

**The following interview was conducted with Albert Maribaga for the Star City Treasures AmeriCorps Oral History Project, It took place on July 14, 2006 at Lincoln Action Program 210 'O' Street. The interviewer is Renee Andersen.**

**Renee:** Albert, could you tell me about the country that you are from?

**Albert:** (uh) I'm from Sudan (uh) from a place called Wau, WAU that's the town which I was born in, in the southern part of Sudan.

**Renee:** And you have, do you have, do you have family still there in Sudan?

**Albert:** Yes I have, I have family (uh) there in Sudan my mother and father are still alive and are still in Sudan right now and I have other, 11 brothers in, in Sudan is staying and I am here with my five kids and my wife.

**Renee:** How long have you been in the United States?

**Albert:** (uh) Next August (uh) August 25 (uh) will be (uh, uh) six year in, in the United States.

**Renee:** So, that would be next month?

**Albert:** Next month, yeah, August 25, of 2006.

**Renee:** Could you tell me about where you grew up?

**Albert:** I grew up in Wau (uh) that's basically (uh) where I go school and then, until I, I left so, I stay most of my life in, in Wau.

**Renee:** And how old were you when you left Wau?

**Albert:** (uh) I left Wau (uh) in, I was like (uh) 25 years old, I believe at the time I left.

**Renee:** Were you married to your wife at that time?

**Albert:** At that time, yeah.

**Renee:** So, you met your wife in Wau?

**Albert:** Yeah, you know in Wau is because the city is not that big, so (uh, uh) everyone knows every, who is who, so (uh) we, we know each other because like in a town in the area we know everybody there, so this, is, (uh) one thing that I just wanted to mention is that, basically (uh) I'm just going to be, say married, married because back home (uh) marriage, we mean that like when we go to the church and doing everything but sometimes we have traditional marriage so you can, you just get married traditionally

until some time you stay for 5 -6 years as long as (uh) you feel that you're comfortable to go ahead then you go to the church and then get blessed and then go to be permanent.

**Renee:** So, that's kind of like an engagement?

**Albert:** Yeah. That is traditionally happen like that.

**Renee:** So, you were 25 and your wife was...

**Albert:** (uh)

**Renee:** Or, how old were you? I'm sorry, how old were you, when you were traditionally married?

**Albert:** (uh, uh) (pause) I cannot remember exactly but (uh) there's a point because like as I said in high school (uh) sometimes (uh) you get together because we, what happens in, in Sudan there is, we call it co education so sometime boy close they, they are in one school and sometimes you make like friends boyfriend, girlfriend and then when you like each other then you go to a point and then sometimes you just stay like that until you make sure you want to get married and then you go marry if not you just stay like that until you get married so there is a lot of details and traditional things going on if I want to explain it its going to take all, all, all the time of interview so I'm just going to leave it that short so...(laughter)

**Renee:** That's ok. So you knew your wife most of your life.

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah, I knew her long time ago.

