

\*I/V Ray, Stephen-Transcript Det. S. Willingham C36

On 10/29/09 at approximately 1600 hours, I spoke with Stephen Ray by telephone. I audio recorded the conversation with my digital recorder. The following is an accurate transcript of the conversation.

A CD of the digital recording will be placed into evidence.  
(Voice Mail)

Interviewer: Hi, this message is for Stephen Ray. This is detective Shonna Willingham, Yavapai County Sheriff's Office. I am having a really difficult time contacting you. I hope you are all right. If you could give me a call back, I am at [REDACTED]. Thank you.

Respondent: I apologize. Part of the situation was a lot of my belongings were still at the site of the accident and they just recently mailed by stuff back to me including my phone.

Interviewer: Oh my Gosh, I did not realize that.

Respondent: So I spoke to a friend of mine Lisa who I think recently spoke to you and she said they want to talk to you and I said yeah I know --

Interviewer: Yeah, she has been speaking to my partner. So yes, I have left several messages and I thought I hope this man is okay.

Respondent: Yeah, I just I didn't have my phone and it's actually a phone that I borrowed from a buddy of mine because I had a the phone that I had got damaged and so it doesn't work very good. So he said oh just use mine. So that phone that I have, the one that I've just called you on and although I don't have the ability to access the voice mail because currently he can't remember what its code his. So I don't have the phone I can't access the message.

Interviewer: Okay. Well Stephen, is there a number that I could call you back on a landline or something so that it does not cost you minutes or something and I could do an interview with you?

Respondent: The [REDACTED] number, that's fine, it's like he's helping me out, he said just use it as much or whatever as you can, he's got unlimited minutes and everything. So that's the best number to get me on. It's [REDACTED]

Interviewer: Okay. And I will call you right back so like I said I don't know if it's a cell phone that may use minutes anyway but I can call you back or we could continue to talk. It's up to you.

Respondent: I am good either way. I have probably an hour or so right now that I have got. I purposely wanted to block out some time for you so this time is great so whatever is good for you.

Interviewer: Yeah, this is fine for me. I really appreciate it. And I know that you have not had a chance to tell me or tell anyone in law enforcement yet what took place and what you experienced. So if you want to just start with when you arrived in that and then we do have some specific questions that if we don't cover them during the interview, I will go back over with you, okay?

Respondent: Okay. Now are you talking from when I first arrived at the beginning of the seminar or arrived at the sweat lodge part of the event?

Interviewer: We are trying to take participants back through the beginning of the seminar because I think there were a lot of things that may have taken place that built up to a situation that was a combination for a disaster. So we are wanting to find out just what each participant did leading up to the days of going into the sweat lodge.

Respondent: Okay. I arrived on I think the 8th, the first day of the seminar.

Interviewer: The 8th was the day that we were all called out there.

Respondent: Okay, so it would been the 3rd.

Interviewer: Okay. I don't mean to correct you but I am certain of the date because the 9th is my oldest son's birthday.

Respondent: Perfect. So I arrived on the 3rd and I was one of the last participants to arrive. It was two of us that arrived near the end of the registration period so it must have been around 5 o'clock or 5:30 in the evening. And then they had us sign some release paperwork. And then they took our belongings to the tent and then I went to the tent to check on my belongings. And then they were serving dinner, I wanted to have dinner.

Interviewer: Okay. The food that they were serving, was that your typical diet because I am being told that it was vegetarian and I don't know if you are vegetarian?

Respondent: Correct, it was vegetarian, I am not a vegetarian, no.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And then, after that event, I think some of the people kind of mingled around and I think I ended up going back fairly early and getting some sleep. I feared it was going to be a long week so I probably went back and went to sleep around 8:30 or so in the evening. And then we woke up the next day and the event started. The first part of the event was course material where he was going through lecture style material and I

think that was the first day. And I didn't really make notes of how everything went day to day so I kind of made some notes but I didn't date or do any of the times like I am not super specific about the stages of you know how all of this stuff kind of went about. So I don't know the specific like day and time of each of the things that they did. It's more kind of general because it's kind of still a little bit of a blur.

Interviewer: Okay, and I have heard that from a number of participants that there are some missing pieces in their memory.

Respondent: Right, because a pretty long day, so there is kind of a lot of stuff that happened. In fact I am not sure if it would work better to if I was to work backward from the sweat lodge and before the sweat lodge, we had had a session and me in the room, actually it's probably easy if I work backward.

Interviewer: Okay, then let's start at the sweat lodge and then we will work our way backwards. I have talked to a number other participants if there is something specific, I'll ask, is that all right?

Respondent: Sure that's great.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Now, do you want me to go through what happened at sweat lodge or you want me to work before the sweat lodge and back and then come back to the sweat lodge? Which would work better for you?

Interviewer: Why don't you just start before the sweat lodge and go back down your week and then we will come back to the sweat lodge?

Respondent: Okay so before the sweat lodge happened, we had some additional meetings in the lunch room which was where all of the lecture stuff happened and there he was kind of going over that there was going to be a sweat lodge and you know some of the stuff around it and that he had had it constructed, he had experience with, the native American sweat lodges and that he had the best sweat lodge that anyone could ever have and you know really building up the quality of the sweat lodge that they were about to have us go through.

Interviewer: Can you remember as best you can how he described it, what he told the participants to expect? And I am talking about James Ray, is that who you are talking about?

Respondent: Correct, yeah. Not too many people could really get to talk about stuff like his staff. He really has a firm control over everything. His staff says little or nothing that the Dream Team which are the production people and the staff say very little just about anything. He has a very firm grasp and complete control over everything that's really delivered in fact even to the extent of I was asking about some stuff and they directed me

back to exactly what he said. He really has a firm control over what's said. And so basically he had said that they have been doing this for many years that he had it constructed and it seems like to his specifics according to you know his knowledge of Native American tradition or culture and not too much about the specifics of the structure about what it was going to be made out of or just it was hand built. And it was going to be a sacred space and one of the things that was very specific and I am pretty sure it wasn't me preparation before I went down there and also I think when we were down there very specific instructions and rules about how you entered, how you could exit and the thing that struck me was that you could not leave in between round, you were not allowed to leave in between round. And then he just kind of built it up as that it was going to be the word he used, the word (Inaudible 12:59) something and that he was (Inaudible) conscious all to altering experience. And later I might get uncomfortable and then it was that we just needed to stay in there.

Interviewer: And you needed to stay in and --

Respondent: For the full time.

Interviewer: Okay. Anything else he said about it prior to?

