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CLIENT: Park Teen Center

NAME LIKE TO BE CALLED: Papa

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WHERE DID YOU LIVE IN GHANA?

Kumasi and Accra.

TWO SEPARATE TOWNS?

Yeah.

WHERE WERE YOU BORN AT?

Kumasi

HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU LIVE THERE?

12.

12 YEARS. SO, UH, DO YOU REMEMBER A LOT?

Yeah.

IN KUBASA? KUMASA? IS THAT HOW YOU SAY IT?

Kumasi.

KUMASI, KUMASI. HOW BIG IS KUMASI?

Not, it's not (smile) really big. It's like...

IS IT AS BIG, BIG AS LINCOLN?

Um, (pause) (NO?) yeah.

YEAH IT IS, IT'S AS BIG AS LINCOLN? IS IT BIGGER THAN LINCOLN?

Nah.

NO, IT'S ABOUT THE SAME SIZE.

Yeah.

SAME SIZE AS LINCOLN. WHAT LANGUAGE IS SPOKEN THERE?

Tree.

TREE?

Tree. T-w-i.

T-W-I.

Yeah.

TREE.

Tree, tr- tree.

TREE. I DON'T, I DON'T KNOW (SMILE) I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO FORM THAT SOUND. TREE. OK. UM, WHAT FAMILY LIVED NEXT TO YOU?

My parents, and my brothers and sisters.

YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS? DID YOUR GRANDPARENTS LIVE CLOSE?

No.

HOW FAR AWAY DID THEY LIVE?

An hour drive.

ONE HOUR DRIVE?

Yeah.

OK. UM, WHAT ABOUT UNCLES AND AUNTS?

My uncle is staying with my grandma. And my aunt was in Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE? IN AMERICA?

Yeah.

UM, DID YOU HAVE ANY COUSINS?

Yeah.

WHERE DID THEY LIVE?

My uncle have two children, two boys. They live with him. And my auntie has one son who is in Milwaukee too.

MILWAUKEE TOO. SO YOUR GRANDPARENTS AND YOUR UNCLE, WITH YOUR COUSINS, LIVED ABOUT AN HOUR AWAY.

Yeah.

UM, HOW OFTEN DID YOU SEE THEM?

If my mom is going out to see them, and I will go with them. So sometimes she doesn't have time to go. So not very much.

SO, ONCE A WEEK? ONCE A MONTH?

Yeah. Like that.

JUST LIKE ONCE A... LIKE HOW OFTEN?

Like, um, (pause) once a week.

ONCE A WEEK? YEAH? UM, IF YOU WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE, IN KUMASI, HOW WOULD YOU GET THERE?

You can take a bus, a car or a plane.

OR A PLANE... WHAT DID YOU TAKE MOST OF THE TIME?

A bus.

A BUS?

(inaud) sometimes he takes a plane.

SO WHEN YOUR DAD WAS GOING ALONE, HE WOULD TAKE A PLANE?

Yeah.

OK. WHAT WAS YOUR HOUSE LIKE?

My house was big. It has a compound wall. And we play soccer inside the big compound. And sometimes my mom (inaud) inside the house (inaud). But we didn't

have a car out. Every is, the car is just inside, there is no garage.

THERE IS NO GARAGE. YOU JUST PARK IT INSIDE THE GATE.
Yeah, and close the gate. And you can play soccer there.

YOU CAN PLAY SOCCER THERE?
Yeah.

IT'S THAT BIG OF AN AREA?
Yeah.

HOW MANY ROOMS WERE IN THE HOUSE? HOW MANY BEDROOMS?
Uh, six.

SIX BEDROOMS. SO A BIG HOUSE.
And we used to have a guest room.

OH YEAH. WHAT DID YOUR ROOM LOOK LIKE?
(pause) Like up to here, room.

IT'S LIKE THE SIZE OF THIS ROOM.
Yeah.

PROBABLY LIKE 15 FEET BY 20 FEET.
Yeah.

BIG ROOM. DID YOUR HOUSE, DID YOU HAVE PICTURES ON THE WALLS OR ANYTHING?
Yeah. My mom goes to an office and brings pictures, like she brings, this was for my sister, like beauties are red, roses are blue... something like that. (YEAH) And she pasted it all over the wall.