**Renee:** And, did you have any children together in Sudan?

**Albert:** (uh) No.

**Renee:** No children were born to you in Sudan?

**Albert:** Yes.

**Renee:** After you left Sudan, where did you go?

**Albert:** (um) We go to Egypt.

**Renee:** Egypt.

**Albert:** (uh huh)

**Renee:** Did you have children born in Egypt?

**Albert:** No.

**Renee:** No. So, you have five children? And were they all born in the United States?

**Albert:** No (uh) two were born here in, in the United States and the other three were born in Sudan.

**Renee:** In Sedan?

**Albert:** Yeah.

**Renee:** And what's the...in Egypt, where's, or not Egypt...(uh) Wau?

**Albert:** No, no, no, no, no...all the other three were born in, in, in Wau.

**Renee:** In Wau? Ok.

**Albert:** ...and the other two were born here in...

**Renee:** In the United States.

**Albert:** ...in the United States.

**Renee:** Ok.

**Albert:** Are you confused?

**Renee:** (uh) No, that's ok. So, you had three children in Sedan and you left your country because?

**Albert:** Because of the war.

**Renee:** Of the war.

**Albert:** Yeah.

**Renee:** Could you explain about the war and what it was like?

**Albert:** (uh) It's terrible because (um) you know all the bad things you see when, when, when war happen, when there's war you see all, all the bad things in, in war so (um) that's why (uh) you, you lost loved ones, you lost people, you lost friends, you lost brothers, you lost cousins, and (uh) especially, especially when, when, when war happen is, and all of that is not something new because it was like almost there was always civil war in Africa. So since independence, since all of independence in 1956, after the British left, (uh) that civil war started right away after they left in 1956. So, we were born in the war, you see, so we haven't seen any kind of rest, because since we were born, with our

eyes open, we just fight war, you see, so we haven't enjoyed even our life or our childhood, everything was in war so, it was very, very, very bad and (uh, uh) That's why we just try and leave the country and go somewhere that was safe especially if you want to look for future for you and for your family, you have to leave the country and go outside to find the safest place for you and the family so that's why we left and (um)...

**Renee:** You and your wife decided, both of you decided to?

**Albert:** Yeah. I, I flee first, as I said and she was, she was in a different part of the country when I, when I left, she was in a, in a place called Cassala because she was a nurse, she was a nurse and she, you know like, in Sudan when (uh) there are like sometimes, it's, the hospital system is (uh) central so they can take you from here to this part, they could take you from here to any part of the country.

**Renee:** Ok.

**Albert:** So, if they ask you to go to a different part of country, you have to just go to work there. So, she was transferred to the eastern part of the country, to work there as a nurse because she was a registered nurse so she was working there and then I was, yeah...

**Renee:** Did you have children while she was transferred?

**Albert:** Yeah. Yeah

**Renee:** Where were your children during this?

**Albert:** They stayed with her.

**Renee:** They stayed with her, she was transferred, and you fled the country?

**Albert:** Yeah

**Renee:** And you went to Egypt?

**Albert:** To Egypt, yeah.

**Renee:** Ok. How long did it take for her to reach you in Egypt? Can you explain all that to me?

**Albert:** Oh. It is kind of hard, as I'm telling you, my wife has gone through a lot of difficulties, even the children they have gone through a lot of difficulties and (uh) there is some stuff I talk with her, I don't want to, I don't want to recall it on this, on this tape...

**Renee:** Certainly.

**Albert:** Yeah for, for the sake of the children and (uh) we don't want something that happened in the past and then, and that could affected their life from the time, everything of the war. I don't want those things to be permanent so that they can come and still hearing those things, so that's why if you see me there are some points that I don't want to, I don't want to, I don't want to talk about it in this, in this recorder.

**Renee:** Definitely.

**Albert:** Yeah.

**Renee:** That, That's fine.

**Albert:** Yeah. So that's why (uh) I am trying to skip those, those points because, you know, everyone who have been in war have witnessed a lot of troubles, a lot of trauma and we don't want those things to be sitting on mind every time to go through it, we just want to leave it behind and go ahead with our life...

**Renee:** Uh huh.

**Albert:** So, that's why there a lot of things (uh) happened to my wife, and happen to me, with the kids during the war, I try (uh) just to avoid it, I don't want to talk about it right now...

**Renee:** Sure.

**Albert:** Yeah, anyway (uh) I went to Egypt and she came to Egypt...

**Renee:** Ok.

**Albert:** ...and from Egypt, (uh) as I said, we get protection from United Nation, and then they tried (uh) to settle us to the country because the first country Sudan, the second country's Egypt, the third country is the United States, because once we get to the refugee status, then you be under protection of the United Nation. Then we stay there for a certain time, I think it was for two years, we stay in Egypt, then from there we get settled...