Respondent: Yeah, I think it was I can't recall off the top of my head, I know what will happen is I will hang up and then I will try to think of --

Interviewer: When we hang up, you will have not only my number but I will give you my e-mail address so if there are something specific that maybe we miss, you can email it to me, okay?

Respondent: Okay.

Interviewer: So okay that's the description now, that was during some classroom and before the classroom work that morning, what took place?

Respondent: During the morning time, we had breakfast.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And over the breakfast, while they said that "the food was vegetarian there were eggs at breakfast" and in fact I think there was like even many of the meals there were hot boiled eggs there also. So it wasn't truly what I would consider like being a vegetarian type because you could get proteins from eggs.

Interviewer: Right, so there was a limited amount of protein?

Respondent: Correct.

Interviewer: What was said about hydrating, drinking, what was offered for fluids and --

Respondent: Well you are responsible for your own water. There was a fresh well on the site and we were encouraged to hydrate as much as possible. We were also encouraged to take the backpack package, they gave us the backpack package when we arrived. There was a one or two pound bag of I think sea salt and we were supposed to take a teaspoon of that every day.

Interviewer: Okay, and did you do that?

Respondent: Yes I did.

Interviewer: Okay, now, prior to coming to breakfast, where had you been?

Respondent: We were on I guess what he called it a Vision Quest and that was where they took us out into the, it was probably not more than a half a mile away, they made it seem like they were going to put us out in the desert but it really wasn't that far away, it was probably a half a mile, not more than a mile away. And each person was sat alone in solitary confinement and you were to construct something that he called a medicine, basically a circle that's maybe six feet in diameter.

Interviewer: Had you ever heard of a medicine wheel before then?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay. And what was the purpose, how long were you there, what did you have with you?

Respondent: We were taken out the night before so we spent, and it was probably fairly late so we spent one night, a full day, the following night and then the next morning we came back and that's when we ate breakfast prior to going to the sweat lodge.

Interviewer: And what did you have with you?

Respondent: I had just the cloths on my back, a backpack, a sleeping bag and then writing instruments and journals and I think that was about it. We weren't allowed any water or food.

Interviewer: Okay, and what was the purpose of being out there for 36-40 hours?

Respondent: It was actually some specific instruction in essence to create a vision, kind of like a life vision.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And then writing exercises around that. I have got some specific instructions that I don't have those with me right at the moment but I do have some of

those. So you kind of went through you know each of these items that you were supposed to do while you were out there and most of them was just writing exercises.

Interviewer: Okay. So what was your take on that? How did that go for you?

Respondent: For me, it was fine and some people are fearful being out alone and I kind of don't mind it. It's kind of like I am like a lone wolf. I don't mind being out there alone. In retrospect knowing that there was that we weren't going to have water and stuff in a sweat lodge, I mean it would have been nice that I could have been hydrating the whole time missing a few meals, that's not a big trauma for me. Not having the water, in retrospect that bothers me.

Interviewer: Okay. And prior to going into being laid out into this area and left and you said it was fairly late, would that have been Tuesday night?

Respondent: I think so.

Interviewer: The rest of Tuesday night, Wednesday, all Wednesday night and then brought back Thursday morning.

Respondent: Yeah, I think that's how the timeline was.

Interviewer: Okay. Prior to that, what was the group doing?

Respondent: Okay now this is where it gets a little bit foggy because there was two events and I can't recall what order they went in. I think that the next one was again that he called the Samurai game because it was two kind of event type of things it was the Samurai game and there was some what he called Breathwork, and I can't remember specifically which order which one was the next one back. I think it was the Samurai game.

Interviewer: And what was that like?

Respondent: That was a game where the participants were split up into two groups and they were to choose their leader, I think he called that a Daimio and then they were to choose someone who would act as what he called a priest.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And then another person that they classified as a Ninja.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And then there were some specific rules around the game. Again I think I have some of those or a lot of those written down and I don't have those with me. In essence the way it was set up is his staff were all I think he called them angels of death

and he was the God so he was the God figure. So anyone violating any rule, he would point at them and say die and then they were just supposed to fall on the ground and then his helpers or angels of death would take you to another location and cover you up with a blanket. And you aren't supposed to move, if you move, you've violated another rule and another person on your team would have to be killed off.

Interviewer: And what was the purpose of this game?

Respondent: I think the purpose of the game was to test because one of the things that he always says is you show up in game how you show up in life, that you show up as you. So sort of examples if you come from a place of ego that shows up in the game, if you show up as a leader that shows up in the game, if you show up as a follower that shows up in the game, if you hide and in fear that shows up in the game. So I think the purpose of the game was to help people realize and demonstrate for them how they show up in life.

Interviewer: Okay, better understand their type of personality in what they give to the life they have chosen?

Respondent: Correct.

Interviewer: Okay. Now what about this Breathwork, what is that?

Respondent: Breathwork is something that was founded by a man named Stanislav Grof. He wrote a book on it, I think it's called The Holotropic Mind. And he used to study way back in mind-altering substances. And then when those became illegal, he really was looking for a way to open the mind and find a way to do that without using substances legal or illegal. And he in a course of his study found this Breathwork processed where some people could experience an altered state of consciousness.

Interviewer: Okay. And that was a session of part of what was being done at this event?

Respondent: Correct. And that was one of the evenings where everyone went into a large tent and it was a tent where they had done yoga and that was one of the things that every morning, except for the morning that we were out doing the medicine and the morning that we did sweat lodge, it was a tent that we always made in every morning to do yoga. So very first event of every morning, we meet you know usually around 8 o'clock or so to do yoga and you do about a half an hour of yoga before going to breakfast.

Interviewer: Okay. And this was where the Holotropic Breathing took place?

Respondent: Correct.

Interviewer: And what did you experience from that?

Respondent: My experience was a little bit altered consciousness. I had some kind of pictures come to mind about almost kind of like a little bit of a dream state and it's kind of like just going around warriors dancing around the fire. But it was pretty brief and that was about it and I drew a little picture around what I thought that I saw.

Interviewer: Okay, and it was like warriors dancing, okay. And were there any other events or any other things that took place prior to the sweat lodge that you think I should know about?

Respondent: Well one of the very first things after arriving and this is one that just popped into my mind that said everyone had opportunity to cut their hair off.

Interviewer: Okay, I heard about that, and what was the idea behind that?

