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### Emma Shaw

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# Bridges that Carried Us Over Project

## Interview Summary

**Interviewee:**

Emma Shaw

**Interviewer:**

Ratibu Jacocks

**Interview Date:**

April 20th, 2015

**Length:**

01:02:45

**Interview Location:**

San Bernardino, California

**Interview Summary completed by:**

Lilly Maiale, 2023.

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**Description:**

Emma Shaw shares details about her growing up and her migration from Tallulah, Louisiana to San Bernardino, California from 1944 to 1945. She discusses how her and her husband, George Shaw met, as well as the life and children they had together. She talks highly of religion, citing God as the cause for her longevity and a certain purpose that he has for her life. She talks about her life now, as well as the negative experiences she endured in her life, including racist comments made to her in school and a racist experience when working. Shaw's daughter Joyce Smith also provided some insight into their life, explaining that Emma always made sure that her children were taken care of and fed, along with details of her father's value of education and the role he played in their household. She also discussed the changes in society from when she was a young girl to the present day (2015), which involved women wearing pants rather than dresses and more violence. Additionally, members of the Westside Action group explained their connection to the Shaw family, reinforcing the positive reputation that the family has, as all of these connections and experiences were positive. For example, Smith recalls that her father was the authority, what he said was what happened, and Emma followed which ultimately shaped the children with a very disciplined and focused mindset. Joyce also explained that it was her father's value of education and the importance that he placed on her attending that got her interested in and dedicated to completing college.

**Subject Topic:**

- Religion
- Racism
- Education

**Spatial Coverage:**

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
Hometown	Tallulah, Louisiana
Birthplace of her twins	Las Vegas, Nevada
Attempted to live here, didn't like it	San Francisco
Current residence; Westside Action Group location; Pacific High School: Valley College	San Bernardino, California
Street named after Emma Shaw	Emma Road, San Bernardino
First home in San Bernardino	Stoddard Avenue, San Bernardino
Current residence, first home purchased in San Bernardino	Waterman Gardens, San Bernardino

**Temporal Coverage:**

1912- present

**Key Organizations:**

- Westside Action Group
- New Hope Baptist church
- Norton Air Force Base

**Interview Index:**

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Digital Video	00:02:20 – 00:37:15	Experience with racism growing up
Digital Video	00:06:04 – 00:09:47	Getting married to George Shaw; being pregnant/having first child (Cleveland Shaw)

Digital Video	00:09:47 – 00:15:53	Moving to Vegas, trying out San Francisco, and finally settling in San Bernardino
Digital Video	00:15:53 – 00:22:27	The reason behind her long life, from a religious perspective
Digital Video	00:22:27 – 00:27:02	Message for young people
Digital Video	00:27:02 – 00:40:53	Negative experience when cleaning someone's house
Digital Video	00:40:53 – 00:44:33	The changes noticed from when Emma was a young girl to now, in terms of the clothing women wore and the peace in the world
Digital Video	00:44:33 – 00:46:06	Joyce Smith explaining that George Shaw was the authority in the house, not Emma, as well as the lessons that taught her and her siblings
Digital Video	00:46:06 – 01:02:45	Description of their home in San Bernardino, as well as Joyce's experience with education

**Related Materials:**

Additional oral history interviews are available from the Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation's "Bridges that Carries Us Over Project" on CSUSB ScholarWorks, <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges/>.

**Full interview transcript can be found below.**

## Interview Transcript

### Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:00:07] [Crosstalk] Good afternoon. We are here with Mother Emma Shaw, we are in her home. And today is April the 20th, 2019 Mother Shaw, we're just so happy. 2015. We're so happy to have you here. And this is the members here of the West Side Action Group. The West Side Action Group have been meeting in San Bernardino since 1972 every week. And most of the things that you see positive we've been involved in it. And your children have been part of our lives, your grandchildren and now your great grandchildren. I don't know about any further down but we're happy to be here. Where were you born? Where were you born?

**Emma Shaw** [00:01:00] Tallulah, Louisiana. Tallulah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:01:08] Tallulah, Louisiana, and when did you live there and how did you get to San Bernardino?

**Emma Shaw:** [00:01:11] Well, we'll see now. My husband, my husband was working in Tallulah at a mail place and he got a call. God, we had been there for years, had a big farm and cows and chickens and hogs and the only thing we had to buy was flour and sugar. We raised everything else. And, uh. I was, I had a sister. My mother, she used to work- cook for the railroad guys, and I was her baby in a box and she called her sister and asked her would she take me. Because she couldn't cook and put with the baby, so she told her yes, so my- her sister raised me.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:02:18] Your sister?

**Emma Shaw** [00:02:20] No, my mother's sister. Yeah, she raised me, up until I got married. And we had a horrible, horrible time when I was going to school. The bus would pass by with the white kids in it "Nigger, nigger, nigger, nigger! Look at that nigger! Look at that nigger!" And the bus driver would splash water on us. We don't have a way to change that, where we went to school, we couldn't go to school in the schoolhouses like they were going. And we couldn't go in the cafes to eat. They'd give it to us out the door if we wanted it. Couldn't go to the bathroom and couldn't go nowhere inside. So we had it bad there with the white people because they didn't like the niggers. I know y'all know about the raid they had and who all got killed, you know, and we was in a horrible place. So one day my, my husband got a call. Well no, I married, because I did something that, well.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:03:50] Tell us about it.

**Emma Shaw** [00:03:56] Well, I was- the Shaw boy was courting me. We were sitting on the porch and my uncle would tell us what time it was over in the evening. I loved to him. I loved his tracks and sit on the porch until he turned the corner to go to his home. And then I went in the house back in, well.

**Joyce Smith** [00:04:23] When did you come to Nevada, Mother? Get back on track.

**Emma Shaw** [00:04:31] I got to tell it- I got to tell it like it is!

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:04:37] This is your time, you can say whatever you want. We ain't going to tell you what to say. We ain't going to tell you what to say!

**Emma Shaw** [00:04:43] Wait, wait.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:04:50] We can edit this out!

**Emma Shaw** [00:04:51] Look, we had a great big bedroom and right by my bed, it was a window.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:05:00] Momma! Tell us about it!

**Emma Shaw** [00:05:07] They were asleep, snoring, they were asleep and watch the- hoist the window and he come in! [crosstalk] And we did what we were going to do. And it went all out. So on down the road. Oh, something happened. My first boy was Cleveland Shaw.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:05:44] Cleveland, I remember him.

