

The University of Southern Mississippi
Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage

Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster–Gulf Coast Fisheries
Oral History Project

An Oral History

with

Khang V. Dang

Interviewer: Linda VanZandt
Interpreter: Angel Truong Phan

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An Oral History with Khang V. Dang, Volume 1043

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Biography

Mr. Khang V. Dang was born April 20, 1954, one of eleven children, in the port city of Vung Tau in southern Vietnam. Mr. Dang's parents originated from the Go Cong district in the Mekong Delta region. He learned fishing and net making from his father and grandfather; his mother cooked and baked and sold her goods, along with fish and shrimp, in the market. Mr. Dang joined the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in 1971, serving as security for his home area of Vung Tau until 1975.

Mr. Dang served as captain when he, his wife, and their five young children escaped Vietnam, along with others (sixty-two in all), on their boat in 1981. More of his family escaped after he left. After spending a year and a half in Pulau Bidong, Malaysia (landing in January 1982), they were transported to Galang, Indonesia, before landing in San Diego, California, in 1983. In 1986, Mr. Bui and his family relocated to Biloxi where he began shrimping the Gulf waters.

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AN ORAL HISTORY

with

KHANG V. DANG

This is an interview for The University of Southern Mississippi Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage. The interview is with Khang V. Dang and is taking place on September 22, 2011. The interviewer is Linda VanZandt. English/Vietnamese interpretation is provided by Angel Truong Phan.

Interviewer's Note: Interviewee, Mr. Dang, speaks Vietnamese with some English throughout the interview. Ms. Phan translates/interprets Mr. Dang's Vietnamese responses into English to Ms. VanZandt. Vietnamese transcriber's English translation of Vietnamese language passages are italicized and appear in parentheses below the passage. Ms. VanZandt's responses and follow-up questions were in response only to Ms. Phan's interpretation during the interview. There is additional information revealed here, post-interview, in the italicized transcribed passages.

VanZandt: OK. Today is September 22, 2011, and this is Linda VanZandt with the Center for Oral History. And we're here in the home of a gentleman, a resident here in Biloxi. And Angel Phan is here to interpret, if interpretation is needed. And we're just going to spend a little time about—(Mr. Dang's infant granddaughter enters the room cooing.)

VanZandt: (speaks to baby) Yes! And we have an extra visitor, too. (laughs) That's OK. If you could, state your name, please.

Dang: Nói tiếng Việt đi. Tôi tên là Đặng Văn Khang. D-A-N-G my last name, and my first name K-H-A-N-G.

VanZandt: K-H-A-N-G, OK.

Dang: Um-hm.

VanZandt: And where were you born, Mr. Dang?

Angel: Chú sanh tại thành phố nào?

(Where were you born?)

Dang: Ở Vũng Tàu, Vietnam.

VanZandt: In Vung Tau.

Dang: Vung Tau, Vietnam.

VanZandt: Oh, Vung Tau, OK!

Angel: (speaking Vietnamese)

Dang: (speaking Vietnamese)

VanZandt: Great. And I'll spell that: V-U-N-G—

Dang: V-U-N-G.

VanZandt: T-A-U.

Dang: Yeah, T-A-U.

VanZandt: Yes. I know where that is in Vietnam.

Dang: Uh-huh.

VanZandt: Beautiful fishing village by the ocean.

Dang: Um-hm.

VanZandt: When were you born?

Angel: Mình sanh ngày mấy?

(Date of birth?)

Dang: (speaking Vietnamese) Nineteen fifty-four.

VanZandt: Nineteen fifty-four.

Dang: April 20.

VanZandt: That was a very important year in Vietnam's history, when Vietnam was divided into North and South after Dien Bien Phu [battle], 1954.

Angel: Là chia đôi đất nước. Thay đổi đất nước.

(The country was split apart. The country was changed in 1955.)

Dang: Um-hm.

VanZandt: What was your father's occupation?

Angel: Ba của chú ngày xưa làm nghề gì?

(What was your father's occupation?)

Dang: Cũng làm nghề biển.

(Fisherman.)

Angel: Yeah. He was a fisherman as well.

VanZandt: He was? OK. Did he learn fishing from his father? Was that a family tradition?

Angel: Ngày xưa ông nội cũng làm fishing hả chú?

(Was your grandfather fisherman?)

Dang: Cũng làm biển luôn.

(Yes.)

Angel: He was a fisherman as well.

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: OK. And is that where you learned fishing, from your father?

Dang: Yeah, um-hm.

VanZandt: And what did your mother do?

Angel: Má của chú làm cái gì?

(What did your mother do?)

Dang: Cũng làm nghề buôn bán nhỏ ở Việt Nam, buôn gánh bán bưng đại khái là vậy đó.

(Worked in sales in Vietnam.)

Angel: She sold different things in the market.

VanZandt: Oh, OK. What kind of things? Do you remember what kind of things she sold in the market?

Angel: Ngày xưa mẹ làm cái gì đi bán?

(What did she sell?)

Dang: Bán bánh, đại khái, ở Việt Nam.

(Cake, sort of, in Vietnam.)

Angel: She cooked, and she baked. She also sold fish and shrimp.

Dang: (speaking Vietnamese)

VanZandt: Fish and shrimp, that your father caught? And your mother would sell it?

Angel: Mostly she would bake.

VanZandt: Ah, a good cook.

Dang: Mm.

VanZandt: Can you tell me just a little bit about growing up fishing, with your father? Maybe when you started fishing, what age you were and what that was like?

Angel: Hồi xưa đó, chú có thể kể ngày xưa chú đi biển có cực có gì không? Chú có thể kể hồi xưa chú đi biển không?

