

\*I/V Danita Olesen 10/31/09 C36

On 10/31/09, at approximately 0710 hours, I spoke with Danita Olesen by telephone. The first 22 minutes of the interview was successfully recorded. I do not have a recording of the remainder due to the battery becoming depleted in my recorder and I did not realize it.

Danita learned of James Ray when she attended a free real estate conference featuring Donald Trump, James Ray and some others at a free event in [REDACTED] in March of 2007. She has since attended 7 or 8 additional events. This was the first time at Spiritual Warrior.

Danita had never been inside a sweat lodge before, but has used a sauna. She said the sweat lodge was more intense and dryer. The only information she remembers about the construction of the sweat lodge was they were introduced to him and he had build the sweat lodge for the last 3 to 5 years.

Danita absolutely felt the sweat lodge would be safe because of her past experiences with James Ray and his organization. Danita said she trusted him.

Danita stayed in for the entire event. She was on the north wall, her husband Mike Olesen was on her right. Linda Andresano was on her left and Kristina Bivins was in front of her. Danita said at first she was closer to the fire pit, but eventually was back against the wall.

Danita ate three meals and snacks on Tuesday. She had plenty of fluids on Tuesday. Tuesday night at about 10:00 P.M. they were taken out to their spots for the Vision Quest. She had no food or water, but she did take some gum. When she returned on Thursday morning at about 6:30 A.M. she drank a liter of water in her room and then after a shower had breakfast.

Danita said she did not know what to expect from the Vision Quest, but did enjoy it and really got a lot out of it. She said that in the past she heard they were longer, but this was a good experience for her.

Danita said she did not really know what to expect from the Sweat Lodge, but remembers being told you would sweat and could reach an altered state. As to safety, they were given explicit instructions on how to enter and exit by James Ray, so they stayed clear of the fire pit. Danita said she does not recall being given any idea what to expect or how to respond if there was a problem.

She described the experience as good for her because she pushed beyond her self imposed limits. At about round three she noticed her heart rate was up and it took her until the next round to use her breathing to slow her heart rate down. I asked what type of breathing she used. Danita said she used slow deep breathing in through nose and out her

mouth. She did not leave because she did not feel she was having any problems and wanted to experience the entire event.

Danita said James Ray spoke, as well as a lot of people, each time the door would open and more rocks were brought in. She estimated the rounds at about 15 minutes give or take. Danita said she heard people moaning, but because it was so dark, she could only make out 5 to 6 people on either side of the door when the door flap was open. She said that very little air came back to where she was. When the water was poured on the rocks at first there was a little relief from the moisture, but it dried quickly. It was about round 5 that it seemed a lot of people had had enough. It seemed this was when people started to leave. Between rounds 5 and 6 was when someone said Ami Grimes had passed out. James told someone to help her and Danita remembers Bill Leverage crawled over her to help pull Ami out. This may have been during a round as Danita thought it was dark. Danita remembers at the time she didn't think it was a big deal, but in hind site she sees it different.

Danita heard that John Ebert had crawled out the other side during a round, but she was not sure what round. James Ray said something about, where is that light coming from, and no one answered. He asked again, and still no one answered, and then the light disappeared.

Danita said that Mike left after the 5th round and stayed out a round, but he returned to make sure she was all right. Danita said that when she left she crawled past Kirby Brown and James Shore and thought why aren't they moving. She said it was about a half hour after being outside after the event was over she realized things had gone very bad. When she first came out she was dizzy and very weak in her legs. After about a half hour she had drank some water and was feeling well enough to start helping others. Danita remembers some people who left returned for the last round. Once out, and she was looking around, it looked like a war zone.

Danita remembers yelling at some of the men, James Ray included, to bring water and towels, but she realized some of them were out of it. She saw James sitting in a chair taking it all in with a blank look. Danita said that someone came over and asked James Ray to come speak with Kristina as she is having a very hard time and screaming for him. Danita said he went over and spoke to her. Danita said that by the time she knew CPR was being performed that 911 had been called.

Danita told me that James Ray often tells them at seminars in a metaphorical sense that for something new to live something old must die. She said James Ray can be a "pompous ass", but feels he would be very serious when it comes to someone's life. She said that he would never intend to hurt someone, but that this had gotten reckless. She said he is the golden boy of the JRI business and very good at what he does. Danita believes that this time in the sweat lodge to many rocks were brought in and too many rounds were completed. She said she has since researched sweat lodges and learned that generally 4 rocks are brought in and 4 rounds are the number of rounds completed.

Danita said it came down to trust in James Ray and the fact that he has done this for a number of years. He told them he has a Native American friend who has told him his lodges are the best. Danita thought about that and now wonders if that was just something James Ray has been saying.

No one has talked with Danita about what to say or what not to say. I then asked about the holotropic breath work. Danita told me she has done this several times at other events James Ray puts on. She told me it is very fast breathing to hyper oxygenate the body. She said some people seem to have visions, but she just goes to sleep. Danita said that during this exercise, James Ray, his dream team, and staff walk the room checking on the participants reminding them to breath if it appears they have stopped or are having some type of problem.

Danita could not think of anything else that would be important for me to know and I concluded the interview.

This supplement is considered closed.

Detective Shonna Willingham C36

Wed Nov 18 16:49:52 MST 2009  
Apvd C16/0394 DBW

Thu Nov 19 13:29:57 MST 2009  
Supplemental reports 69-74 to CA Bill Hughes.  
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