Hinong Workshinesota Historical Society

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ORAL HISTORY OFFICE



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HMONG WOMEN'S ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

Minnesota is home to one of the largest Hmong communities in the United States. More Hmong live in the Twin Cities than in any other urban area in the United States. Originally from Laos, the Hmong supported American troops during the Vietnam War. Beginning in 1976 and continuing in four waves until 1996, many came to the United States as political refugees. The Hmong have strong kinship and clan ties. Many who originally were resettled in other areas, chose to move to Minnesota to be close to family members and other relatives.

The elder women's experiences included maintaining home and family while their husbands fought alongside American soldiers in the Vietnam War. They fled their farms and villages and crossed the Mekong River into Thailand where they lived in refugee camps before resettling in the United States.

The experiences of the oldest members of the community are vastly different from those who came here as children and those who were born in this country. Today, Hmong women work as teachers, lawyers, and decision makers in their respective positions—opportunities not available to them in their homeland. The youngest never experienced war or resettlement and are unfamiliar with the privations of their elders.

This oral history project chronicles the contributions and experiences of Hmong women with ties to Minnesota. Members of the Hmong Women's Action Team, a group of Hmong women community leaders and activists, interviewed each other and their mothers and grandmothers, and in one case her daughter. They share their stories of life in the Minnesota, Thailand, and Laos. Three generations from six different families are represented in this series of eighteen interviews.

The interviews help provide a greater understanding of Hmong women's roles in the home and community, challenges and successes in public and private realms, and across time and space.

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An Interview with

da Nalkistory Project **Mai Neng Moua** Narrator

Bo Thao Interviewe

December 17, 1999

For the **Hmong Women's Action Team Oral History Project Hmoob Thaj Yeeb Oral History Project**

The transcript is presented in both English and Hmong.

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Mai Neng Moua

KY: Okay, before we start I'm going to ask you question your life, how you live, your name and last name?

MNM: My name is Mai Neng Moua. My last name is Moua.

KY: Okay, you are not married right?

MNM: I am not married. I am still my mother's daughter.

KY: Okay, right now how old are you?

MNM: Ah...I don't know how old I am...but in my records it says 25 years.

KY: So you are not married and have no children right?

MNM: Hmm...I don't have children, and I am not married.

KY: What is the highest grade that you have completed?

MNM: Six months ago I just completed my Master's degree.

KY: Okay, what's your major?

MNM: My major, well, in English it's public affairs. In Hmong, we do not have the words for it but public affairs is the type of work that deals with the government. You see what the laws are and you see if they are good for the people. You work closely with Americans or other people in that kind of work.

KY: What kind of work do you do? Do you only work for Public Affairs or do you do something else too?

MNM: While I was attending school there was an organization that contacted me and wanted to interview me for the position. I went to talk to them and I have been doing public affairs work since then. They recruited me to oversee the public affairs and advocacy program for that organization.

KY: What is your salary?

MNM: Right now they pay me \$29,000 per year. It is not much but because I am still single, it's enough for me.

KY: Okay, that is very good. Are you living by yourself, with your parents or with someone else?

MNM: Right now, I am done with college. When I went to graduate school, I came back to live with my family. When I went to college, I went far, maybe an hour from my house, so I lived on campus. The four years that I was in college, I lived with a roommate, and when I was done with college, I also lived with my college roommate.

KY: Okay.

MNM: So when we decided we wanted to continue our education, my roommate went to school in California so I did not have a roommate. I came back home and lived with my parents.

KY: Oh! That is good. Okay. You have never been married and you are still single, right?

MNM: Yes. Never been married.

KY: Okay, how long have you and your mom been in this country?

MNM: We came here in 1981 so it's about 18 years already.

KY: 18 years?

MNM: My 25 years...it seems my life has been spent growing up in this country.

KY: Okay, so you were seven years old when you came to this country, right?

MNM: Yes.

KY: Where were you born? What city... and what country...?

MNM: I was born in Laos, but I have no idea what was the city, state or county.

KY: Okay.

MNM: My mom has told me about it, but I don't remember.

KY: Okay, what kind of Hmong are you? Are you White Hmong, Blue Hmong or Stripe Hmong?

MNM: My mother and we—My dad's family is White Hmong, but he died when I was very young. My mother is not White Hmong; she never talked to us in White Hmong so we do not speak White Hmong.

KY: Oh, Okay. So right, have you come back to speaking Blue Hmong or only White Hmong?

MNM: The words I am saying now, what dialect is it?

KY: You are speaking White Hmong.

MNM: White Hmong? Oh! Okay, Okay, no, no, I got that wrong so my father, my grandmother and grandfather were Blue Hmong.

KY: Oh, Okay...

MNM: We did not live with them in Thailand and my father had passed away, so my mother never spoke to us in Blue Hmong so that is why we cannot speak Blue Hmong.

KY: So you and your family speak White Hmong?

MNM: Yes. We only speak White Hmong?

KY: Now, I will ask you questions about when you were very young or when you were a teenager. Can you tell me more about what your life was like when you were very young? Did you go to school when you were young?

MNM: When I was a young child, I did attend school. When we were in Thailand, I remembered that I went to school for a little while. I was young, but I still remember how to count the numbers, how to count from 1 to 10. And I remembered that if you went to school and your fingernails were very long and dirty then the teacher would use a stick to hit your fingers.

I guess I was very naughty, my fingernails were very dirty so the teacher hit me twice.

KY: Yes. You went to school for how long?

MNM: I don't remember how long because when you are very young you don't even know the concept of time at all like one month, two months, three months, one year... I remembered going to school, but I don't remember how long.

KY: Were you learning the Thai Language only or English and other language too?

MNM: Based on what I remembered, we only learned the Thai language. I had heard from others that they had studied a little English before they came to this country, but I don't remember studying English at all.

KY: Okay, what about your teachers. Were they Thai or Hmong?

MNM: I don't know what he was, but I remember he was a man.

KY: Okay.

MNM: But I don't remember if he was Thai or Hmong.

KY: When you were small or young then, what were some of your duties that you did? Did you remember?

MNM: When I lived in Thailand and in Laos...I don't remember much. I don't remember anything I don't know what I don't remember. I thought I was grown so I should remember those things, but I do not.

KY: Okay.

MNM: When we live in America, I am the only girl in my family.

KY: Yes.

MNM: The duties of a girl were...cooking, sweeping the floor, fixing the house, carrying water and letting the boys go out to play. My mom never let me go play at all; she had me stay home all the time.

KY: Was there anything that you had done to help others like your relatives or your neighbors?

MNM: Right now I spend lots of time volunteering. I want someone to pay me, but no one pays me. But these are things I want to do, so I do them anyway.

In our church, I am the Sunday School Director for the children. I look for materials and teachers to teach the classes, and I also keep track of the number of children in a class.

Right now all of our teachers are youth and we are gathering ideas to see how can we attract the adults to help us teach the children and what topics they are going to teach.

Because the adults kept saying, "Oh, but you guys are the ones who know how to speak English. The children are more familiar with you." But I thought, "I don't want just the youth to teach because whenever the adults come [teach] the children won't like them." So I thought we have to teach other things—Hmong culture or folktales. Even the little ones should be taught, "This is an ear or eyes" or we should teach them to write Hmong. So if the adults don't know how to teach in English then they teach other things such as the Hmong language.

In addition, I also volunteer to edit a journal, *Paj Ntaub Voice*, for the Hmong community. I started this a long time ago, in 1994. At that time I was in college. I started writing poetry but when I went to find Hmong writings and poetry, I could not find any. I found lots of books where people talked about us but I couldn't find those that were written by us. So, you can find the voices of the Vietnamese, the voices of the Chinese,

the voices of the Japanese but you can't find the voices of the Hmong. I wondered why was it that we Hmong were so talented in folksongs and the arts but I couldn't find our voices? Why don't we write down our folktales? Why do we let others write about us? So I started *Paj Ntaub Voice* for Hmong youth and adults so that we would have a place where we could hear the voices of the Hmong so that we would know our folktales. This journal says that we created it out of the Hmong for us.

KY: Yes. That is very good. When you were small or young, were there any special skills that were taught to you by your parents?

MNM: I think in this country... When we arrived in this country, these were things that were difficult for parents because when they got here they did not have a chance to go to school. After we came to this country, it was hard for parents because they had to go to school. They worried about what were they going to do in order for their kids to have enough clothes to wear and enough food on the table. It seems as if the Hmong people are not used to the idea that we have to teach our children how to do this or do that.

When we were back in Laos, when our mothers went to the farm, we went with them or if our mothers sewed *paj ntaub* we sewed right alongside them so it seemed as if they did not have to teach us. They did not have to say, "In order to sew *paj ntaub*, you have to sew like this and this." So, it seemed as if the children just knew what to do. This is because back in Laos learning was "natural." When my mom goes to work at the farm, as a little girl, I went with her. When my mom was doing handicrafts (*paj ntaub*), I was next to her trying to do what she was doing. So they don't have to tell us that this is how you do this and do that. Once you grow up, you just know.

So I think that our parents expect us to know those things and sometimes they say, "Do I have to teach you? You should know these things. Why don't you know?" I think Hmong parents don't spend enough time teaching their children, sitting down with their daughters and sons and telling them, "You must know this. This is what this is. When sewing *paj ntaub*, in order to make a circle, you do this to get a circle."

KY: Yes.

MNM: So they did teach you how to sweep the house, how to cook, and keep the house clean. The things they knew but beyond those things, I don't know if they could have taught them to us. (This is really confusing following that last thought?! I don't understand what I was trying to say here? Am I trying to say, parents taught their kids how to do the simple/mundane chores but not other things (such as rituals, etc.) because maybe they didn't know them either?!)

KY: But if you teach them then you can learn it, right?

MNM: When I think about the lives of the parents and the lives of the children, [I see that] one is different from the other. The children go to school and our parents work so there is not one time when we are all working together or learning together. So, this is the

problem. Because when we lived in Laos, there was a time when we all farmed together. The sons (boys) went to hunt squirrels and birds with the fathers, hunt deer with the fathers. The daughters (girls), we went to feed the pigs; we sewed *paj ntaub* with our mothers. So that was how we learned. In this country it seems as if our [the parents and the children's] lives are so separated so there isn't a time for both to learn together.

KY: What are the fun activities or social activities that you did when you were young? Well, you are still pretty young... What else do you do for fun?

MNM: I guess, the fun activities for youth, for me are probably different from other people. But the things that I want to do are... going to the movies, going to the theater, going to see live performances. I am a person who loves to write so I like to go and listen to people read poems and stories. I like to go to plays. I don't know what my parents did for fun when they were young like us, but I don't know, I guess my life is pretty boring huh? I don't have too many fun things to do because I am a very busy person. I work from 9 to 5 then I do some volunteer work until 9. By the time I get home it is pretty late already so there is no time to play. On the weekends, I have to go and help the church with Sunday School too. Maybe I'm doing this for a purpose so that I don't have... or even though I'm not doing anything, but...

KY: So that you're not boring.

MNM: Yes, so I'm not boring... No, but my life is boring I... don't have a lot of time to say, "Let's just go and have fun." I have lots of friends that go dancing and go to nightclubs, but I don't like it. I am not really interested in those things so I don't go with them.

KY: But what do you think about your life right now? You have all those jobs to keep you busy like that, do you think it is good or bad for you?

MNM: It's really good because there is no one forcing me to do these.

KY: So you are fully satisfied to do them.

MNM: I do enjoy them. That is why I do them. I know that my mother was worried about me. She wondered why a girl would stay out so late, who I was with, and what we were doing, was I with my boyfriend or was I hanging out with a group of friends or am I really working? But these are very important things to me and to the Hmong people. Because when I do these things, I do them to help myself, but I also really wanted to help our Hmong people. These volunteer opportunities, no one forces me into them; I do them because I want to.

KY: Good.

MNM: And I like it too. I don't know, but it's fun too.

KY: Yes, yes, good. What about you? Do you have anything in mine that you are dreaming of or that you wanted to accomplish in the near future?

MNM: Right now what I want in life in terms of work and career. I don't really know what I'm going to do because the things that I enjoy doing and those that I spend most of my time on, people don't pay me for them. When it comes to my job and career then I want to be a writer. I want to create writing programs for the Hmong to teach both the young and old. I want to write about our lives, write about ourselves. In addition, I am still editing the journal *Paj Ntaub Voice*. I want it to be bigger than what it is right now. Because right now it's just the beginning so there is no one paying us yet. We did this by ourselves, and I want our voices to heard all over the world so that they would know that we Hmong have poems, folktales and other arts too. So I want my job to be this, to come to the arts more and more. That project regarding the arts to become a little more successful.

KY: Okay.

MNM: But that is not all, I want a house of my own. If I have the lots of money, I will buy a very nice house for my family.

KY: Okay.

MNM: I want my mother to have a house of her own, because she is the person who supports me the most, I want her to have a house that she can call her own.

If I have the money, I want to purchase a piece of land so that she can farm on it, raise chickens or whatever that she wants to do. So this is what I want for my family and my mom because my mom is by herself. Ever since my father passed away, my mother decided to stay with us and not remarry. So this is what I want for my mom, for her to have her own house and land and she could do anything she wants with it. For myself, I want to make sure someday—Right now I'm not married yet because I have not found the right person for me. No, well... Maybe I'm not right for them too, hee, hee... Maybe they are not right for me too that is why I haven't found the right one. But I want my husband to be Hmong, but if I can't find the one that is right for me then I will not marry them either. I want my husband to be able to talk with my mother. If he is Hmong or not, as long as he respects my mom and he can talk to her.

KY: Have an understanding of each other.