(So was that hard when you were a fisherman when you were there? Can you tell us about this time?)

Dang: Hồi nhỏ, mới mười mấy tuổi, gia đình ở Việt Nam cũng không có khá giả gì, theo ông già rồi làm biển, làm nghề - trước kia làm nghề lưới, sau làm nghề cào, rồi đi làm biển vậ thôi. Lớn lên rồi cũng tiếp tục cái nghề, rồi sau đó cũng có đi lính ở Việt Nam. Tới lớn lên Việt Nam có chiến tranh rồi, mình cũng phải đi lính. Đi lính cho đến năm 75.

(When I was young in Vietnam, my family was poor. I worked with my father to go fishing. First, we made nets, then went fishing. Then I became fisherman since then. I grew up, continued the career, then I joined the Army. When I was grown up, there was the war. I have to join the Army until 1975.)

Angel: Đi lính cho Mỹ đó hả?

(For America?)

Dang: Cho Việt Nam chứ. Cho miền nam Việt Nam.

(For South Vietnam.)

Angel: Oh.

Dang: Hồi nhỏ thì làm biển, tới tuổi mình lớn lên phải đi quân đội. Đi từ năm 71 đến năm 75.

(When I was young, I went fishing, and then when I was old enough, I joined the Army from 1971 through 1975.)

Angel: He said in the family, (inaudible) he went on a boat and started fixing the nets, and then after that he went fishing, and he (inaudible). (changing to interpreting in first person) When I became eighteen, then I joined the Army.

VanZandt: At eighteen.

Dang: Um-hm.

VanZandt: OK. You were drafted into the Army? So not by choice?

Dang: Yeah, Army.

Angel: Lúc đó mình đăng ký vô lính hay là lúc đó đủ mười tám tuổi rồi, nó bắt phải đi?

(At that time, did you volunteer, or did they force you?)

Dang: Không. Lúc đó là tình nguyện.

(I volunteered.)

Angel: It was his choice.

VanZandt: Oh, OK. Well, I guess, I'd like to hear more about the fishing, but since we're on the topic of the Army, why did you want to join the Army?

Dang: Bị gì lúc đó thì tới cái tuổi đó phải đi vô nhập ngũ vì đất nước chiến tranh mà mình phải đi. Còn nếu mình không tình nguyện đi thì người ta cũng bắt mình đi. Thay vì mình chọn một cái ngành nào đó của quân đội đó, mình đăng ký mình đi. Thay vì nếu mình không tình nguyện thì cảnh sát nó cũng bắt mình phải đi. Chiến tranh mà ai cũng phải đi, mà mình tình nguyện đi trước thì mình sẽ chọn được những binh chủng mình thích hợp.

(It was because I had to volunteer for my country. Even if I had not volunteered, they would force me to. If I volunteered, I would be able to choose the department I like.)

Angel: Well, during the time of the Vietnam War, there was a lot of chaos. And even if it was not my choice, they were going to draft me anyway. And so I decided to choose to go so I would have some options.

VanZandt: Did you feel a certain patriotism to protect your country?

Angel: Lúc đó chú có hãnh diện vì mình làm như vậy không?

(Were you proud of what you did?)

Dang: Thì mình cũng hãnh diện vì mình được đi lính để bảo vệ đất nước trong thời buổi chiến tranh.

(Of course. I was proud because I was serving my country.)

Angel: He felt very heroic. Like you said, patriotism. And he was very proud to protect his land and territory.

VanZandt: Um-hm. And that was 1972 when you joined the Army? Is that right?

Dang: Nineteen seventy-one.

VanZandt: Nineteen seventy-one, OK. And that was about the time the Americans were beginning to leave Vietnam.

Dang: Um-hm. Yeah.

VanZandt: And you were in Vung Tau, then? Is that where you were when you joined the Army, in Vung Tau?

Angel: Cái lúc đó ở Vũng Tàu phải không? Bảo vệ Vũng Tàu? Dạ làm lính.

(So it was for Vung Tau? Did you protect Vung Tau?)

Dang: Làm lính ở địa phương. Không có đi ra ngoài mặt trận tác chiến.

(I was local soldier. I did not go out to battle field.)

Angel: Yeah. So he was just in his city, and he didn't go off to do—he was there to protect his [city?].

VanZandt: So you were part of security for your area that you lived in, village?

Dang: Yeah. Lính địa phương, không có đi ra ngoài. Cũng là lính cũng là ở trong quân đội.

(I was a local soldier. I was an official soldier, even I did not go out battle field.)

Angel: He didn't have [to go off?].

Dang: My homeland, not front [frontline of battles]. (chuckles)

VanZandt: Yes. So that was good that you were closer to home.

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: You didn't have to leave and go—

Dang: Um-hm. My homeland, not in front. (laughs)

VanZandt: Right, right. Tell me what that was like, just living in Vung Tau where there was such a huge military presence. Lots of GIs [soldiers] there where you lived. How did that change your community during the war, during those years? If he can just kind of describe and kind of paint a picture for people.

Angel: Lúc đó có chiến tranh nó thay đổi cái chỗ mình ở ra sao? Cái cách làm việc có thay đổi hết không?

(When there was the war, how did it change your community? Did it affect your work?)

Dang: Thì hồi đó thì ở Vũng Tàu, chiến tranh nó không có xảy ra ở đó, mà những nơi khác thôi. Ở đó vẫn còn yên ổn tới ngày 75 luôn vẫn là yên ổn, không có thay đổi gì nhiều. Bị vì thành phố đó không có chiến tranh, thành ra cũng bình thường, làm ăn buôn bán, gia đình cũng đi làm biển cũng bình thường chứ cũng không có gì.