**Renee:** You stayed, excuse me, you stayed in Egypt for two years?

**Albert:** (uh huh)

**Renee:** Ok.

**Albert:** Yeah, and from there, they resettle us to, to the United States.

**Renee:** What was Egypt like?

**Albert:** uh...

**Renee:** Did you have a, a home to stay in? An apartment things, like that?...

**Albert:** Yeah, it...

**Renee:** ...and a job?

**Albert:** A job in Egypt we weren't allowed to work, to work because, you know, Egypt has over population. The country, the, the place we are living in, like Egypt, is like 4 million people in a town like Lincoln, maybe Lincoln is bigger than that. So 4 million people and all of them, they need job and it is difficult to get job but (uh) we managed to work (uh)...

**Renee:** Both of you?

**Albert:** Yeah, my wife was, was working like housekeeping, in the house, was cleaning and (uh) me, I was (uh) working (uh) with (uh), with (uh), with (uh) Canadian, Canadian oil company. There's a company call (uh) Civitat. Is a Canadian oil company, and (uh) for some reason I was lucky I was able to, to get a job with them helping in, in the office. I'm just working as a, they call it house, office boy I was a office boy helping with everything, clean up, (uh, uh) sorting things in the store cause they have like store ...they, they bring part, anything ... I have to sort them in the store and everything so I work with them for almost, almost those two years I was working there and they are very helpful, they help me a lot, they know that I have family, I have kids so they try to, to be flexible with me and try to, not to do all those process with me because if you don't have work permit you don't work and if they catch you working with out work permit they'd have to take you to jail or they would deport you . Yeah, so, so that's the point.

**Renee:** And did you have a work permit?

**Albert:** Yeah at that time, at that time we don't have work permit, most of people work there without, without work permit because they pay you cheap money, you, you they don't pay you like exactly what they are paying the, the people there because you don't have work permit so they pay you what ever they pay you...

**Renee:** But it's dangerous...

**Albert:** Yeah and they will accept it because you have kids, if you don't work you're not going to be able to, to pay rent, you're not going to be able to pay, to buy food. So for working in houses you don't, you don't need to get permit for that, because that's the, for them that's the worst kind of job to do, so no one likes to do that, so they allow us to do that...(laughter) see, so, it's really terrible but for the Canadian company that I was working with them (uh), they understand the situation, they know exactly, I explain to them and because they are there, they are seeing what happens to people every day, people, people going to hospital, dying, getting sick and on medication, you know. They,

they have seen those things.

**Renee:** From the war?

**Albert:** Yeah, from the war. So they, they understand the situation and they know everything.

**Renee:** Ok. So you worked with this company and your wife worked as a housekeeper for almost the whole two years you were in Egypt...

**Albert:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Renee:** ...until you got, until you, until you were able to come to the United States?

**Albert:** Yeah.

**Renee:** And you had to apply for, did you have to apply for papers in Egypt, I believe you said?

**Albert:** Yeah, of course (uh) the paper that is, say you apply for is, every refugee when you go to another country, first thing to, to look for, is to seek protection from the United Nation.

**Renee:** Ok. Right.

**Albert:** Yeah, that's what we, that's the first thing we do, and we were granted the protection from the United Nations.

**Renee:** Ok. That's, that's what I was asking.

**Albert:** Because without that, without that status, of refugee status, we won't come here, there is no way to come here, cause there is no way to come to the United States, if, if you are not refugees, no, no and our plan was not to come here we, just try to get out from Sudan, but things work out and we came here and we're glad we are here. Yeah.

**Renee:** That's, that's wonderful (um), can you explain to me what it was like when you came to America? Your, you traveled, like you took an airplane, those things (um) where you stayed, could you explain to, can you tell me about those...

**Albert:** Yeah, (uh) it was a long trip, (uh) like as I said, it was a long trip to, we traveled from Egypt to here because we came through, we came from Egypt to Netherlands to Holland...

**Renee:** OH, Ok.

**Albert:** ...and then from there we get another connection to, to, to New York and then

from New York to St. Louis, then from St. Louis to Lincoln, it was almost, I say almost two days or whatever ...