NICE. DO YOUR PARENTS STILL TALK ABOUT GHANA?
Yeah.

WHEN THEY TELL, WHEN THEY TELL YOU THINGS ABOUT GHANA, WHAT DO THEY TELL YOU?

They tell me, like they, if I miss my friends, they remember, they, and how the house was, was the car there, was this there... And when, when, uh, when we came, my dad says maybe he'll be going back.

YOUR DAD MIGHT BE GOING BACK

Yeah. But and my dad too knows a place where he can just listening to Ghana music(?). So (inaud) playing soccer with Nigeria(?). And my dad listening to it in the computer.

HE WAS LISTENING TO THE SOCCER MATCH ON THE COMPUTER. DID GHANA WIN?

Yeah. Well four goals to one.

FOUR GOALS TO ONE.

It's on the Internet right now.

REALLY? WERE YOU GUYS EXCITED ABOUT THAT?

Yeah.

WHEN YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU STORIES ABOUT GHANA, ARE THEY MAINLY POSITIVE STORIES OR NEGATIVE STORIES?

They don't really tell us stories about Ghana. But they let us write letters to our friends in Ghana.

WHAT DO YOUR FRIENDS TELL YOU ABOUT GHANA?

Everything is easy, right. They always lie.

REALLY?

And my brothers, we wrote a letter to him and the letter came back. It said they, they didn't know that person more. So (inaud).

UMMMMMM WHAT DO YOU TELL OTHER KIDS WHEN THEY ASK YOU ABOUT GHANA?

I tell them we are people know how to play soccer. They really, really, really like soccer and you can go outside, you see any miles(?) dark(?) all over the place. Nobody cares.

And people outside talking, doing anything they want.

SO IT'S JUST A LOT OF PEOPLE HANGING OUT OUTSIDE?

Yeah.

AND YOU ABSOLUTELY LOVE SOCCER.

Yeah.

SOCCER IS A BIG SPORT THERE. ARE THERE ANY OTHER SPORTS THERE?

Um, yeah. Um, girls play volleyball, basketball, soccer, basketball... But not really much (inaud) soccer. So (inaud) there is soccer (inaud) or before, everybody is going there. But I'll just stay home, watch it on the television.

YEAH. (PAUSE) WHY DO YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU THAT THEY WANTED TO COME TO AMERICA?

My mom got a (inaud). And in University of Nebraska (inaud) she should come. She was qualified to come to school here at the University of Nebraska. So when she came she says she gonna come back so we should come.

SO YOUR MOM CAME HERE TO GO TO SCHOOL

Yeah.

AND THEN EVERYBODY ELSE CAME OVER WITH HER?

Yeah.

SO, UH, WHEN YOU GUYS, WHAT DID YOU GUYS DO TO PREPARE TO COME OVER HERE?

We said good bye to our friends, pack our things. And I gave all my things to my friends, the one I don't need. And I, it was a bag was full of, the rest I gave to my friends. And I said I'm going, maybe I'll be back. And they were upset. And we were having soccer balls and my dad was the coach, he teaches his student how to play soccer, the soccer was, they give the soccer ball to the school. He has a school too, and some of the ball he gives to my friends.

SO YOUR BAGS WERE TOO FULL, SO YOU GAVE STUFF TO YOUR FRIENDS.

Yeah.

DID THEY LIKE THAT?

Yeah.

I BET THEY DID. WHAT DID YOU KNOW ABOUT AMERICAN BEFORE YOU CAME HERE?

I knew it snows. And they don't really like soccer. My, my, my dad told me that in America they like football. That's what I know and when I came too what I saw was they did take backs to classes, your backpack. You just leave it in your locker. And you don't bring like a pencil case (inaud). In Ghana we used to take everything to class. Your backpack, your everything to class.

AND SO YOU KNEW THAT IT WOULD, IT SNOWS HERE.

Yeah.

AND THAT THEY DON'T LIKE SOCCER AS MUCH

Yeah.

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE STUFF TO CLASS.

Yeah.