MNM: Yes. Have an understanding of each other because I'm thinking that even though he is an American, I want him to love my mother, our family. I want him to be able to sit with my family and talk to them about their lives. This is very important to me. I am a person who believes in God, and I don't want to go back to our old tradition and worship the spirits anymore.

Because my mom and our family have practiced this new religion for a long time so this is very important to me. My husband does not have to be a Christian, but he has to be very open minded about this because when I get marry and have children I want to take my children to church until they are 18 then they can make their own decisions. After that they can make their own decisions to see if they want to continue going to church, but as their mom I want to make sure they go to church until then and my husband needs to be okay with this. The best thing is for both of us to go to church together but if he doesn't want to go, I will take my children to church. So he has to be okay with that. If he is not okay with it, then I would not want to marry him.

KY: Okay, good. Right now I want to ask you about before the war that we had in Laos, during the war and after the war to see if you remember anything about what our Hmong women had done. The period before the war, the period during the war and the period after the war... Do you remember of anything that was done by the women and what was it?

MNM: Back then I was very young and I don't remember. I have heard others talk about it, but this is not something that I really know about. During the war I was very young so I don't remember so if I talked about it then. I can only talk about what I heard and not what I really know.

KY: What about those duties that you and your mom had done after you are grown? What were they?

MNM: Again I don't remember any of those either. When we were in Laos, I was only three years old when we left Laos for Thailand, so I don't remember much about my life back then

KY: What about back in Thailand, did you remember anything that you did there?

MNM: I remember that we, my brother and I went to sell vegetables for my mother. I have a younger brother too so we had to baby-sit him and if we didn't and he wandered around, my mother spanked us for it. I remember it seemed as if I went to work with my mother. We went to the *qhaam* and there were clothes to carry. With the *qhaam* there were bugs so I was very afraid of them. I don't remember much about back then only a few things like this.

KY: I always talk about your mother and you had mentioned that your father passed away, what year did your father passed away?

MNM: I don't know exactly, but I think that maybe he passed away when I was about two years old.

KY: So he died back in Laos before you came to Thailand?

MNM: He passed away back in Laos before we came to Thailand. But I don't remember him, I don't remember what he was like. Maybe I was too young that is why I don't remember. But it seems like I was at an age when I should have remembered him. But for some reason and maybe it's because that was a difficult period for my family and for all Hmong people because it was war so, I don't know, I don't remember him.

KY: Do you know within your family, did your mother made all the decisions or if someone else did it? Who made the decision for your family that you had to move out of Laos to Thailand or stay back in Laos during the war? What about after the war and you had came to Thailand, who made the decision for your family to come to this country?

MNM: After my father passed away, we lived with my grandparents and because our family was very small my mother was the decision-maker for us in terms of food on the table, starting a store and doing business. I think that my mother was the decision-maker for something very small like that, but when it comes to something very big like how to make lots of money or whether we were to move to Thailand or stay in Laos, these decisions were made by my grandparents. This is because we were living with them.

Even though my father was gone, we were still part of their family so when it comes to making the decision to move to Thailand, my grandparents were the ones [who made that decision]. Because we were living with them so when they moved, we had to move with them.

But the decision to come to this country, that was my mom's decision. Right now, my grandparents are still in Thailand. They do not want to come to this country. I have two uncles who came to this country before we did. I know that my grandparents did not want my mom to come to this country, but maybe she knew that it would be better for us if we came to this country. I know it was very hard for my mom because my father died leaving her with three young children. I think she decided that it would be better for her and us to come to America.

KY: When you were young, maybe you don't know about ladies that had become leaders or knew their names and maybe you may not know about the things that they had done to support their families. But had you heard of other people or remember other people talked about those women that had become leaders and those things that they had done to help support their family?

MNM: When it comes to women leaders, I don't know. But there had to have been some but I have not heard people talk about them. Even if people talked about them, I still would not know them personally. I had heard that there were some women who were highly educated, with the men, but I don't know them personally because there were only a few of them.

After my father had passed away, my mother had to be both mom and dad for us. It was only our little family so she was the one who made all the decisions. During the war she was the strongest one and worked harder than anyone else to keep all of us fed. If my

mother had not done everything she could then we probably would not be here. We did not have a gun to hunt for food because my father had passed away. She told me that she had to go and search for crabs, for lizards and anything that she could find...It was very funny because my mother had chased lizards, searched for crab, and searched for those insects, I don't know what Hmong people call them but they lived in old trees and were white. Okay, I don't really know the name, but the men laughed at the mother and asked why she tried so hard. But my mother said that she had to get anything she could find and that included lizards, snakes.

KY: Lizards?

MNM: Yes, she became very good at this.

So the men asked my mom how to catch them.

KY: Are you catching these for foods? How do you catch them? Since coming to America, do you know anything about planned parenthood? Does a woman have the rights to plan on how many children to have?

MNM: That will depend on the age of the woman and man. The older ones, maybe they don't have family planning or don't care. We Hmong people like to have many children. We believe that the more children we have, the more relatives we have and the warmer and richer our home. If you have one or two kids, it seems as if the house is cold, right? I think the older people don't even think about family planning. Probably the 30-something professionals, they probably talk about how many children they want to have and how many are good for them because they know that having too many kids is not good. Because with all those kids, you don't have enough time to pay attention to them, to teach all of them how to do things. In addition, it's very expensive. For young people, we want to have between four or five children. We don't want ten, eleven, or twelve children. I think most of us know about birth control and family planning because we learned about them in school. So the young people are different from our parents. We have family planning.

KY: Okay, do you think your own family respects or disrespects you? What about other people, do you think they respect or disrespect you?

MNM: I think, since I'm a woman and I don't have a father, people will not respect me. Whatever I do or accomplish is unimportant to people. They will not show me the respect I deserve. For example, a girlfriend of mine graduated from college. Her aunt said, "Daughter, you are done with college and so we are very happy for you but it's too bad you're not a boy. If you were a boy, we would even be happier." The Hmong people know that education is very important to them yet they don't support girls' education as much as they do the boys'. They think that by supporting girls they'll waste their effort, time and money. They know that one day the girls will marry and eventually move out to start their own families.

For my mother, I think, she's very proud of me for having achieved the level of education that I did. I don't know about other people's opinions because they didn't tell me. Maybe they talked about me behind my back and didn't want to let me know. Because I am a woman, and I do not have a father, I think, maybe people won't respect me as much. Because I am woman, I am not old, I have no children, I have no husband. Maybe they won't pay attention to me.

KY: Okay, do you think that maybe they don't pay attention to you because you educated and work? Hmong men think that because you old and single they don't respect you and don't pay attention to you or because you are too young?

MNM: Maybe those two. They probably said that something is wrong with me and that is why nobody wants to marry me, right. Something's wrong with her, maybe she's not a good person and that's why people don't want to marry her.

Maybe they will say those things about me. Maybe they'll say I'm a bad woman. Maybe [they'll say] I am mean and evil and so that's why men don't like me, right? Even with a college degree, my words don't seem to be important because I don't have experience. I'm dealing with men who have wives and children. I have no husband, and I have no kids. I have no ideas about those things so maybe they'll say, "She's just a kid; she doesn't know anything." As my mother said, "You only know how to read and write but you don't know about life." They think that I am educated but I don't know anything about family life so they won't respect me because of that too. Because for the Hmong, the most important thing is family so if you are a single person then they don't know where you belong.

To other people, it seems as if I'm am always 'playing.' It seems as if people never see the good things I am doing. They see that wherever I go, I am by myself so it seems as if I am just goofing off. So, they don't see what I do for myself. Maybe they don't know that I am thinking about myself.

KY: Yes. Now I want you to talk about when you escaped Laos and what it was like to live in the refugee camp? You said that your father died when you were little during the war. Did your mother decide that her family should escape?

MNM: For that, it was probably my grandmother and grandfather who decided.

KY: Okay, your grandparents, that's what you said earlier.

MNM: Yes.

KY: Okay, do you remember when you arrived at the refugee camp? What did you do? Is there anything good or not good about the camp and how long did you stay in the refugee camp?

MNM: According to my mother, we stayed in the refugee camp for three years before coming to this country. That camp, from what I remember, was not a very good experience. Whenever I think about the camp, it's bad. I remember it was very difficult because it was very, very hot and we were hungry for food to eat and water to drink. There was never enough to eat. However, some people were able to afford such treats such as ice cream and water.

It seemed as if we didn't have a house to live in. I don't remember where was our house and what it looked like. I remembered it seemed as if we just sort of stayed there and played there. It seemed as if there was no happiness. I attended school but I didn't know what I was supposed to learn. I just went. I don't know. Maybe I was too young, and I just didn't understand anything. It seem like there were a lot of people and a lot of things going on. It was very confusing for me. I don't remember much about that time but what I do remember is that we Hmong didn't have peace.

KY: Do you think that man and woman supported the differences between them? Is there a mutual respect between them?

MNM: When we were in Thailand, I was too young so I didn't pay attention to the relationships between men and women and how men looked at women and how women looked at men. I don't know what it was like at that time. What I know is what takes place here in the United States. I have only heard my mother talk about her relationship with my father and it seemed as if men didn't usually treat their women with respect [back then].

KY: Back then, there was no respect...

MNM: As my mother said, with my father, with my grandparents and the bride price, they yelled and said, "Why did you marry this one—a daughter of 'royals'—and so we had to pay four silver bars? Why didn't you save the four silver bars? We could have bought how many sows with them?" Stuff like that. And my mother explained that when my father already had us, he went to talk to other women and he even had girlfriends, you know.

The money he got from being a soldier, he didn't give it to his family, or buy things for his family but he bought things for his girlfriends. And my mother said that there was one time when my father—(the men didn't respect the divorced women.) My mother said that the divorced women—when my mother was still single, she lived with my mother's family because her father was a village chief. The divorcees would come to him to resolve their disputes and grievances [with their husbands].

They came, and they stayed with my mother, who was still single, and the soldiers had no respect for them. It seemed as if they kept harassing them; they kept trying to do things to them; they kept doing bad things to the women but they couldn't do anything about it. So I got mad and I said, "Just don't let them do it!" but my mother said, "But what could you

do? They stayed with me but as soon as I stepped out the door, they would grab the women and they did things with them. When I saw them again, they were throwing up."

My impression is that the Hmong men are...it's very bad, they have no respect for women. They did very bad things to the divorcees who they saw as free property so whoever wanted to sleep with her or talk to her, it didn't matter. They didn't care because the women didn't have husbands, they didn't have relatives, they didn't have brothers who could protect them. The men had no respect for them so they did really bad things to them

And because my mother was a widow, it seemed as if our relatives didn't call us as much. They don't really call us; we're not their people. They have no respect for us, and they don't remember us. Because we can't help them, right? We are orphans who want them to feed us and do things for us. When we were young, we couldn't help them so they didn't really like us. I see that Hmong men and the Hmong do not have a lot of respect for women. We don't like women; they can't help us; they are worthless. So, maybe, maybe, I'm wrong but my mother is a woman without a husband so I see these things.

KY: Okay, do you remembered who in your family decided that your family should come to America?

MNM: That, I think it was my mother who decided. If it was up to my grandparents, they would never allow us to come. They're still living in Thailand. And maybe they also feared that when my mother comes to this country, she'll go and do bad things because she doesn't have a husband, right? So perhaps they thought if we came to this country, my mother would not stay with us. Maybe she'll sleep with men or do something else weird like that. I know it was a hard life for my mother. When we were in Thailand, my mother decided that coming to this country would be better for her and for us.

KY: How old were you when you came to America?

MNM: I was about six or seven years old.

KY: What was one thing that either made you and your family's life easier to handle or more difficult when you came to America?

MNM: I would say that when we came to this country, we did not know anything. It was a new country; we didn't know the language; we didn't even know how to turn the lights on; the stoves—we didn't know what to do so we could cook food to eat. My mother said that when we first came, we lived with my uncle. We lived in an apartment; we lived upstairs. When the doorbell rang, we didn't know that it was the doorbell. We kept wondering what was ringing so we went to the bathroom to check on the toilet. We checked it, and the ringing stopped so we thought maybe that was it.

KY: Ha! Ha!

MNM: We didn't even know how to turn on the TV. We were scared so we just stayed home. For the youth, school was probably not too hard. When you don't know how to speak [English], when Americans speak to you, you just look at them. I didn't even know how to say I wanted to use the bathroom. Thank goodness, they told me where it was. I remembered needing to pee really bad, so I just got up and went to the bathroom. I didn't ask the teacher because I didn't know how to say anything [in English]. I just knew the bathroom was right there, and I was going to pee. I got up and went to the bathroom and the teacher ran after me and asked me where I was going. I don't remember when I learned how to speak English. It seemed as if all of a sudden, I just knew. So, for us younger children, it seemed that was the easiest thing but I know that's one of the hardest things for the elders.

KY: Are there some skills that you and your family already have or known when you lived in Laos and stayed at refugee camp that helped make your new life in America better?

MNM: Maybe the Hmong...when we lived in Laos, we were very skilled in farming, in raising vegetables for consumption. That may helped you in your life [in Laos] but it can't help you in your work or career [in America]. But I know that ever since I was young, my mother has had a garden in the summer for us. I know it's an important thing for mother, and she's very good at it. In the winter, we have vegetables to eat; we have cucumbers, flowered vegetables, hot peppers. So that is something that has helped our family. As far as work skills, there aren't any work skills that are transferable to this country. But farming is very hard because we Hmong don't have machines; we only have hoes.

KY: Only a hoe.