**Emma Shaw** [00:05:45] Yeah. So. My mother's sister, one of them, my my auntie, taking in clothes, wash, and ironing. So That's what I was doing, ironing. And she had a real [washer??].

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:06:02] How much were you getting paid?

**Emma Shaw** [00:06:04] Not me. She was the one getting paid, but I was working and, you know I was a daughter in the house and her sister came by in the house and she said, I'm going out in the field and I'm going to tell sister you're going to have a baby. See, now my auntie didn't know that. She didn't know anything about it. So I said to myself, what am I going to do? I'd taken the ironing down the ironing board and everything. And grabbed my little grip and I grabbed my clothes what I was going to take with me, fold them up and put them in the grip, and went out and caught the bus. My friend lived across town. And I went to her house. And I stayed there a week, they said my auntie was just hollering, "I want my baby, I want my baby! Where is my baby at?" Well I was all right where I was. Because I didn't want to be there, and one day we went to town. Me and the girl. And I had a godfather and godmother, my godfather was downtown. And we was walking in the street. And after a while, he sees me. He says, "Oh there you is, there you is. I gonna to take you home, you going home today!" I said, "Oh, Lord, what am I going to do?" Sure enough, I had to come home to my auntie. And when I got there, she just run hollering just cuddling up to me, "Oh, my baby is back, my baby is back!" So I stayed there from around and I was hurt because she had found out what was happening and I told my boyfriend, I said, you know, he knows I had left and he knows all about it I said "What are we going to do?" He said "We're going to have to get married." And on down the road, finally, we got married in the courthouse, we didn't

have no wedding. And then we found a place. My son was born at home. That was before I married. And, uh. His family was so, so glad, they had a little grand boy, but after all of that was over we decided to get married. We went to the courthouse and got married, and got together. Uh, uh, then things just went on and on everything-

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:09:29] How many children did you have there in Louisiana?

**Emma Shaw** [00:09:33] I had... In Louisiana who was the oldest? Cleveland, was the oldest, my boy. Luretha. Joyce, and, uh...

**Joyce Smith** [00:09:43] Johnny?

**Emma Shaw** [00:09:46] Johnny, Wiley...

**Joyce Smith** [00:09:47] and Mary.

**Emma Shaw** [00:09:47] And Mary. Them the ones I'd taken to Las Vegas. And after I got to Vegas, I got pregnant with the twins, but my husband, he was in Las Vegas working, but his nose bled all the time. He lost fluid and he came in the house and he told me he says I can't work no more. He said, I'm bleeding too much. You see, the wind was high and folks were living in tents. You could see them tents flying around in the air so my husband says I'm gonna have to do something. But he went to... Oh, the bridge, what was the name of that place? It was hilly.

**George Smith** [00:10:48] San Francisco?

**Emma Shaw** [00:10:48] San Francisco, right! He went to 'Frisco and he checked it out but he didn't like 'Frisco because it was too hilly. And then he came back home and called and he found out about here.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:11:07] San Bernardino?

**Emma Shaw** [00:11:07] San Bernardino, and he decided he'd come to San Bernardino and check it out, found a place and left us there. I had my twins and after he checked it out, when he went, he found a place and we moved here.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:11:29] What year was that?

**Emma Shaw** [00:11:31] What year was it?

**Joyce Smith** [00:11:33] The twins were born in '44, so it was in '45.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:11:36] '45. And did you join the church when you came here?

**Emma Shaw** [00:11:40] Oh, yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:11:41] Which church did you join?

**Emma Shaw** [00:11:41] A Baptist church, New Hope Baptist. New Hope.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:11:46] A lot of people joined Temple at that time.

**Emma Shaw** [00:11:49] Yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:11:50] And they had moved from Las Vegas. Why did you join New Hope and not Temple, where I go?

**Joyce Smith** [00:11:57] Cause we met Reverend Campbell.

**Emma Shaw** [00:12:02] Uhuh, that's right that was my pastor, Reverend Campbell. And after that. Oh, I don't. I got in touch with Elder Pugh, Holiness. And he had a tent on Baseline, but we crossed it, the road. And I visit that meeting. Go see now, I really wasn't living like I supposed to been living. I was drinking a little beer and, you know, in a Holiness Church you drink no nothing, you're not supposed to! You sactified and filled with the Holy Ghost and all that, you know. So I went to this revival and I changed. I got saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost. And I still is, you know, saved. And I quit all the things I was doing and I have been up to now, been walking with the Lord from there on up to now. And I'm so glad, you know, because I get back there in that room and talk with him and get happy, you know, and feel the Holy Ghost and all that. And I said, Lord, I thank you for being saved. He kept me, took care of me down through the road. You see. Now just think about it. I left Louisiana, came to Vegas, and came here. Look how old I am. I born in 19 and 12, 9th day of August. My birthday coming up, I'll be a hundred and three. Yeah, if I be here and I thank the Lord for taking care of me like He is, I can rise out of my bed, make my bed round and round. From time I have my breathing spelled. My daughter, she says "Don't make the bed! I'll make the bed." I come in [heavy breathing]. She says "I told you not to make the bed!" But, you know, I'm blessed.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:14:37] What do you think your long life is attributed to? What do you. I know you said the Lord. And so let's get that done. And what else do you think helped you to live so long? And what advice do you have for other people?

**Emma Shaw** [00:14:56] My son, the oldest one. He went in the Navy. Was it the Navy? Yeah. And he stayed there a long time. And he told me, "Momma," he said, "I'm in the Navy now." He goes, "If anything happen to me..." He says, "I don't want ya'll to put me in no box and put me in the ground, I want to be cremated and I want my ashes put in the water where I was." That's what they did. And I had a wonderful time well back in Louisiana y'all, I didn't tell y'all, I was- we was treated bad.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:15:39] What do you think attributed to your long life? I really want to get this down. I want you to tell us what made you live so long cause many people don't live this long.

**Emma Shaw** [00:15:53] And that's what I ask the Lord. I say, Lord you is keeping me here for something. And I thank you and I want to know why, because all my people were gone, my husbands peoples too, they just about all gone. And I said you keeping me here well, call. I want to make it to the city because I had read the scripture where you won't have to cry no more, you don't have to worry about nothing. Peace and joy.