WHERE DID YOU, WHERE DID YOU LEARN ABOUT AMERICA?

Watching movies.

MOVIES? AMERICAN MOVIES?

Yeah.

ON TV OR DID YOU GO TO MOVIES?

We go in (inaud) and watch them. When we're watching them we'll be seeing that they, (inaud) the boys get to school early, they (inaud) their locker, (inaud) the locker, and...

SO ON THE MOVIES THAT YOU WATCH, YOU SAW THAT THEY DIDN'T TAKE STUFF TO CLASS.

No.

THAT'S WHERE YOU LEARNED IT... IN THE MOVIES.

Yeah.

WHAT MOVIES DID YOU SEE?

I saw Harry Potter.

HARRY POTTER.

Yeah. Home Alone One, Two, Three, Four, Five. (LAUGH)

THERE IS FIVE HARRY POTTERS OR THERE IS FIVE HOME ALONES?

Yeah. That when he was, that bad guy, he wanted to kill his mom. Yeah. Yeah, that one. And plenty, we have plenty but I saw all. (inaud) my dad told me if, if (inaud) if they will come, I will buy ticket.

SO DID YOU, HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT AMERICA AFTER WATCHING THOSE MOVIES?

Happy.

HAPPY?! WHAT MADE YOU HAPPY?

I don't know. I guess I was happy.

DID YOU THINK THAT WAS A PLACE YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO?

Yeah.

YEAH? WHY?

I don't... Uh, because the clothes(?). I wanted to see how life is here and different from Ghana.

UM, DID YOU LEARN ENGLISH IN GHANA?

Yeah.

WHEN DID YOU START LEARNING ENGLISH?

In, um, when I was in Nazuri(?). That's what we call kindergarten there.

WHAT DO YOU CALL IT?

Nazurui(?).

NAZURI?

Yeah. Like where the children go and learn.

AND THAT'S WHEN YOU STARTED LEARNING ENGLISH?

Yeah. And they were teaching ABCD... They let you speak English. And if you go to, um, grade one, they be teaching you how to do math, everything, and this is (inaud) they be teaching you, teaching you.

WOW. WHAT FAMILY CAME WITH YOU FROM GHANA?

My dad. My mom was already here, so my dad, and my brothers and sisters.

HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS DO YOU HAVE?

I have three brothers and one sister.

ARE YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OLDER OR YOUNGER?

My sister is older and my brothers are younger.

SO YOU'RE THE SECOND ONE.

Yeah.

OK. UH, WHAT CITIES DID YOU LIVE IN WHEN YOU CAME TO AMERICA?

I lived in Milwaukee. And (pause) Lincoln.

AND IN LINCOLN. HOW LONG DID YOU LIVE IN MILWAUKEE?

About two nights.

TWO, TWO NIGHTS, THAT WAS IT.

Yeah.

ONLY TWO NIGHTS. SO, UM, WHY DID YOU GO TO MILWAUKEE?

When we came, my aunt lived there and stuff in Milwaukee. And my aunt was there so we went to sleep with her there. And then the first night we slept (inaud) and the second night my mom came and pick us up.

SHE DROVE UP TO MILWAUKEE?

Yeah. (FROM LINCOLN? AND THEN BROUGHT YOU GUYS HOME)

Yeah.

UH, WHAT TIME OF YEAR WAS IT?
(pause) April 31st when we came to....

IT WAS APRIL?
Yeah. When we came to America.

WAS IT COLDER THAN IT WAS IN GHANA?
Ghana, it does, it, it is not cold. It is always hot.

IT'S ALWAYS HOT IN GHANA. SO WAS IT COLD IN MILWAUKEE? DID YOU THINK
IT WAS COLD?
Yeah.

AND THEN YOU GUYS CAME TO LINCOLN.
Yeah. (OK)

OK. WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE IN GHANA?
Ghana, in Ghana, you buy your own food. You take your back to class, your books, your
everything. And they beat if you don't do this, they beat.

THEY BEAT?
Beat.

LIKE HIT?
Yeah. And...

WITH THEIR HANDS?
No, with a cane.