Respondent: I think the context around that was around people having unhealthy attachment to things in their looks and not so for many people it hinders them from really becoming fully conscious and fully loving and fully accepting of others because of this mass that people hide behind which is like hairstyles and cloths and jewelry and "masks" that people hide behind. And this was a chance for people to read themselves off that and just experience what would be for them. Some people it was no big deal, some people it was very dramatic. It was fairly dramatic for me.

Interviewer: Oh really?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: And you went ahead and participated in having your hair shaved?

Respondent: Yeah I did it and after that at first I said oh not a big deal, do a Mohawk and I had never had my head shaved before and I said well give it a shot, you know hair grows back. And kind of after that, it just kind of bothered me after that.

Interviewer: I find that interesting that you would say that as a male and I raise two sons and (when they were little, come on, we are getting your hair buzzed, hair cut you know.

Respondent: And if I was to do it as a kid, I had at one point long curly hair and had you know Mohawk and head shaved, that's why it was really for me interesting that I had a kind of, too dramatic of a word and I was just kind of going this is, I think what came up for me was what family and friends and stuff were going to say when I got back.

Interviewer: Oh okay.

Respondent: Because people make all kinds of assumptions and so it was I think more of that than anything.

Interviewer: Okay, yeah I can understand that definitely, I can understand that.

Respondent: Especially, being in a police life, I have friends that are [REDACTED] Police Officers and there is a healthy camaraderie and you know for lack of a better word the guys tease each other about stuff and so I can imagine that if a guy came in with his hair buzzed who had fairly long hair although I can't imagine anyone in the police department having long hair, but you know came in with his head shaved ribbing he would get from other guys and women in the department --

Interviewer: Yeah. I can see women a little more, although being in law enforcement I have had my hair different lengths and tied it up or cut it off pretty short, to actually shave it though would probably be kind of an interesting experience.

Respondent: Yeah, (Inaudible 30:14) do we have any interview, you're okay.

Interviewer: So all right, any other interesting things that occurred during that week?

Respondent: Let me think. Let's see. Well I think throughout the event, he talked about your, and I don't have an exact quote but the jest of it was you may have a chance to die.

Interviewer: Okay, in what context?

Respondent: I guess the context in that kind of like with nature and say trees, like leaves have to die before new leaves can grow. Something has to die for something new to emerge.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And I guess it's around breakthrough and I think one of the things that I wrote down that he was talking about is he said something that if you don't die, when you are pushing your threshold, you break through and reorganize at a higher capability and capacity.

Interviewer: Okay. Are you ready to talk about the sweat lodge?

Respondent: Sure.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So we were supposed to meet down there and so we went down there. People were encouraged to wear just the swimming suits, very light clothing. Let me backtrack. One of the things in the begging, the Samurai game, as people were getting killed off, your team is doing really down, I was one of the last people that was left. And the part of the game was one of the people that weren't killed off by the ninja and how you were killed off by the ninja is the ninja is supposed to be invisible, so if you looked at him in the eyes and you were killed off, you were dead. The people that were left, the Daimio or the leader of each side had to pick a Samurai to go to battle and so you

would go to battle so each one would pick a person and then the person would go over and pick a competitor to go against and their leader had to okay it. And if their leader okayed then you went to the middle of that room and then he had several different types of competitions. One was like I guess an egg on a spoon I think was one of them. One of them was drinking a glass of water. The fastest you drink a glass of water down and set it down. Another one I think was standing on one foot you know balancing on one foot. Another was holding up books. And so I was chosen as a warrior and I went up and I went to battle holding the books and I lost. And then when I lost I kind of pulled sometime a bit my shoulder. And then so I was killed off and then they took me back and put a blanket over me and you know I didn't move until the end of the game.

Interviewer: Okay. And what happened next?

Respondent: So now back to the sweat lodge, so we came down and first I had to stand in line to be sagged and I guess it's a Native American ritual to read people off negative energy or something.

Interviewer: So that's what the sage was used for that was in the rock.

Respondent: Correct. So they walk down, you hold that in your harms and the sage is one side of you and then you turn around, the sage is the other side of you and then you are done and then you kind of go to the next area. And so then once we were safe, everyone had their water bottles with them but they weren't allowed to take them into the sweat lodge, you just put them out on a table. And then once you were done with that and everyone circled up around a fire that was outside and away from the sweat lodge. And the process there was we were to bring with us actually, it brings up another one of the processes that we were doing, it was something he called recapitulation.

Interviewer: Recapitulation, okay.

Respondent: And then you start out writing and you know it's kind of like free writing, whatever comes to mind and the first thing that you were supposed to start writing about was all of the people that you have had sex with. So you just start writing and you know I guess lots of detail that I can recall and you just start writing. And you don't limit yourself but you just start writing you kind of go off on a tangent that you just keep going and you just write, write and write and that was one of the things that was, one of the hallmarks of it is that you were supposed to, I think not the very first night that we arrived but the following night, once we were given that recapitulation assignment, that writing assignment, you were supposed to just keep writing and not stop, just keep writing, writing and writing. And you were supposed to stay up as long as you possibly could that night. And one of the things that we were encouraged to do is that do what he called play full on and that meant if he told you to do something, you were supposed to do it. He said to extent that you didn't do it was the extent you were not playing full on and not getting the full value of the weekend. And the extent to what you would not be able to realize that the things that you wanted to have in your life. So I was up all night that first night of recapitulation. And then again the following night again you were

encouraged to just keep writing recapitulation. So, the second night I was up all night again up until I would say 5:30 in the morning. And so then you were supposed to bring all of those pages of recapitulation with you and those we were going to burn in the fire. So I must have 60 to 75 handwritten pages that I brought with me.

Interviewer: Okay so you brought them with you?

Respondent: I brought those and a rock but a rock that we were supposed to bring with us and that was supposed to be kind of like our spiritual rock and so you were supposed to bring the recapitulation papers, the rock and your water.

Interviewer: Now this rock, was it a regular size rock or a small rock or --

Respondent: It was your choice, whatever rock that you wanted that seemed to fit you, so whether it was a large rock or small rock. Mine was a small rock so I could hold it in the palm of my hand.

Interviewer: All right and all of those were placed into that fire?

Respondent: Correct.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: There was another thing that we were supposed to bring with us and actually this takes me back to the medicine wheel, one of the things that we were supposed to create in a medicine wheel were these pouches, I want to think that we were instructed to bring with us was like a packet of chewing tobacco. And one of the exercises was we were supposed to bring about 6 feet of string, 7 pieces of fabric that was 3"x3" in size. And then chewing tobacco, the packet of tobacco, I can't remember if it was specifically chewing tobacco or just tobacco but it was tobacco. And you were to create 7 of these pouches and then there was a process that we were supposed to go step by step. And like I said that was written out for us and I don't have that with me but it was kind of detailed step by step on how you create those patches. So you would create one and then and you would tie it off and then you would face another direction and go through that process once you have all 7 pouches created.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And we were to bring that with us as well to sweat lodge.

