

CONSULTANT: Deborah Koenig

AGE: 57

RESIDENCE: Carrboro, NC (moved the day before from Benson, NC)

OCCUPATION: Attorney

INTERVIEW DATE: August 6, 2016, approx. 11:00 am

LOCATION: Carrboro Farmers Market, Carrboro, NC

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*Deborah began with the standard audio introduction (name, age, residence). She explained that she had just moved to Carrboro from the Benson area.*

**All right, so take a minute to think about that time, from New Year's Eve 1999, going into the year 2000, and paint us a picture. Like, what do you remember about that night?**

I was in Little River, South Carolina, and I was in a third-story condominium that I owned at the time on the Intercoastal Waterway. And I had my daughter, who would have been 10 at the time, and I cooked her an evening meal, and then we went out on the balcony, listened to music, and watched fireworks from surrounding areas.

**Wow, so you remember it pretty vividly, then?**

Very vividly.

**Now why is that? Is it because it seemed important to you at the time?**

Um, there were a lot of folks that thought the world was going to end. [laughs] And I wasn't really scared that the world was going to end, but I did think it was certainly a moment to remember. And I had my daughter with me, and I think we had invited friends over earlier in the evening that were from South Africa and lived down on the first floor, and we often times would share meals, and so we would go between the first floor and the third floor, and it was just a really nice evening.

**Did you take any preparations because of the possible Y2K problem?**

Not at all. Nope. [laughs]

**So it's safe to say, you didn't think there was going to be...**

No. I believe in God, and I did not think it was the world's end. And there are certain factors that I would look for before I felt that the world would come to an end, and none of those factors were in place.

**How do you think your daily life has changed? You're thinking back now on a night from 1999, how has your daily life changed since then?**

Well, my daughter is graduate school. And her father and I divorced when she was very young, so I was pretty much a working mom.

**What were you doing at the time, I'm sorry?**

I'm an attorney, so I was practicing law at the time. I'm still practicing law. And um, just I had purchased that unit for us to spend weekends, and we spent a lot of lovely time down in Little River. And I mean, it was just a great period of time. There were a number of years that we accessed it about every other weekend.

**Has your line of work changed, with technology and everything since then?**

I would like to say that I'm totally techno correct, but the problem is I'm yet a dinosaur. So yes, I use computers, mainly to buy airline tickets. I am still a paper-bound person. I like paper. I like the feel of paper. I like the feel of books. I don't have a Kindle. I have people who work in my office that are very savvy techno geeks, and when I need something, I ask them. I'm better than I used to be. I did not believe when I was in college, that computers were actually ever going to make it, which is really interesting. And I'm glad I didn't like, bet on that idea. But the computer in my college, which was as large as really, a room, and we had like these DOS cards, and it was mainly a statistics course. But the last...like 10 percent of the course was actually computers, and I was like, "Well, I don't really have to worry about this because it's not gonna take, anyway." And I remember my professor was named Jackson, and he had us do a random variable...we had to prepare a program, where based on random variables, it was a game of 21 in basketball, and my Man A always won, because I didn't know what I was doing. I tried to explain to him that Man A was like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Man B was like the short little guy from Benson, but he didn't go for it, and he made me rewrite my program. But I was just sure computers were never going to quite make it, so...I was wrong. [laughs]

**Facebook? [dismissive sound] Psst. Fad.**

Yeah. But I was always wondering from a Biblical perspective, how it would be that you could actually look at the two witnesses on the streets of Jerusalem, like the entire world? And I'm thinking, "I just don't know how that part is going to come true." [laughs] And now I look on my cell phone on a daily basis, and I can check out the streets of Jerusalem. And I'm like, "That is just so cool." In our lifetime, how it's gone from...you know, basically, I used to have one telephone in my mom's home, in the kitchen. I had a bag phone that my father allowed me to carry to college and back just in case I broke down. I thought I was like Jane Bond, you know? And now...you know, when you moved back then, you moved from one town to another, you really almost lost contact with those folks, like if

you grew up with people and they moved a few hours away. And now, my daughter is in grad school in Massachusetts. I can text, talk, do anything I need to do at a moment's notice.

**Just by reaching in your purse.**

Right, just by reaching in my purse. And so it's quite incredible how you can actually maintain relationships throughout the world.