WITH A CANE? OH NO.
And if you come to school late, the time you came, they use that time to beat you up.
But if you came at, um, if you were supposed to come at 8, they come at 8 (inaud) you
check it and give you like either give you, if you got a 8 one, if you get one cane. Get 8
two, get you two canes.

SO IF YOU CAME AT 8:30 THEY WOULD GIVE YOU 30 CANES?
Yeah. And...

DID YOU GET A CANE?
Not really.

NO? DO THEY HURT?
Yeah!

DO THEY SPANK YOU ON YOUR BOTTOM?
Yeah. Sometimes your back.

SOMETIMES YOUR BACK. I BET THAT HURTS.
And sometimes they use a ruler to hit your hands.

UM, WHAT TIME DID SCHOOL START?
Eight.

EIGHT? WHAT TIME DID SCHOOL GET OUT?
Three.

3:00? HOW MANY DAYS DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL A WEEK?
A week? Um, (pause) we go to school Monday through Fridays.

SO...
And we change our uniforms for Monday through Thursday, we wear, wear something like yellow and black shorts. And the girls wear yellow and black skirt. And the boy and Fridays we wear white and black.

WHITE AND BLACK.
The whole school. We wear a uniform.

DID YOU LIKE WEARING A UNIFORM?

Yeah.

WHY?

Because sometimes it's, like if you are going somewhere, if you are going to school and if, if you don't know if he goes to your school or doesn't go to your school. So if you are wearing the uniform, if you are going to school and someone is late or (inaud) is going to school is late, sometimes we pick him up and take, we all go.

OH, I SEE. SO IT'S EASIER TO IDENTIFY WHO IS GOING TO SCHOOL AND WHO IS NOT.

Yeah.

HOW BIG WERE THE, HOW MANY STUDENTS WERE THERE IN ONE CLASS?

About 80 something.

80!?

Yeah.

IN ONE CLASS?

Yeah. And sometimes we all go to one room to go and worship. Like if we go to worship on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Monday to Thursday, Monday to Fridays we go to assembly.

ASSEMBLY. AND THAT'S WHERE YOU GO TO WORSHIP?

No.

NO

That's where they tell us what to do, what to not do, and if we go to worship we go to one classroom.

OK. SO HOW MANY TEACHERS WERE THERE IN ONE CLASS? IF THERE WAS 80 KIDS HOW MANY TEACHERS WERE THERE?

One.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE TEACHER?

Because they use cane if you talk, they will beat you up. So there is only one teacher.

WOW. DID A LOT OF KIDS TALK?

Yeah. (SMILE) And they will beat the whole class.

THEN, THEN THEY BEAT THE WHOLE CLASS?

And I was a prophet(?) in Ghana. We worked for prophet(?) for the whole school, so I was a dining hall prophet(?). Someone was the school prophet(?) and some were...

WHAT WAS THAT WORD? WHAT IS THAT WORD?

School prophet?).

PROF-, PROPHET?

Yeah. Like they take over the school (inaud) if they vote for you. You take over the school. And I was voted to be the dining hall profit.

THE DINING HALL. SO YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE DINING HALL?

Yeah.

AND SO WHAT DID YOU DO?

Uh, if somebody put something on the floor, I turn to pick it up and ask what food they are going to eat, do that, do that... If you, if you (inaud) on the table, you clean it and...

AND SO IF THEY DIDN'T LISTEN TO YOU, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

Then you write it and they would let you write it, the person's name down, and will give it to the teacher. And if he doesn't do it still, it's (inaud).

(LAUGH) THAT IS SO BAD. SO WERE CLASSROOMS ROWDY? WERE THEY, WERE THE KIDS RAMBUNC-, WERE THE KIDS, UM, DID THE KIDS MISBEHAVE A LOT IN CLASS BECAUSE THERE WERE SO MANY?

Yeah. They talk... (inaud) of each of the (inaud) somebody threw a pen and the person just (inaud) into his eye.

YIKES.

And that person now is not in the school anymore.

THE PERSON WHO THREW THE PEN?

Yeah. And the person whose guy got bust too.

NEITHER OF THEM ARE IN SCHOOL ANYMORE. WHAT CLASSES DID YOU HAVE? WHAT SUBJECTS?