MNM: Only a hoe so if you farm, you won't be able to grow anything. You can only grow enough for your little family. If you want to be a farmer, to start a business, you have to have money, you have to have the technologies and those are things the Hmong do not have. Those skills, you must go and learn those skills. We only know a little bit; we can't compete against the Americans. That is a source of sadness. Our background is so different.

KY: But you come here, you learn little by little, and you'll learn things, right?

MNM: But what if the elders cannot learn anymore?

KY: Yes, they can't learn anymore, however, if they have that plot of land, they can still farm to help their family, right?

MNM: Yes, that can still help the family.

KY: Do you believe that living in America is good for Hmong women and why do you think it is good?

MNM: Yes, I believe it is a good thing because there are many things we can do in this country that we could not do in Thailand and Laos. One of the opportunities is education. Even the old can go to school. The youth can go to school; women can go to school so it's like my mother says, "The opportunity is open to everyone." So that's a good thing.

Education will open the doors to many things. If you have an education, you'll have a good job. You will be able to talk to those who are in your field; you will be able to talk the same lingo or jargon. You will be able to go talk with Americans because you will know their language, not only language but different topics, too. In addition, women can be and have jobs that they cannot in Thailand. They can, right now, be a lawyer, a doctor, a teacher, a nurse. There are many opportunities open to women. For Hmong men, maybe that's something they don't like or want, but for Hmong women, that's an excellent thing. And maybe this will give women a little bit more peace.

KY: Okay, good. When you went to school and you've learned how to read and write, have you used your time and your energy to help your neighbors or help your mother? For example, translating or other things like that?

MNM: We didn't have a father so my mother was the one, the first one to learn how to drive but words and papers from the welfare office, papers from housing, I was the one who was in school so even when I was young, I helped my mother by translating those things, using the telephone to call the doctors. When I was young, I hated doing those things, you know. My mother forced us to do them. I never wanted to do them, never wanted to talk to the old Americans, but my mother forced us to go to the store with her. Forced us to go to the welfare office. Forced us to write letters for her, you know. Even at the store, you were the one who gave them the money. My mother did these things because we did not have a father. Even when we were young, my mother forced my brother and I to do these things.

KY: Do you know any woman that either work for or hold a public office and who is that person?

MNM: In this country, I think there are now many women who are in charge of organizations. There are those who are older than me, the middle age, and there are those who are also my age. I remember Chao Lee, the first Hmong woman to have been elected for the St. Paul School Board.

KY: Shoua Lee?

MNM: Shoua Lee or something—

Usually women, but she was the very first woman, the first Hmong person on the School Board so that, that's one very public official. There are many women who are Executive Directors of non-profit organization, not just Hmong women's organizations but beyond that, in American organizations. Such as Ilean Her at the State Council [for Asian Pacific Islanders]. This is good for Hmong women because sometimes men think that Hmong

women are leaders only for women so we can be executive directors in Hmong women organizations. Because Ilean is at that state government agency, she is in charge of that organization so that tells us that Hmong women can be leaders for Hmong women and much more—for other people as well.

MNM: Yes for other people as well as for the Hmong, too.

KY: Is it a good thing for Hmong women to become a leader?

MNM: I think that if we were still living in Laos and Thailand, there would never be women...Maybe there 2/3 of the population would be women but they would not be leaders. They would be the wives of the men leaders. So our role would be to be the wives of the men leaders; [our role would be] to look good. In Laos and Thailand, there isn't anything that said single women can be leaders or women who have married can be leaders. You know, because in this country, you don't have to be married to be a leader.

Yes, even if the Hmong men don't recognize that you are a leader; other people and the Hmong women accept and recognize that you are a leader. There are Hmong women doctors. All the women know they are doctors. For example, Dr. Phua Xiong. It seems I've met her husband but I've forgotten what her husband looks like. She is one that the Hmong women will say, "Oh! She is one of our leaders." Even the Americans see that she is a leader. In addition, we have women lawyers, teachers and women who have Ph.D.'s just like the men. I think these things are only possible because we live in this country. If we did not come to this country, we would not have these opportunities opened to us.

KY: Do you think or know that men will help or support any women who holds a position outside their household?

MNM: What do you mean, work outside the household?

KY: The difference between your job and taking care of the house? Will the men support their wives and will they remember that their wives, sisters, or aunties are the leaders?

MNM: It is very important because Hmong women can balance a lot of things. They are the wife, mother, sister-in-law, and daughter-in law. They can manage all the duties at home and they also work from 9 to 5. They can earn a living and take care of their families. In addition, they also do community service, help in the church, and volunteer. I think Hmong men cannot do these things. They can do their job, and they can do community service but maybe they won't be able to help their families as well. But Hmong women, I think we're quite skilled because we can do all these things. We have an unselfish heart to help our families, help our relatives, help Americans, and help those outside of our family. So, we do a lot, we do a lot.

KY: Good, do you have any more to add to what we have already discussed?

MNM: I guess now I am very concerned about people like my mother or Hmong women who don't know how to read and write or who haven't had time to learn how to read and write. I know that if they have had an education, they would have been excellent leaders because they have more experiences than me. They've raised children; they know the Hmong rituals and traditions. What they don't have is the formal education. Because they are old and they haven't had the opportunity to go to school...Maybe they think, "Ah! I am so old, my brain is stupid, I could never learn."

We've forgotten about these people. Perhaps we think they don't know anything; they can't help us with anything; they don't even know how to speak English with us. Even if they go to meetings, they won't know what's being said. But I think we just don't give them the time of day. We are all educated so maybe we all think alike, we won't see what they see. Maybe they see something different. So, I want people to think more about the elders and the men and women who are not educated...What can we do to engage them so that if we had community meetings they, too, are at the table? So that they'll know what we are talking about. Maybe they'll have other ideas that can help us, other ideas that we have not thought about. But because they are not like us [educated] then we tend to forget about them.

We have no respect for them; we don't remember them; we don't honor them. When I think about this group of people, my heart breaks because if my mother had had an education, she would have been an excellent leader. I think that when we have meetings, we should take our elders. If my mother knew the things we talked about, she would have many things to say, she would have good ideas.

KY: Do you think or know if there are any social activities to show and teach elders so that they know what our job entails or what we are actually performing?

MNM: I think it's our job as educated people, to tell them. Many times I think, "Ah! Why am I so worried?" I want to tell my mother but I think she won't understand but she has surprised me. When I've talked to my mother, she is very excited. She has helped me to see far and wide, further than before.

My mother knows Hmong culture and rituals so when I don't know something I ask my mother to teach me. So I think it's our job to bring them to the table and it's our job to educate them about welfare reform and how that affects their lives. The elders listen to Hmong Radio everyday. My mother knows what's going on in the world because they talk about it on Hmong Radio. Sometimes my mother tells me things and asks if I've heard it. I've said, "I haven't read the newspapers yet." She knew even more than me! So I think we mustn't think that they are dumb and they don't know. If we told them then they would be concerned and care about the issues, too. It's just that they don't know how to read English so it seems as if they don't know anything. And if they don't know how to write, we must be the ones who write for them. But we haven't done these things because these people are people we don't remember. Maybe it's because we think they're not important.

Hinong Worten Resident Historical Society Project

Mai Neng Moua

Interviewer (I): Okay, ua ntej wb pib kuv yuav noog koj, um txog koj tus kheej, thiab txog koj lub neej saib, um, koj nyob li cas rau li cas, koj lub npe thiab koj yog xeem dab tsi?

Mai Neng Moua (M): Kuv lub npe yog Maiv Neeb Muas, kuv yog Xeem Muas.

I : Ok, koj tsi tau yuav txiv laiv puas yog?

M: Ws tsi tau yuav txiv kuv tseem yog kuv niam tus ntxhais xwb.

I : Ok, tam sim no koj twb muaj pes tsawg xyoo lawm?

M: Ws... yeej tsi paub hais tias yus...muaj tsawg xyoo. Ntawm tej ntaub ntawv mas hais tias 25 xyoos.

I: Um hmm...okay, ces koj tsis tau muaj txiv, ces tsi tau muaj me nyuam li mav yom?

M: Um hm tsi tau muaj me nyuam, tsi tau muaj txiv.

I : Koj kawm ntawy qib siab tshaj uas koj kawm ntawy yog txog qib dab tsi?

M : Um lub 6 hli ntuj tas los no kuv nyuam qhuav kawm tas kuv daim Master's degree nav.

I : Ok, ces koj kawm mev ntsawm (major) dab tsi?

M: Ws qhov mev ntsawm (major) ntawd, well rau meskas mas, hais mas hais tias yog Public Affairs, tsi paub hais tias lus hmoob yog ab tsi, tab sis Public Affairs mas yog yam hauj lwm yus mus ua nrog cov government, yus los saib xyuas tias saib cov laws zoo li cas thiaj zoo rau cov neeg ces yus nrog cov meskas los yog lwm cov pej xeem ua hauj lwm, yam, yam hauj lwm ntawd nav.

I : Ok, ces tam sim no nev, koj txoj hauj lwm nev yog hauj lwm dab tsi? Koj yog ua hauj lwm rau um...Public Affairs ntawd los yog koj ua rau dab tsi txawv thiab?

M: Uhm kuv yeej...um thaum kuv tseem tab tom kawm ntawv yuav tas ntawd ces muaj ib lub koom haum lawv hu tuaj hais tias lawv xav interview kuv nav, rau qhov hauj lwm ntawd, ces kuv mus nrog lawv tham ces yeej, txoj hauj lwm kuv ua tam sim no yeej yog ua ntawm Public Affairs no ov. Lawv recruit los ua, kuv yog tus los saib xyuas Public Affairs thiab advocacy rau lub koom haum ntawvd nav.

I : Ok, tam sim no koj um.. ua hauj lwm ib xyoos no koj tau nyiaj nyob rau qib twg?

M: Uhm tam sim no kuv ua ib xyoos, ib xyoos no tau 29,000, ces yeej tsis tau ntau heev thiab tab sis yus yog tus tsi tau muaj poj niam, tsis tau muaj txiv, tsi tau muaj me nyuam, ces yeej txaus rau yus tus kheej.

I : Ok, zoo kawg li lawm. Lub sij hawm no nev koj nyob koj ib leeg los yog koj nrog koj niam koj txiv nyob, los yog nrog leej twg nyob?

M: Ws...qhov koj hais, tam sim no kuv kawm ntawv tas, thaum kuv mus kawm ntawv um... graduate school, ces kuv rov qab los nrog kuv tsev neeg nyob lawm. Thaum kuv kawm ntawv college tas ntawd, kuv mus kawm ntawv deb, tej zaum ib xuab moos ntawm kuv tsev neeg, ces kuv yeej mus nyob campus, ces 4 xyoos thaum kuv mus kawm ntawv college, kuv nyob nrog ib tug roommate xwb, hos thaum kawm ntawv tas ntawd los kuv ho los nyob nrog kuv tus roommate ntawd college ntawm thiab.

I:Ok.

M : Ces thaum um...txiav txim siab tias wb yuav mus kawm ntawv ntxiv nav, ces nws mus kawm ntawv nram California, ces kuv tsi muaj roommate lawm ces kuv ho rov qab los tsev lawm xwb oj, los nrog kuv niam lawv nyob.

I : Oh !.. zoo kawg, um...ok. Ces lub sij hawm koj yeej tsi tau yuav txiv ib zaug laiv yom, koj tseem yog single xwb puas yog?

M: Um hm.. tsi tau yuav txiv li.

I : Ok, koj niam nej twb tuaj rau teb chaws Meskas no tau pes tsawg xyoo lawm?

M: Ws twb tuaj thaum 1981 lawm ces yeej tau ib yam 18 xyoo lawm nav.

I: 18 xyoo lov.

M : Ces kuv 25 xyoos ntawd ces zoo li kuv lub neej ces yeej tuaj hlob teb chaws no xwb ov.

I : Ok, ces thaum tuaj teb chaws no, koj nyuam qhuav muaj 7 xyoo xwb yom?

M: Ws hwv...

I : Ok, koj yug nyob rau qhov twg, thiab lub teb chaws twg?

M: Ws kuv yug tim teb chaws Nplog, kuv tsi paub hais tias nyob lub zos twg thiab lub teb chaws twg, lub state thiab nav.

I: Um hm.

M : Kuv niam, yeej zoo, zoo li yeej qhia lawm, tab sis yus zoo li pheej tsi nco qab ntawd nav.

I : Ok, koj yog hom hmoob twg : hmoob dawb, hmoob ntsuab los yog hmoob txaij?

M: Ws kuv niam peb, kuv, kuv txiv tsev neeg yog hmoob dawb tab sis kuv txiv tuag lawm thaum kuv tseem me me, ces kuv niam tsi yog hmoob dawb nav, ces nws tsi hais lus hmoob dawb rau peb lawm ces peb tsi paub hais lus.

I : Oh, okay, ces tam sim no nej rov qab hais lus hmoob ntsuab lawm lov, los yog nej, los yog nej hais lus hmoob dawb xwb?

M : Es kuv hais lus no..ho..ha! yog hais lus ab tsi?

I : Koj hais lus hmoob dawb laiv.

M: Hmoob dawb lov? Oh! okay, okay no, no, I got the wrong, ces kuv txiv, kuv niam pog thiab txiv yawg nkawv yog hmoob ntsuab.

I: Oh, okay.

M: Ws tab sis um..peb tsi nrog lawv nyob Thaib teb laiv, peb tsi nrog lawv nyob, thiab kuv txiv tuag lawm ces kuv niam kuv niam tsi yog hmoob ntsuab ces kuv niam tsi hais lus hmoob ntsuab rau peb lawm ces peb tsi paub hais lus hmoob ntsuab lawm.

I : Ces nej rov qab hais lus hmoob dawb lawm lov?