**Renee:** Two days of traveling?

**Albert:** I can't remember that because we left, yeah I, I can say two days or twenty-four hours, yeah around that, yeah, so...

**Renee:** You must have been exhausted.

**Albert:** Yeah, exhausted, long way, long trip and anxious, we are in the air, you never know, we don't see, we don't see land (laughter)

**Renee:** Really, I have never ridden in an airplane.

**Albert:** Yeah, so, it's kind of...just kind of, the first time.

**Renee:** How old were your children do you remember, do you remember how old they might have been?

**Albert:** When we were in Egypt?

**Renee:** (uh)

**Albert:** When we came here?

**Renee:** When you, on your way here, yeah.

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**Albert:** Yeah (uh), yeah (uh)...

**Renee:** Do they remember the trip?

**Albert:** Yeah, the oldest one, Yasmine, Yasmine was like 13.

**Renee:** Oh, Ok.

**Albert:** Yasmine was 13 and then (uh), and then Saman was 5, that was only 2, we came just with 2.

**Renee:** Ok.

**Albert:** We came with 2, Yasmine and Saman, Saman was 5 and the other one was 13.

**Renee:** So you had one left back in...

**Albert:** Yeah, the other one left back, he's now, he's now (uh), he's now, he's now



fif...he's now 14.

**Renee:** Ok, he's 14.

**Albert:** Yeah, he came after us, after we, after we came here, and then spend like one year, then he came.

**Renee:** Stayed in Sudan with...

**Albert:** He stay in Sudan with (uh), grand, grandfather.

**Renee:** Grandfather, your father?

**Albert:** No.

**Renee:** Your mother...your, your wife's father?

**Albert:** Yeah

**Renee:** Ok,... and you came here with two children and you wife.

**Albert:** And then the other two were born here.

**Renee:** The other two were born here. Ok.

**Albert:** and then...

**Renee:** What, (uh) what (uh) where did you stay when you first, when you first came to Lincoln, did you have any kind of help?

**Albert:** Yeah, we were brought here by Catholic Social Services and (uh) we stayed at (uh) St. Patrick Church because when we came here first we don't have an apartment to, to move in right away, so they have to put us like (uh) somewhere until they look for, for a place for us, so we stayed at St. Patrick, for almost a week or ten days, and then from there they, they get us apartment at (uh) 2035 "J" St. So that's our first apartment 2035 "J" St.

**Renee:** That's close to Lincoln High School.

**Albert:** Yeah, Lincoln...the reason they put us there because Yasmine was, was about to go High School so they prefer for us to stay there because at that time that she was enrolled at Lefler, Lefler Elementary and then the next, the next year or the year after she will be coming to Lincoln High so since we don't have transportation, we don't have anything so they prefer to put us there because by the time she gets to High School we don't have to worry picking her and going and coming so that's why we were there.

**Renee:** So she is was in walking distance of, of Lincoln High School and that's where she attendance, attended school?

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah.

**Renee:** What was it like for your, your wife, and you and your children when, when you came to the United States...

**Albert:** Yeah...

**Renee:** And you got your first apartment and it was some what civil in the United States?

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah, it was, it was, it was very exciting, it was a very exciting moment but (uh) for my wife because at that time she was pregnant with, with my daughter and (uh) she has a different atmosphere and then at the same time when we arrive here it was almost winter time and was first time for us to experience those extreme winter in 2000, that time was very, very, very cold everywhere is ice, we don't have transportation, we have to walk to the grocery and then to the store and buy our grocery and carry it to, carry it and come back to our house.

**Renee:** Did you ever see snow before?

**Albert:** We just, just see on, on the T.V.

**Renee:** On the television.

**Albert:** Yeah, on the television. So its kind of...(uh)

**Renee:** So it was very cold.

**Albert:** Yeah, very cold. The first time was tough because as I know, we don't know, at that time there, there was not too many Sudanese here like now and we don't know anybody like (uh) to come and help take us to the grocery, to take us to here and to there so we have to like just walk, we used to walk to Russ's Market by 17th Street.