(At that time, the war did not actually happen in Vung Tau but other places. It was very quiet until 1975. Nothing changed much. Because of that, everything was normal. We continued our daily business normally. Nothing was abnormal.)

Angel: He said the battleground was not there in town, so he wasn't affected as much. He could still, they still were fishing, and they still had(?) their everyday life until 1975.

VanZandt: OK. So not much fighting going on in that area. So on a daily basis, life went on as usual, sounds like.

Dang: Mm.

VanZandt: Did you have any particular experiences with the VC [Viet Cong]? It was such a time of confusion and distrust, not knowing where the sympathies lie, with the South Vietnamese or the North Vietnamese. I'm just wondering, as far as heading up security for this area, was that difficult, wondering who to trust, carrying out his job?

Angel: Lúc đó chú bảo vệ cái thành phố đó, bả hỏi Việt Cộng có làm khó dễ mình không?

(When you were protecting the town, did you have any problems with VC?)

Dang: Sau mà Việt Cộng mà nó vô đó, bị vì là người lính thường, cấp bậc không có cao, thành ra nó cũng không làm khó dễ. Bị bắt đi học tập mấy ngày rồi trở về làm người dân bình thường.

(After VC came, I was a very low-ranked soldier, so I was just taken away for training, then they released me back to normal life.)

Angel: Nó bắt đi học tập có mấy ngày?

(How long was your training?)

Dang: Bị vì là người lính bình thường. Nếu mà có cấp bậc cao lớn thì nó bắt đi học cải tạo đồ lâu. Còn lính thôi, thành ra cũng không có gì. Mới ban đầu nó cũng cho đi học cải tạo mấy ngày, rồi về làm ăn, mà ngày càng khó khăn dưới chế độ Cộng Sản, làm khó cái này làm khó cái kia đủ thứ tại vì mình chế độ miền Nam mà. Tại vì hồi trước mình sống trong xã hội tự do, rồi sau này cộng sản vô thay đổi cái chế độ sống theo Xã hội chủ nghĩa thì mình thấy khó khăn đủ mọi thứ không giống như xã hội tự do mà mình đã sống. Coi như là sống hồi trước, mình mua thực phẩm hay bất cứ cái gì đâu có ràng buộc. Mà nhà nước là cho tự do mình không có, nhất là những người có tham gia vào chế độ trước thì lại càng khó khăn hơn những người dân bình thường.

(Because I was just a normal soldier—if I had been a high-ranked one, I would have been taken away for educational camp. So there was nothing much about it. I studied for few days, then came back. But it became more difficult under VC time. They were controlling everything; they gave us no freedom. I could not buy food or anything freely like I used to be able to. There was no freedom.)

Angel: Definitely, we had more freedom when there wasn't the Viet Congs that came. And he stated that there was just more freedom in everything that we do, from working to going to the market and getting food. But after they [Viet Cong] came in,

they just controlled everything, from what we ate, to what we bought, and we didn't have that freedom anymore.

Dang: Như là ông già bên đây nè, đâu là chuyện gì đâu mà nó bắt nó nhốt ở tù cũng đâu 1 hay 2 năm gì đó. Toàn những chuyện vợ vẫn không phải là ở tù. Mà nó muốn bắt ai nó bắt, nhốt ai nó nhốt à. (chuckles)

(Like my father, for no reason they took him and put him in prison for one or two years. They were all crappy. They just arrested who they want. They don't care.)

Angel: Châu tưởng là 3 ngày được thả ra?

(I thought he could be released after 3 days?)

Dang: Không, bản thân tui thì đi học tập mấy ngày mà ông già là khi không là nửa đêm bị hốt đi, bị bắt ở tù một hai năm gì đó. Mà cũng không hiểu lý do gì mà bị bắt ở tù nữa.

(No, that was me. My father was captured in middle of the night. He was in prison for one or two years.)

Angel: Nó vô nhà nó bắt hay là?

(So they came into the house and arrested him?)

Dang: Nó vô nhà nó bắt.

(Yes.)

Angel: Yeah. He [told] his story about his father. In the middle of the night, they came and took him away and arrested him. And he was in the prison for one or two years.

VanZandt: When was that?

Angel: Cái đó năm mấy?

(When was that?)

Dang: Khoảng năm—

(Around—)

VanZandt: Was he talking about *after* 1975?

Angel: Cái này sau giải phóng hả?

(Was that after VC came in?)

Dang: Đúng rồi.

(Yes.)

Angel: Yep. After 1975.

VanZandt: OK. And had your father been in the Army, too? Or why did they take him?

Dang: No.

Angel: Lúc đó, ông có trong lính không?

(Was your father in Army, too?)

Dang: Không.

(No.)

Angel: No.

VanZandt: Why was he arrested? I know many came to take the South Vietnamese Army [soldiers]—

Angel: He said he doesn't know.

Dang: No.

Angel: They just came in the middle of the night and just took him away.

Dang: That's why I left Vietnam! (laughter)

Angel: He said that's the reason why he left.

VanZandt: That must have been very frightening. Do you know where they took him? Did he come back?

Angel: Trong một năm hai năm đó, chú có được gặp ba của chú không?

(Within those years, could you see your father?)

Dang: Thì cũng có được đi thăm.

(Yes. I could visit him.)

Angel: Vậy là sau một hai năm là được thả ra, đi về sống bình thường?

(So after one or two years, he was able to be back normal life?)

Dang: Ừm.

(Yes.)

Angel: Yeah. OK. Yeah. So he was arrested, but they were able to have visitations. And after two years, they went home.