M: Uh hm.. peb hais lus hmoob dawb xwb.

I: Ws tam sim no kuv yuav nug koj txog thaum koj tseem yog me nyuam yaus, los koj tseem hluas nav, es kuv xav kom koj piav rau kuv seb lub sij haum koj tseem yog me nyuam yaus ntawd, koj lub neej zoo li cas rau li cas nav. Ws koj puas tau mus kawm ntawv thiab thaum koj tseem yau ntawd naj?

M: Ws thaum tseem yau ntawd kuv yeej tau mus kawm ntawv thiab um.. thaum peb nyob Thaib teb ntawd, kuv nco qab, kuv mus kawm ntawv, me ntsis, um.. me yaus tab sis kuj tsis nco qab hais tias suav cov naj npawb(number) thaib nav, lawv sau 1 txog 10 yog li cas, thiab kuv nco qab es thaum peb mus kawm ntawv tim Thaib teb ntawd, yog yus cov rau tes dub dub...heev nav, ces nai khu tus qws ntaus yus cov tes nav.

I: Uh hm.

M: I guess, kuv khib dub hwv..., kuv yau, kuv cov rau tes nws tsis huv heev thiab ces kuv mag ntaus ib ob zaug hooo...lawm thiab.

I : Oh, ho...yeah...ws koj mus kawm ntawv thaib tau hov ntev?

M: Kuv tsi nco qab hais tias ntev npaum cas rau qhov thaum yus me, zoo li yus tsis muaj ib qho concept at the time no nav. Yus tsi paub hais tias 1hlis, 2hlis, 3hlis, xyoo ces kuv, kuv yeej nco qab mus kawm ntawv tab sis kuv tsi hais tias ntev npaum cas no.

I : Nej kawm, no nej kawm ntawv thaib xwb los nej kawm ntawv meskas, los ntawv lwm yam thiab?

M: Ws qhov kuv nco qab no mas peb yeej kawm ntawv thaib xwb ov, hos kuv yeej hnov tej tug lawv kuj yeej piav piav hais tias, thaum yuav tuaj teb chaws no, lawv yeej kawm lus askiv no tab sis kuv tsi nco qab kawm lus askiv.

I : Ok, cov nais khu nev, cov nais khu yog nai khu thaib los yog nai khu hmoob los nai khu dab tsi qhia nej?

M: Ws kuv tsi paub hais tias...nws yog ab tsi, tab kuv nco qab hais tias nws yog txiv neej.

I : Okay.

M: Tab sis kuv tsi, kuv tsi nco qab hais tias nws yog thaib los yog hmoob.

I : Ok, thaum koj tseem yau, los yog thaum koj tseem hluas ntawd, tej yam dej num uas koj...ua los yog koj responsible for no, nws yog dej num dab tsi, koj puas nco qab?

M: Thaum nyob Thaib teb ntawd ces, thiab teb chaws Nplog ntawd, kuv yeej tsi nco qab ntau..., kuv tsi nco qab ab tsi li thiab Thaib teb thiab teb chaws Nplog, kuv tsi paub tias yam kuv tsi nco qab. Kuv xav tias kuv twb loj lawm, twb muaj as gnub lawm thiab nav, ces yuav tsis nco qab no tab sis, kuv tsi nco qab qhov ntawd lawm.

I:Ok.

M: Ws thaum peb nyob teb chaws meskas no ces, ntawm peb tsev neeg no kuv yog ib tug ntxhais xwb nav.

I: Uh hm.

M : Ces, tus ntxhais cov dej num ces yeej yog...yeej ua zaub mov, cheb tsev, tu tsev, ev dej, cia cov nus mus ua si lawm, kuv niam yeej tsis pub kuv mus ua si, cia kuv nyob hauv tsev xwb ces li ntawd.

I : Ws koj puas muaj tej yam kev pab uas koj ua pab zej pab zos, los yog pab kwv pab tij tej ntawd?

M : Ws tam sim no kuv cov volunteer ua hauj lwm mas ntau heev, kuv xav kom ib tug them nyiaj rau kuv hum hum.... Tsi muaj neeg them nyiaj tab sis cov yeej yog cov kuv xav ua ces kuv yeej ua xwb um.

I: Uh hm.

M: Kuv, ntawm peb lub Church um...kuv yog tus Sunday School director rau cov me nyuam yaus nav, ces kuv mus nrhiav cov materials tim nais khu thiab kuv nrhiav nais khu los qhia cov hoob thiab kuv saib xyuas tias seb ib hoob ntawd peb muaj pes tsawg tus me nyuam.

I: Uh hm.

M: Ws, thiab tam sim no peb tab tom, peb cov nais khu tam sim no yog cov hluas xwb nav ces kuv, peb tab tom um...tso tswv yim hais tias yuav ua li cas es cov laus thiaj los qhia tau cov me nyuam thiab es cov, cov laus los yog lawv los, yuav los qhia ab tsi nav.

I: Uh hm.

M: Rau ghov cov laus pheej hais tias "oh nej mas nej yog cov paub lus askiv nej thiaj yog, cov me nyuam yaus thiaj swm nej xwb," tab sis kuv xav, hais tias um, kuv tsi xav kom cov hluas los qhia xwb rau qhov thaum twg cov laus los ces cov, cov hluas pheej, cov me nyuam yaus pheej tsi nyiam lawv nav, ces kuv xav tias yuav tsum qhia lwm yam thiab, qhia hmoob kev cai, los yog qhia dab neeg los yog qhia, ib yam cov me me xwb los yuav tsum qhia hais tias nov yog pob ntseg, nov yog...kuv lub qhov muag, los yog yuav tsum sau ntawy hmoob thiab nay, ces lawy tsi paub...qhia lus askiy los lawy qhia lawy yuay tsum ghia...ntawv hmoob tej ntawd. Tsi tas li kuv tseem volunteer los ua ib phau meskas ib phau ntawy uh..paj ntaub voice rau peb cov hmoob, um, ghov no mas kuv twb pib ntev ntev los lawm, twb pib ntawm 1994 lawm. Thaum kuv tseem mus kawm ntawv college nav rau ghov thaum ntawd kuy nyuam ghuay pib sau paj huam thiab sau poetry tab sis kuy mus nrhiav hmoob cov paj huam thiab cov poetry no tab sis tsi pom li nav, pom ntau ntau phau ntawv lwm haiv neeg sau txog peb xwb, tsi pom cov ntawv peb sau txog peb nav. Ces zoo li yus mus nrhiav tau nyab laj lub suab, nrhiav tau cov suav lub suab, nrhiav tau nyij pooj lub suab, tab sis tsi pom hmoob lub suab lawm nay, ces kuy txawm xay hais tias yim li cas um peb hmoob twb txawj kwv txhiaj txawj ntse cas ho tsi muaj tej nov nav, cas peb ho tsis sau peb tej dab neeg, es phej cia lwm tus sau txog peb xwb nav. Ces kuv pib phau ntawv hu ua Paj Ntaub Voice no rau peb cov tub ntxhais hmoob, thiab rau cov laus es kom muaj ib gho chaw es peb thiaj hnov hmoob lub suab thiab peb thiaj paub hmoob tej dab neeg, thiab phau no yog phau hais tias peb ua tawm ntawm peb cov hmoob los es ua rau peb nav.

I : Ws hm zoo kawg. Ws, thaum koj tseem yau, los yog thaum koj hluas ntawd puas muaj tej yam uas koj xyaum ua es kom koj paub nav. Tej yam skills es koj niam koj txiv qhia koj?

M: Ws, I think, thaum nyob teb chaws, tuaj txog teb chaws no, ws tej no yeej nyuab rau yus niam yus txiv nav rau qhov lawv tuaj txog no lawv tseem tau mus kawm ntawv. Lawv

nyuab siab txog hais tias yuav ua li cas es yus tej me nyuam thiaj muaj khaub ncaws hnav, muaj zaub mov noj. Ces zoo li cov hmoob mas peb yeej tsis swm, peb yeej tsi use to qhov es hais tias yuav tsum qhia cov me nyuam ua ub ua no nav, rau qhov thaum peb nyob teb chaws Nplog ces yus niam mus ua teb ces yus ua teb nrog yus niam, los yog yus niam ua paj ntaub yus ua teb ib sab nrog yus niam, euh ua paj ntaub nrog yus niam xwb, ces zoo li nws tsis tas qhia yus nav, tsi hais tias yuav ua paj ntaub ces yuav xaws li no li no mus nav, ces zoo li cov me nyuam cia li paub ua xwb nav.

I: Uh hm.

M: Ces kuv xav mas, zoo li peb cov hmoob, tej zaum peb niam peb txiv hais tias ua cas, yuav ua cas tseem tau qhia xwb es koj yuav tsum paub tej no xwb es cas ho tsis paub no nav. Ces kuv xav tias cov niam txiv hmoob nws tsis siv lub sij hawm los qhia cov me nyuam, los zaum nrog tus ntxhais los tus tub hais tias koj yuav tsum paub li no, qhov no mas yog li no. Ua paj ntaub yauv ua lub circle ces yuav ua li no thiaj ua tau lub circle no nav.

I: Yeah.

M : Ces zoo li cov yus, los yeej qhia yus los cheb tsev, ua zaub mov noj, tu tsev tej ntawd, tej lawv paub nav. Tab sis lwm yam es dhau qhov ntawd ces kuv zoo li kuv tsis paub tias qhia puas tau rau yus thiab nav.

I: Tab sis yog koj qhia lawv xwb ces koj kawm tau lawm puas yog?

M: Ws, well, tab sis koj xav txog...cov niam txiv lub neej thiab cov me nyuam lub neej, ces nyias txawv nyias ne puas yog, nrog me nyaum uas peb mus kawm ntawv, hos peb niam peb txiv lawv mus ua hauj lwm ne, ces tsi muaj lub sij haum peb sawv daws, peb los ua hauj lwm ua ke, los yog sib kawm ntawv each other ne, ces qhov ntawd yog qhov teeb meem, rau qhov thaum nyob teb chaws Nplog muaj, muaj lub sij hawm es yus mus ua teb ua ke, tus tub mus, mus tua nas tua noog, tua nas tua muas lwj nrog leej...txiv, hos tus ntxhais, peb mus pub npua, peb mus ua paj ntaub ua ke nrog peb niam. Ces um peb thiaj paub, tab sis, teb chaws no ces zoo li peb lub neej nyias txawv nyias nav, ces tsi muaj lub sij hawm los sib kawm lawm nav.

I : Tej yam kev lom zem, los tej yam social activity uas koj nco qab, es koj muaj thaum koj hluas, li tam sim no koj tseem hluas ces tej, tej yam uas kev lom zem ntawd es koj muaj ntawd yog dab tsi thiab?

M: Ws, I guess, kev lom zem ntawm peb cov hluas, rau kuv tej zaum txawv lwm tus, tab sis cov es, cov, tej yam kuv xav ua ces yog tej yam uas, ib yam mus xyuas movies tej ntawd, mus xyuas cine mus xyuas lab qhuas. Kuv yog ib tug neeg nyiam sau ntawb ntawv ces kuv nyiam mus mloog lwm tus twm lawv cov paj huam, thiab lawv cov stories thiab nav. Kuv nyiam mus play tej ntawd. Tej zaum peb cov hluas no, tsi paub hais tias thaum ntawd peb niam txiv ua ab tsi lom zem tab sis, I don 't know, kuv lub neej very boring hum hum...kuv tsi muaj ntau, ntau yam lom zem rau qhov, zoo li kuv lub neej very busy, es

zoo li yus ua hauj lwm, twb ua hauj lwm ib hnub 9 moo txog 5 moo, ces ho los, ho los los volunteer txog 9 moo tsaus ntuj thiab, ces mus tsev ces zoo li twb lig lig lawm, ces tsi muaj sij hawm mus ua si thiab nav. Ces weekend los yus tseem pab Church mus thais Sunday School tej ntawd thaib, ces, I don 't know, tej zaum kuv txhob txwm ua no kom kuv tsis txhob muaj, los taus hais tias tsi ua ab tsi, los xyov lawv cov tab sis....

I: Thiaj tsis boring.

M: Yeah, thiaj tsis boring.... No, but my life is boring I...tsis tsis muaj sij hawm ntau hais tias peb cia li mus ua kom lom zem es mus fun xwb. Muaj ntau tus phooj ywg lawv yeej mus lam voos, lawv yeej mus dancing, mus night club tab sis kuv tsi nyiam, tsis tshua nyiam tej ntawd ces kuv tsi nrog lawv mus thiab.

I : Tab sis koj puas xav hais tias, koj puas xav hais tias, koj lub neej zoo li tam sim no ua rau koj busy, ua rau koj muaj hauj lwm ua, ua, nws zoo rau koj, los koj xav tias tsi zoo no maj?

M: Ws yeej zoo heev mas yeej tsi muaj neeg yuam kuv ua tej no, tej no, tej no yog tej...

I : Koj yeej txaus siab ua.

M: Kuv yeej txaus siab ua, kuv thiaj ua xwb. Kuv paub hais tias kuv niam yeej nyuab nyuab siab txog kuv, nws yeej xav tias ua cas tus ntxhais xwb yuav mus lig lig li ntawd, pheej mus nrog leej twg ua es mus ua ab tsi, mus nrog hluas nraug los yog mus nrog ib cov phooj ywg twg ua si xwb, los yog mus ua hauj lwm tiag. Tab sis yeej yog tej yam kuv xav hais tias tseem ceeb heev rau kuv, thiab rau peb cov hmoob nav, rau qhov kuv ua ntawd kuv yeej yog ua pab kuv tus kheej, tab sis kuv yeej xav pab peb cov hmoob heev xwb, ces tej volunteer no los yog tsi muaj neeg yuam kuv, tab sis kuv yeej txaus siab ua mam ua xwb mab.

