

University of Mississippi
Archive Field School

Document Type: Field Note
Field Worker: Holley Acey
Coworkers: Duvall Osteen
Location: 4905 Tchulahoma Rd, Memphis, TN 38118
Begin Date: May 19, 2009
End Date: May 19, 2009
Event: Interview with Kim and Kevin Briggs
Elapsed Time: two hours approximately

Duvall Osteen and I arrived at 4905 Tchulahoma Rd. at approximately 3:30 p.m. on May 19, 2009. The home was off a side road close to the Memphis airport. We accidentally passed the house the first time because it snuck up on us. Upon turning into the driveway, I noticed about five cars in the driveway. There was a red truck, minivan, and other cars. A basketball goal was in front of the side garage. The brick on the house was a tan color and we approached the glass door that was in front of another door. I rang the doorbell and an African American woman with her hair pulled back came to the door. She gave "Hello, how are you doing?" through the door and reached to the top of the door to retrieve a key. She was wearing a long denim skirt and navy tank top and was probably in her mid fifties or sixties. Her navy tank top had bleach stains on the bottom left. She unlocked the door with the key and introduced herself as Mrs. Joyce. Mrs. Joyce gave a warm handshake and smile. Kim was standing to the left of the door and was wearing a fitted denim dress with buttons and a belt. She had on a brown headband and glasses. She gave a shy hello and introduced herself.

The room was patterned in a light pink shade. Straight in front of the door was the dining room and this is where we were motioned to take a seat. The dining room table was one of dark oak but was covered with a white cotton tablecloth. There was a coffee stain on the end where I sat. Underneath the table was a light green oriental rug and behind me was a mantle. There were paintings around the room depicting African American Bible scenes. One was an angel watching over two children walking over a bridge while another was a stunning colorful scene of a river baptism. In front of me was a china cabinet filled with crystal and dishes. Duvall Osteen sat to my right while Kim Briggs took a seat in front of Duvall. The centerpiece of the table was a bright red candle with foliage around the sides with gold artificial pears.

Over Duvall's left shoulder is the kitchen and sitting area with a TV in use. There is a fire alarm battery that is going dead to the right of our table that keeps going off repeatedly every few minutes.

Kim seemed hesitant to get the interview started so Duvall suggested we wait on her husband Kevin to arrive and "make him go first." Kevin arrives and we are able to begin with his interview. Kevin is wearing a black polo with the inscription of a medical solutions blue and purple patch on his right breast pocket. He is wearing jeans and has taken his shoes off to be comfortable.

We make conversation and introduce our project and issue release forms. We talk for a little while about Kevin's relation to Latrisha Small, which is his sister and was interviewed about the same subject of religious music for the field school last year. Kevin seemed very relaxed throughout the interview. It is clear that his relationship with his wife is one of a playful air. When Kevin is asked about his favorite musical inspirations (15:43) he jokes with his wife and says she will not like his answer. Kim continues to roll her eyes and make good-humored gestures as her husband talks about his inspirations. Other than providing some lighthearted eye gestures, Kim remained quiet for Kevin's interview.

After the tape is turned off Kimberly says that Kevin forgot to add information from the service about their altar call in the service that makes the service a little bit longer. Duvall talks to Kimberly a little bit about Memphis and how the youth in the church has changed dramatically over the years. Kim states that youth has no respect for the sacredness of the church. Kim pointed out that most youth would wear hats to church and want to bring in new forms of music. Kim and Duvall then get on the subject of the crime rate in Memphis and the need for a change. Duvall then suggests that we start the interview so we could get some of the information recorded.

Kevin plays a part in Kim's interview by laughing when Kim begins to talk about her father's organ playing. Kevin left the room for part of Kim's interview but returned to sit on the couch that was adjacent to the dining room table. Throughout the rest of the interview at different parts the couple plays off one another. They even talk about how they first met which was in church when Kevin saw Kim on the drums. They looked at each other and started laughing. Kevin looks at Kim and asks her if he can add something else to the interview. She agrees and he begins to talk about how in Heaven it will be wonderful because music and worship will be the same forever and they will not have to worry about it changing. Kim responds in agreement and says that is right and she agreed with him. Earlier in the interview Kim had spoken about following her husband to preach even when she is exhausted because she believes in supporting him. This is evident with her interaction with Kevin.

It was a very interesting dynamic to be able to watch this couple interact and share their views of religious music. We stood to conclude the interview and I asked if I might be able to take a picture. They agreed and Kevin said, "I thought you were going to ask that." They started posing in goofy ways for the camera and Kim could not stop laughing at Kevin. We packed up and began to make our way to the door, which was locked from the inside when I reached it. They bid us goodbye and we thanked them for their time.