**Do you feel like the nature of the communication, though, has changed?**

Um, I do think that the younger folks miss a lot of...now, my daughter seems to -- believe it or not, only being 27 -- she really I believe has kind of an old soul, because she will take the time to actually write a letter or write a card, and put her feelings and actually put a stamp on it and send it through the mail. There are a lot of folks that, you know, just don't communicate like that anymore, and I think that that's a shame because when you touch it and you feel it and you write it, and you...I don't know, it just comes across differently. So yes, communication has changed. I think in some ways very wonderfully, and in some ways, I think, you know, we're losing part of that connection.

**Interesting.**

*It's very hot, so I pause to get Deborah a bottle of water from the cooler.*

**Like I said, since this is sort of a time capsule project, for an archive, let me ask you this. I've been asking a couple of other people this morning. What do you think is going to be the topic most often on people's minds, on people's lips, in 2100?**

[pause] I don't think we're going to make it to 2100.

**You are like, the seventh person that's said that.**

If you look at what's going on with Israel, because Israel is in fact God's timepiece, and you look at what happened in 1948, when all of a sudden Israel is in fact a nation again in a *day*. Even if you don't believe in the Bible, or believe the Bible, if you look at it just simply as a historical book, you look at Israel, not only is she back and not only is she thriving, but she's now producing like...I think she's like the third largest fruit flower producer for northern Europe at this point. And if you think back on Mark Twain going through Israel in like, the 1880s, or whenever he made that trek, saying, "I don't know why anybody would even want the godforsaken land." And you look at her now. So that generation shall not pass. And when I think about Israel and I look at what's going on with everything in the Middle East, and all around the world at this point, I believe that we won't see actually 2100.

**Wow. If you don't mind my asking, what denomination?**

Um, I grew up...I hate to say this because you're going to think, you know, I have no sense. I grew up actually in a Southern Baptist church, but through the years, I went to a Presbyterian college, I sent my daughter to a school attached to a Pentecostal Holiness church, which...you know, it was just because it was a very good private school, not necessarily because of its attachment. So I would kind of consider myself non-denominational, truly. But I definitely believe in God, I definitely believe that Jesus is his son, I definitely believe that there was a time on Earth that he came, and made redemption so that we could inherit eternal life. And so I just believe the Bible, and...

**So that plays into your thoughts that we won't be around in 2100?**

I, you know...

**You think it's like an eschatological...it will be some sort of a Biblical event that will happen?**

Oh, absolutely. Oh, absolutely.

**Really? Okay.**

What will happen is Christ will in fact return. I don't know where I stand on pre-Rapture or post-Rapture tribulation, but once you see the peace treaty signed between Israel and whomever, once that goes down, there will in fact be seven years and then the end will be what it is. But so, you know, I just kind of look, listen, learn, and I watch Israel. I probably know more about what's going on in Israel than I do what's going on in the United States, which I hate to admit. But I mean, I do keep up with things.

**That's interesting.**

Anyway, I just, you know...I believe the Bible. And I go to Catholic churches, where they don't allow gentiles like me to actually partake of, you know, communion. I just went to a funeral, and they said, "If you're not Catholic, do not come up." But like, Robert Barron's "Word on Fire" about Catholicism is better than any humanities course I could have ever imagined. So for all of those who think Catholics, you know, just are not...I have many friends that will not look at anything having to do with Catholicism, and I don't understand it. You know, as long as Christ is in the center of it, I don't care about the differences that we have. The bottom line is God is God, and he's in charge, and that's kind of how it is. And I'm just trying to figure out my will to go along with his will, because there were many years that I just simply was off course. Even though I knew right from wrong as a child, and I got way off course. So anyway, I'm back on course.

**I appreciate this. And was getting back on course before 1999?**

No, actually, I didn't rededicate my life until 2006, and still was off course. So I would really say about 2012. There were a number of serious events that occurred within a very short period of time. I had somebody kill herself in my family that was very young, only 28, and I think a lot prescription pills were involved; she was even working at a hospital. And we certainly have addiction in our family. And it just made some folks really stop and think about what is important here, and to ask those really serious questions, like a lot of people feel in certain religious-based homes that if you kill yourself, you're just dying and going to Hell, but that is not in fact the case. And so anyway, it was just a number of events. I always knew, you know, I always knew God was there. I always knew. I just chose to step away and do what I wanted to do, basically [laughs].

**I really appreciate your sharing that. You're being very candid; I appreciate it.**

*I thanked Deborah for her time and ended the interview.*