**Renee:** Ok

**Albert:** Yeah, we walk from "J" Street to Russ's Market and buy our grocery and come back, so sometimes it's windy, it's winter so your hand just got freeze because you are carrying those two bags like this and there is no where to put your hand in your pocket to get it warm, so it was very tough, it was very tough but (uh) I'm not going to, I'm not going to say it's tough like when we were back home.

**Renee:** Yeah.

**Albert:** It's just tough because of the weather.

**Renee:** Yeah, definitely, it's something to adjust to.

**Albert:** Yeah.

**Renee:** Did you, you know what gloves were?

**Albert:** (uh) At the time, we, we had no idea about gloves.

**Renee:** Oh. (laughter)

**Albert:** We just use our bare hands.

**Renee:** Oh, that's very, very interesting. See we have, in the United States we, we grew up, we had gloves, scarves, hats and that was all new to you.

**Albert:** Yeah. Back home it was too hot so and then I don't think about worrying...

**Renee:** The weather was always warm?

**Albert:** Too hot.

**Renee:** Too hot (laughter)

**Albert:** Sometime 100, 100 uh 105, 105 degree.

**Renee:** Wow, you didn't have to wear very much clothing.

**Albert:** No, no because it's too, too, too hot especially in the part, in the Northern part it's, it's very hot, it's very hot.

**Renee:** When you came here did you have access to clothing, did you even bring clothing?

**Albert:** Yeah, we just brought like some, just like two, two, two, two or three pairs of clothes and because during orientation, because before we, we come to the United State, we went through orientation, like three days orientation there in Egypt, so they told us about the situation, the weather, the clothing, so we, we have like kind of some idea about what we are going to be facing here, so they tell us don't, please don't try to take a lot of clothes here, just there you are going to get some clothes, they are going to buy clothes for you, they know you, you guys are coming, so they are going to prepare some clothes for you, so, yeah, we came after the two days, three days, they took us to (uh) St. Louis Thrift Store, where we get some clothes from there, some coat, some shoes...

**Renee:** What was that like for you to see all those clothing?

**Albert:** Yeah, so, I talked, I was asking my kids who, who is going to pay we don't have no money, she say no you take whatever you want to take. (laughter)

**Renee:** Had you ever been in a store like that, with lots of clothing?

**Albert:** (uh) You, you know the, the, the good thing of us coming to Egypt is because, like, in Egypt is a little bit advanced, Egypt is a little bit advanced country, it's not like other countries in Africa, there is most of the things like in Egypt they have, they have malls, they have everything, they have everything, almost, some of, some of those things almost like here...

**Renee:** Ok.

**Albert:** So, that, that gave us chance see those thing before we come here, you see...

**Renee:** Some similarities.

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, some but some times some people who like came from the camp right away, from the bush, from the camp and then they came here...

**Renee:** Yeah.

**Albert:** And they don't get that chance like we get to see those things, we're lucky that we try, we came gradually...

**Renee:** Yes.

**Albert:** Instead from one point to the other point you see...

**Renee:** Yes.

**Albert:** So it depends, that, that depends on the country where you flee to, like for our people who flee to Ethiopia, and people who flee to, to Uganda and people who flee to Kenya, some of them don't get that chance to, to stay in the city because the refugee in Egypt, the good thing about, they stay in the city, within the city limit, but those who flee to, to Kenya, Uganda and (uh) and (uh) Ethiopia, they don't allow them to come into the town, they just like build big camps, far away from the town and you just stay there, you don't see anything, so that is why some time you see a different between the refugees who are coming, who are coming here you see some knows better, some doesn't know better that, that, that 's the main reason, that depends on the place they flee to.

**Renee:** Oh, that is very interesting to know ...

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah.

