of going to Ecuador to work as a missionary when the studies are over.
P: That is very surprising. I thought you just wanted to be a pastor here. The situation over there is not very stable.
C: Yes, but it certainly is a challenge and I like challenges. There is a great need over there too. My Missionary Organization has already some people there.
P: That is a great thing to do.
(Talk continues awhile on this topic. Is interrupted when two nurses rush toward me and think that I am a JW or something like that since I am holding a Bible and literature in my hand.)
C (turning around): Hello, is something wrong.
Nurses (looking at my badge): Ohh, sorry Chaplain we were thinking that.....
C: It is OK. Next time I try to wear my badge on my back so that you can see it.
(Universal Laughter. Nurses retreat)
C: Well, I think I am having to finish the visit.
P: What kind of literature have you brought with you?
C: (surprised) I have a New Testament here. Would you be interested?
P: Yes, it is awfully boring here. I need something to read
C: OK here. You can have it. It is free. If you want to have some daily reading too.
P: Oh yes, please.
C: Allright here you are. Have a nice day and may God bless you. Don't read this just because you are bored!
P: No, I promise. Not because I am just bored.
C: OK. Bye, bye

Perhaps I can find some other topic?

That is a better picture of the situation.

She might be in a lot of need.

She has felt that before. Is this the first time she speaks about these concerns?

I better do not push on this one

I think it would be good for her to see what we are doing. She probably has a wrong picture of faith so let us dwell on something positive and personal.

Irregular Title, but in the rush I did not correct them.

Since she was so skeptical before I did not think she would like literature.

Strange way of getting to literature.
Was this a cover-up for her interest?

I am very surprised how this turned out. Seems that there is a definite spiritual need.,