Interviewer: Okay. And what was going to be done with those because we found a bunch of those?

Respondent: Yeah, those you hung up above you in the sweat lodge and those were more of like a spiritual release kind of thing. And then I think the reason why you found so

many because I think it seems like I recall, after the sweat lodge was done, I think we were going to take those out and burn those in the fire, but no one made it that far.

Interviewer: Yeah obviously.

Respondent: So I think that's kind of why you found a bunch of them.

Interviewer: Okay. All right, so you guys have been sagged, you've burnt your papers. What did you do with the rock?

Respondent: The rock was you were to hold that in your hand at various times during the week to help kind of let that energy flow into that rock. It looks like it's how it was being used and then you would let them go by throwing the rock in the fire.

Interviewer: Okay. Now you said you were given instructions about how to enter.

Respondent: Yeah, in fact he was very, very adamant about how everyone had to enter the lodge. There was one entrance and you were to enter the lodge and enter in a clockwise motion meaning you would go the left and circle around in a clockwise motion and it would fill the back row first and you would scooch up real close to the next person until it's filled all the way around outside ring. And then the next person would go again in a clockwise motion all the way around up to the point which not in front of James because James was the first, he was the controller of the door, so he was the very first person and so that there was a clean lane for him to go back and forth to the fire to the tent where the hot rocks were. So the first person in the center ring would go up to the point one person or a little more than one person to keep that lane open and then you would fill up the rest of the way around.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And he was very adamant that if you didn't go in that way or if you did not exit that way, then that was, I forgot, something stronger than it was dishonoring the lodge, dishonoring the process --

Interviewer: Was the word you heard sacrilegious?

Respondent: I don't recall hearing sacrilegious because at least from my perspective it wasn't really a denominational kind of religious thing, it was disrespectful to the site.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: But it very strongly very strongly worded that you were not allowed to do that, the same as if you were not allowed to leave in between rounds.

Interviewer: Okay. What was your position when you went in? where were you?

Respondent: I was about a fourth or fifth person from James so I would have been on James's right.

Interviewer: You are talking James Ray or James Shore?

Respondent: James Ray.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So James Ray then I think it was his assistant Megan and then his personal assistant Taylor and then I think it was his production the guy in-charge of his audio visual and I think it was me after that.

Interviewer: And is that Greg or Aaron?

Respondent: Aaron was on the opposite side of the door.

Interviewer: Okay, was it Josh?

Respondent: No Josh was probably halfway or 2/3rds of the way around from where we were.

Interviewer: Okay so that leaves --

Respondent: Aside from those people he stays in either one of his helpers or Josh in each of the, like the west/south/north/east and I can't remember what direction the door faced but each of the other three directions, like due west, due east, due north or whatever, he had positioned one of his staff members.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Or one of the helpers that were present there.

Interviewer: Okay. So tell me what it was like, tell me what you experienced.

Respondent: It was very uncomfortable. It was actually very hot. So when after everyone was in there, we were already sweating I mean they hadn't even brought any rocks and we were already sweating. And then he started bringing in rocks and I can't remember the counts whether it was 7 or 8 rocks you know and it was definitely a bunch of rocks that was brought in. And as I recall, the first one was probably 7 or 8 rocks and they were white hot, red or white hot and they were really, really hot. And they brought each of those in and you chant hello grandfather or something like that which was you know a greeting for the rocks coming in. And then once the rocks were all in the pit then he closed the door and then poured some water, put water on the rocks which created a lot of steam. So once it was closed, you could really feel the intense heat. And

then when the water was gone, it was really hot I mean you could just feel the steam roll on to you.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And then you would do some chanting or they would call it some kind of chanting I don't remember the exact words but you know each round had chanting or singing. And I didn't have a watch so I don't know how long each round lasted it seemed like forever but it may have been 15 or 20 minutes per round. Then he would open the door and then they would bring in more rocks and then he would close it and it was kind of the same thing. And so then we went through several rounds and then people started to get uncomfortable. I don't recall the first round where someone actually exited, but someone exited you know maybe in the third or fourth round.

Interviewer: Would you be surprised to know someone actually left after the first?

Respondent: Yeah, I would, I didn't realize that.

Interviewer: Okay yeah someone --

Respondent: I know that people right away were complaining.

Interviewer: What were you hearing other than James Ray?

Respondent: Some people were you know chanting along and in between people were just complaining that it's hot and I can't stand it in here and it was comments like that. And then James would yell out you know you are more than that and then he say all the time you know no one could stick with (Inaudible 49:58). When it got to the point where people started wanting to leave in between round and it was pitch black, it was one of the things that you couldn't see anything, it was pitch black. Then it got to the point where people were wanting to leave in between rounds and he is like you know no one is allowed to leave in between rounds, sit down. And he would say you know you are more than that, other people would yell out and you are more than that.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So then people started again to get really uncomfortable and then you know it kind of went around after round and then some people had started to lay down. Then his assistant Greg left and I remember that was a big deal because he was really adamant about Greg not leaving and the door opened and he was just like sir I've got to get out of here, so he went out. Then he came back in.

Interviewer: Do you know what round it was Greg left?

Respondent: It seemed like maybe the third or fourth round.

Interviewer: And did he come right back or was it a round went by and he came back?

Respondent: I think he was out for at least a round because toward the end I remember James saying it was near the end and he was going to have Greg stay an extra round because he had missed the round.

Interviewer: Oh really?

Respondent: So it could be honorable, he was going to have him stay an extra round.

Interviewer: And at what point was that?

Respondent: That was near the end.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Because then people started passing out and this person passed out and I remember thinking why is it no urgency to get these people out of here, they are passing out. And so then when it opened and they had someone come in and Aaron I think helped several people out. And so at one point Lou needed to get out and I think he was trying to get out and fell on the fire and burned himself.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And I remember just, I think I can't believe he is putting more heat on this just because it's so miserable in here and it just seemed to be too much. But I remember you know I think you know I am uncomfortable and I am feeling a little weak till the end and then it got to the point where you know several people had passed out and I remember saying I need to get out of here and several people saying we need to get out of here and him saying no one is leaving until these people get out of there, until these people are helped out of here. And there was a way that you had to leave. So for example since James went in first so the first people that went in were the first people that were next to the door. Those were the last people that were allowed to leave. So I remember some of the people ended up leaving and they were in center and then said they were carrying people out. I don't know how many people at that point they had to carry out, had it been somewhere between three and five people that had been carried out at that point.