I: Zoo.

M: Thiab kuv nyiam ua thiab, I don't know yeej fun thiab mav...

I : Yeah, yeah good. Koj nev koj puas, nyob rau ntawd koj tus kheej puas muaj tej yam uas koj ntshaw los yog tej yam uas koj xav hais tias in tom koj lub future, tom ntej no nav, es koj xav kom koj muaj, los yog koj ntshaw es xav kom koj tau nav?

M: Ws, I guess, xav kom kuv, tam sim no kuv xav tias kuv lub neej, in terms of work, thiab career no nws, kuv tsi paub tias kuv yuav ua ab tsi rau qhov, zoo li yam yus nyiam nyiam heev thiab yam yus pheej siv yus lub sij hawm ua es leej twg, cov neeg tsi them yus ntawd nav, yam ntawd zoo li tsi tau nyiaj heev naj hum hum...ces, qhov kuv, yog hais txog hauj lwm thiab yus qhov career mas, qhov kuv xav hais mas, kuv xav ua ib tug writer es los ua writing program txog peb cov hmoob nav, los qhia peb cov hmoob tias cov me nyuam thiab cov laus. Sau txog peb lub neej, sau txog peb tus kheej, tsi tas li ntawd, kuv, tam sim no kuv tseem ua phau ntawv es Paj Ntaub Voice tais npais txog ntawd kuv xav kom qhov

ntawd yog ib qho loj tshaj tam sim no nav. Rau qhov tam sim no nyuam qhuav pib xwb yeej tsi muaj neeg them nyiaj rau peb, peb yeej ua peb qhov no xwb, tab sis kuv xav kom peb lub suab hmoob no nrov mus um txhua lub teb chaws kom lawv paub hais tias um peb cov hmoob peb muaj, peb yeej muaj tej paj huam, tej dab neeg no ntau heev nav. Peb yeej txawj tej arts no thiab nav, so words quiet kuv xav kom kuv txoj hauj lwm los ntawd, es los ntawm qhov art ntawd ntau, ntau me ntsis ntxiv nav.

I:Ok.

M: Tsis tas li ntawd, I guess, kuv xav kom, kuv tau ib lub tsev nyob, kuv xav tam sim, yog kuv muaj nyiaj heev ces kuv xav yuav ib lub tsev zoo heev rau kuv tsev neeg nyob.

I:Ok.

M : Kuv niam nyob, rau qhov niam yog ib tug es txhawb kuv lub zog heev, kuv kom nws muaj ib lub tsev es hais tias yog nws lub no nav.

I: Uh.

M: Ws, yog muaj nyiaj mas kuv xav yuav ib co av rau nws kom nws thiaj ua tau teb, thiab nws thiaj yug tau qaib tej ntawd, tej nws nyiam nav. So that qhov ntawd yog qhov kuv ntshaw rau kuv tsev, kuv niam rau qhov niam yog, kuv niam muaj ib leeg xwb, ces nws yeej, nws tsis yuav txiv nav, thaum kuv txiv tuag lawm ces nws yeej nrog peb nyob xwb nav, so kuv xav kom qhov ntawd yog kuv ntshaw rau kuv niam, es kom kuv niam tau ib lub tsev, es kuv niam muaj av kuv niam thiaj ua tau teb thiab ua tej yam kuv niam nyiam ntawd. Hos rau kuv tus kheej kuv xav kom lwm hnub, tam sim no kuv tsi tau yuav txiv vim tias kuv nrhiav tsi tau tug neeg haum kuv tsis, well...tej zaum yus tsis haum lawv siab thiab he...he...e...lawv los lawv tsi haum yus siab thiab thiaj li tsi tau sib yuav thiab, tab sis kuv xav yuav ib tug txiv hmoob tab sis yog tsi muaj ib tug hmoob es haum yus siab ces tej zaum yus yeej tsis yuav lawv thiab nav tab sis kuv xav kom kuv tus txiv yog ib tug neeg es nws tham tau nrog kuv niam nav, nws yog hmoob thiab tsis yog hmoob los tsuav nws, nws saib taus kuv niam, thiab nws nrog kuv niam tham tau thiab...

I: Muaj kev sib to taub.

M: Ws. Muaj kev sib to taub, rau qhov kuv xav tias yog nws yog meskas los tsuav nws muaj lub siab hais tias nws los hlub yus niam thiab yus tsev neeg. Thiab nws yuav los zaum nrog lawv tham tias saib lawv lub neej zoo li cas nav, es qhov ntawd yog ib qho tseem ceeb rau kuv. Kuv yog ib tug neeg ntseeg Vaj Tswv, tab sis kuv xav, kuv tsis xav mus ua kev cai qub, kuv tsi xav mus ua cov kev cai dab ntawd lawm nav...

I : Um hm...

M: Rau qhov kuv niam peb twb los ua cov kev cai tshiab ntev ntev lawm ces qhov no yog ib qho tseem ceeb rau kuv heev. Kuv tus txiv yeej tsis toob kas hais tias nws yuav tsum yog tus Christian, tab sis nws yuav tsum very open rau qhov nov nav, rau qhov thaum kuv yuav txiv ntawd, kuv yuav xav coj kuv cov me nyuam mus Church nav, es thaum lawv muaj 18 xyoo lawm mam txiav txim siab lawv. Lawv hais tias yog lawv tsi xav mus Church ces kav liam lawv, tab sis yog kuv yog lawv niam ces kuv, kuv yuav coj lawv mus Church nav, ces kuv tus txiv yuav tsum okay rau qhov ntawd. Qhov zoo tshaj mas wb 2 leeg mus Church nav, tab sis yog nws tsi kam mus los kuv yeej yuav coj kuv cov me nyuam mus nav. Ces nws yuav tsam okay rau qhov ntawd, yog nws tsi okay ces kuv yuav tsi xav yuav nws thiab nav.

I : Ok good. Lub sij hawm no kuv yuav nrog koj tham txog thaum ua ntej tsov rog, thiab lub sij hawm muaj tsov rog los yog lub sij hawm tom qab tsov rog li ntawd, saib koj puas nco qab txog tej yam uas peb cov poj niam hmoob tau ua. Lub sij hawm uas ua ntej los yog thaum muaj tsov rog ntawd, thiab tom qab ntawd koj puas nco qab tej yam hauj lwm uas peb cov poj niam ua yog dab tsi?

M: Ws, thaum ntawd kuv yeej tseem me me heev kuv yeej tsis nco qab. Peb hnov ntau tus tham tab sis qhov nov tsi yog ib qho kuv paub tiag tiag nav. Thaum ua tsov rog ntawd kuv me heev, kuv tsi nco qab ces kuv tsi paub txog...Kws yog kuv piav ces kuv piav cov kuv hnov lawm xwb tsis yog piav yam kuv paub nav.

I : Hos tej, tej yam dej num uas koj pom hais tias koj niam ua, thiab thaum koj hlob los koj es ua nev yog dab tsi?

M: Ws, again tej ntawd los kuv yeej tsi nco qab txog lawm thiab. Thaum peb nyob teb chaws Nplog ntawd ces kuv, 3 xyoos xwb ces peb twb khiav teb chaws Nplog rau Thaib teb lawm nav, ces zoo li kuv tsi nco qab kuv lub neej es thaum kuv me me ntawd...

I: Thaum nyob Thaib teb koj puas nco qab tias koj ua dab tsi thiab?

M: Ws, kuv nco qab hais tias peb, kuv thiab kuv tus nus, wb mus muag zaub rau kuv niam, hos kuv muaj ib tug nus yau kuv thiab, ces wb yeej zov tus ntawd. Hos yog nws mus ib qho es wb tsi paub ces kuv niam cem, es kuv niam yeej muab wb ntaus thiab ces um...Kuv nco qab zoo li kuv twb nrog kuv niam mus ua zog, thiab zoo li peb mus, peb mus thej qhaam es muaj khaub ncaws ev ha..ha...nyob ntawm cov qhaam es kuv tsi nyiam kab nyem ces kuv ntshai ntshai heev, kuv tsi nco qab ntau yam tiag tab sis ob peb yam li ntawd xwb as...

I : Koj tham txog koj naim nkaus xwb koj txiv, koj tias koj txiv xiam lawm no koj txiv xiam lub xyoo twg?

M: Ws, yeej tsis paub, tab sis zoo li kuv txiv nws xiam thaum, tej zaum kuv nyuam qhuav muaj 2 xyoos, 3 xyoos ntawd um...

I : Ces yeej xiam tim Nplog teb ua ntej nej tuaj lov?

M: Ws, xiam tim Nplog teb, ces peb mam tuaj rau Thaib teb, tab sis kuv yeej tsis nco qab nws li. Kuv yeej tsi paub nws yog leej twg, kuv tsi nco qab xyov nws yog zoo li cas nav, so, kuv, tej zaum hluas heev ces kuv tsis nco qab, tab sis zoo li kuv xav mas kuv twb, kuv twb muaj hnoob nyoog, kuv yuav tsum nco qab nws thiab nav, tab sis tej zaum qhov, lub sij hawm ntawd yog lub sij hawm nyuab heev rau peb tsev neeg, thiab rau tag nrho peb cov hmoob naj puas yog rau qhov muaj tsov rog ces, I don't know, kuv tsis, kuv tsis nco qab nws.

I: Ws, koj puas paub hais tias hauv koj tsev neeg nev, koj niam puas yog ib tug make decision. Yog leej twg make decision rau nej, hais tias thaum muaj tsov rog tej ntawd, nej yuav khiav los nej yuav nyob, los yog thaum tom qab tsov rog tej ntawd, es nej tuaj rau teb chaws Meskas no, leej twg yog tug txiav xim rau nej?

M: Thaum kuv txiv tuag ntawd tas lawm, ces kuv niam yeej nrog niam pog thiab txiv yawg lawv nyob. Ces ntawm peb tsev neeg me me ntawd xwb mas, kuv niam yeej yog tus decision maker, yog yuav hais txog zaub mov noj, taj laj ua kiab ua khw ntawd, tab sis hais txog, tab sis kuv xav tias nws, nws yog tus decision maker rau tej qho me me ntawd xwb nav, hais txog tej ghov loj tshaj, hais tias yuav muaj nyiaj los yog yuav khiav tej ntawd ces yeej yog niam pog thiab txiv yawg nkawv xwb rau qhov lawv yeej, kuv txiv tuag lawm los, yog peb tseem yog lawy cov neeg nav. Ces yog ua tej gho decision, ib yam li yuav khiav teb chaws Nplog rau Thaib teb, ces yeej yog niam pog thiab txiv yawg lawv xwb rau qhov peb veej nrog lawy xwb ne. Peb tseeem nrog lawy nvob ces khiay los peb veej nrog lawy khiav thiab, tab sis qhov make decision tias yog yuav tuaj teb chaws no ntawd mas yog kuv niam xwb. Tam sim no niam pog thiab txiv yawg lawv tseem nyob tim Thaib teb, lawv yeej tsi kam tuaj nav. Kuv twb muaj, muaj ob tug uncles lawv twb tuaj ua ntej peb lawm, tab sis, tab sis kuv yeej paub tias niam pog thiab txiv yawg yeej tsi kam kuv niam peb tuaj nav, tiam sis kuv niam, tej zaum nws pom tias ghov ntawd zoo tshaj rau peb, thiab nyuab nyuab rau nws heev nws yog, nws yog nws twb tsis, peb twb tsi muaj txiv es muaj 3 tug me nyuam me me xwb, ces tej zaum kuv xav tias nyuab heev rau kuv niam es kuv niam cia li txiav txim siab tias tuaj teb chaws meskas no, tej zaum yuav zoo tshaj rau nws, thiab zoo tshaj rau peb nav.

I: Uas, koj, tej zaum thaum koj yau ntawd, koj yuav tsis paub txog tej tus...poj niam uas nws yog tej tus thawj coj, los yog...paub lawv npe tej ntawd, thiab tej zaum koj yuav tsi paub txog tias tej yam uas poj niam ua yuav coj los support rau yus tsev neeg yog li cas no, tab sis koj puas hnov luag tej hais, thiab koj puas nco qab hnov luag tej hais txog tias muaj tej tus poj niam ua thawj coj tej ntawd, thiab koj niam los support nej tsev neeg li cas?

M: Hais txog ntawm cov poj niam es thawj coj ntawd, kuv yeej tsi paub. Kuv tsis even make txog, ces nyaj yeej muaj tej tug xwb, tab sis yus tsi hnov lawv piav. Lawv piav los yus tsi paub nws leej yog twg thiab. Kuv yeej hnov hais tias muaj tej tug poj niam mus kawm ntawv siab, mus kawm ntawv nrog cov txiv neej nav. Very few, tab sis kuv tsi paub lawv yog leej twg. Ntawm kuv niam ntawd mas kuv txiv tuag mas kuv niam yej yog tus, yeej yog niam thiab txiv ntawm peb. Peb tsev neeg xwb ces decision ab tsi los nws yeej yog tus sawv khov ntawm peb tsev neeg, es nws yeej yog tus thaum tsov rog ntawd ces yog tus muaj zog heev, es tus mus nrhiav zaub mov heev tshaj lwm tus nav. Es peb thiaj li tsi

tuag no xwb los mav. Rau qhov muaj kuv niam ib leeg xwb ces kuv, yog kuv niam tsi npaj npaum nov, thiab tsis ua heev npaum nov ces tej zaum peb yeej tsis, you know, tuaj txog teb chaws no nav. Tab sis nws yog ib tug, zoo li kuv niam piav piav, kuv niam twb tsi, kuv niam tsis muaj phom, peb tsi muaj txiv es tsi muaj phom mus tua tsiaj, tab sis kuv niam mus nrhiav roob ris peb noj, mus, mus nrhiav, mus ntaus lizard hu...hu.. kuv niam piav, its very funny, 'cause kuv niam piav, mus, mus ntaus lizard, mus ntaus mus nrhiav roob ris, mus nrhiav cov niag insects, cov niag xyov hmoob hais li cas ne, nyob ntawm cov niag ntoo, es cov niag kab dawb dawb i naj. Okay I don't know the name, but kuv niam yeej, cov txiv neej yeej luag luag kuv niam hais tias ua cas yuav mus ua heev ua luaj, tab sis kuv niam piav hais tias kuv niam mus nrhiav nab, nab, ab tsi, tab tsi um lizard, what's that animal, nab pob kais, nab hi...hi...

