

Lindsay - 16:36

Interviewer - 0:00

I would like you to tell me the name of the organization, do you know what it is called?

Lindsay - 0:05

Yeah, it's called Free City Church.

Interviewer - 0:10

When were you active in that?

Lindsay - 0:12

I was active in 2015, and I've been in attendance since then.

Interviewer - 0:20

Can you tell us about the founding and the early days of the organization, do you know?

Lindsay - 0:25

It was founded by these two men that lived in Oklahoma. They are now the pastors of the church.

Interviewer - 0:30

Why were people attracted to this religion body?

Lindsay - 0:40

Because they had a mission to make people see Jesus, and people liked it because it was simple.

Interviewer - 0:54

How did you come to be involved in it?

Lindsay - 0:58

They were giving out flyers at the university campus.

Interviewer - 1:07

Is there certain books that you read?

Lindsay - 1:09

Not particularly, though there are books that they have recommended that we read. Obviously the Bible, but there are other Christian books out there.

Interviewer - 1:22

What were the daily experiences in the religious body like?

Lindsay - 1:26

It was quite welcoming. I go every Sunday so people would be very warm and kind.

Interviewer - 1:39

How did your membership and participation effect your own private life outside the religious group?

Lindsay - 1:46

It made me more gentle to people, and it made me consider life to be a purpose.

Interviewer - 2:02

Did you ever think about leaving the group?

Lindsay - 2:05

Yes.

Interviewer - 2:06

Why?

Lindsay - 2:07

Because I went through some difficulties that made me question my faith.

Interviewer - 2:18

How did it change? Why did you change? Did you leave the group?

Lindsay - 2:29

No, I didn't leave the group.

Interviewer - 2:30

Why did you not leave the group?

Lindsay - 2:32

Because my previous experiences were meaningful and I remembered what they meant to me.

Interviewer - 2:40

What kind of practices were involved in the group?

Lindsay - 2:43

We had communion which is, you break bread, and we had wine, and you sing songs and we read the Bible, and that's pretty much it.

Interviewer - 2:59

Can you tell us about the ceremonies you guys have? Do you guys celebrate Christmas?

Lindsay - 3:09

Yeah, so obviously we celebrate Christmas. That's because of Jesus came into this world as a man. And then we celebrate Easter, because we believe that he rose from the dead. I think that's it.

Interviewer - 3:32

How do people treat each other in your group?

Lindsay - 3:36

They treat each other with respect, making sure that it is a safe space for people to say what they think and not be judged for what they think.

Interviewer - 3:55

What kind of activities were found in the group?

Lindsay - 4:00

Getting together, having coffee for example, doing just normal activities such as, just socializing, going to the bar for a drink or Bible studies for example.

Interviewer - 4:20

Did food figure into your religious life?

Lindsay - 4:25

Yes, so food was a usual tool that was used during social gathering. For a bible study for example, there was always food present.

Interviewer - 4:39

Was volunteer labor use for any part of the life of the group in terms of its maintenance of its buildings?

Lindsay - 4:46

Not really in this church specifically, but in another church that I attended it was. We volunteered to help actually build a school in Tanzania, in Africa. It was funded by the church.

Interviewer - 5:07

What were their economic arrangement for the group? How was money raised?

Lindsay - 5:15

Money was raised by the offerings of the members of the church; people would give their tithes. Just general donations and also fundraising events. So, money would be raised by doing something fun, things with the community.

Interviewer - 5:36

Who makes the spending decisions?

Lindsay - 5:40

Spending decisions are usually made by a financial officer in the church, that would probably be overseen by Pastor.

Interviewer - 5:50

Who owns the group's property, do you know?

Lindsay - 5:53

I don't know specifically, but I'm guessing it would be those two founding members, those two pastors.

Interviewer - 6:01

What kind of issues involving personal interactions were present?

Lindsay - 6:08

People, as if anyone, would be cliquy. So they would kind of only hang out with a certain group of friends, and it didn't change whether that was in charge or not.

Interviewer - 6:22

Are they like attempting to like change it?

Lindsay - 6:26

Yeah. They always encourage people to mingle, meet each other, get to know each other.

Interviewer - 6:38

How was the group governed?

Lindsay - 6:42

It was governed by... it was seen as a community. It was seen as everyone, we should always be involved. I guess it was just governed by teaching's of the pastors.

Interviewer - 7:02

Did the group own real estate? Like, their buildings?

Lindsay - 7:06

No, this particular church rented, rents a building. It's actually the Lawrence High School, they are there every Sunday. So, to answer your question, no, they don't.

Interviewer - 7:19

You said they were in Free State?

Lindsay - 7:22

No, Lawrence High School, it is on Mass Street. They rent from them, so you don't actually have your own church space.

Interviewer - 7:33

Does the group own any vehicle, like a school bus or a van?

Lindsay - 7:40

No, not that I know of, no.

Interviewer - 7:42

How were new members recruited?