And that's what I want. Peace and joy and the Lord have been so good to me. And I said, I wonder why. But he kept me here for a call. I went in my bathroom one Saturday morning, closing the door. And a loud voice came out. "Be ready! I'm on my way back. Tell the good news!" And you know, while in the hospital, viewing homes, and the churches I've been to, and I would hold my hand up when everything is just about over and asked could I tell some good news, and I tell it, let them know the Lord is on his way back and he said, be ready. And I want to tell you the other night. But so much was going on. [crosstalk] He said he's on his way back, be ready. And I read the scripture, where you- you won't have to cry no more, you don't have to worry about nothing. Peace and joy. That's what we're going to have up there. Peace and joy. We're going to enjoy everything.

**Joyce Smith** [00:17:48] Mother, can you tell what kind of food did you eat? What did you do to be to make yourself live as long as you've lived?

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:17:56] Cause you not a big person.

**Emma Shaw** [00:17:57] No, I, I cook my own food.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:18:03] Do you grow your food?

**Emma Shaw** [00:18:04] We had fields of everything, didn't have to buy. I had a cow, I milk. Got my butter, milk? Already had that. Hogs, chickens. You just had everything around us.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:18:25] That was in Louisiana.

**Emma Shaw** [00:18:25] That was back in Louisiana.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:18:28] How about here? So you've been here since '44, '45.

**Emma Shaw** [00:18:31] I've been here, but, you know, with the Lord made a way for us to have money to buy the stuff that we had to have. See, I had a lot children to feed. And my husband would tell me, "Emma," He said, "Let's cook. And invite the kids over and feed the kids."

**Joyce Smith** [00:18:55] This is before he passed away.

**Emma Shaw** [00:18:56] Before he passed away. Yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:18:59] Now what was his name?

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:19:00] George.

**Emma Shaw** [00:19:01] George Shaw, that's right.

**Joyce Smith** [00:19:03] Daddy was the first barber in San Bernardino.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:19:05] Oh, he was?

**Joyce Smith** [00:19:05] He cut hair, at home.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:19:07] So when he came here, he worked as a barber.

**Joyce Smith** [00:19:11] Yes and he did construction work. He cut hair on weekends.

**Emma Shaw** [00:19:13] Yeah, that's right.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:19:16] And what were some of the projects that he worked on?

**Speaker 6** [00:19:20] Can we take a minute? She's...

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:19:20] Yes. Yeah. Yeah. What project- building project? Was it housing, was it Norton, was it?

**Joyce Smith** [00:19:30] Housing and there was a couple of buildings downtown that he worked on. The uh...

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:19:40] You was having show... For the record. We have Joyce Smith, her daughter is here and [crosstalk]... OK, the twins.

**Emma Shaw** [00:19:51] Yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:19:51] And I saw another Shaw come in. What's your name, ah?

**Vernon Shaw** [00:19:57] Vernon.

**Emma Shaw** [00:19:59] Vernon Shaw.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:20:01] Vernon Shaw. And we have several members from the Westside Action Group. We have Joe Mays. We have Artis Skipper. We have Brother Sylvester McGill. We have Gwen Rodgers. And then we have over there, William Ashanti. And we have Don Griggs. And I think that's that's who are here. Oh, and we have the cameraman. Yeah, he's invisible, yeah. I want you to.

**Joyce Smith** [00:20:35] OK, I think that Mother worked up until she was in her 80s. Doing housework.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:20:41] OK.

**Joyce Smith** [00:20:42] For people of-.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:20:43] 80s?

**Joyce Smith** [00:20:43] Huh?

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:20:43] 80s you say?

**Joyce Smith** [00:20:43] In her 80s and when she finally, I think about 85, she stopped working and she cleaned houses for families over on the north end of town. And she made a lot of friends, she did good work and she cooked. Three meals a day for us, breakfast-.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:21:06] While she was working?

**Joyce Smith** [00:21:07] While she was working. Maybe sometimes not lunch, but we always had a big meal in the evening and we always had good food to eat. And I think that might have been, yknow, one of the reasons why she kept busy and... We ate the right foods, and I think that has contributed to her longevity. Mother, there's some kids that she didn't name after we moved to San Bernardino. Um, Byran was born here, Vernon was born here, and Valerie was born here.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:21:42] Oh. OK.

**Joyce Smith** [00:21:43] Uh, presently Valerie lives in Las Vegas. The rest of us are all here.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:21:50] All of you here. And how many have passed on?

**Joyce Smith** [00:21:55] Uh, Three.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:21:55] Three have passed out of eleven?

**Joyce Smith** [00:21:56] Cleveland- out of eleven.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:21:58] OK. [00:21:58][0.0]

**Joyce Smith** [00:21:58] Cleveland, the oldest boy. Luretha, the oldest daughter, and Johnny Hockshaw.

**Speaker 6** [00:22:06] OK, can we do this?

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:22:07] Yeah.

**Speaker 6** [00:22:07] Let's question her later because she doesn't have a microphone.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:22:10] OK.

**Speaker 6** [00:22:10] So let's get this information just first and then we can come again.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:22:14] Then we can come again, OK, all right. So we go going back to you. What advice do you have for young people today? It's a lot of things going on. Young people-

**Emma Shaw** [00:22:24] Oh, yeah. And when they come in my home.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:22:27] Yeah.

**Emma Shaw** [00:22:27] I tell them. The code I got. Now. This is new. As I want y'all to- when you come in here, don't have your pants down here. I said I want y'all to put your clothes on you nice I said you know what? Time running out. I see all the killing and all that going on. I want to get y'all life together. And be young mens, dress nice, and don't want them staying in here, I got him straight and I'll give him money- I got money to give him to buy clothes to work in and he working now. He only stays here at night, he at his job. And I said. You need to get saved, the Lord is on his way back. Think about it. And you dress like you've been doing the things you doing, you won't make it to the city. I said the land where you won't grow old, peace and joy! That's where I'm going and I want y'all to go too. Well, I talked to them, I tell them, and then when I go out and I meet somebody. A lot of them I tell them, the Lord on his way back and he said, be ready. We don't know when He coming. He didn't say when he was coming, he said, well be ready. Because we don't know when he's coming. And I'm ready, I told him I had already packed I got everything in order, everything. I don't get nothing out of order and I know how to treat people. And you know that's another thing when I see them and. Guy, come here hungry. I say you want something to eat? I got some food in there, sometimes some of them didn't have nothing to eat, didn't have breakfast, I'd feed them, He said, feed the hungry. We got to be really understanding about that. I love the Lord because can nobody do you like Him. He's been so good to me down through the years, up until right now. And when I get up in the morning, I just thank Him, because He's all I've got. And I want to go back with Him and when He come, I don't have to cry no more, I have cried, I have cried so much. No more crying, no more worrying, no more nothing. Peace and joy. That's in the city. That He had prepared for us. God is real, can't nobody do you like Him.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:25:36] But let me say, we have a gift for you from the Westside Action Group, a gift.