English. Picture Making.

PICTURE MAKING?

Yeah. Social Studies, Science, Math, uh, (pause) I forgotten.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS?

My favorite class was... Oh, I forgot, I forgot, uh, catering. That when you make food.

KITCHEN?

Catering.

CATERING...

Like you make food, do everything. Like if the teacher tells you bring this, this, and you come and you making food. And you all eat. My favorite class...

WHAT DO YOU CALL IT?

Catering.

CA-TRING?

Like the catering, that's what you call it in Ghana.

IN GHANA. SO THAT, THAT'S IN...

Cooking.

COOKING. IT'S JUST COOKING. OK. AND THAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS?
NO, WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS?

My favorite class was picture making.

PICTURE MAKING. WHY DID YOU LIKE THAT ONE SO MUCH?

Cause if you go, you draw, you color, and if you finish you can talk and everything all that. (LAUGH)

UM, WHAT WAS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE CLASS?

Science.

SCIENCE. YOU DIDN'T LIKE SCIENCE?

Um... Because the teacher was mean. He was an old man that if you just (inaud) call the head master. He too sometimes, he's the one, if you come late, he'll beat you with the canes, those kind. So everybody hated him. So in that science class everybody be quiet. But if you just do one mistake, he gonna call the head master. So everybody hated the science teacher and the head master.

I SEE. EVERYBODY HATED THE SCIENCE TEACHER AND THE HEAD MASTER.

Yeah.

CAUSE THEY WERE MEAN. WHEN TEACHERS... WOULD YOU GO TO OTHER CLASSROOMS, OR WOULD NEW TEACHERS COME IN?

We go to other classrooms.

YOU GO TO OTHER CLASSROOMS. WERE ALL CLASSROOMS LIKE 80 KIDS?

Oh, no, no, I made a mistake. We stay. We (inaud).

OK, YOU STAY. AND THEN A NEW TEACHER COMES IN AND THE OLD TEACHER GOES SOMEWHERE ELSE.

Yeah, and goes, and someone come. (OK)

HOW IS SCHOOL DIFFERENT HERE THAN IN GHANA?

IN Ghana, we don't have basketball. But they're trying to have (inaud).

WHAT WAS THAT?

The basketball.

IN BASKETBALL?

(inaud) doesn't have one, doesn't have one. And (inaud phrase) finally has one. So in

Ghana too, you are set(?) with that. The GSS...

GSS, WHAT'S THAT?

GSS is like here it's just grade, 7th grade, 8th grade, that's our GSS. And high school is too somewhere. And from fifth grade (inaud) is the primary.

SO FIFTH GRADE DOWN, THEY'RE SOMEWHERE ELSE.

Yeah.

SIXTH, SEVEN AND EIGHTH GRADE ARE TOGETHER? AND THEN HIGH SCHOOL IS SOMEWHERE ELSE?

Yeah. And...

IN GHANA.

Yeah.

SO THAT'S THE SAME AS HERE.

Yeah. But in Ghana, (inaud) The GSS is here and in my school GSS is here, primary is here and there is (inaud). So if (inaud phrase).

OK, SO THEY WERE, THEY WERE ALWAYS RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER?

Yeah.

SO ONLY A STREET SEPARATED THEM. AND HERE THEY'RE VERY SPREAD OUT.

Yeah.

SO THAT'S DIFFERENT?

Yeah. And in Ghana too that you have a place where the teacher can stand and look outside, like maybe window. Like a place where there is a wall and you can still be looking outside. Like this, like this, there is a wall, and I'll be standing here looking outside.

SO THAT, SO THAT TEACHER CAN WATCH BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE.

Yeah.

ARE THERE KIDS OUTSIDE?

Yeah, if they are going for, um, like, um, lunch.

LUNCH.

And after school some, um, the head master let people sometimes come inside and he

go buy(?), buy(?) everything you want and you go home.

YOU JUST BUY WHATEVER YOU WANT AND THEN GO HOME.

Yeah.

SO SOMETIMES TEACHERS STAND ON THE WALL AND WALK AROUND, TO WATCH THE KIDS ON THE OUTSIDE AND THE INSIDE.