Interviewer: And this was at the end when it's over.

Respondent: Yeah this was right at the end. And I don't know technically "if it was over" because at that point it was getting fairly chaotic. And then I remember them carrying the people out and then saying you know I need to get out of here and then the door closed and it was completely black. And I just remember you know James saying you are more than that and people saying you are more than that. And then trying to find

my way out and not being able to find my way out because it was pitch black and that seems like that must have been what I passed out. That's the last thing that I remember.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: I remember I would say I've got to get out of here and just remember that no one can leave in between rounds and I remember you know you are more than that and then I remember trying to find my way and then that was the last thing I remember.

Interviewer: Okay. And what's the next thing you remember when you came to?

Respondent: I was in the hospital, I mean it was a couple of days later.

Interviewer: Oh so you don't recall who was around you or how you got out of the tent?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay. Have you talked to anybody that told you what they saw about you and what was going on?

Respondent: No. In fact I have purposely not really been talking to anyone. I have spoken a little bit to Lisa but one of the things that I noticed that after that happened for example James had created or his staff had created a conference call for the participants only and it was for people that kind of shared their feelings and closure, I guess some type of closure to the event. And he would say that at the beginning of the call there would be no specifics about what transpired, it was just an opportunity for people to share their feelings and have some closure. And so I got on a call but I didn't say anything I just listened. And then the following day someone that was on the call apparently divulged a transcript and put it online and you know made a bunch of comments. And Lisa had mentioned that she had spoken to a group that she talks to and she had mentioned something that happened and that one of the people of that group went on the news and was saying I just really haven't been saying much to anyone because no one seems to be able to keep their mouth shut especially people that don't know anything.

Interviewer: Right.

Respondent: So I really haven't been speaking much about it at all. I really haven't spoken about any of the specifics about what happened and really to anyone that I can call.

Interviewer: You know that's probably better for you and it's going to be better for us to try and figure out what happened but it seems like a lot of people feel too that they need to talk to the press and the media and we of course can't prevent that. But I am glad that you have stuck with just saying okay I am going to stick with this and I am going to wait and then find out at some point. I am sure you do want to know what happened at some point. So how are you feeling now?

Respondent: I am feeling better, I am getting better. I had an appointment with the doctor. I had a friend who is an ear, nose and throat surgeon in [REDACTED] and I spoke to him. And he knows my financial situation because I am currently unemployed and I have no insurance. And so I am freaking out, I am just like scared to death. And so being a good friend, he set me up with an internist that's in his practice to be able to see me and they were going to work with me on the cost. And so I saw her, I think it was on Tuesday for the kind of lingering stuff that's happening, some of the lingering stuff, my head is ringing and I get headaches and I have no taste for food.

Interviewer: Oh my Gosh.

Respondent: I have very little to no smell, some aches and pains around were like my kidneys so they did some blood work to make sure my kidneys are, I am sure you guys can get reports from the doctors and apparently being admitted in a coma with seizures and with respiratory failure and renal failure and when having seizures. So the doctor said based on what that stuff was, in her opinion she said it obviously could be anything, a combination of heat, lack of oxygen, it could be a combination of dehydration, it could be that when I passed out I got a concussion. So it's really hard to tell and my toxicology was all clean. I have don't drugs so all that stuff was clean, so she said obviously there was nothing like that that contributed, just the environment that we were all in.

Interviewer: Right, and that was the other thing I was going to ask you, is there a fax number, what we need is yes you signed a medical release for Detective Edgerton when she was at the hospital but considering the state you were in at that time, that might not be a valid signature. We would like one now when you are better, you are able to consciously release those records to us for our case. Would you be willing to do that?

Respondent: Yeah, see I don't remember talking to someone or I don't remember signing anything and talking to anyone until probably a couple of days later.

Interviewer: Okay. But now that we have gone through what you remember I have some questions I need to ask specifically, okay. How did you learn about James Ray?

Respondent: A friend of mine actually invited me over to their house and we watched this movie The Secret and he was one of the people that was one of the "teachers" that was featured in The Secret. And so we watched that and there was a group of us that watched it together. And then we had heard or someone like I can't remember who it was said at some point later that he was doing a free event and I think it was called Attracting the Life You Want or something, I can't remember the specific. And so we went to this free event.

Interviewer: When was that?

Respondent: That was I would say approximately three to three and a half years ago or so.

Interviewer: Okay. How many of James Ray's events have you attended?

Respondent: I would say five or six.

Interviewer: Do you recall the names of those that you have been to?

Respondent: Yeah, Harmonic Wealth, Creating Absolute Wealth, Practical Mysticism, Quantum Leap, Modern Magick and then this one Spiritual Warrior. So what happened was when I went to that free event then he had a special where you could buy a package of the event and so I signed up for the package of the event at that event which included this event. So like there were media reports out there that people paid \$19,000 for that event, I didn't I mean when it comes down to it dividing all of the events, I may have spent 500 bucks or 900 bucks on the event.

Interviewer: So because you bought the package, it was about \$500.

Respondent: Yeah, it was between \$500 and the \$1000 --

Interviewer: Per event.

Respondent: That's for this particular event. It's one of the things that last year their policy on the event is you have to, if you can't go to an event especially like this particular one, you have to let them know more than 60 days in advance and then you have one year to attend the event, otherwise you lose it completely. And so when last year I wasn't able to go and so I was looking at the possibility of selling my seat in the event and they don't allow you to do that, the reason was like because I bought it as a package and the way it's divided out and maybe I spent 1000 bucks for it and then the going rate now he charges at \$9,000. So I think they didn't want me to be able to "profit" like if I sold it for \$9,000 and I would make some money on it. So you would sell your credits and I guess my credits are amounted to somewhere around at \$1,000. So then if I sold it to someone, it would credit for somewhere around \$1,000 and then they would have to pay up the additional \$8,000 or whatever the difference was for (Inaudible 1:05:15). I think it was probably between \$500 and \$1,000.

Interviewer: Okay. Have you ever been in a sweat lodge before?

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: That was probably six or seven years ago.

Interviewer: Okay, how was it different from this one?