**Emma Shaw** [00:25:40] Yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:25:41] But before you- I go there, I want to ask you, you are talking about Louisiana and it was rough, and it was hard and it was segregated-

**Emma Shaw** [00:25:46] Yeah, it was hard.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:25:48] And the white people was bad. Did you say that or were those my words?

**Emma Shaw** [00:25:52] Oh, they were bad!

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:25:54] They were bad!

**Emma Shaw** [00:25:54] Look, what the lady name and we'll get on the bus. You can't sit in the front, you had to go in the back. And one bus had a curtain, for the niggers, for them to sit behind- sit behind, out the way of the whites. But Rose...

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:26:15] Rosa Parks.

**Emma Shaw** [00:26:16] Rosa Parks, she died. They made of- a statue of her and when she was getting on the bus, you know, when you get on the bus there's a seat right there? That's where she would sit. They couldn't make her go in the back. So they made a statue of it and we were going to...Who, where?

**Joyce Smith** [00:26:40] We went to Memphis to the Martin Luther King, you know, where he died while at the-

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:26:47] Hotel...

**Joyce Smith** [00:26:48] At the Grand Hotel there, and they had all those things set up there and they had a statue of Rosa Parks sitting on the bus.

**Emma Shaw** [00:26:54] On the bus.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:26:55] And how did that make you feel? How did you feel?

**Emma Shaw** [00:26:57] I felt real bad.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:26:58] I mean, how- what do you mean by bad?

**Emma Shaw** [00:27:02] I was hurt. Which I didn't know, no other way to go, because I was raised up there and I know the White didn't like the niggers. And I tell y'all, I went to a home to clean. And this lady who I was working for had \$100 under the couch and she had about \$50 in the bacon. When she asked me, she said, when you get through cleaning, will you clean my refrigerator for me? And I told her oh yeah, I said, well, what am I here for, you know, to clean. And when I got through it, everything it was- think about the money under the bed, under the couch I mean. Why she had money under the couch? And I was waiting for her, well she got dressed and she left. And she said, I'll be back before time for you to leave, I said all right. And she said be sure to clean the refrigerator, I said I will when I get through with the house, when I got through the house and went in to fix water to clean the refrigerator out and taken everything out the refrigerator and laid them on the table. There was the bacon with money hanging out of it, \$50 as we were. And so when she got back and I was almost ready to go I told her I wanted to talk with her. I said now, you know what? I have worked in so many places, I never stole nothing. And I said, that's why I work to get my own money. You had money underneath your couch, you had money in your bacon, I'm not a thief. I said I came to your home to clean, to get my money. My money, not yours. I said I won't be back.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:29:04] Oh you told her that?

**Emma Shaw** [00:29:04] Yeah, I will not be back.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:29:09] You think she was trying to set you up?

**Emma Shaw** [00:29:12] Yeah, that's what she was doing. She thought I was one of the niggas that would steal, but I never stole nothing in my life from nobody. And that's the

kind of work I did because I couldn't get my education. So I had to go to the field back in the country and work. Pick cotton.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:29:34] Mother, remember when you worked at Norton Air Force Station?

**Emma Shaw** [00:29:36] That's right.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:29:38] What happened up at Norton?

**Emma Shaw** [00:29:39] It was real nice.

**Joyce Smith** [00:29:40] Tell them what you did out there, Mother.

**Emma Shaw** [00:29:41] Oh good, we packed things to be shipped to different places, but I had a lady to help me. When I went in, she helped me fill my papers out and all got everything just straight, you know, like it should be, and I went to work. It all they had to do was show me what to do, you know, I could do it and I went to packing and putting stuff in just like the rest of them were doing in Norton Air Base. Now, that's the only job I ever had. In business land. I did home-work all the time. Yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:30:29] And got paid by the day.

**Emma Shaw** [00:30:29] That's right, baby. That's right.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:30:32] Anybody got a question for her? Anybody?

**Speaker 7** [00:30:38] Small question. Um. When you left, I mean, when you left, you know, Louisiana. Came North. Um. And you grew up in Louisiana, you grew up in the South.

**Emma Shaw** [00:30:54] That's right.

**Speaker 7** [00:30:56] Now you were going- I mean, this is the West, but it's almost like the you know, and that's what I want to know. What was that like for you when you were- when you moved from the South-.

**Emma Shaw** [00:31:05] To Vegas?

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:31:06] To Vegas.

**Unknown 1** [00:31:08] No, to San Bernardino, leaving your home. What was that like for you?

**Emma Shaw** [00:31:14] Well, a little better, you know, they don't care nothing about you here either, you know. Oh Lord, no, no. You're here, up to date here, you still a nigger.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:31:31] Let me ask you this, why do you use the word 'nigger'?

**Emma Shaw** [00:31:34] That's what they called us!

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:31:36] Do you think we here are niggers too?

**Emma Shaw** [00:31:39] You know what them kids said on the bus?

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:31:43] What?

**Emma Shaw** [00:31:44] "Nigger, nigger, nigger, nigger! Nigger, nigger, nigger, nigger, nigger!" So that's what I've been called all-.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:31:50] I'm talking about us now. I'm here [inaudible], Joyce is here.

**Emma Shaw** [00:31:53] Well, you know how-.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:31:54] What are we? What are we? What are we, that are sitting in this house now-.

**Emma Shaw** [00:32:00] Nig- [laughter]

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:32:01] Cause I don't look at my- We're niggers too!?

**Joyce Smith** [00:32:05] What's the other word, Mother, that you use?

**Speaker 7** [00:32:10] You evidently don't like that!

**Joyce Smith** [00:32:10] My daddy would not allow us to use that word.

**Emma Shaw:** [00:32:13] No. No, he didn't.

**Joyce Smith** [00:32:15] He would not. We'd get a whipping if we use that word. Never let us.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:32:19] 'Cause you use this often. And I'm just wondering, I want to get this on tape, because this is a key word in our history.