VanZandt: So this was a reeducation camp, I'm assuming? Was it a reeducation camp where he went?

Angel: Chỗ đó cũng là chỗ học cải tạo phải không?

(Was it education camp?)

Dang: Tù. Tù cải tạo gì cũng không hiểu nữa. Làm gì thì nó làm chứ đâu có hiểu.

(It was prison. I have no idea. I don't understand what they did.)

Angel: Yeah. He didn't understand if it was reeducation camp because he wasn't a soldier. But it was a prison, yeah.

VanZandt: OK, OK. So your mother was left to take care of you when your father was gone.

Dang: Um-hm.

VanZandt: Did you have brothers and sisters?

Dang: Yes.

VanZandt: How many brothers and sisters?

Dang: Ten.

VanZandt: Ten. So there were eleven of you, altogether?

Dang: Yes.

VanZandt: How many brothers and how many sisters do you have?

Dang: I have two sisters; two sister and eight brothers.

VanZandt: Eight brothers? (chuckles) Wow.

Dang: Seven brothers.

VanZandt: OK. And you're the eighth. OK, seven brothers. What was that like the two years your father was gone? This is after 1975 we're talking about. So you were home, staying at home with your family then while your father was gone? Were you out fishing?

Angel: Lúc đó ba của chú bị bắt rồi đó, mẹ phải đi buôn bán đặng lo cho gia đình thì chú, sau khi học xong cũng đi làm?

(When your father was gone, so your mother had to take care the whole family, and you after school. Did you work?)

Dang: Cũng đi làm biển trở lại.

(I worked.)

Angel: Chú là thứ mấy ở trong nhà?

(Where are you in your family tree?)

Dang: Tui hả? Tui thứ tư.

(I am the fourth.)

Angel: Thứ 4. Dạ, Vậy mấy người kia cũng làm biển luôn hả?

(Were the other ones fishermen?)

Dang: Ừ. Cũng làm biển.

(Yes.)

Angel: Nguyên gia đình làm biển hết hả?

(The whole family do fishing?)

Dang: Ừ.

(Yes.)

Angel: Mấy người con gái, hai người chị đó làm cái gì?

(So how about your sister?)

Dang: Thì ở Việt Nam cũng làm buôn bán đồ vậy thôi.

(They sell stuff in Vietnam.)

Angel: Dạ.

Dang: Bán cá bán tôm đồ.

(They sell shrimps and fishes, too.)

Angel: He is a fisherman. He continued to fish while his father was in prison. His mother continued to sell with his two sisters and his brothers and himself. They went fishing to make a living.

VanZandt: OK. And could you state your mother's name and your father's name, just for the record.

Angel: Mẹ của chú tên gì?

(What is your mother's name?)

Dang: Hai Nguyen.

VanZandt: Hai? H-A-I?

Dang: H-A-I.

VanZandt: OK. Nguyen?

Dang: Nguyen.

VanZandt: OK.

Dang: Um-hm.

Angel: Cái đó là—

VanZandt: That's your mother's name?

Dang: My mother's name. Father's name Truong, Truong Dang. T-R-U-O-N-G and D-A-N-G.

VanZandt: OK. Thank you. We just didn't get that on the record. Were they from Vung Tau also, originally? Or from the North?

Angel: Hai người cũng ở Vũng Tàu?

(Were they from Vung Tau?)

Dang: Ở miền Nam.

(South Vietnam.)

Angel: Ở miền Nam.

Dang: South Vietnam.

VanZandt: From the South, OK. In Vung Tau?

Angel: Ở Vũng Tàu hả?

Dang: Hồi trước là ở thành phố khác, mới về Vũng tàu sau này. Trước thì, hồi nhỏ thì ở Gò Công. Mà sau này vẫn sống ở Vũng Tàu.

(We lived in another city before moving to Vung Tau. I used to live in Go Cong.)

Angel: They used to live in Gò Công. And—

VanZandt: Do you know how to spell that?

Angel: Um-hm. Gò Công spell là—

Dang: G-O and C-O-N-G.

VanZandt: Oh, OK, great. Thank you. And also, while we're backing up, can you just tell any special memories that you have about your childhood, fun times that you may have had, games that you played, what you liked to do in your playtime, family trips, anything, special memories that come to mind?

Angel: Lúc đó gia đình ở Vũng Tàu, có đi ra ngoài biển chơi không?

(Did your family go out to the beaches and have fun?)

Dang: Không. Hồi đó thì tàu đó chỉ đi làm ăn thôi chứ không có đi chơi.

(No. I just used boat for fishing only.)

Angel: Hồi chú còn nhỏ đó, ba mẹ có dắt cho đi chơi, hay là đi cine, làm cái gì mà chú nghĩ là vui á.

(So when you were young, did your parents take you anywhere? Cinema? Any fun things?)

Dang: Hồi nhỏ thì cũng đâu có cái gì. Thì cũng chỉ đi vòng vòng thành phố thôi, chứ cũng đâu có gì đâu.

(There was nothing fun. I just went around the city.)

Angel: They just walked around the town. He mainly worked and didn't play too much.

VanZandt: Not a lot of playtime. (laughter) Exploring the town. Swimming, maybe, at the beach?

Angel: Có đi ra biển lội không?

(Did you swim?)

Dang: (laughs)

VanZandt: No? No swimming?

Dang: (laughs) Yeah, I go to the ball(?).

VanZandt: You were working! (laughs)

Angel: Từ nhỏ đến lớn là chú làm biển không. Mà chú làm biển là từ mấy tuổi?

(When did you start fishing?)

Dang: Từ mười mấy tuổi là đi làm rồi. 13 tuổi.