**Renee:** And we don't realize that as Americans, we don't realize that, we have no way of knowing.

**Albert:** Knowing that, yeah, that's right.

**Renee:** Um, that's very interesting. Um, so you came here and you got clothing, how about furniture and then your first automobile?

**Albert:** Ok, the furniture, (uh) all the furniture that we got is used furniture, but they are in good condition is, for us it is new, but for back home it is new, but you guys call it here used (laughter).

**Renee:** Used.

**Albert:** Yeah, so, so they're good and (uh)...

**Renee:** So that was nice.

**Albert:** Yeah, it was nice, and then I stay, since I came here I stayed home almost like two months, just to know, just to adjust and then after that I just uh, the case worker at Catholic Social Services took me to, for applying for work, and then my first work, I work with (uh) Quebecor, Quebecor Printing place.

**Renee:** Quebecor?

**Albert:** Yeah, I work there.

**Renee:** Did you know, did you know how to speak English? How was your English level?

**Albert:** (uh) At that time is (uh) say its fair, its fair because since, since I came I haven't been to any kind of a school, any kind of class or ESL or anything.

**Renee:** Oh, wow. So you've picked up your English just from everyday...

**Albert:** Yeah, I haven't been to any kind of class. So, I work at Quebecor, for some times almost, almost for six months, that's my first job. And then from Quebecor (uh) (uh) that time, those Lost Boy, they started to coming to the United States...

**Renee:** Uh huh.

**Albert:** Catholic Social Services started bringing them to the United State and then since they started coming United States (uh) they need to have somebody who, who is from the same country to be able to help them.

**Renee:** Oh.

**Albert:** So that's why they at the time, they, they thought about me, that (uh) maybe (uh) I may be the good person...

**Renee:** Candidates.

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah, candidate to, to, to start working with them. So, they contacted me and (uh) said, Ed, there is work here for you, I told him I have no any kind of experience, I don't have anything about, I don't know anything about computer, I know nothing, I haven't toughed computer before so now you guys are telling me to come and work in the office to help those people to bring new refugees, are you kidding, they say...

**Renee:** And they weren't, they weren't kidding, were they?

**Albert:** Yeah, they say yeah...

**Renee:** They were very serious.

**Albert:** Yeah, they were very serious, they say, everything is, everything here is possible so you will be able to learn if you wanted to.

**Renee:** Wow.

**Albert:** So, I just, I say let me think about it, so my wife and I discuss it and then finally I decided Ok I'm going to take that job. So, I give two, two, two weeks notice to Quebecor, and then from there I quit and then I join Catholic Social Services and they put some through to, through some trainings, and they with, help me, work me, trying to show me what to do, and to thank that I was, I was able to pick up those things very quickly.

**Renee:** Oh you were.

**Albert:** Yeah.

**Renee:** Yeah.

**Albert:** Yeah, I picks things quickly and (uh) with the little bit of English that I, I have I try to, to improve it, and then I started to help my brothers who are coming from Sudan, I work with them first time as a case manager...

**Renee:** Oh, Ok.

**Albert:** .With those Lost Boy, at that time I had like forty five clients.

**Renee:** You did?

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah. All of, all of the Lost Boy who came here, I was their case manager, all of the Lost Boy who came here, I was their case manager, so I take them to appointment, I pick them, because at that time already I was driving, I have driving license, I bought my first car. So I decided to drive and then somebody from the Catholic Social Service try helping me, showing me the places whatever, because though I was here quit a little awhile, but there is some places I don't know.

**Renee:** Sure.

**Albert:** So, I struggle sometime, I take them to doctor appointment, sometime I arrive there late, because I got lost, I don't know to, to find addresses. But I say Ok, I'll get lost today, but tomorrow I will learn. So that's the way I learn until I was able to, so I work with Catholic Service for awhile until, (uh) until they lost the, the grant after (uh) Sept 11, and then there is no more refugees coming and then all the grants just being cut...