**Emma Shaw** [00:32:25] Yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:32:26] And I'm wondering, you know more than we know, a lot more! You're about 35, 40 years older than I am.

**Emma Shaw** [00:32:35] Yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:32:35] So you know, a lot more than I do.

**Emma Shaw** [00:32:36] Oh, yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:32:37] So I'm wondering what that word really mean to you. And it still means something to you.

**Emma Shaw** [00:32:43] Oh, yeah it do.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:32:44] So I want to know what that is. I really want to know what it means.

**Emma Shaw** [00:32:49] It hurt.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:32:50] It hurts.

**Emma Shaw** [00:32:51] It hurts.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:32:51] It's a hurting word.

**Emma Shaw** [00:32:52] That's right. That's right. Because a lot of it-

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:32:54] It's not a good word.

**Emma Shaw** [00:32:55] It's not a good word. It hurt. Yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:32:59] Anybody else? You have a question for her, Brother Mohammad?

**Brother Mohammad** [00:33:04] Your transportation, your mode of transportation from the South to Las Vegas. Was it bus, train, or car?

**Emma Shaw** [00:33:11] No, he rented a truck, we had to move to Las Vegas. And he got a truck, and that's how we went to Las Vegas, and he had to turn the truck back in, you know, and that's how we got to Vegas and out at Vegas and got a house.

**Joyce Smith** [00:33:33] Give it to uh, Ratibu, when you get get through with it.

**Emma Shaw** [00:33:39] We got a house in Vegas, we was lucky to get a house, we didn't have to have no tent.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:33:44] Did you move here in a truck too, from Vegas?

**Emma Shaw** [00:33:47] Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Mhm.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:33:53] Oh, OK, Joe Mays, can you make a presentation to Ma for us? [00:33:58][4.9]

**Joe Mays** [00:33:59] Ma'am, I'll tell you what, we've heard so much about you.

**Emma Shaw** [00:34:02] Yeah.

**Joe Mays** [00:34:03] And we know so many people that's connected to you.

**Emma Shaw** [00:34:06] Yeah.



**Joe Mays** [00:34:07] And I tell you what, they all have very good things to say. And it is an honor for me to be in your presence today.

**Emma Shaw** [00:34:15] Oh, I'm so glad.

**Joe Mays** [00:34:16] Because I, too, came from the Deep South.

**Emma Shaw** [00:34:19] Yeah.

**Joe Mays** [00:34:19] I came from a place called Silvania, Georgia. And I can relate some of- to some of the same things that you went through.

**Emma Shaw** [00:34:29] That's all right.

**Joe Mays** [00:34:30] And, you know, there's no way that we can really honor you like we want to honor you.

**Emma Shaw** [00:34:39] Yes, Lord.

**Joe Mays** [00:34:41] You know, we have decided to take a little collection so you can go do some of the things that you want to do.

**Emma Shaw** [00:34:48] Oh, what a blessing.

**Joe Mays** [00:34:50] Whatever that is that you want to do, we want you to be able to do it, so the Westside Action Group is going to present you with \$326 so you can go do whatever you want.

**Emma Shaw** [00:35:04] Well that's all right. [applause] Thank you so much. Thank you so much. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:35:14] Now we have some people- paper- pictures here. I see 20th and Emma Drive.

**Joyce Smith** [00:35:21] Emma Road.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:35:21] Emma Road. Where is this?

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:35:23] It's over before you get uh- What's the street where you get on the freeway... State Street!

**Joe Mays** [00:35:31] State Street, yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:35:32] Oh, OK.

**Joyce Smith** [00:35:33] It's over there and Ricky, when they put the freeway in they had just a short street, it wasn't a complete street and they had not put a name for it. So he said, I have a name for it, and he named it Emma Road. He named a street after her.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:35:51] Because we collect info for our archive projects.

**Joe Mays** [00:35:55] It's still named Emma Road?

**Joyce Smith** [00:35:56] Oh, yes. It's permanent!

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:35:58] We've got to get a picture.

**Unknown 2** [00:35:59] But you got to keep her still.

**Deborah Franklin** [00:36:00] How old was she, then?

**Joyce Smith** [00:36:02] Uh, I think she was one hundred. And then the other picture is my dad and my mom. Georgia.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:36:16] You can see that when you got that. And this one-

**Joyce Smith** [00:36:20] This is Mother and Daddy. And she's holding somebody's baby.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:36:22] Thought was Vernon Shaw, here. Doesn't he? Looks like, Vernon looks like this man here.

**Emma Shaw** [00:36:28] Oh, yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:36:30] And who is the, who is the baby that is being held here?

**Joyce Smith** [00:36:37] I have no idea.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:36:37] You don't know who this... OK then.

**Joyce Smith** [00:36:40] Mother has over a hundred...

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:36:42] She has what now?

**Joyce Smith** [00:36:51] Over a hudred grandkids.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:36:51] Over a hundred grandkids!

**Joyce Smith** [00:36:55] And a lot of great grandkids, I don't have a number but I can get a number for you.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:36:58] OK. Any great great grandkids?

**Joyce Smith** [00:37:01] Yes.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:37:02] And some great great grandkids!

**Joyce Smith** [00:37:04] Within my kids, there's five generations.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:37:07] Wow. Got to be some... How about you? Do you have a question for her?

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:37:13] I will say that I am from Louisiana myself.

**Emma Shaw** [00:37:15] Yes, indeed.

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:37:15] I've seen some of those things that we... Years ago, we used to go up to the whites and watch them play football, we laid rocked on the side of the road. But when they come back they would throw rocks at us and we run to these piles to throw back to them.

**Emma Shaw** [00:37:31] Ah, Lord.

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:37:33] And we had to pass by a lot of schools. But I'm giving it to you, I always say you been like an angel in your life. And I want to give this little angel a little gift.

**Emma Shaw** [00:37:43] Thank you so much. Oh, look at that, look at that, don't that look nice.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:37:53] It looks fitting for her. And that's the second president of the West Side Action Group is here. You came in in the 70s?

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:38:08] 60s.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:38:08] I'm talking about as WAG President.