I : Nab txaij qab.

M: Yeah, txawm, kuv niam tias kuv niam, she became very good at this...

I : Okay.

Nm : Ces cov txiv neej tsi los ask kuv niam, I thought, yog mus ua li cas thiaj mus ntes tau lawv na has.

I : Yuav mus ua cas thiaj ntaus tau lawv los noj puas yog? Ha...ha...

Good, zoo kawg le, thaum nyob tim ub mas tej zaum koj yau koj tsi paub, tab sis tej zaum tuaj txog teb chaws no nev, koj puas paub txog family planning, los yog koj puas paub txog hais tias kev uas ib yam li ob niam txiv tej ntawd yuav poob kas kom tsi txhob muaj me nyuam coob coob no, tus poj niam puas muaj cai los mus txiav txim txog lawv ker muaj me nyuam coob thiab muaj me nyuam tsawg?

M: Ohov no mas tej zaum kuv xav tias depends ntawd tus noob nyoog los ntawm tus poj niam thiab tus txiv neej ntawd nav. Cov laus laus ces nyias, tej zaum lawv, lawv tsis muaj family planning lawy, tsis care, um peb cov hmoob no peb yeej nyiam me nyuam coob coob, peb xav tias muaj coob thiaj li muaj kwv tij thiaj zoo, thiab tsev thiaj sov no puas yog. Yog muaj ib ob tug xwb ces zoo li tsev txias to xwb nev puas yog. Ces kuv xav tias cov laus no lawy tsi muaj family planning. Tej zaum cov niag 30 unprofessionnal ntawd, ces nyaj lawy yuay sib tham es yuay sib console hais tias pig tsawg tus me nyuam thiaj zoo rau ghov lawy yej paub tias muaj me nyuam coob ces tsi zoo nav. Rau ghov cov me nyuam ntawd lawy, yus tsis muaj, yus tsis muaj enough time to pay attention rau lawy, qhia lawy ub lawy no rau ghoy yog coob hwy lawm nay, thiab nyuab nyuab rau tus poj niam lub ces. Tsis tas li ntawd tseem kim kim heev thiab. Li peb cov hluas no tej zaum peb yuav, peb tsis nyiam cov me nyuam, cov me nyuam coob coob lawv nav, es ntau tshaj ntawd tej zaum peb yuav 4 tug, 5 tug lawm xwb tsi yuav cov 10 los yog 11/12 tug ntawd lawm. Ces, I think from, from most of us, peb yeej paub txog birth control yeej paub txog diploma of birth control rau ghov lawv yeej ghia tej ntawd rau peb nram School lawm nav. Ces peb cov hluas, tej zaum peb txawv peb niam peb txiv lawm. It's kind like peb yeej muaj family planning lawm.

I : Okay, ntawm koj tus kheej nev, koj puas xav tias puas muaj tej lub sij hawm uas cov neeg sab nraud los yog koj tsev neeg, los yog zej zog, tej ntawd, fwm koj, los respect koj, thiab puas muaj tej lub sij hawm uas lawv tsis respect koj?

M: I think, rau kuv yog tus ntxhais, yus tseem tsi muaj txiv ces lawv yeej tsi muaj neeg saib taus yus. Yus ua ab tsi los tsi muaj nuj nqis nav. Ua li ib tug, kuv ib tug phooj ywg mus kawm ntawy College es nws tus niam ntxawm hais rau nws tias oh.. me ntxhais koj mus kawm ntawy College tas peb yeej zoo siab rau koj, tab sis, you know, ua cas koj tsi yog tus me nyuam tub ne. Yog koj yog tus me nyuam tub ces yeej zoo tshaj no nav, you know. It's too bad you want a boy, it's too bad you're a girl, you know, rau ghov peb cov hmoob mas peb veej saib hais tias ghov kawm ntawv ntawd, nws veej tseem ceeb, tab sis yog tus ntxhais lawm ces yog koj muab nyiaj muag, txhawb tus ntxhais lub zog mus kawm ntawy ces lawy, lwm hnub, lawy yuay nga ghoy ntawd pais nay. Lawy yuay mus pab nws tus xwb ces, yuav tsi xav pab cov ntxhais no nav. Kuv xav tias rau kuv niam mas, ghov kawm ntawy siab no yog ib qhov es kuv niam zoo siab rau kuv, es kuv ua rau kuv niam zoo siab, tab sis lwm tus, kuv tsi paub, lwm tus yuav xav li cas rau kuv rau ghov lawv yeej tsi hais rau yus paub nav puas yog. Tej zaum lawv yeej tham txog yus tab sis lawv tham nraum yus nraub gaum xwb ces lawy tsis ghia yus paub. Ces ghov respect ntawd kuy tsi paub hais tias lawv respect yus npaum li cas...rau qhov yog tus ntxhais xwb ces tsi muaj txiv...kuv xav hais tias nyaj lawv tsi respect yus heev rau qhov yus, yus tseem yog ntxhais es yus tseem yog, yus tsi yog tus laus, yus tsi muaj me nyuam, yus tsi muaj txiv, tej zaum lawy yeej, lawy tsi pay attention rau yus.

I : Okay, koj puas xav tias qhov lawv tsi pay attention rau koj ntawd, puas yog vim hais tias koj kawm ntaub kawm ntawv tiav koj twb mus ua hauj lwm lawm, tab sis mas zoo nkaus li yog hmoob muab coj los mus hais no ces, peb cov hmoob, peb cov txiv neej hmoob lawv pheej hais tias yus yog nkauj laug lawm nav, es lawv thiaj saib tsi tshua taus yus, thiab tsi pay attention rau yus, los yog tias yus tseem hluas yus tsi tau muaj txiv xwb, es lawv xav tias yus tsi tau tseem ceeb nav?

M: Tej zaum yeej yog 2 qho ntawd. Yog nkauj laug ces lawv yeej hais tias ntshe muaj ab tsi phiv rau yus es thaij tsi muaj neeg yuav yus no nav puas yog. Something's wrong with her, tej zaum nws yeej yog tus neeg tsi zoo es luag tej thiaj tsi yuav...

I: Uh hm...

M: Ws, tej zaum lawv yuav hais li no rau yus. Tej zaum lawv hais tias ntshe niag neeg phem xwb ntag. Tej zaum nyaum nyaum es cov txiv neej thiaj tsis nyiam no puas yog, ces tej zaum lawv yeej saib tsi taus yus rau qhov ntawd...yus kawm ntawv siab tas los zoo li yus cov lus yus hais ntawd tsi muaj nuj nqis rau lawv nav, rau qhov yus tsi muaj experience. Yus hais rau cov txiv neej es twb muaj poj niam muaj me nyuam lawm, yus twb tsi muaj poj niam tsi muaj me nyuam yus twb tsi paub txog tej ntawd naj puas yog, ces tej zaum lawv saib hais tias, ab me nyuam yaus xwb tsi paub ab tsi, ib yam li kuv niam hais; yus txawj ntawv, paub ntaub paub ntawv xwb yus tsi paub txog lub neej nav. Ces tej zaum luag tsi respect yus rau qhov ntawd thiab. Rau peb cov hmoob mas, qhov tseem ceeb tshaj rau peb cov hmoob yog, mas yog family xwb ces yog yus yog ib tug single people

person xwb, ces lawv tsi paub hais tias yus nyob qhov twg nav, lawv tsi paub hais tias..um...

I : Yus lub neej nce los...

M: Ws, ces, ces zoo li yus pheej mus ua si, yus lub neej zoo li lawv phej tsi pom hais tias yuav mus qhov twg zoo li yus tus kheej xwb, ces zoo li yus mus loj leeb xwb nav, ces rau lawv mas lawv tsi paub tias yuav ua cas rau yus thiab, tej zaum lawv tsi paub xav tias yuav xav rau yus tus kheej thiab.

I : Yeah. Tam sim no kuv yuav kom koj piav txog lub sij hawm uas nej khiav tsov khiav rog tuaj mus, thiab nej tuaj mus nyob rau tim camp saib nej nyob li cas rau li cas. Koj hais tias koj txiv tuag thaum koj tseem yau lawm, ces thaum lub sij hawm tuag, ua ntej nej khiav ntawd ces, lub sij hawm ntawd koj niam yog tus txiav txim siab es coj nej khiav laiv puas yog?

M: Qhov ntawd mas tej zaum yog niam pog thiab txiv yawg lawv

I : Okay, yog niam pog thiab txiv yawg yom, rau qhov puag ta koj hais li ntawd ne...

M : Uh hm..

I : Okay, thaud, koj puas nco qab txog thaum nej tuaj txog tim camp tim...camp tid lawm, nej ua dab tsi thiab, puas muaj tej yam uas koj nco qab txog hais tias nws um zoo los nws tsi zoo rau nej thaib nej, ho tuaj nyob tau ntev npaum li cas?

M: Ws...ua li ntawm kuv niam hais mas peb los nyob ntawm camp ntawd 3 xyoos, es peb mam li ua ntawv tuaj tej teb chaws no. Qhov camp ntawd zoo li kuv nco qab mas, yuav tsi yog ib qhov very good experience, whatever I think about the camp, is bad hm...hm...kuv nco qab zoo li nyuab nyuab heev rau peb rau qhov sov sov heev, yus tsi, zoo li yus nqhis nqhis noj nqhis nqhis haus nav, tsi tsi, tsis txaus thiab tab sis zoo li luag tej muaj nyiaj tej ntawd ces zoo li tej nyuag ice crème, dej haus tej...

I : Okay

M: Zoo li yus tsi muaj tsev nyob li nav. Yus nco qab mas zoo li, xyov peb tsev nyob twg. Kuv twb tsi nco qab xyov peb lub tsev zoo li cas lawm hiab lauj. Tab sis kuv nco qab zoo li peb cia li nyob ntawd xwb, cia li mus ua si, cia li nyob ntawd xwb, zoo li tsi muaj kev zoo siab li mus kawm ntawv los zoo li yus tsis paub hais tias yus kawm ntawv ab tsi. Yus lam mus ua xwb, I don't know, tej zaum yus me me es yus tsis to taub ab tsi nav, ces zoo li muaj neeg coob coob, muaj ub muaj no xwb ces zoo li, it's very cofusing for me...Kuv tsi nco ntau txog lub sij hawm ntawd, tab sis qhov kuv nco mas zoo li tsi yog ib qhov, ib yam peb tsis, peb cov hmoob tsi muaj kev thaj yeeb li nav.

I : Okay, koj puas nco qab es poj niam thaib txiv neej, txog ntawm poj niam thiab txiv neej no, puas muaj kev sib fwm tej ntawd thiab, los yog ib tug puas fwm ib tug, los yog kev txawv txav ntawm poj niam no nws zoo li cas?

M: Thaum nyob Thaib teb thiab, ntawm kuv yeej tsi nco qab hais tias, thiab yus me me xwb tej zaum yus tsi pay attention rau relationship ntawm poj niam thiab txiv neej nav. Thiab hais tias saib cov txiv neej ho saib cov poj niam li cas, poj niam saib cov txiv neej zoo li cas. Kuv tsi paub txog ntawd, qhov kuv paub mas hais txog teb chaws, txog teb chaws no xwb, kuv yeej hnov kuv niam tham txog ntawm kuv niam thiab kuv txiv lawv xwb. Zoo li cov, cov txiv neej, zoo li saib tsi taus poj niam heev nav...

I : Yav thaum ub, saib tsi taus...