Yeah.

IT IS DIFFERENT. UM, WHAT ELSE IS DIFFERENT?

Um, (pause) we get punished.

THE WAY THAT YOU GET PUNISHED? THAT'S DIFFERENT?

They don't call home, but they beat you. After that, if they finish beating you up before they call home.

HOW FAR AWAY WAS YOUR SCHOOL, IN GHANA?

I don't know, about a ten minute drive.

TEN MINUTE DRIVE? SO IT'S ABOUT THE SAME DISTANCE?

No, yeah, it's a five minute drive.

IT'S, SO THIS SCHOOL IS A LITTLE CLOSER.

Yeah.

WHEN YOU FIRST CAME HERE, HOW DID YOU FEEL OTHER STUDENTS TREATED YOU?

Uh, (pause) and they heard my name, they be laughing.

PEOPLE WOULD BE LAUGHING AT YOUR NAME?

Yeah. When I go to new classes and they would hear my name, they'd be laughing. People do the same (inaud) they don't know me. So if I get to new class and I mention my name, they be laughing. So like and sometimes too if I go and I fall down, they be laughing (inaud).

SO WERE KIDS NICE TO YOU OR NOT NICE TO YOU WHEN YOU FIRST MOVED HERE?

Some were nice, some weren't real nice.

WERE NOT REAL NICE. UM, WHEN YOU WERE IN GHANA, HOW DID YOU THINK

KIDS WOULD BE WHEN YOU CAME HERE?

There were no fights, but in Ghana they fight.

IN GHANA THEY FIGHT. AND YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT IN AMERICA THEY WOULD FIGHT. UM, DO THEY FIGHT IN AMERICA?

Not really.

NOT REALLY. NOT LIKE THEY DO IN GHANA. ARE THERE LOTS OF FIGHTS IN GHANA?

Yeah. Because there is, the police doesn't really move around. If they fight, nobody call the 9-1-1. They will be just looking at you, if you get hit you get hit. And there will be people cheering. There will be...

CHEERING?

Yeah. We caught three thieves(?) in a house, and my dad beat em up.

THREE THIEVES? IN YOUR HOUSE?

(inaud) ones, two (inaud) they said they stole money and one was a, a small guy who came to steal our car. And we caught him and my dad took him to the police station.

SO THE POLICE REALLY DON'T, AREN'T REALLY GOOD IN GHANA?

No. Until you take them.

UNTIL YOU TAKE THEM TO THE POLICE.

Yeah.

DID KIDS FIGHT IN SCHOOL?

Yeah.

IN GHANA. DID THEY FIGHT, DID THEY FIGHT IN SCHOOL MORE IN GHANA OR HERE?

In Ghana.

IN GHANA?

Ghana there was a given(?) the boy, the boy that was fighting with the girl, the boy moved his belt and the girl was (inaud) and the boy came and (inaud) he's about to hit her, and the girl took somebody's belt and they were fighting.

WITH BELTS?

Yeah.

OH MY GOODNESS.

(inaud phrase) and they were laughing. (inaud) everything laughing, like shouting. Like when the head master just came, they all ran away.

DID THEY GET IN TROUBLE?

Yeah.

YEAH. WHAT WAS THE HARDEST PART OF SCHOOL HERE TO ADJUST TO?

Um, (pause) the locker numbers and the cafeteria number. That was hard when I came. I did not know it, so every day I must go and ask for my number. And my classes.

YOUR CLASSES? WHAT WAS HARD ABOUT YOUR CLASSES?

The, like going to look (inaud phrase) like if I'm going to Miss Hubble's(?) room and it's, sometimes I forget (inaud) someone's class and I'll be, and I won't be taking (inaud) class.

SO IF YOU WERE, IF YOU HAD TO GO TO MISS HUBBLE'S CLASS, YOU WOULD SOMETIMES GO TO OTHER CLASSES?

Yeah.

BECAUSE IT WAS TOUGH TO FIND YOUR WAY? AND YOU WOULD BE LIKE "I'M LOOKING FOR MISS HUBBLE". HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING IN ELL?