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:38:12] Yea, 70s.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:38:12] OK, do you have a question for Mama Shaw?  
[00:38:16][3.5]

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:38:18] Not really. But I will say that I've been acquainted with the family since I've been in the city.

**Emma Shaw** [00:38:23] Yeah.

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:38:24] One of my good friends was Johnny.

**Emma Shaw** [00:38:27] That's right, all right.

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:38:28] In fact, when I had my clothing store, Johnny used to buy clothes from me.

**Emma Shaw** [00:38:31] Yeah.

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:38:32] He used to come out to the store and then we would work out a deal where I go down to the lounge, Geri's.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:38:38] Geri's Velvet Lounge!

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:38:38] And we would work out a deal where we would trade merchandise. So it was a good bargain. So he was a good good good friend and I... And again, I think I mentioned that time, my son in law.

**Emma Shaw** [00:38:58] Yeah.

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:38:59] Derek Matthews.

**Emma Shaw** [00:39:00] Oh, yeah.

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:39:02] He's of course, related to the family.

**Emma Shaw** [00:39:03] That's right.

**Stan Amiri Futch** [00:39:04] He's married to my daughter. So I'm familiar with most most of your family, and Joyce and I have been friends for a long time. Oh, yeah.

**Emma Shaw** [00:39:15] Oh yeah, I've been through it.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:39:17] Well, this is Reverend Gwen Rogers.

**Gwen Rodgers** [00:39:22] Hi!

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:39:23] Do you believe a woman preaching?

**Gwen Rodgers** [00:39:29] Now why you starting that?

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:39:29] I have to get this! I mean this lady's a hundred and two years old!

**Gwen Rodgers** [00:39:32] Let me tell you who she is. Remember Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, that lives on Trenton.

**Emma Shaw** [00:39:40] That's right. [00:39:40][0.2]

**Gwen Rodgers** [00:39:40] Her husband is the son of Arlington.

**Emma Shaw** [00:39:45] Oh, all right.

**Gwen Rodgers** [00:39:48] And her son participated in the Beautillion, you know, the other night.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:39:51] Yeah, her son.

**Gwen Rodgers** [00:39:53] Was second place, he got second place runner up.

**Emma Shaw** [00:39:56] Oh that's all right.

**Deborah Franklin** [00:39:57] And I'm also a lifetime resident. So I've lived here. I grew up here as a young girl. And my family is from Arkansas, my entire family, also the Dowdy family. I'm very familiar with the Shaw family because my really good friend Bridget was married to Ernest, Ernest and the Jacksons. So that's how I came in and we knew each other from grade school. So I want to ask you the question, what advice do you have to us as women, what advice would you give to a woman? [00:40:28][31.3]

**Emma Shaw** [00:40:29] You know, I never thought about that. I always would go and hear "what do you got to say?"

**Deborah Franklin** [00:40:39] Answer his question about women preaching!

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:40:45] Don't answer my question. Ask her a different question!

**Gwen Rodgers** [00:40:47] Yes, we're going to leave his question. Just the woman in general household, raising their families and children.

**Emma Shaw** [00:40:53] Oh, yeah, well, beautiful, some of them not all of them, cause they let them run around all over and do what they want to do. A lot of them in the streets. You know what they done? I have never had one in the street. I raised mine different from that and, you know, I never had on a pair of pants in my life. No pajamas, no pants. My auntie, they raised me. She was a seamster, she made all my clothes. She would buy a few pieces. But you didn't have to buy me a whole lot because she could sew. And I wouldn't raise them with pants and pajamas and all that, I always... and you know, I look at different women wearing pants, well I don't have nothing to say about it. I don't know what to say. Because there's so many wearing them. Yeah, and now we don't have no peace in the land, read the paper. Killing, killing, killing. I never hurt so much. Did y'all see the man, the man was shooting, running...

**Emma Shaw** [00:42:16] It's bad! We're living in the last days! He lived his last days. He said He's on the way back. [crosstalk] Tell the good news! You know, I can't help but to tell it, oh I wanted to get up to Saturday night so bad. I wanted to tell it! All those people!

**Brother Mohammad** [00:42:46] I wish you had done it. [crosstalk] I really do. I wish you had did.

**Joyce Smith** [00:42:50] She's on Facebook. She done told everybody. And everybody tells somebody else, so it's out there. But what I wanted to say was we missed one job that Mother had when she, when the Orange Show used to be in full swing, Mother worked at the Orange Show.

**Emma Shaw** [00:43:05] Yes, I worked at the Orange Show.

**Joyce Smith** [00:43:06] And worked in the reception room, and she served orange juice and cakes. And you know they used to have the baking contest and they would make cakes with some kind of orange in it, the juice or the icing and whatever, and they would serve the cake to the dignitaries that came to the Orange Show. And Mother was in charge of doing that. And then in 1964, my daughter passed away. She had spinal

meningitis and they stopped her from working there that year because they figured that she had been contaminated. [00:43:36][29.6]

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:43:40] OK, and then we want to talk to Joyce Smith-Shaw. And you are which child in the order? In the picking order.

**Joyce Smith** [00:43:51] I'm in, I am the third oldest.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:43:54] Oh, you're the third oldest. And I would just like to say this is a disclaimer, between the time I divorced and the time I got married, Joyce provided me a room at her house so I could save up some of my ducats. And I never forget that because that was a big help for me. And you don't know, you were charging, but it wasn't like I have enough to rent a whole house or that. So thank you for that. But what can you tell us about your mom, that's significant?

**Joyce Smith** [00:44:33] I think really the significant thing is that, first of all, the fact that she's lived as long as she have, secondly, that she's raised 11 children and have only lost three. When we were growing up, Mother really wasn't the one that gave us orders. Daddy gave us orders. Daddy was a disciplinarian and we could not stay out late. He- if we had a boyfriend, they had to come to the house and they could only stay for until 10:00, at ten o'clock, Daddy walked in the room in his shorts an undershirt, "It's time to go." He meant that. But Daddy was always a good provider. He was a construction worker for the most of his years. Like I said before, on Saturdays and Friday evenings and Saturdays, he cut hair all day long.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:45:32] Where?

**Joyce Smith** [00:45:32] Well, well, when we when we lived when we we moved here to San Bernardino, we lived on Stoddard Avenue. That's about two blocks from the Orange Show. And from there we lived in Waterman Gardens and from there, Waterman Gardens, we moved here.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:45:47] OK, but this... His first house that that he owned, this house right here?