Respondent: You could leave anytime you wanted because I wouldn't say that I have claustrophobia, I am just uncomfortable in closed spaces. So like I have friend that have saunas at their house and that (Inaudible) any kind of heat stuff makes me very uncomfortable. Before I went in and I am like I don't like this. I left after 30 seconds, like I don't like this, I am out of there and I am like it was no big deal, okay you know whatever works for you. The other thing that I know is it wasn't as hot, the larger structure, the feeling was higher and it wasn't as hot, I mean when James put the water on those rocks to make that steam, it felt like I was suffocating, like I couldn't breathe.

Interviewer: How come you didn't leave sooner out of this one when the door did come open?

Respondent: So what I ended up doing is I was wearing a tank top and I put the tank top over my mouth so I didn't feel like I was suffocating and because I was sweating so much it was kind of wet so it was kind of cool the air going into my mouth. So I was uncomfortable but it wasn't like at least initially that I felt like I was in trouble.

Interviewer: Okay. And when the door would open, did you feel any type of airflow?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: No, I didn't and I was close to the door and I was surprised because I thought that when it opened I would feel this rush of cold air and it was kind of like I was looking forward to that and I really didn't notice a rush of cold air.

Interviewer: No change then.

Respondent: Little change if any, I wouldn't say no change but I would say little change.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you hear anyone talk or make assurances that personnel conducting or building the sweat lodge were specifically trained or experts?

Respondent: It seemed like that was mentioned that he specifically got someone that was an expert or that had done this before was an expert in Native American lodges and that he would hand up and I could have sworn he said it was built to his specifications because everything is done exactly how he wants it done.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you feel prior to entering that sweat lodge that it was going to be safe?

Respondent: Yeah, I mean I was trusting that he knew what he was doing and that he had done it before and that this was going to be a wonderful experience.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you ever move to a different location while you were in there?

Respondent: No, I couldn't because we were packed in tight enough that there was no way to really move around. It was someone directly to my left, directly to my right and directly in front of me and then the structure was directly behind me.

Interviewer: Okay. What quantities of liquids did you consume prior to the sweat lodge?

Respondent: I was drinking water constantly so it's hard to estimate, I was drinking water constantly.

Interviewer: Stephen, did you feel dehydrated before you went in?

Respondent: No I felt great.

Interviewer: Okay. And what did you eat?

Respondent: Well, we were instructed to not eat lunch because he said that you know by eating lunch you would you might get sick, and he didn't want people getting sick in there. So it was breakfast so I had the scrambled eggs and whatever the vegetable stuff was that they were serving.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you know what to expect from the Vision Quest?

Respondent: No, not really because all we knew was that we were going to be out there and that we were going to be doing these exercises. I really didn't know what to expect other than I was just going to be out there alone until I came back and picked this up, because they didn't say when they were going to pick us up, they just said you know we will pick you up at some point.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you know what to expect from the sweat lodge?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: What if anything was discussed for safety procedures if there was a problem inside the sweat lodge?

Respondent: Zero, absolutely zero, that's one of the reasons I am angry about the situation.

Interviewer: You know I couldn't tell, I kind of would give little hints but I couldn't tell whether you were or weren't.

Respondent: That's the one thing that, in my opinion everything it was a complete lack of care for the participants.

Interviewer: You know that's kind of my next question. Did anyone tell you what to expect from the sweat lodge and how to respond to any reactions you might have?

Respondent: No, he just said just stay in there and go through the whole experience. He did say you might be in an altered state but I don't know what that means.

Interviewer: Did he ever say well if you went to an altered state or if you passed out, was anyone going to care for you, was anyone going to help you?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: The only thing that was said was once it's completed, you will go out and you will get hosed down with cold water.

Interviewer: And did he say the purpose of that was?

Respondent: He didn't say anything that I can recall.

Interviewer: Okay. And who did the majority of the speaking during the ceremony?

Respondent: James Ray.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you ever hear him addressing anyone outside the lodge?

Respondent: Yes. As I recall, the only addressing outside the lodge was to bring in more rocks, more hot rocks and more water.

Interviewer: Did you ever hear him speak to anyone that had left the lodge?

Respondent: Yeah telling them to come back in.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And again it was that mantra, you know you're more than that, play full on, that's what he always said play full on. So he was encouraging the people that had left to come back in and several of them did come back in.

Interviewer: Okay. Did anyone that you saw leave the lodge other than through the door?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay. Would you be surprised if I told you someone did?

Respondent: Yeah I will be shocked.

Interviewer: Yeah someone did.

Respondent: Because it didn't seem like at least where I was sitting, it seemed like at least where I was at, it was fairly heavily weighted down so it didn't look like if there was any other way out. That was one of the things that I am angry about that so many people were passing out and it was such a lack of air for the people that if you got one person passed out, that's one thing but when you have multiple people passing out, I mean commonsense would say okay if something is going horribly wrong, let's pull the eject button or something.

Interviewer: Right, let's fix that.

Respondent: Yeah, let's do something.

Interviewer: Who if anyone did you hear say they were having problems?

Respondent: It seemed like lots of people and because it was pitch black I couldn't see the face other than Greg because Greg was identified and Lou who was identified, because I don't think that the people that were and I can't recall it seemed like they would say that someone just passed out next to me or so and so has passed out and I can't remember the names, there were so many people that passed out.

Interviewer: And when that was said, how was it addressed by James or any other staff?

Respondent: There was absolutely no lack of urgency, I mean it was like okay, just keep going.

Interviewer: Okay. That answers how it was reacted to. Did you fill out any medical forms or answer any health questions?

Respondent: You mean at the event?

Interviewer: Yeah for the event.

Respondent: I filled out some release forms and it seemed like there was a question asking if I had any medical issues but it didn't seem like it was a complete health form like do you have this, this, this, like you would normally fill out for if you are going to the doctor where they are asking if you have heart problems or kidney problems or any of those type of problems.

Interviewer: Okay. And Stephen, are you a healthy person?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. So you never had any health issues prior to this really?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay. And I don't know if I have your birth date. How old are you?

Respondent: I am 46, [REDACTED].

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: I have been an athlete pretty much all my life so I stay in fairly good shape. So I am --

Interviewer: You enjoy sn active life?

Respondent: Correct, and I've studied martial arts my whole life.

Interviewer: Okay. So you have stayed pretty healthy. What symptoms are you still having?

Respondent: My head is ringing. I have periodic headaches that come and go, moderate to a little bit severe, not severe like a migraines, so light to moderate. Pains in kind of my kidneys would get like stabbing pain, it just feels like someone is stabbing with an ice stick in my kidney and then kind of just lingering pain in my kidneys. No taste.