M: Ib yam li kuv niam hais, ntawm kuv txiv...ua ntawd, ntawm niam pog lawv, lawv ntawm, ghov nyiaj, nyiaj ngi taub hau ntawd nav puas yog, kuy niam pog lawy, zoo li, cem hais tias vog ua cas, vou know 4 choj nyiaj ntawd, cas ho mus vuav tus niag nom, tus ntxhais nom ntxhais tswv es thiai tau them 4 choi nyiai ntawd. Cas tsi tseg 4 choi nyiai ntawd es tej zaum peb twb yuav tau pes tsawg tus maum npua lawm no nav stuff like that. Thiab kuv niam yeej piav hais tias thaum kuv txiv, twb muaj peb lawm los kuv txiv tseem mus tham hluas nkauj thiab, tseem muaj huas nkauj es, you know, cov nyiaj txiag nws, nws tau ua thab ham ntawd nav, tsi muab los rau nws tsev neeg, yuav khoom rau nws tsev neeg, tab sis tseem mus yuav khoom rau cov hluas nkauj nav. Thiab kuv niam tseem piav hais tias xyov zoo li muaj ib zaug kuv txiv mus, zoo li cov poj nrauj lawv saib tsi taus heev nav, kuv niam yeej piav hais tias cov poj nrauj mas thaum kuv niam tseem ua hluas nkauj mas, cov poj nrauj los nrog kuv niam lawv nyob rau ghov kuv tus, kuv niam kuv txiv nws, kuv txiv, kuy niam nws vog ib tug toj xeem nav, ces cov poj nrauj lawy pheej tuaj, sib hais plaub ntawm, ntawm lawy tsev ces, lawy tuaj, lawy nrog kuy niam, es kuy niam tseem yog hluas nkauj xwb, tab sis cov thab ham veej saib tsi taus lawv li nav. Zoo li pheej muab lawv mos, pheej muab lawv ua ub ua no. Ua tej phem phem ntawd nav, ces zoo li cov poj niam hais tsi tau ab tsi li nav. Ces ua kuv hais, kuv chim chim, kuv tias « es kuj tsis txhob pub lawv ua xwb » no tab sis kuv niam tias, "es yuav ua cas naj, nws twb nrog kiag yus xwb, los yus tawm kiag ntawm ghov rooj ces lawv cia li muab nws kiag, ces coj nws mus ua ub ua no ces, you know thaum, thaum yus pom nws ces nws twb ntuav ntuav lawm xwb" no nav ces kuv veej, zoo li,ces kuv hais, impression, cov txiv neej hmoob ces veej, it's verv bad, lawy saib tsi taus poj niam, tse nav thwm poj niam. Lawy yeej ua phem rau cov poj nrauj. Zoo li poj nrauj xwb ces free property, ces tug twg mus pw, tug twg mus tham los cia li, lawy tsis care li rau qhov lawy tsi muaj txiv, tsi muaj kwy tij, tsi muaj cov brothers protect lawy lawm nay. Ces lawy saib tsi taus, ces lawy mus ua phem phem rau xwb nay. Ces, thiab kuv niam yog ib tug, ib tug poj niam tsi muaj txiv, ces zoo li cov kwv tij yeej tsis tshua hu peb, yeej tsi tshua, peb yeej tseem yog lawy cov neeg, tab sis yeej tsis, saib tsi taus peb thiab yeej nov qab peb los mav. Rau qhov peb pab tsi tau lawv nev puas yog? Peb yog cov niag me nyuam ntsuag es yuav, yuav kom lawv pub peb noj yuav kom lawv ua ub ua no rau peb xwb, tab sis thaum peb me no peb yeej pab tsi tau, ces lawv yeej tsi tshua nyiam peb nav. Ces kuv yeej pom hais tias cov txiv neej hmoob thiab peb cov hmoob no peb saib tsi taus cov poj niam. Peb tsi nyiam cov niag poj niam naj, yeej zoo li lawv pab tsi tau peb,

lawv tsi muaj nuj nqe ab tsi...so maybe, maybe I'm wrong, but kuv niam yog tus, tus poj niam tsi muaj txiv ces kuv yeej pom tej no mab.

I : Okay, lub sij hawm no kuv yuav noog koj txog thaum nej tuaj rau teb chaws Meskas no saib nej txiav txim siab li cas tuaj, thiab nej tuaj nyob li cas. Uas leej twg yog tus txiav txim siab hais tias nej yuav tuaj rau teb chaws Meskas no, koj puas nco qab?

M: Uas qhov ko mas...kuv yeej xav tias yog kuv niam xwb. Yog niam pog thiab txiv yawg lawv xwb mas, lawv yeej tsi pub peb tuaj rau qhov lawv tseem nyob Thaib teb tam sim no. Thiab tej zaum lawv yeej xav hais tias tsam kuv niam tuaj teb chaws no ces kuv niam yeej yuav mus ua tus neeg phem nav, rau qhov kuv niam yog tus poj niam tsi muaj txiv puas yog? Ces tej zaum lawv xav hais tias tuaj teb chaws nov ces yuav tsi nrog peb nyob. Tej zaum yuav mus deev hluas nraug, zoo li ib yam mus ua tej yam txawv txawv li ntawd, tab sis kuv yeej paub hais tias lub neej...ntawd nyuab heev rau kuv niam. Thaum peb nyob Thaib teb ntawd ces kuv niam yeej txiav txim siab tawm tuaj teb chaws nov thiaj zoo rau nws thiab zoo rau peb.

I : Okay,zoo kawg. Uas thaum nej tuaj rau teb chaws Meskas no koj muaj pes tsawg xyoo?

M: Ws...kuv muaj, tej zaum 6 xyoo, 7 xyoo.

I : Okay, lub sij hawm nej tuaj txog rau teb chaws Meskas no lawm, puas muaj tej yam uas nws yooj yim rau nej los tej yam uas nej twb paub lawm es nws yooj yim rau nej siv los pab rau nej ua lub neej xyaum nyob teb chaws no yog dab tsi, thiab tej yam uas nws nyuaj rau nej yog dab tsi?

M: Ws...kuv hais tias tej zaum peb tuaj txog teb chaws no mas, peb yeej tsi paub ab tsi li, yog, yog lub teb chaws tshiab, yus tsi paub lawv cov lus, tej nyuag teeb yus yus twb tsi paub tig, tej qhov cub yus twb tsi paub yuav ua li cas thiaj tau noj nav, ua li kuv niam hais, thaum peb tuaj nrog kuv tus uncle nyob ces...peb nyob lub apartment, peb nyob up stair nav, ces lawv ring lub door bell nav, tsi paub hais tias lub door bell, pheej xav hais tias ab tsi nrov ne, ces yus mus tom hoob nab mus kuaj saib toilette dam, mus kuaj sim na ua cas tsi nrov lawm, ces tej zaum yog qhov ntawd he...he...

I : Ha! ha...

M: Tej TV tej ntawd los yus tsi paub tig...yus yeej ntshai ntshai ces yus nyob hauv tsev xwb, tab sis, rau peb cov hluas no ces, qhov kawm ntawd no tej zau yuav nyiam yog ib qhov nyaib thaum yus yeej tsi paub lus li, ces meskas hais lus rau yus los yus yeej nra nra lawv xwb...twb tsi paub hais tias yuav mus hoob nab, yuav, yuav hais li cas mus hoob nab no nav, thanks goodness, los qhia yus tias nyob twg ha...ha...you know, kuv nco qab hais tias kuv dim dim zis es kuv cia li sawv ceev li ceev mus hoob nab lawm xwb, kuv tsi hais nais khu li rau qhov kuv twb tsi paub hais ab tsi ne puas yog. I just knew the bathroom is right there, and I'm getting go pee, so I'm just wait, sawv sawv ces kuv mus hoob nab ces tus nais khu mam los caum kuv hais tias kuv mus ab tsi no nav. Cia li pom kuv mus hoob nab xwb, tab sis kuv tsi nco qab tias thaum twg peb ho kawm tau lus askiv lawm nav. Zoo

li tos nco xwb yus cia li paub lawm xwb nav. Ces rau peb cov me nyuam yaus ces tej zaum qhov ntawd yog qhov nyaib tshaj, tab sis kuv paub tias qhov ntawd yog ib qho nyuab heev rau cov laus.

I : Puas muaj tej yam skill los yog tej yam txuj ci, tej yam dab tsi uas koj niam nej twb paub nyob tim Nplog teb, Thaib teb es nej tuaj txog teb chaws no es nws pab rau nej es kom ua lub neej kom ib nyuag yooj yim zog?

M: Tej zaum peb cov hmoob mas...thaum yus nyob teb chaws Nplog ntawd mas, peb yeej yog ib co keej ua teb, ua zaub ua mov noj tej ntawd, tab sis qhov ntawd pab rau yus lub neej yus tsis yog ua tau ib yam txoj hauj lwm nav, tab sis tej zaum kuv paub tias thaum peb me me es kuv niam yeej ua teb thaum summer rau peb, ces qhov ntawd yog ib qho tseem ceeb heev rau nws rau qhov nws yog, she is very good at it. Thiab thaum uas los snow tej ntawd los peb yeej muaj zaub mov los, ib co zaub noj nav, muaj dib, muaj zaub ntsuab, zaub paj muaj kua txob, ces qhov ntawd yog ib qho pab tau peb tsev neeg. It's as far as work skill yeej tsis, yeej tsis muaj ib qho work skill es transferrable nyob ntawm yus, thaum tuaj txog teb chaws nov naj, rau qhov peb yeej tsis tau tej yam hauj lwm nav. Peb yeej yog cov neeg ua teb xwb, ces nyaj qhov skiil ntawd nyob teb chaws no yuav transferrable, tab sis, tab sis ua teb nyuab hwv lawm os rau qhov peb cov hmoob peb tsi muaj cov machines, peb muaj rab, you know hauv...

I : Rab hlau xwb.

M: Rab hlau xwb nav, ces koj ua ntawd ces ua tsis tau noj nav. Ua me me txaus yus tsev neeg xwb, tab sis yog koj ua ib tug farmer, ua ib qho business kom muaj nyiaj muaj txiaj tej ntawd ces yus yuav tsum paub cov technologies nav, ces qhov ntawd yog ib qho cov hmoob tsi paub nav. Ces qhov skill ntawd los yus yuav tsum tau mus kawm tej ntawd thaib es yus thiaj ua tau nav. Ces peb paub me me xwb peb tsi tau paub...peb compete tsis tau nrog cov meskas, so qhov ntawd yog ib qho tu siab tias...our background is so different to us.

I: Tab sis mas yus mam tuaj nyob, yus mam maj mam kawm, ces tau mas puas yog?

M: Tab sis tej zaum cov laus no lawv kawm tsi tau lawm ne?

I : Yeah, kawm tsi tau, tab sis yog lawv muaj teb lawv tseem mus ua teb tseem pab tau thiab os yom?

M: Ws...yeah, qhov ntawd tseem pab tau, peb tsev neeg.

I : Koj puas xav tias tuaj nyob rau teb chaws Meskas no nws yog ib qho zoo rau poj niam hmoob, thiab yog vim li cas koj thiaj xav tias zoo?

M: Ws kuv xav tias ib qho zoo rau qhov, txog teb chaws no nws qhib, nws muaj ntau yam peb ua tau, es thaum nyob teb chaws Thaib, teb chaws Nplog peb ua tsi tau nav. Ib qho ntawd yog kev kawm ntawv, cov laus laus los kawm ntawv tau. Cov hluas los kawm ntawv

ua tau, poj niam los uas kawm ntawv tau ces ua li kuv niam hais nws yeej qhib txoj kev nov rau peb sawv daws nav. Ces qhov ntawd yog ib qho zoo. Txoj kev kawm ntawv no mas nws yuav qhib lub qhov rooj rau ntau yam. Yog koj mus kawm ntawv, koj yuav tau ua txoj hauj lwm zoo, uas koj yuav, koj yuav tau nrog cov kawm ib yam li koj tham, es nej,nej sawv daws paub ib txoj lus nav, ces koj mus nrog meskas tham los koj nrog tau lawv tham rau qhov koj paub lawv cov lus not only language, but koj paub ...different topic nav. Tsi tas li ntawd cov poj niam ntawd nws, lawv tseem mus ua tau tej yam hauj lwm lawv ua tsi tau nyob teb chaws...teb chaws Thaib tej ntawd nav. Lawv mus, tam sim no lawv mus ua tau lawyer lauj, lawv mus tau doctor, nais khu, nurse muaj ntau yam heev cov opportunity open rau cov poj niam nav. Koj xav mus nrog meskas sib xeem es mus ua nom tswv los tau tib si. Ces qhov, tej zaum um qhov woman status tam sim no txawv rau qhov, tej zaum muaj more opportunities, thiab nws muaj ntsis equal rau lawv lawm nav. Rau cov, cov txiv neej hmoob nav, tej zaum qhov ntawd yog ib qho lawv tsi nyiam, tab sis, rau poj niam hmoob mas qhov ntawd yog ib qho zoo heev, thiab tej zaum pub cov poj niam muaj kev thaj yeeb ntau me ntsis.

I : Okay, zoo, yog li no koj puas muaj koj puas...thaum koj kawm ntawb kawm ntawv es koj paub ntaub paub ntawv tej ntawd lawm thiab no, koj puas tau siv koj lub sij hawm los yog koj lub dag zog mus pab zej zog, los yog pab koj niam, nyob li mus txhais lus los yog tej yam dab tsi tej ntawd?

M: Ntawm peb tsev neeg mas tsi muaj...peb tsi muaj txiv mas kuv niam yeej yog tus es, tus thib ib mus kawm tsav luv fais, tab sis tej lus tej, tej ntawv es tuaj ntawm welfare, tuaj ntawm housing tuaj, yus yeej yog tus kawm ntawv ces thaum yus meme xwb los yus yeej nrog yus niam tais, txhais tej ntawd nav, hu telephon rau tej doctors. Thaum kuv me mas kuv tsi nyiam ua tej ntawd kiag, you know...ha...kuv niam yuam peb ua xwb, ib yam li yuam xwb yus twb tsi nyiam ua kiag, tsi nrog, tsi xav nrog tej niag meskas laus ntawd tham, los kuv niam yeej yuam peb nrog nws mus taj laj. Yuam peb nrog mus nram well welfare office. Yuam peb sau ntawb sau ntawv rau nws, you know, mus taj laj los yus yeej yog tus them nyiaj rau lawv, ces tej zaum qhov ntawd, kuv niam ua ntawd rau qhov peb tsi muaj txiv ces, thaum peb me me no ces kuv niam, kuv cov nus thiab kuv, los kuv niam yeej yuam peb sawv daws ua tej nov nav. Thaum peb me los ces peb yeej paub ua tej no los lawm nav.

