

*I/V Olesen, Michael 10-27-09 C36 Willingham:

On 10/27/09, at approximately 1500 hours, I spoke with Michael Olesen by telephone. I audio recorded the interview. The following is a summary for the entire interview please see the transcript.

Michael first started attending James Ray events two to three years ago. He and his wife Danita Olesen have also attended the World Wealth Excursion to Peru and another in Mexico and a New Years Eve party in San Diego. Michael also attended the World Wealth weekend last weekend in San Diego.

Michael had never been in a sweat lodge before. He was on the north wall directly opposite the door. His wife was on his left and he did not remember who was on his right. At first he was in the inner circle and then switched with Lou and went to the back. Michael came out at the end of the fifth round and returned for the seventh round.

Michael did participate in the 36 hour Vision Quest without food or water.

Michael said James Ray told them the Sweat Lodge would be dark, hot and if you are claustrophobic, that could be a problem. As to safety you were directed to watch yourself around the pit, leave in a clockwise fashion when the door was open.

Michael said they were told if you get too hot, lay down as it might be cooler. You would be hosed down when you come out. Michael described the first three rounds as not too bad, but starting the fourth round it was getting very hot and even when the door was open he was not able to get any fresh air. Michael said at this point he was even starting to feel really weak. He stayed for the fifth round, but could not wait for it to be over to get out. He had concerns that if he waited he would not be strong enough to get out.

Michael said he returned because he was concerned about his wife being in there. Michael went back to his same spot and after the break and being hosed down he felt better about returning.

Michael described that everyone was mostly following James Ray's lead. Michael said there were people starting to freak out. At one point Sean tried to leave going the wrong way and some others were holding him back to keep him out of the pit. He fell onto Michael's legs and stayed there until the round completed. Once a person wanted to leave they seemed very eager to get out.

Michael said no one from James Ray's was dealing with people who were freaking out or trying to get out. It was the "attendees" that were helping each other.

Michael said he nor did his wife have any problems from the experience. Michael did say James Ray did get kind of ticked off because of some light that came in from the back of the lodge. Ray yelled that that was disrespecting the ceremony.

Michael remembered being the last person to come out on their own and then saw that the back of the lodge was pulled up and people were pulling three people out. He did help drag two people to the door. Once out he saw how bad people were looking because people were not breathing well. That was when people from James Ray (Dream Teamers) told them if they were in good shape to go on back to their rooms and shower with dinner.

He did see them pumping on James Shores chest for quite a long time and was afraid because of the length of time it was not a good scene. He does not believe James left his wife and children of his own will.

I asked Michael what he saw James Ray doing. He said he saw him standing there with a blank look on his face and not helping or responding to anyone. Michael said he was just shocked at how the one in charge was not responding to anyone. One girl was freaking out and when they yelled for James Ray to come help her Ray said "oh she is just having an out of body experience, she will be fine."

Michael said he was a little torn about leaving early, but afterwards, when he had the strength to help others, he was glad he did. He said that Ray did discourage people from leaving, to meet a challenge.

Michael said he realized there was a problem when he went back in and Kristine was babbling and in-coherent. That was when he thought she really needed to get out. During the last round James Ray wanted everyone to lie down. Michael tried to get some of the guys to help him lay Linda down because she was passed out. Michael couldn't do it and James Ray yelled at him to just leave her there and lay down. Michael saw Stephen was having trouble, it looked like Stephen had no idea what was going on, his eyes were closed and stuff was running out of his nose. Michael said he helped drag Linda out at the end. Michael felt someone from outside should have come in between rounds and check on people to see if they had become comatose and could not leave on their own.

Michael felt that it was just too hot and there was not enough fresh air for everyone.

End of Supplement.

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