(Thirteen years old.)

Angel: Yeah. When I was thirteen—

Dang: Thirteen years old.

VanZandt: You started fishing, OK. Did you go to school?

Dang: Just fifth grade.

VanZandt: Fifth grade? OK.

Dang: (laughs)

VanZandt: Did you like school? What was school like for you?

Dang: (laughs)

VanZandt: (laughs) No? Was that a no?!

Angel: Lúc đó chú có đi học không?

(Did you go to school?)

Dang: Được đi học cũng thích nhưng mà gia đình nghèo cũng đâu có đi học nhiều đâu. Tới lớp 5 là nghỉ để đi làm.

(Yes. I liked going to school, but my family was poor. I was not able to study further. I quit at fifth grade and started working.)

Angel: He said he really enjoyed it. He liked it a lot, but at the time my family was poor, and they didn't have enough money.

Dang: Không. Mà thời trước đó tui ở Gò Công, thời chiến tranh cũng đâu, lúc đó chiến tranh nhiều nên gia đình mới dọn về Vũng Tàu. Chứ trước đó là ở Gò Công, chỗ đó chiến tranh nhiều cũng đâu có học hành gì được đâu.

(No. When I was in Gò Công, the battlefields were everywhere, so it was very hard for school.)

Angel: He said that when they were living there in Go Cong, that was actually battleground, and so when they moved to Vung Tau, that disrupted his education. He said if it wasn't (inaudible) for him to go to school. Lúc đó mà không có chiến tranh thì chú vẫn học phải không?

Dang: Thì vẫn học. Thì lúc đó có chiến tranh nên không được học hành.

(Yes. But because of the war, I could not.)

Angel: Yeah. And he said that if it wasn't for the war, he could still be in school.

VanZandt: He would have stayed in school.

Angel: Yeah, stayed. That had disrupted his education a lot.

VanZandt: And the family, I guess, too, when their father was taken away. Did you see any American movies? Did you have any time like that? Some other people have had fond memories of going to the movies, seeing American movies during the war. Any memories of that?

Angel: Bả hỏi lúc đó mình có đi cine mà coi phim. Mỹ hồi mà Mỹ nó qua bên.

(Did you see American movies at that time?)

Dang: Hồi đó có một vài lần coi điệp viên 007, cũng có coi. (chuckles)

(I watch 007 several times.)

Angel: Yeah, he said he did.

VanZandt: (chuckles) He did?

Dang: (chuckles)

VanZandt: What kind did you like? Any that you remember? Westerns? Comedy?

Angel: Chú có thích phim Mỹ hơn hay phim Việt Nam hơn? Phim tếu hay là phim gì?

(Did you like American or Vietnamese movies? Do you like comedy?)

Dang: Thì cũng coi, cũng thích phim vui cười.

(I like funny movies.)

Angel: He liked comedies.

VanZandt: (smiles) That's great. Well, let's get to fishing, the fishing life because that's what you've spent a lot of time doing. Can you talk about how fishing was different in Vietnam than fishing *here*, in America? Very different, how you fished, what kind of boat you had, what you fished for, and how you sold it.

Dang: It the same in Vietnam. Cũng giống như bên Mỹ này. Gia đình hồi đó đi cào tro, tro nếp, cũng giống vậy. Cũng khác chút đỉnh mà mình tiếp nhận nó cũng nhanh thôi. Cũng không khó khăn gì.

(It is like here in America. My family used to fish near the shore. Now here, it is slightly different, so we can study fast. There are no difficulties.)

Angel: Nhưng mà bên Việt Nam thì con hiểu là không có máy móc nhiều.

(I know that in Vietnam there are not supporting machinery.)

Dang: Không có máy móc nhiều đúng rồi. Làm bằng tay chân không. Qua đây làm máy móc, mà đối với chú cũng không có khó khăn gì, tiếp nhận cũng dễ dàng thôi. Việt Nam thì không có máy móc.

(Right. Mostly by hand. But for me, I found it easily to learn how to use those machines.)

Angel: Cái đó là tàu lớn hay tàu nhỏ? Was it a big boat or small boat?

Dang: Tàu cũng không lớn lắm. Cũng khoảng chừng 40 hay 50 feet.

(It was not big. Around forty or fifty feet.)

Angel: Yeah. He said that his boat [was] forty to fifty feet. And it was, it was very similar to fishing over here, except the thing over there, we had to use our hands more. Over here, we have machinery to help us. But it's very similar.

VanZandt: OK. And your nets are similar? Some people have described using one or—two boats with one net—

Dang: Yes. Two boat, one net.

VanZandt: But here it's different, right?

Dang: Uh-huh.

VanZandt: Ah. How?

Dang: But now, over here I use one boat with four nets. (laughs)

VanZandt: Four nets? (laughs)

Dang: Four nets, yeah. But in Vietnam, two boat, one net.

VanZandt: One net. In the middle?

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: One net in the middle?

Dang: Yeah. One net middle, and the cable.

VanZandt: OK. The sticks, they call sometimes chopsticks.

Dang: Um-hm.

VanZandt: They would drag the net along?

Dang: Mm.

VanZandt: So what would you catch in your net in Vietnam? What kind of things did you—

Dang: The shrimp and fish. Fish, shrimp. Too many kinds.

VanZandt: Some people have said eels, yellow eels?

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: Electric eels?

Dang: Um-hm.

VanZandt: That, too?

Dang: Yeah. Yellow eel, about around this (demonstrates size with hands).

VanZandt: Ah, and long.

Dang: Yes.

VanZandt: Was that good food to eat, eel?

Dang : Mm, yeah.