Interviewer: No smell you said.

Respondent: No, those are two biggies because there is just like no food, taste of food, or very little taste of food.

Interviewer: That's got to be frustrating.

Respondent: It's great for weight loss. I went in there about somewhere around 180 and 185 and when they weighed me at a doctor on Tuesday, I think it was 166.

Interviewer: But how tall are you?

Respondent: I am 5"10'.

Interviewer: So I see that's still thin. Do you remember anyone saying something about a flashlight or light coming into the lodge other than from the door?

Respondent: I don't recall that. It seems like I remember someone saying that someone had a flashlight.

Interviewer: Yeah, that was a question about, someone thought there was, well a corner of the tent was lifted up from the outside. Was there anyone inside when you left, you are not going to know that because you don't remember how you got out?

Respondent: No. but it seemed like I was near the end because they said the way it was designed for people to leave, I would have been literally the last participant to leave before his staff. But I don't know timeline wise, if there was more people in there, I don't know.

Interviewer: Did you hear anyone say something about having a heart attack or thinking they were going to die?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Was that inside, outside or both?

Respondent: I think it was both. It seemed like I heard someone saying I can't breathe and something to that effect, something about my heart, but I don't remember the exact specifics of what they said. And I would say probably not outside because I don't remember anything from outside until I was in the 1:19:21) hospital.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you hear anyone say something like it's a good day to die?

Respondent: Yeah, James said that.

Interviewer: Okay. And was that in the context of giving up things or was this an answer to people thinking they were dying?

Respondent: I think it was in the context of giving up things..

Interviewer: Okay. And I don't guess you were in on this one, but do you remember how James Ray was reacting or responding to people who were in distress?

Respondent: No, because I don't remember anything aside from what was inside. Now I did have a vision inside that, I don't know it was like one of the last things that I remember. It might have been as I passed out or something I remember thinking I was being water boarded.

Interviewer: And what's water boarded?

Respondent: Water boarded is where someone puts you in on again a tub and then sprays water. It makes you feel like you are drowning. And I think I made a comment to someone that I thought that Lisa was water boarding and I don't where that came from because it may have been a halucination I don't know. But that was one thing I remember mentioning, I know I mentioned it to Lisa.

Interviewer: And what kept you in the lodge longer? What kept you from getting up and just leaving sooner?

Respondent: Trusting what James was saying that we were going to be safe and that he had so much experience in doing this before and that by playing full on that we would get the maximum benefit from the exercise.

Interviewer: Okay. Was the phrase like "you might think you are going to die but you are not going to die" ever heard?

Respondent: Yeah I think I remember hearing that.

Interviewer: And do you know who might have said that?

Respondent: Well James.

Interviewer: James?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Has anyone talked to you about what to say if you speak to law enforcement?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay. Did James Ray or anyone else tell you what his qualifications were for running a sweat lodge?

Respondent: Let's see. Well, yeah he made it sound like that he had done it many times before, that he had some type of training and that he knew exactly what he was doing. That's probably part of the reason I stayed in there because I was trusting that he knew what he was doing and that nothing was going to go wrong.

Interviewer: Okay. I know we have talked a lot about that entire week in detail. Is there anything that has come to mind that you think is important for me to know?

Respondent: Let's see. It just seemed like a lot of the weekend was really focused around death that it was really, things that we were there for things in us to die. So there seemed to be a lot, that really a large context was around death and that kind of context.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Again like I said, and I think initially when I wasn't talking to people part of it was, the stuff that you know what people blabbing but also I think I really didn't want to talk to anyone while I was real angry because I was really angry after, because I felt helpless and I wasn't able to help anyone. I felt like people needed help and they weren't getting the help that they needed and I felt helpless to help them.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And so it brought up a lot of anger with me because there just sure seemed to be a real lack of care for the participants. It was like more about him having to mention, because people had mentioned that they'd been at other sweat lodges and he's like no, you haven't been in a sweat lodge until you've been through my sweat lodge because no sweat lodge can measure up to my sweat lodge. It was almost like putting people down. And so what really hit me it seemed to me that it was more about his ego than safety of his participants, that he jeopardized the safety of his participants because of his ego and his perception of what the sweat lodge should be.

Interviewer: And by his ego, whose ego are we talking about?

Respondent: James Ray.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: That his incorrect perception of what a sweat lodge should be cost people their lives.

Interviewer: And you just prompted me to question that somehow I had skipped over. I need to know what you think happened that resulted in first your horrific injuries and the deaths of three people.

Respondent: I think that improper safety precautions. Okay let be backtrack. I think that the sweat lodge was improperly constructed. I think that there was inadequate knowledge of what happens to people when they are subjected to heat. And so people were not prepared properly as in people were just running in warm weather they tell you make sure you hydrate while you exercise, that it was improper preparation that in the sense that people not being able to bring water in, people not being able to have access to water. I think there was improper preparation and we searched down as to what subjecting human beings of all different ages and health and conditions to heat for, how long when that is unhealthy, I think that there were improper safety procedures and emergency plans about what to do if something went wrong. Most places you have to have an exit so people can find their way out if something goes wrong or some type of light. So I just think that it was lack of preparation. I have had experience with him because I had volunteered for some of these events. He doesn't like to spend money. So in my humble opinion, that he did not spend the money to have any type of medical staff there in case something went wrong. Most places that I go, in the past I have gone to different types of events and it had automatic electronic defibrillators there. They've had medical, each time there was any type of thing where people are going to be deserting themselves, they've had staff and equipment there for an emergency and I think that his greed prevented him from he didn't because he didn't spend the money to have any equipment or any trained personnel there.

Interviewer: Okay, anything else?

Respondent: And I think he just, I just think it was just lack of care for the participants.

Interviewer: Okay. You know I have heard a lot of frustrations from a number of the male participants that I have spoken with in regards to you know once they helped someone out and they looked back and they saw more and they just physically could not go back in and get other people out, I have heard a lot frustrations that it came down to the participants taking care of each other for the most part. And I can really empathize with you on that. Do you have any questions for me, Stephen?

Respondent: Is it going to be any type of transcript of the questions and answers that I can have? I haven't yet decided what recourse I plan to take, because I am not like the type that wants to chase ambulances kind of thing. However, not having insurance that hospital people told me that my hospital bill since I was there in intensive care for so long that could reach into the six figure range, so I am scared to death because I don't have a job and in essence, almost used all my savings and stuff. So I have spoken with an attorney but I haven't retained him yet and he is going to send a strongly-worded letter with the bills to James Ray requesting payment. But just that I get a transcript of the question and the answers.