**Joyce Smith** [00:45:53] Yes.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:45:54] And what year was that, about?

**Joyce Smith** [00:46:00] About 1962, I believe. So we purchased this house.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:46:04] So were these new houses at that time?

**Joyce Smith** [00:46:06] No, they were not new. It was a white community and they were moving out just like every other community. When you moved- blacks move in, they moved out. But he cut hair on weekends and that was to supplement his income. And like I said, we never had a want for anything. And he was always very good to his kids. Whatever we asked for, we got, in spite of the fact that we didn't have a lot of

money. I went to Pacific High School and I graduated from Pacific, and my dad made sure that I had everything that I needed. And I went to Valley College for one year, dropped out, got married, moved to San- moved to Los Angeles and. I stayed in Los- in Santa Monica for about two years and came back to San Bernardino and went back to school again, and Daddy always wanted me to go to college. So I went to college. I went to Valley College, got my A.A. degree, and I went to Redlands University, got my bachelor's degree and my master's degree.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:47:12] Oh OK, so then did the other children graduate from college?

**Joyce Smith** [00:47:16] No, I'm the only one.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:47:17] You're the only one who graduated from college, and how about the grandchildren?

**Joyce Smith** [00:47:23] My grandson, Jeff.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:47:24] Well you're her daughter. I'm talking about her grandkids.

**Joyce Smith** [00:47:27] Yeah. Jeff, he went to- the one I mentioned this morning, he went to Kentucky State and he has his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Um, my granddaughter, Maya, went to Phoenix University.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:47:43] That's her great granddaughter?

**Joyce Smith** [00:47:45] Great granddaughter. Mm hmm. Um. Her- Barbara Ann- Barbara Ann's granddaughter just recently graduated from Spelman and she now is going to dental school. My- Johnny son, Johnny, lives in Las Vegas. He has his master's degree and he is a minister and he works in some- he's an administrator in a hotel in Las Vegas.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:48:20] and I was going to ask you about the minister I know Vernon is a minister.

**Joyce Smith** [00:48:24] Vernon is a minister, Wiley is a minister. And Wiley followed in his dad's footsteps. He lived in Seattle and he was a barber. He was- he was a licensed barber. Yeah. And then he moved back here and he got involved with the church. And he's a minister, mother's grandson, Dante, who participated in the Beautillion about 10, 15 years ago. He's a minister. Vernon is a minister. Who else..? I think that's it.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:48:56] OK, so. So Vernon also fed the homeless, and...?

**Joyce Smith** [00:49:03] Oh, yeah. He does that.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:49:04] That's one of the things she was saying, she would feed people if they were hungry. Did he get that from mom?

**Joyce Smith** [00:49:07] Right. Right. I think so. Dante, who's her grandson who went to...

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:49:18] He gives I mean he feeds the hungry...

**Joyce Smith** [00:49:20] He feeds feed the hungry and every every weekend he goes down, he picks bagged lunches and takes them where all the homeless people live.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:49:29] That's what Vernon did, I don't know if he still does it, but he did that.

**Joyce Smith** [00:49:32] No, but Dante now is doing that.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:49:34] So you think we got that from Mother?

**Joyce Smith** [00:49:36] From Mother. When we lived on Stoddard, right in back of our house was a creek. You know, that creek that runs through Meadowbrook Park?

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:49:44] and the Valley Truck Farm

**Joyce Smith** [00:49:45] And it goes all the way through the Orange Show. I can't remember the name of it, but when we were living on Stoddard, the hobos always lived on a creek. They'd always knock on our door and ask for food, Mother fed all of them. And even though we didn't have a lot, she always was able to feed them. And I think that's what the boys got that from.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:50:06] And anybody got a question for Joyce? Any question for Joyce?

**Gwen Rodgers** [00:50:13] Well, because- did you say- you said earlier you are the child that did all the education but the other siblings of yours did not?

**Joyce Smith** [00:50:21] No.

**Gwen Rodgers** [00:50:22] What inspired you to come back and complete? I know you said your father, but was that the main thing?

**Joyce Smith** [00:50:27] No, I think I always... I used to work with my mom when she would work with people on the on the north end. And Mrs. Engel, who was the daughter of one of the Harris company guys, I used to work for her. I'd babysit for her. And I really like the way she- her lifestyle. And I said, I want that. I'm going to have that. And she lived on Parkside and now I lived right off of Valencia in the same area, in Arrowhead Country Club. So, you know, I made my dream come true.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:51:03] So is that the reason you joined the Socialites or why did you get involved with the Socialites?



**Joyce Smith** [00:51:12] I liked the idea that they were- what they were doing with the young- young people, and I knew some of the members and they invited me to join their group. I'm also a member of Phi Delta Kappa sorority. Joyce Payne is our basilisk. I'm also, a member of... Gee, I belong to three different... Oh, the Eastern Stars, an Eastern Star. And it's- at my church, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. I'm on the scholarship committee there. And I'm I've worked at Valley College, Crafton Hills College, and Redlands- Riverside University. I spent, I think, total of 43 years in education. I'm semi-retired. I still work at Valley College on Thursdays and Fridays and I enjoy my my work because it gives me an opportunity to tell kids how and how to do, what to do, especially our kids. I always make a point of letting them know, you know, that these are the things you have to do. And if you plan to be- have a successful life. And I hope some of my grandkids are going in the right direction and they're getting there.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:52:35] So do you think your biggest influence came from your father or your mom or both?

**Joyce Smith** [00:52:40] Both.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:52:41] Both. But the father was the disciplinarian.

**Joyce Smith** [00:52:44] Yes, my father was the disciplinarian. And he he always pushed us to get an education.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:52:51] And what was mom doing?

**Joyce Smith** [00:52:53] Mother was always in agreement with whatever Daddy said. And if Daddy thought we need a whipping, she didn't disagree with him. [laughter]

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:53:07] That's good.

**Joyce Smith** [00:53:08] But we had a we had a lot of fun with that many people in the house at one time growing up.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:53:13] Right here?

**Joyce Smith** [00:53:13] Right here, and in Waterman Gardens. And the kids used to tease us in Waterman Gardens because, you know, the two storey building they have over there? We had we had the double. And they always went "Ooo, y'all got an apartment all by yourself! Yeah. Yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:53:33] That is... so so they were built before the ones off of Ninth Street?