VanZandt: Was that a delicacy there, or was that just an everyday [dish], just like shrimp here?

Angel: Con eel đó đó một ngày bắt được nhiều không? Hay lâu lâu mới bắt được?
(*Did you catch eel every day?*)

Dang: Một ngày cũng bắt được mấy con. Four or five. One day, two, four, five, in one day.

VanZandt: Wow, in one catch, that many?

Dang: Yeah, one day; for one day.

VanZandt: OK. But that was something that they ate on a [daily basis]? I just wondered if that was a special—

Angel: Cái đó có hiếm lắm không?

(*Were they rare?*)

VanZandt: Expensive?

Dang: Hồi đó cũng không có hiếm mấy, bây giờ nghĩ chắc hiếm rồi không như hồi trước. (chuckles)

(*It was not that rare at that time. But now it is.*)

Angel: Nó có mắc hơn cá thường không?

(*Was more expensive than the normal fish?*)

Dang: Cũng thường thôi. Cá đó cũng không phải là loại cá hiếm quý mà đắt tiền. Giá cả nó cũng bình thường.

(*It was just normal fish. So its price was just normal.*)

Angel: It was, the eel was not one of the ones that (inaudible) rare. They were able to catch it every time they went out there. He thinks more so now, that they would want the eel now than then.

VanZandt: More of a delicacy now. Maybe there are fewer of them. What would have been like the greatest catch back then, the biggest delicacy that—

Angel: Cái con gì mà nó hiếm nhất. Hay là cái gì mà người ta muốn trả giá cao nhất cho?

(Which fish is rare, or which fish people liked to pay for high price?)

Dang: Hồi đó, chú làm thì cũng bình thường thôi cũng hông gặp cái loại cái nào mà người ta trả giá cao nhất, cũng cào những loại cá bình thường. Thời buổi đó thì nó vậy, chẳng hạn, đủ thứ cá hết, cá đù – nhiều loại cá, giá cả cũng bình thường.

(It was normal at that time. I never catch any fish that people would pay high. It was because of the situation, most of the fish were paid normally.)

Angel: Yeah. Mà chú có nhớ lúc đó cái gì hiếm nhất? Tôm hay là cua? Hay là cá?

(Did you remember which one is the rarest? Shrimp, crab, or fish?)

Dang: Hồi đó thì tôm cũng không hiếm gì mấy, sau này gần đi thì tôm thì nó hiếm thôi. Nhưng mà lúc trước tôm nó cũng có. Cá nó cũng có. Đại khái là cũng không có phải là hiếm quý. Những loại cá bình thường thôi, tại vì mình cào mình không có bắt được những loại cá khác, đại khái như cái mập, shark. Mình đi cào mà mình không bao giờ bắt mấy loại cá đó được.

(Shrimp was not rare, just recently it is. But everything was OK at that time; nothing was rare. But I was not able to catch shark or big fish. I would never be able to catch them.)

Angel: Mà nó có bao giờ vô lưới của mình không?

(Did it ever get caught in the net?)

Dang: Không. Cái loại đó nó không vô. Chẳng hạn như Tuna này nọ mình đâu có bắt nó được, loại cào đâu có bắt được cá đó. Mà ở đây mình cũng đâu bắt được loại cá đó.

(No. Like tuna, my fishing style would never be able to catch them.)

Angel: Nó lớn quá hả?

(Because they're too big?)

Dang: Không. Tại vì mình cào ở dưới đáy biển. Nó đi ở trên, nên không bắt nó được. Tuna, cũng đâu có bắt nó được.

(No. Because we just caught at the bottom of the sea, they on the surface. Tuna also on the surface.)

Angel: Yeah. He said there were just a lot of fish and a lot of shrimp. There's not one in particular that he said was rare. He wasn't any—with that question, it made him think about what he could not catch, also. And so he told us that he wasn't able to catch tuna or sharks.

VanZandt: Is that because they didn't go far enough out? And those larger fish—

Angel: Well, he also mentioned that the way that they were catching was more deeper, and they [larger fish] would swim on the surface instead of like the shrimp. They were on the surface.

VanZandt: Right. OK. So they stayed swimming more on the surface. OK. Interesting. Did you go out at night or daytime? And how long did he stay out? If he could just talk about—

Dang: Yeah. Just, um, daytime. But begin about, the boat go out about one o'clock, two o'clock—

VanZandt: In the afternoon?

Dang: —a.m. Yeah, come midnight, one o'clock, two o'clock, and be back about four or five o'clock p.m.

VanZandt: Oh, *long day*.

Dang: Yeah.

Angel: Yeah.

VanZandt: So you did go out at night, when it was dark.

Dang: Um-hm.

VanZandt: And what did you use for light?

Angel: Lúc đó mình dùng đèn gì? Đèn dầu?

(What light did you use?)

Dang: No, just, Đèn dầu. No electric. (laughs)

(No electric.)

VanZandt: No electric, right.

Angel: Oil lamps.

VanZandt: Oil lamps.

Dang: Yeah, use battery for the light; (inaudible) battery for the light.

Angel: Flashlights.

VanZandt: All right. Well, you must have seen a lot of things out there. You've fished a long time. Any "big fish" stories, funny memories, scary, things that happened out on the sea with his father?

Angel: Bả hỏi coi là chùng nào là chú nhớ đến đánh cá ở Việt Nam?

(She asked when you remember fishing in Vietnam?)

Dang: Nhớ là nhớ làm sao?

(What do you mean?)

Angel: Giống như có bắt được nhiều, bão hay là gì?

(It's like when you had a big catch, or storm?)