Good. I make new friends. That was the place I first met my friend.

PEDRO?

Yeah. Pedro, Marco, Haido(?), Cak, Shawn, all that.

ALL OF THEM. SO YOU LIKE ELL. (PAUSE) UM, WHAT ARE SOME THINGS, WHAT ARE SOME CHANGES YOU HAD TO MAKE WHEN YOU MOVED TO AMERICA? LIKE WAS YOUR CLOTHES DIFFERENT, WAS YOUR BEHAVIOR DIFFERENT, IS YOUR MUSIC DIFFERENT? WHAT THINGS DID YOU CHANGE?

My clothes, my language... My mom says if you change our language (inaud) this is America. Um, my language, music. We're having some, a house, but we sometimes listening to (inaud) sometimes (inaud). And then new cartoons.

NEW CARTOONS. DID YOU HAVE CARTOONS IN GHANA?

Yeah. But they didn't have the same things. We didn't have PBS kids, like Clifford and that. We were having some cartoon over there like Scooby Doo.

YOU HAD SCOOBY DOO?

Yeah. And some cartoons. We have Tom and Jerry. And...

WERE THEY IN ENGLISH OR WERE THEY IN GHANA?

English.

THEY WERE IN ENGLISH.

And the Prince of Egypt, that was Moses.

AND THAT WAS IN ENGLISH?

Yeah.

WHAT DID YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOUR CLOTHING?

I got new ones. And the old ones were (inaud). But my, when I came my mom was been buying me new clothes.

DID YOU HAVE TO GET WARMER CLOTHES?

Yeah. Just when I came, I got it. Just like everything I'm wearing right now. I got it when I came.

YEAH? ARE THEY DIFFERENT STYLES? DID YOU WEAR DIFFERENT STYLES
BACK IN, IN GHANA?

Yeah. When I was in Ghana, the shirt I gave to my friend, that one there was a (inaud)
it was a (inaud phrase).

SO WHAT MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO?

(inaud), Hip Hop, (inaud). My dad listen to jazz.

JAZZ?

And Latin(?). I hate it.

(LAUGH) DO YOU, UM, DO YOU STILL HAVE MUSIC FROM GHANA THAT YOU
LISTEN TO?

Yeah.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU LISTEN TO IT?

(inaud)

WHAT DOES GHANA MUSIC SOUND LIKE?

Um, (pause) it sounds like a hip hop, the beat, (inaud).

WHAT INSTRUMENTS DO THEY USE?

Drums. Trumpet. And that they do tsss tsss tsss, that one. I have a CD at home. I could even bring it.

YEAH, THAT WOULD BE GREAT, I'D LOVE TO HEAR SOME. WHAT, UM, WHAT THINGS DO YOU GUYS DO AS A FAMILY THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER THINGS THAT YOU WOULD DO IN GHANA THAT YOU DO HERE?

(pause) Um, sometimes my dad plays soccer with us.

SO YOU STILL DO SOCCER.

Yeah. Like when we knew (inaud) at our school in the summer, we came here to play soccer. And sometimes we have a Game Cube.

THE GAME CUBE.

Yeah. If we are playing my dad says let, we should let him try. And he will try when we're doing it. My mom gets busy all day. She has to go to work, school, so she doesn't have time.

WAS YOUR DAD ABLE TO FIND A JOB HERE?

No. He goes to school.

HE GOES TO SCHOOL TOO. OH GOOD. UM, WHAT ABOUT HOLIDAYS. ARE THERE HOLIDAYS IN GHANA THAT YOU STILL CELEBRATE HERE?

Christmas. Thanksgiving and Easter.

DID YOU CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING IN GHANA? (pause) YOU DID.

But we not celebrate Halloween, Fourth of July, (pause) Martin Luther King.

DO YOU CELEBRATE THOSE HOLIDAYS NOW?

Yeah, here.

YEAH?

But in Ghana too, we have the Fourth of July (inaud) as much. (inaud) in Fourth of July, Ghana's is sixth of March.

THE SIXTH OF MARCH. WHAT DO YOU GUYS DO FOR THE SIXTH OF MARCH?
HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE?