**Renee:** Oh.

**Albert:** Yeah, so they have to, they have to, to lay us off. So, I got, I got laid off from Catholic Social Services.

**Renee:** Oh.

**Albert:** Yeah, that's what happen.

**Renee:** So, after that what did you...

**Albert:** Yeah, after that, after that (uh) when I got laid off from Catholic Social Services (uh) I heard about (uh) the opening here at Lincoln Action Program, that (uh) there is a refugee program here at Lincoln Action Program they are looking for (uh) for people who specifically from Sudan. So I say, hey I am going to try that, so I came here, I apply for that job and I went through interview and with the little bit of experience that I got from Catholic Social Service I was able to get the job, and then...

**Renee:** Is, as, what was the title of the job?

**Albert:** As a, as a Refugee Case Manager.

**Renee:** Oh, Refugee Case Manager.

**Albert:** ...manager. So at that time (uh) we have like (uh) three different program, there is Refugee case program, and then there is (uh) Micro Enterprise, and there is (uh) IDA program, which is Individual Savings Accounts program.

**Renee:** Ok.

**Albert:** So (uh) yeah, I work here with those, with the Refugee, so I work with them for awhile, almost three year. And then also, again we lost the grant, the grant ended , so I got laid off again. (laughter)

**Renee:** But you were, in the mean time, you're building up...

**Albert:** Yeah, been building, yeah, yeah...

**Renee:** ...all kinds of experience. And so now you are a Case Manager?

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah.

**Renee:** For the Supportive Housing Program.

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah.

**Renee:** And you've been one for how long?

**Albert:** (uh) 4 years.

**Renee:** 4 years. And, and then you had your fifth child here during that time.

**Albert:** Yeah.

**Renee:** Is your wife, is she working, or is she working now?

**Albert:** Right now, right now she, she is working, yeah, but she's just working like a temporary job.

**Renee:** Sure to...

**Albert:** She's working with the, what is it called, Oasis, Oasis?

**Renee:** Oasis.

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah, something like that.

**Renee:** To supplement your income?

**Albert:** Yeah.

**Renee:** So it sounds like you have come a long way in this, just 6 years.

**Albert:** Yeah, 6 years.

**Renee:** I think you are doing very well for yourself.



**Albert:** Well I hope so, it just, 6 years here just go that fast , it just go very fast because you don't feel it. (laughter)

**Renee:** Yeah, time does fly.

**Albert:** Yeah, yeah, it goes very fast.

**Renee:** Um, as you look back, what do you think about leaving the country you were born in and coming to the United States? (cough) And what recommendations would you give others who are following you um, and what, what do you want your children to learn and remember from this? If you want to summarize all of that into one final thought.

**Albert:** Yeah. Um, and I'm glad that (uh, uh) I'm glad that (uh) for those who came up with this program, especially this history, history program, is good because um, you never know for how long you're going to be living and (uh) its good for our kids (uh) to have something documented to know that (uh) to know that difficulties that their grandparent and their fathers has been through, because they may grow up and just get like Americas life, and then they forget about what, what brought their parents here, so they have to know what brought their parents here, so that (uh) every time they see somebody who is poor, somebody who is suffering, they need to have heart, to be able to help other people who, who are poor or suffering, like the Americans who help us and brought us here, that's very important for them to know and (uh) not to forget that because (uh) and (uh) the chance that they get here, school and everything, is a good investment for them and for America and then also for the country that they came from because they are the only people who will be able to bring peace back home, to bring like (uh) Democracy in the country we came from, because the reason we came here, the reason we have Civil War, because there is no Democracy there is no Human Right so all those things are here in the United States, so people need to, to move those things or to transfer those things from the United States to the country that we came from, so that everyone will have peace and (uh) right to live like human being that's and that's, that's the most important thing so because if this world is free then there's not going to be any war, there's not going to be any kind of people suffering or dying from disease.

**Renee:** And all the Civil Wars that are going on.

**Albert:** Yeah.

**Renee:** That pretty much wraps things up. Thank you