Dang: Hồi trước, hồi mà năm 68 đó, trước nhà cũng có làm lưới. Làm lưới thì cũng bắt được nhiều cá đối lắm, vô rồi tàu vô bến, nhiều khi vợ con xuống phụ gỡ cá đó. Gia đình xuống phụ gỡ. Lúc đó bắt được nhiều cá. Một mình làm không kịp, ba bốn người phải vô bờ phụ. Rồi sau này mình đi tàu cũng trúng tôm trúng cá đó, vô bờ thì xuống phụ.

(Around 1968, my family also did nets. I used to catch a lot of fish. I could not do by myself, so my whole family went down and helped me.)

Angel: Bên bến có đồ đá đồ gì giống bên này không?

(Did you use ice?)

Dang: Không. Không có đá, Hồi đó đi ngày một vô à. Sáng đi chiều vô. Không có đá.

(No. I went in the morning, back at afternoon. No need for ice.)

Angel: Minh có nước để mà nó không có bị sinh không?

(So without ice, did they become rancid?)

Dang: Không, một ngày nó không có sinh. Một ngày con cá vẫn còn tươi.

(No, within one day, they will be fresh.)

Angel: Lên bán rồi cũng không có đá?

(How about after sold to the market?)

Dang: Lên bán rồi họ mới ướp đá.

(They put ice when they sold to customers.)

Angel: Yeah. I was just curious about how they were able to keep the fish fresh. He said that they only left for one day at a time, and when they had a *big* catch, you know, the whole family would come out and help out. And that's when he gets really excited, when the whole family comes out to help. But it's not like over here where you have to get the fuel *and* the ice. Over there, they don't have to get the ice. It was only one day's trip, and he'd bring it in and people from the market actually put the ice on it. But as far as them catching the fish, they didn't use ice. That's interesting.

VanZandt: Yeah, fresh! Fresh from the sea *right* to the market. Yeah. Not on freezer boats; very fresh.

Dang: Mm.

VanZandt: And I wondered that, because here in the United States, fishing, do you have to wear safety gear? I know there are a lot more rules and regulations: what you can catch, just safety first. How [is] that different here than in Vietnam, as far as rules and regulations? And if he wants to talk about here—

Angel: Ở ngoài đó cũng đâu có, đánh cá.

(So, fishing—)

VanZandt: Turtle excluder devices—

Dang: Ở Việt Nam mình không có, bắt được hết à. Cái gì cũng bắt được hết không có cái gì bị cấm hết. (laughs) Ở đó không có luật lệ.

(In Vietnam I could catch anything. Nothing was restricted. No rules.)

Angel: He said in Vietnam there's no rules and regulations. You catch just about anything out there.

Dang: Any kind of fish.

VanZandt: Anything goes. Yeah. OK.

Dang: No rules. (chuckles)

VanZandt: No rules. Was that difficult when you came here and started fishing, to learn the rules and regulations?

Dang: Yeah. Uh-huh. Little bit difficult learn the rule. Some fish—Nhiều loại cá, ở đây cũng nhiều loại mình cũng không hiểu hết được nữa, phải cố gắng, nhiều khi không dám bắt nữa. Có nhiều loại cá cũng cho mình bắt mà mình cũng không biết bị gì mình cũng không rành mấy cũng hông dám bắt vì luật lệ ở đây khó, có những loại cá cấm đó. Nhiều khi cũng khó khăn. Nhiều khi không dám bắt vì không biết con nào cấm con nào không. Chỉ bắt tôm và những con cá bậy bạ thôi để ăn thôi, ví dụ như cá đù cá này cá kia. Chẳng hạn như cá đỏ, red snapper thì mình biết rồi. Hoặc là những cá shark đồ thì nó cấm thì mình biết rồi. Có những loại cá khác mình không biết thành ra cũng không dám bắt. Nhiều khi luật nó cho phép mình cũng không dám nhiều khi. (chuckles)

(Many fish here, I don't understand and know them all, so I dare not to catch them because the rules here are so strict. I just catch shrimps and some fishes to eat. Like red snapper, shark was restricted. Even though the rules allow me to catch some fish, I still don't dare to catch them.)

Angel: There's so many variety over here, but because of the rules and regulations, stop me from catching everything that I actually catch. And I'd have to put it back.

But I do bring home most of the shrimp and some fish, but even if it were OK to catch some of the fish, it's just that I want to be on the safe side, so I just throw them back.

VanZandt: Did he mention shark? I thought I heard him say, mention shark.

Angel: He mentioned the red snappers.

Dang: Yeah. Right now, red snapper illegal to catch. Red snapper and shark.

VanZandt: Anything else?

Dang: Lemon fish. Lemon fish, OK. Lemon fish catch about two of them for each person. If on the boat four people, eight of them allowed.

VanZandt: So you can't catch all the things you wish you could have caught in Vietnam, that you could have, like shark. (laughs)

Dang: Um-hm. (chuckles)

VanZandt: There's a lot of sorting out when you bring the catch in. Throw some back. Lot of sorting.

Angel: Yeah. Phải lựa ra rồi bỏ vô biển lại phải không?

(So you have to categorize and put them back into the sea?)

Dang: Yes. Mà nói bây giờ tàu của chú ở đây thì đại khái thì đánh tôm thôi, đâu có đánh cá. Nhiều khi mình lấy về để mình ăn thôi chứ đâu bắt cá bán hay gì, thành ra ít bắt cá lắm, chỉ có chút đỉnh mang về ăn thôi. Thành ra tàu này chỉ bắt tôm thôi.

(Yes. But my boat is just for shrimping, not for fishing. Sometimes I catch fish just for eating. I rarely catch fish.)