Um, some people go to the studio(?), uh, musicians go there to go and sing. And people will train(?) fireworks. And the president would come and (inaud) bring candy. That was it. But sometimes I don't go. I (inaud). If the stadium is here, I just live right here, so if they are doing it, I go and stand on top of the house and I'll be with my dad.

UM, WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU SPEAK AT HOME?

We speak English and Twe.

AND TREE?

Twe.

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO SAY THAT. HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO
TRANSLATE FOR OTHER PEOPLE?

Um, my little brother sometimes, like translates with me. But sometimes he understands.

DO YOU LIKE TRANSLATING?

Somehow.

YEAH? UM, HOW DO YOU THINK OTHER, HOW DO YOU FEEL OTHER KIDS
TREAT YOU BECAUSE YOU CAN SPEAK MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE?

Um, they treat me equal.

EQUAL? DO THEY THINK IT'S COOL THAT YOU CAN SPEAK ANOTHER
LANGUAGE?

Yeah. But I, I, (inaud) if his friends are there, because we (inaud).

HOW MANY LANGUAGES CAN YOU SPEAK?

Two. But my dad can speak a lot.

HE CAN SPEAK A LOT.

He can speak most Ghanaian languages.

OTHER THAN WRITING LETTERS TO PEOPLE BACK IN GHANA, HOW DO YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE BACK IN GHANA?

Call.

YOU CALL EM.

And email.

EMAIL? DO YOU GET TO TALK TO FRIENDS A LOT THROUGH EMAIL?

Yeah.

WHAT DO YOU TELL THEM ABOUT AMERICA?

They ask me, um, I have, do you have planes and I say yeah. And I say you should (inaud) my old friends for me, I miss them. I wish that we were all here. And they say yeah.

DO THEY ASK YOU QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN AMERICA?

(pause) THEY DON'T?

They just call me, ask me how I feel. Then I call back, and I say yeah, and they say OK, and we talking, after that they put (inaud).

SO HOW DO YOU LIKE LIVING IN AMERICA?

Good.

YOU LIKE IT GOOD?

Yeah.

IF YOU COULD LIVE IN AMERICA OR GHANA, WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE?

Um, (pause) I prefer America, because Ghana they beat. But either way, if they don't beat and my friends and my everything were here too, I would prefer Ghana over America, if my friends too in Ghana was here, I'd have to prefer America.

SO IF YOUR FRIENDS, IF THEY DIDN'T BEAT IN GHANA, YOU WOULD PREFER TO BE THERE WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

Yeah.

BUT IF YOUR FRIENDS COULD MOVE HERE, THEN YOU WOULD PREFER TO BE HERE.

Yeah. I have friends that live (inaud).

YEAH. HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO GO BACK AND VISIT GHANA, SINCE YOU HAVE LIVED HERE?

No. We just came, uh, I didn't know, uh, if, if we will be going back home. Now my dad has been saying "you'll be going back, you'll be going back".

MAYBE WHEN YOUR PARENTS ARE OUT OF SCHOOL YOU'LL GO BACK?

Maybe.

WHAT, WHAT HAS YOUR FAMILY DONE TO BE MORE AMERICAN?

Um, (pause) work, visit friends, speak English, have friends with the Americans, go out and sometimes they surprised my mom. When she was celebrating her birthday, they surprised her.

HER FRIENDS DID?

She really loved it too to come to the restaurant, and when she just went there she saw the birthday cake and they was singing "Happy Birthday". So, uh, I think they made it (inaud) birthday. (inaud)

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO, UM, IF YOU COULD TELL FRIENDS WHO WERE LIVING HERE HOW TO BE MORE AMERICAN, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM?

I'd tell them to speak English and have friends. Like they will play for the first time with someone, so if you can just talk it's (inaud). After that, the first couple times and you become a friend.

ALRIGHT. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME ABOUT GHANA?
(inaud)

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME ABOUT LIVING IN AMERICA?
I have none.

NONE? NOTHING ELSE. OK, PAPA. THANKS FOR DOING THIS INTERVIEW WITH

ME PAPA, I APPRECIATE IT.
Thank you.