

Expanded and Condensed Notes

During fall break I was on choir tour, so for day one I interacted with one of my peers who is a transgender woman, Edward Lofton. She, previously a “he,” is the photographer of the choir, we call her “Auntie Edna.” Before we left for the tour we just talked and joked with our peers. She loves to make others smile in her own way. Before this interaction we had already had conversations; but what always stood out was how when we ended our days of performances, she would send our pictures we took to our group chat and say encouraging words. This really helps bring in the family aspect to our choir. Because we had to leave for our tour, we had to cut our interaction short. Later that night I spent time with a gay man; this time with my friend who is homophobic. He gradually got better at communicating and being more comfortable in his own skin. We went to a mall and to Applebee’s to hang out with our friends. While at Applebee’s, we planned to have a movie night together. We the movie night, we played spades, uno, and ate some good food. On the second day, I chose to take a fast from consuming meat, social media, and television. I did this for the weekend. Many of my peers asked me if I was fasting and why. My body was able to naturally detox itself, I got better rest, and I had more energy throughout the day. What also made it easier was we ate at pork-based restaurants that day and I do not eat pork, I also try to stay away from things cooked on the same grill or surface as pork. Without the distraction of social media and television, I was able to get ample work done. It also allowed me to be able to study Yahweh (God), be focused on Him, and intimate with Him. On the third I chose to do it when I got back on campus, I interviewed a gay man, a homosexual man, and a transgender woman. I only recorded one conversation and that was with Jeremy Collins (which I will submit). I would like to elaborate on the information I gathered from the gay man, who elected to stay anonymous. He explained how he was once homeless because of his sexuality. He also stated how a church took him in unexpectedly and how they supported him. He shared that at Lane College finding others like him helped him. I want to show you the duality of the

anonymous gay man and Kamira Frazier, a transgender woman. She explained that the church shunned her and treated her as an “abomination.” She shared how it hurt her relationship with Yahweh (God), but she has gradually rekindled her relationship. I vowed to her with her intimacy with Yahweh (God), so this morning I sent her Galatians 5:22-23. I told her to read it daily and on Sunday write how she feels about it, what it says to her, and what she can take away from it. By doing this project I was blessed to get a better idea of the state of mind of people of LGBTQIA community. I have never interacted with a transgender so deeply and it broke a barrier I have been planning break, I just wanted to wait for the right time.

Appendices

My Questions

1. How has your experience at Lane been?
2. What is your sexuality? What led to that choice?
3. Did traumatic experiences influence you? If so, what experience?
4. As far as facing ignorance or prejudice, how often do you face it?
5. Have you ever compromised yourself because of how others felt about you? If so, why?
6. What have you been through in the last 5 years?
7. How is your relationship with God? Has the church hurt you?

Day 1-

Before tour interacted with a transgender woman

We did a lot of traveling

We joked a lot with our peers

He is very socially active and has a great spirit

With a gay man We planned and day to go out to eat and a movie night with our peers we went out to Applebee's

My friend who struggles with interacting with people of different sexualities did better day by day and made a new friend

We made a Group chat

We had a movie night with our friends

Day 2-

I fasted from meat, social media, and television

I can feel my body digesting more

We went to the TSU game

I actually didn't eat any packaged food

Sung at a church after

We rapped on the bus and harmonized on the bus

We went to chick fil a with some of our friends, I got a salad

I'm not full but I'm satisfied

Laughed and joked all night