I: Zoo mav. Tam sim no kuv yuav nrog koj tham txog cov poj niam uas nws ua hauj lwm rau sab nraum nav, sab nraum uas nyob rau sab public nav, public life nav. Tam sim no koj puas paub txog tej tug thawj coj uas nws yog poj niam hmoob, es nws yog tej tug thawj coj ua hauj lwm nyob rau, ua hauj lwm rau nom rau tswv, los yog nyob rau tej lub office, thiab yog koj paub no lawv yog leej twg?

M: Tam, tam sim no, nyob teb chaws no mas kuv xav tias cov poj niam ua thawj coj ntawd lawv muaj coob tus lawm. Muaj cov es hlob kuv, cov midle age ntawd, hos yog muaj, muaj kiag kuv cov es ib yam li kuv hnub nyoog los muaj, thiab qhov kuv nco qab mas kuv nco qab Cua Lis puas yog, tus poj niam uas ua School Board naj tus very first one, muaj um Nuj Suav Lis.

I: Suav Lis.

M : Suav Lis or something.

I: Yeah.

M: Usually women, but she was the very first woman, first hmong person, on the School Board so that, that's one very public, very public official, yeej muaj ntau tus poj niam es ua cov Executive Director ntawm cov koom haum, tsi yog koom haum poj niam hmoob thiab tab sis dhau qhov ntawd, yog cov koom haum asmiskas nav. Ib yam Illean Her tom Capi, not Capi qhov State Council naj, qhov ntawd yog ib qho...kuv, zoo rau cov poj niam hmoob rau qhov tej zaum cov txiv neej xav hais tias poj niam hmoob yog cov thawj coj ntawm cov poj niam xwb, es peb thiaj ua tau cov Executives Directors hauv lub koom haum poj niam hmoob xwb nav, tab sis, I think because Illean nyob ntawm ib qho es State Government Agency ntawd, nws yog tus thawj coj ntawm qhov ntawd nav, ces qhov ntawv qhia tau rau peb hais tias poj niam hmoob no peb tsi yog, peb yeej ua tau cov thawj coj ntawm peb cov poj niam hmoob, tab sis peb ua tau dhau qhov ntawd thiab nav...

I : Rau lwm haiv neeg thiab.

M: Rau lwm haiv neeg thiab rau peb cov hmoob tib si, uh hm.

I : Zoo kawg, puas muaj tej yam uas koj xav hais tias, koj xav tias nyob rau teb chaws asmeskas no nws puas zoo rau peb cov poj niam hmoob tau los mus ua thawj coj tej ntawd thiab?

M: Ws, kuv xav tias yog peb nyob teb chaws Nplog thiab teb chaws nThaib ces yeej tsis muaj cov poj niam, tej zaum yeej muaj 2/3 tug poj niam, tab sis tej zaum lawv tsi yog ua thawj coj. Tej zaum lawv yog tus poj niam, tus txiv neej ntawd tus wife tus thawj coj xwb nav...ha..ces peb qhov role ces peb yog tus, tus wife zoo heev rau yus tus thawj, we look good, tab sis tej zaum nyob teb chaws Nplog thiab teb chaws Thaib ces tsi muaj ib qho es hais tias cov poj niam tsi tau yuav txiv no los ua thawj coj tau, los yog cov poj niam es twb yuav txiv lawm tib si ua tau thawj coj. You know um rau qhov ntawm teb chaws meskas no mas koj tsi yuav txiv los koj ua thawj coj tau.

I: Hm hm..

M: Yeah...even cov hmoob, cov txiv neej hmoob tsi xav hais tias oh!..koj yog ib tug leader nav, well, cov meskas yeej xav tias koj yog tus leader, you know lwm cov haiv neeg, lwm cov poj niam hmoob yeej xav tias koj yog tus leader. Peb muaj tam sim no, muaj cov poj niam ua doctor tib si, lawv tus txiv twb tsi yog doctor, lawv tseem yog tus doctor thiab ua tau nyiaj ntau tshaj lawv tus txiv naj you know. Cov poj niam sawv daws yeej paub tias lawv yog tus doctor. Ib yam doctor Phuab Xyooj, you know, nws tus txiv zoo li. Kuv twb tsi nco qab hais tias nws tus txiv zoo li cas nav, tab sis nws yog ib tug es peb cov poj niam hmoob pom hais tias oh!..nws yog ib tug thawj coj ntawm peb, cov meskas los yeej pom hais tias oh!..nws yog ib tug thawj coj. Tsi tas li ntawd peb tseem muaj cov women

lawyers. Peb tseem muaj cov nais khu tib si, peb tseem muaj cov doctors es kawm tau PhD ib yam li cov txiv neej thiab. Kuv xav hais tias tag nrho tej no mas yog tshwm tau rau qhov peb tuaj teb chaws nov xwb, yog tsi tuaj no tej zaum peb tsi muaj lub, lub opportunity qhib rau peb ua tej no nav.

I : Koj puas xav kom, tsi hais txiv neej hmoob los lwm cov neeg nco txog thiab pab txhawb peb cov poj niam hmoob hais tias peb kev dej num rau sab nraum no nws muaj, nws muaj ntau thiab sab hauv muaj ntau thiab yuav kom nco qab txog tej yam uas peb ua tau zoo nav, yog dab tsi koj puas xav, koj puas xav txog tej ntawd thiab?

M: Koj hais cov, cov hawj lwm peb ua sab nraum yog ab tsi tiag?

I : Cov hauj lwm peb ua sab nraum thiab ua sab hauv tsev, uas txhawb tau peb haiv neeg thiab txhawb tau peb, nyob li cov muaj txiv tej ntawd es txhawb tau yus tus txiv, los yus tsev neeg tej ntawd nav, nws puas xav kom lwm cov neeg nco txog peb tias peb cov poj niam hmoob no ua tau tej yam dej num dab tsi los txhawb, coj los pab rau peb cov neeg?

M: Hm...qhov ntawd yog ib qho tseem ceeb heev rau qhov tias kuv xav tias cov poj niam, poj! niam hmoob no lawv, lawv balance tau ntau yam heev nav. Lawv yog tus niam tsev, lawv yog tus poj niam ntawm lawv tus txiv. Lawv tseem yog tus nyab, lawv tseem yog tus hu! tsi paub ab tsi li, tab sis hauv lub tsev xwb lawv twb manage tag nrho tej ntawd thiab, tsi tas li ntawd lawv tseem ua cov hauj lwm 9:00 moo txog 5:00 moo thiab, you know, ces lawv ua tau hauj lwm tau nyiaj txiag los lawv tseem take care tau lawv tsev neeg. Tsi tas li ntawd lawv, lawv tseem ua community service, thiab tseem pab lawv lub Church, tseem mus pab cov pej xeem, tseem volunteer tib si nav. Kuv xav tias tej zaum txiv neej hmoob lawv ua tsi tau no, lawv ua tau lawv txoj hauj lwm lawv ua tau community service tab sis tej zaum lawv ho tsi los pab tau hauv tsev puas yog. Tab sis poj niam mas kuv xav tias peb yeej keej heev rau qhov peb ua tau tag nrho tej no nav. Peb muaj lub siab dawb paug pab peb tsev neeg, pab cov kwv tij pab meskas, pab cov neeg tsi nyob hauv peb tsev neeg ntawd nav, ces we do a lot, we do a lot...

I : Zoo, puas muaj ib yam dab tsi uas koj xav ntxiv rau cov uas wb twb tau tham los tag no ntxiv lawm thiab?

M: Ws, I guess tam sim no kuv xav...I am very concern about cov neeg, ib yam li kuv niam los yog cov poj niam hmoob es nws tsis paub ntaub paub ntawv ntau, los yog nws tsi muaj lub sij hawm los kawm ntaub kawm ntawv nav, es yog muaj lub sij hawm ntawd tej zaum kuv xav tias lawv yuav yog ib tug thawj coj zoo heev rau qhov lawv muaj experience ntau tshaj kuv. Lawv yeej tu me nyuam loj tas, lawv yeej paub hmoob kev cai zoo heev lawm. Qhov lawv tsi muaj mas yog qhov kawm ntawv ntawd xwb nav, rau qhov lawv laus heev, lawv tsi muaj lub sij hawm mus kawm ntawv, tej zaum tej tug xav tias ah !.. yus laus hwv yus lub paj hlwb ruam ruam, yus mus kawm tsi tau, tab sis kuv zoo li thaum peb nyob teb chaws no ces peb xav hais tias qhov kawm ntawv ntawd muaj nuj nqis heev nav ces peb tsi nco qab txog cov neeg no nav, tej zaum peb xav hais tias lawv tsis paub ab tsi, lawv pab peb los pab tsi tau, twb tsi paub tham lus askiv nrog peb, mus sab laj tej ntawd los tsis paub, tab sis kuv xav tias peb tsi muab lub sij hawm rau lawv xwb. Peb yuav tsum nrhiav ib

qho chaw es hais tias yuav tsum coj lawv tuaj sab laj nrog peb. Yuav tsum coj lawv kom paub txog hais tias peb tham txog ab tsi thiab rau qhov tias tej zaum lawv ho muaj cov ideas txawv peb thiab. Peb sawv daws yog cov neeg kawm ntawv xwb ces tej zaum peb ho xav ib yam xwb, peb tsi pom li tej pom, tej yam lawv pom thiab nav ces ib qhov kuv xav kom peb sawv daws xav txog ntau heev los hais tias lawv xov laus thiab ntawd cov poj niam cov txiv neej tsi kawm ntaub kawm ntawv los peb yuav ua li cas thiaj engage tau lawv thiab nav, es kom yog peb muaj rooj sab laj, peb yuav ua cas thiaj coj tau lawv tuaj thiab es kom lawv thiaj paub hais tias peb sib tham ab tsi. Tej zaum lawv ho muaj tej yam tswv yim, tswv yim es yuav pab tau peb, es tej yam es peb tsi tau xav txog li nav, tab sis zoo li, cov neeg no es cov neeg es peb tsi nco qab txog lawm.

I: Uh.

M: Peb saib tsi taus, peb tsis nco qab txog, peb tsi nav thwm, so thaum kuv xav txog cov neeg nov kuv tu siab rau qhov tias kuv niam yog ib tug neeg es yog kawm ntaub kawm ntawv nws yeej yog ib tug thawj coj zoo heev. Kuv xav tias peb muaj sab laj, peb yuav tsum coj, kuv xav coj kuv niam tuaj thiab nawj rau qhov yog kuv niam paub txog tej peb tham ntawd nav, es kuv niam yeej muaj ntau yam yuav hais txog thiab nav, yeej muaj tswv yim zoo thiab ces, I don't know, I guess...

I : Koj puas xav tias nyob rau hauv koj lub zeem muag uas koj xav ua tej yam dab tsi rau cov laus ntawd, es kom lawv los paub txog tias peb dej num dab tsi, koj yuav ua li cas, los puas muaj tej yam social activity, los tej yam dab tsi es yuav cob qhia lawv es kom lawv paub hais tias peb dej num mus li cas rau li cas, thiab ua dab tsi es lawv thiaj paub nrog peb tawm tswv yim?

M: Kuv xav tias, I think it's our job as educated people, mus qhia lawv nav, ntau ntau zaus kuv xav tias ab! tej no you know, ua cas nyuab siab tas npaum, yus yeej yog tus tham rau kuv niam los kuv niam yeej tsi to taub li, tab sis she surprised me hej....tej zaum kuv nrog kuv niam tham lawm, she is very excited, nws pab kuv xav tau dav thiab dav tshaj before nav, um thiab kuv niam yog ib tug neeg paub hmoob kev cai, ces yog li ntawd ces kuv tsi paub tej qhov ces kuv yeej noog kuv niam tias qhov nov yog li cas, ua cas peb cov hmoob hauv no, so I think, it's our job to bring them to the plan, and it's our job to aducate them about welfare reform, and how that affect their lives. It's ours to say, you know, caw lawy tuaj tej rooj sab laj, you know, cov laus yeej mloog, mloog hmoob radio all the time, you know, kuv niam yeej paub what's going on the world because lawy piav hmoob radio es kuv niam yeej, tej qho kuv niam tseem qhia kuv naj hais tias koj puas tau hnov qhov no. Kuv tseem tias xyov kuv twb tsi tau tawm the news papers, you know, nws tseem paub tshaj kuv, nws tseem paub ua ntej kuv thiab nav. Ces um kuv xav tias peb yuav tsum tsi txhob, xav tias luag ruam ruam luag tsi paub. Yog peb qhia lawv xwb ces lawv yeej concern, thiab yeej care txog cov issues ntawd thiab nav. Tsuas yog lawv tsi paub twm tej ntawy askiv ntawd es lawy tsi paub ntawy xwb tab sis peb yuay, lawy tsi sau ntaub sau ntawy los peb yuay tsum yog tus sau rau lawy nay. Tsuay peb muab lub tswy yim rau lawy, peb qhia lawv tias tam sim no lawv tab tom tham txog hais tias 5 xyoos no yuav kawg es yuav ua li cas rau cov neeg tseem noj welfare. Lawv yuav xav hais tias yuav muab txiav tag nrho no xwb. Koj piav li no rau lawy lawy yeej tsi zoo siab nay puas yog. Ces yog koj hais

tias lub sij hawm no yog lub sij hawm peb yuav tsum sau ntaub ntawv mus rau Governor Ventura es hais tias peb, peb cov pej xeem mas peb xav kom nws ua li cas, ces lawv yeej sau xwb puas yog. Lawv sau ntawv hmoob xwb los peb yuav tsum pes rau lawv, es peb g nav. Tej yuav tsum xa lawv cov suab mus rau kom Governor Ventura thiaj hnov thiab, tab sis kuv

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