Lindsay - 7:45

New members were recruited by, how I was recruited, which was just handing out flyers like it was the beach around the university. They would encourage current members to just kind of tell their friends about it. They might have a website as well, which people can log into and look.

Interviewer - 8:11

So, there's no certain way to actually join it? Is it just like you go show up and you're a member?

Lindsay - 8:16

You just show up.

Interviewer - 8:22

Were there rules or agreements regarding dress or other matters of style?

Lindsay - 8:28

None, there wasn't.

Interviewer - 8:31

What were the relation with the surrounding culture like?

Lindsay - 8:37

It was a fine culture.

Interviewer - 8:43

I mean the traffic, parking...?

Lindsay - 8:44

It was good. They always try to be considered. We have, for example, signs that show you where the parking is, so anyone can look if their interested in going there. We have good

relations with the people that govern the running of the school because it is not our space, so we have to be considerate of that. Pretty good.

Interviewer - 9:15

What kind of relationship did the group have with other local religious organization?

Lindsay - 9:20

Very good. The church would come together to kind of make events happen. If there was a big fundraiser event of a big community event, the church would communicate with the other churches too.

Interviewer - 9:43

What were the people like? Is there an unforgettable character?

Lindsay - 9:54

My pastor is quite charismatic, quite funny. He always talks about his children in his sermon which is cool because it makes it very relatable.

Interviewer - 10:13

How were the children handle?

Lindsay - 10:15

Children were handled with a lot of care. People were very careful with handling children because it's the members of the church that would volunteer to look after the other member's children. They weren't trained in particular skills, they just wanted to look after them. So the children were handled with a high level of, a lot of respect, care and kindness.

Interviewer - 10:46

Is there any educational program for the children?

Lindsay - 10:50

Not that I know of. I don't know.

Interviewer - 11:06

Was there any educational programs for adults?

Lindsay - 11:09

Yeah, there are courses actually that he mentioned today. Like extra courses on the university actually. It was something about some course you do is linked, is affiliated with the university. I can't remember what it is.

Interviewer - 11:35

Is it also related to church, like religion study?

Lindsay - 11:38

Yes, it is.

Interviewer - 11:43

What kind of art forms were present?

Lindsay - 11:47

Because it was a school, the only art forms present were, very often it would be school related, so it wouldn't be church related.

Interviewer - 12:00

What kind of community service activities were undertaken?

Lindsay - 12:04

For example, I think the church got involved in the Big Event in Lawrence. There was also an outreach to the community to make people aware of trafficking, so the trafficking of human beings. I can't remember anything else right now, but I'm sure there are other things, I can't remember.

Interviewer - 12:42

Were there treatment programs for drug/alcohol abuse and physical and mental abuse?

Lindsay - 12:48

Not that I know of.

Interviewer - 12:51

It's usually not like the most talked about in religious organizations. Where there are special interest groups, such as groups for singles or seniors, groups based on a common interest?

Lindsay - 13:05

Yes, there were.

Interviewer - 13:10

Are you participating in any of these?

Lindsay - 13:15

No, the only group I'm really participating in is just a weekly Bible study group. There is also a group for young teenagers. There's also another group for single men, and there is a women's group too. Yeah, but I'm only in the Bible study group.

Interviewer - 13:39

What kind of norms and expectations were there for sexual behavior?



Lindsay - 13:45

So, sexual behaviour was regarded as something that was embraced but within the.. in a kind of holy way if you like. So, to be specific, I guess the sex outside of marriage would be something that would not be so...

Interviewee - 14:10

That would be prohibited?

Lindsay - 14:13

Yeah, if you like, that would be prohibited. Dating wouldn't be prohibited at all, dating would actually be encouraged, Dating in a particular way, that wasn't disrespectful that either party but was meaningful for both parties and is healthy.

Interviewer - 14:35

Is there any like penalties for violation of these rules?

Lindsay - 14:37

No, there's no such penalty. It's just based on the fact that, if you go to church and believe in Jesus, and go to all the services, that's it. There's no condemnation for poor behavior.

Interviewer - 15:01

How do you see the future of the group over the long haul? Is the organization growing?

Lindsay - 15:05

Yeah, it is growing. There are definitely more students in the urban introduced. This is mostly a student church, but there have been a lot of older people who have come into the church. So, yes, I see a bright future for the organization.

Interviewer - 15:28

Did it ever close?

Lindsay - 15:30

No, not since it started.

Interviewer - 15:33

What were the best and worst things you remember about experience?

Lindsay - 15:37

The best thing was, I liked the food, the food was cool, and getting to know people, it was fun. The worst thing was having to partake in certain activities that required me to get up early. So for example, we had to help out with the set up of the church, and with the band and music and the decorations. So that was the worst part.

Interviewer - 16:12

Do you want to add anything, do you want to talk about something else? Do you recommend anyone else to interview? That's fine if you don't have anyone. Thank you so much for your time.