**Joyce Smith** [00:53:37] Ninth Street, yes they were.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:53:40] So Waterman Gardens. Now, because I heard the one off of Ninth Street was built for military families.

**Joyce Smith** [00:53:46] I think it was. It was.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:53:48] And then they- the military moved out and people needed assistance.

**Joyce Smith** [00:53:55] Low income housing. Yeah.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:53:56] Right. Well, that's good. Any- anything of use that you-.

**Unknown 3** [00:54:01] Yeah. I'm just, I'm just, I don't have anything to say other than that. You know, we always talk about what should be done and how, you know, we should change the world. And and I think your mother your mother is right. I mean I mean just there's something to be said about the fundamentals of how you build the house.

**Joyce Smith** [00:54:24] Yes.

**Unknown 3** [00:54:25] It's how you build a child. How you build a family.

**Joyce Smith** [00:54:26] Yes, exactly.

**Unknown 3** [00:54:28] And once you stray from that concept, you start building your house on mud heaps and you know, and then we say, oh, it fell down.

**Joyce Smith** [00:54:38] I think you're right. And I think it-.

**Unknown 3** [00:54:40] I'm just impressed, so impressed.

**Joyce Smith** [00:54:42] A lot of kids who have good parents and give them good background, like you say, they stray from that and they're never successful. But if you stay on the right path and stay focused on what you need to do, you're going to be successful. And it wasn't because I knew someone. It was because I did what I had to do, hard work and stay in focus. And I knew I was going to get an education and I knew I was going to have a better life and I do have. I don't depend on anybody but myself. I'm a single mother, I have I had four kids, but now I have three. My my oldest daughter passed away and she was a Rodgers.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [00:55:36] Well, again, you have something for Joyce? [00:55:39][2.7]

**Unknown 4** [00:55:39] Yeah. You know, I wanted to ask you a question, Joyce, I know you are familiar with the Valley College and where we- all our kids attended to go to school to better their education and everything. And I noticed that the enrollment as far as black children is very low for some reason in our colleges. And I was just wondering if you can expound on that and tell us from your viewpoint what might be the cause of that.

**Joyce Smith** [00:56:16] You know, in the beginning. We had a lot of kids going to Valley College. We had a great football team. There were a lot of activities going on. And I

think since we've lost a lot of that, that was one of the things that I think that kept the kids there. And since we don't have a lot of activities... There is a lot of recruitment! We go to all the high schools all the time to recruit kids. Usually someone will come to the church and talk about Valley College and and try to encourage kids to come because, you know, going to community college is less expensive as going straight to a university and it prepares you for the university. You can get all your lower general eds out of the way. And when you transfer to the four year school, you transfer in as a junior. And in two years you should have your bachelor's degree. And our kids don't stay focused enough. And I think that not today are- some of the parents just don't push their kids in the right direction and they don't help them to go to school. And it's it's really hard when there's no money. A lot of them don't qualify for financial aid, those that do, I noticed one thing, when the kids that do qualify for financial aid, they come in, they'll get the financial aid, they might stay for one or two semesters, then they drop out. And then later in life they realize that I should have stayed because I've had a lot of returning students who come to me and said, I sure wish that I had stayed because I've lost so much time. And I think that's one of the reasons why, you know, kids that come from big families have to help out. Kids want certain things out of life and you can't get it going to school. So they get a job and a lot of our kids get involved in drugs and selling drugs and whatever else. So it's always something that gets them off track.

**Unknown 4** [00:58:11] There's one more entity that I would like to talk to you about and get your viewpoint on, our president today is trying to enforce a law that will make it where junior colleges will be just like high school. It will be paid for by the government and the kids can go there. They can continue to go and once they graduate from from high school, they can go into junior college and it would still be the same as as going to high school. What is your viewpoint on that?

**Joyce Smith** [00:58:43] I think that I agree to it to a certain extent, but I don't think it ought to be always free. I think they should pay something, something... If something is given to you, you don't appreciate it. But if you work for it and you know you earned it, you appreciate it more. So I think that to a degree, I, I think it should be not as much... They don't have to pay as much as they do now because right now it's \$46 per unit. And if you're taking a three or four unit class or let's say a full load with just 12 units, times 46, a lot of kids don't have that to pay. Yeah. And then if you don't qualify for financial aid, you're still not going to be able to get that and have to buy your books on top of that, books start at \$100, some of them. And a lot of kids drop out because they don't have the money to buy the books. And our financial aid system at Valley College has always been a day late and a dollar short, but they are trying to fix that. And they've got some new people in financial aid to make sure the kids get the money is available to them at the beginning of the semester. So they will be able to buy their books and they won't go to class without a book. So hopefully that's going to work with our new vice president, Mr. Shabazz and Gloria Fisher, who is our president.

**Ratibu Jacocks** [01:00:04] OK, well, maybe and I want you to close us out with a prayer for the community.

**Emma Shaw** [01:00:11] You ready? Heavenly Father, we thank you today. The peace and the joy that you have gave us. You've been so good to us, brought us from a long ways, brought me from a long ways up until right now. Lord, I thank you for everything that you have made ways for me, but you've been good to me down through the years. I love it with all my heart. You saved me one day, sanctified, filled me with the Holy Ghost. And Lord, I thank you. Bless everyone in the room, oh, God, please bless them. Take care. Make ways out of no way. You got all power in your hands, you made us and you know all about us. Pictures for the journey. Lord, I know you said you is on your way back. We waiting on that. Want to be ready when you come. Blessed here, there and everywhere, remember the sick, the poor and the needy. Oh, God. I know you say you got all power in your hand and you done made a way for us, Lord. And I'm telling the good news. Thank you for everything you have did for me down through the years, up until right now. Oh God, I love you with all my heart. Thank you for everything you have did for us, bless everyone in the room, make ways oh God, take care of them. Walk with Him, day by day. Oh, God, we know. We know what's going to happen and we waiting on that. Bless and take care, all over the land. Remember the sick here, there, everywhere. You got all power in your hand. You've been so good to me. And Lord, I thank you. I thank you for everything you had did up until right now. I love you with all my heart. Bless and take care of us all day long. Down through the years. You make ways out of no way. Remember here, there and everywhere, all these wonderful blessing we asked in your name. Thank God, amen and amen. Thank you.

**End of Interview:**

[01:02:45]