Interviewer: Okay. Right now we are keeping this as closed as we can, so anything you see on the press and stuff is not coming from us. We are in the process of completing an investigation and thoroughly examining everything that was out there, everything that we would obtain through search warrants, to examine the procedures that took place because bottom line, our job as detectives is we want to figure out why three people died and so many people got sick at an event and find out who is responsible for that and hopefully bring charges. And yes, we are cooperating with the attorneys that the other families have obtained and they are going to be transcripts at some point. At this point, we are keeping everything as closed as we can just to, should we get this to the point where we are going to have a trial, my land you can imagine how much of it's still played out in the media and trying to find a jury pool blah, blah, blah. So I want you to know that yes, that's absolutely going to be available but it's not going to be available tomorrow and it will take some time. And absolutely we are working with the people that were victims of this to make sure that they get what they need. Can we provide medical cares and pay for bills? No, we can't do that but we can assist on our end in trying to prove some of the things that you have just talked to me about and that we feel is the case. But we've got to get it nailed down and there is a lot of people that are still huge James Ray supporters even after this and that's their business I suppose.

Respondent: Yeah. One of the interesting things that was brought up on that call and since it's been published, I don't think I am breaking any rules because it's been put on the Internet. One of the people, I think the name was Barb, that was on that conference call, at that point only two of the people had died, Liz hadn't yet passed away. And she made this comment that oh you know they were off and they were having so much fun playing in this other place that they just didn't want to come back. And it made me so angry that to put such a little value on people's life that it made me really angry because I look at things from both sides that is the life side that is the spiritual side but also, I believe there

is both sides and the other side is maybe they wanted to come back and maybe they had a life to live and the families to raise and they wanted to come back and because of his negligence, their bodies were too damaged for them to come back.

Interviewer: Exactly.

Respondent: And so I hear you with that. And actually I did have two questions for you. One is and I hope it's not too long of a question for you, in a criminal investigation of this type whether it's (Inaudible) negligent homicide or negligent homicide or whatever the specific statute is, what's the burden as a law enforcement officer that you have to establish?

Interviewer: Basically from our statutes of homicide, we have four culpable mental states; intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or negligently. And those culpable mental states are based on what a reasonable person would do, not a highly trained proficient, ect., ect., ect. just a reasonable person.

Respondent: Okay.

Interviewer: But we are looking at a lot of avenues but you hit the nail on the head that this isn't intentionally or knowingly, it's not a first and second degree. We are going to be fortunate to get either reckless or negligent. And I feel it should be more but that's because I really feel like so many people trusted this person to care for them and he didn't. But I am not sure, I hope that answers your question. I have given you some of the verbiage that we in law enforcement work from, intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or negligently, and reasonable person.

Respondent: Could you just hold for just one second, I've got a phone call it would take just a second?

Interviewer: Of course.

Blank till 01:37:43

Interviewer: This is Detective Willingham.

Respondent: I am sorry. I got disconnected.

Interviewer: Well, you called right back I hadn't even realized it? The phone started ringing and I am like oh wow. Well thank you for calling back.

Respondent: Sure, and I think the other question for you was, the other reason I think that I was angry was that it's not like people haven't passed out in there before.

Interviewer: Exactly.

Respondent: Because I am starting to find out lots of stuff now and there were people that passed out last year. And so talk about not learning anything from you know what happened before and that's why it seemed like there was such an entire lack of care for the participants because if you had people passing out last year, commonsense would say okay people were getting sick, what do we need to do this year, what precautions or what do we need to do to care for these people this year in case something goes wrong and there didn't seem to be anything.

Interviewer: You are absolutely right. It seems like the opposite is what happened.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: And that's where we are fortunate. We've had a number of people from the past events in '08 and '07 calling in and talking to us. So if you know of any participants and you know we are not always able to get to them right away because we have been trying to get to people like you and the others to do the second interviews and these very specific interviews, but we feel like their information is important and we do want to know about it.. So if you know of anybody that would share their experience and what they knew from the past years, that's going to help us put this together too.

Respondent: Okay.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Great.

Interviewer: All right. Let me give you my e-mail address. Would it be okay if I have some additional questions to call you again?

Respondent: Sure.

Interviewer: Okay, are you ready?

Respondent: Yeah let me just grab my pen here. Okay I am ready.

Interviewer: Okay, it is [REDACTED] lovely government e-mail address.

Respondent: Okay. And can I read that back to you?

Interviewer: You bet.

Respondent: [REDACTED]

Interviewer: You got it, perfect.

Respondent: Okay, excellent.

Interviewer: Okay, and if you have any other questions for me, feel free to call. Matter of fact, I am still on duty through Sunday this week. So I wish you the best, I hope you get the feeling better and I do appreciate your returning my call.

Respondent: Well, thanks for your hard work on this and I am sure that it's not like a cut-and-dry kind of case where someone walks in the liquor store and you catch it on video, especially with this, one of the things that James Ray, people do what I call drinking the verbal Koolaid that's he is very, very effective communicator/manipulator.

Interviewer: Absolutely.

Respondent: And so there is a lot of people that have a lot of money and emotion invested in him are having trouble I think really seeing the truth. And so I just want to honor you for like I can imagine the hours that you are all having to put in to do a thorough investigation. I just want to thank you for all the efforts that you are putting in.

Interviewer: Even I have tell you I am one of a team that is on this. There is four others of us that have been assigned to this nonstop. So I am a team of many. So like I said, take care, if you need anything, give me a call, if I can help I will do my best.

Respondent: Excellent, okay, thank you so much.

Interviewer: All right.

Respondent: All right, anything I can do to help with, let me know. Just now that if you need me to come there, I have very limited resource --

Interviewer: Well, you know I wouldn't mind a trip, are you in [REDACTED] or you're in [REDACTED]?

Respondent: [REDACTED], but I go back and forth between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when it wants but right now I am a resident in [REDACTED].

Interviewer: Okay, can I get some updated information then from as to your address and mailing, and I know you gave me this other phone number, so could I get the new information?

Respondent: Can I email that to you because I have got --

Interviewer: Absolutely, just get it sent over to me.

Respondent: That's perfect. And like I said, thanks again so much for all of your help.

Interviewer: All right, well take care of yourself.

Respondent: Thanks, you too.

Interviewer: Bye-bye.

Respondent: Bye-bye.

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