Angel: (quoting Mr. Dang) I mainly catch shrimp. But I don't normally get fish. If I were to catch any fish, I'd bring it home for my family. But to sell it, mainly shrimp.

VanZandt: What do you think about those rules? Whoever makes those rules, the federal government and state, would say, "That's for good reason; we don't want overfishing, and there are reasons for those rules." How does he feel about all those strict rules and regulations?

Angel: Có nhiều luật lệ, chú có thấy sự phiền muộn ở mấy cái luật lệ ấy không?

(Do you feel that there are too many rules and regulations that you have to go by?)

Dang: Thì mình phải tuân theo luật lệ thôi. Đành rằng có nhiều cái luật lệ nó hơn ở Việt Nam, nhưng mà sống ở đâu thì phải tuân theo luật lệ thôi ở chỗ đó thôi. Thí dụ, ở Việt Nam, chủ tàu không có thét(?), mà giờ luật lệ ở đây nó bắt thì mình cũng phải mang theo. Loại con cá nó không cho mình bắt thì mình cũng không bắt thôi, phải tuân theo luật lệ ở xứ này thôi, thì cũng Ok thôi, cũng bình thường thôi, chứ không có gì mà ràng buộc. Nhiều khi đôi lúc cũng trở ngại cho mình làm nhưng mình phải chấp

nhận thôi bị gì cái luật, cái rule rồi. Thí dụ giờ, tàu cho phải mang, thay giờ nếu tàu của chú không cần mang thì hằng năm chú không cần tốn nhiều tiền để trang bị cho thết, rồi mỗi lần uýnh nó hư hại rồi phải tốn tiền, nhiều khi lại thất thoát tôm nữa. Mà vì là cái luật nên mình phải chấp nhận thôi, luật lệ nên mình không thể không thi hành được.

(I have to follow the rules. Even there are more rules here, but I have to follow. For example, in Vietnam I did not have to have thết, but here I had to. If they do not allow me to catch any kind of fish, I won't catch them. So I'm OK with it. Even if I have to pay more money for equipment and fixing, but I accept it.)

Angel: He said the rules and regulations, you know, it's like every place they live they're different. You just have to follow it. And so he's here in America, and there's a lot of different things that he has to go by, whether it be tide(?), or what kind of fish that he fishes, but he feels like it's there for a reason. And although he has to pay a little bit more for it, that there are the rules and regulations to keep (inaudible), and he wants to go by it.

VanZandt: OK. Well, backing up to Vietnam, when you left, it must have been a very difficult decision to leave your homeland. Can you talk about the days leading up to April 30, 1975? What were your family's decisions and preparations? And just what happened? Just talk about those difficult times up until the fall of Saigon, if you would. And then deciding to leave.

Angel: Sau này chú quyết định đi qua Mỹ đó, chú có thể kể câu chuyện đó không?

(When did you decide to leave? Can you tell us?)

Dang: Là lý do quyết định qua Mỹ đó hả?

(The reasons to leave?)

Angel: Dạ.

(Yes.)

Dang: Thì ở đó cuộc sống ràng buộc, nó không có tự do, sống không có tự do. Hồi trước năm 75 thì mình có tự do đầy đủ nhưng mà sống dưới chế độ Cộng Sản thì mình không có tự do. Mình muốn đi tìm tự do vậy thôi.

(So just because it was so hard there, there was no freedom. Before 1975, I had a lot of freedom, but under VC's period, I could not have any. I just wanted to find freedom.)

Angel: Vậy ai hướng dẫn chú đi qua Mỹ vậy chú?

(So who instructed you to America?)

Dang: Thì cũng đi đại thôi, mình đi vượt biên bằng tàu.

(Nobody. I just depended on my luck. I used my boat.)

Angel: Đi tàu thì có nhiều tàu.

(There were many boats?)

Dang: Ồ. Thì nhiều tàu người ta đi trước đó, mình cũng nghe.

(Yes. A lot of people went before me. I heard them.)

Angel: Mình phải trả tiền?

(Did you pay?)

Dang: Không, tại nhà có phương tiện nên đi luôn.

(No. I used my boat.)

Angel: Lúc đó thì mấy người đi?

(How many people were there?)

Dang: Cũng mấy chục người đó, gia đình rồi vòng vòng những người quen thân rồi đó. Mà mình cũng cho họ đi đồ á.

(A lot. My family and people I know.)

Angel: Tổng cộng là mấy người?

(How many in total?)

Dang: Sáu chục người. Không, sáu mươi hai người đi trên tàu

(Sixty. No, sixty-two).

Angel: Dạ. Rồi lúc đó có mang theo hành lý gì?

(What did you bring with you?)

Dang: Đâu có hành lý gì đâu. Chỉ là quần áo vậy thôi à, thức ăn.

(Nothing special. Just clothes and food.)

Angel: Mỗi người mang theo mấy con?

(How many?)

Dang: Thì mỗi người mang theo năm ba bộ vậy thôi. Quần áo mang theo để mặc thôi.

(Just few. Just for wearing.)

Angel: Lúc đó mang theo lương thực đủ ăn không?

(Did you bring enough food?)

Dang: Gạo thóc thì cũng đủ ăn. Đi có mấy ngày à, Đi có ba bữa à. Nước thì mình ăn uống cũng, thì nước uống thì mỗi ngày mình uống một lít đi bây giờ mình uống có 1 cup nhỏ thôi. Để tạm đi qua mấy ngày trên biển.

(Rice was enough. The trip was just few days, three days. We drank much less water. We just drank to survive during days on the sea.)

Angel: So they decided to—they had their own boat. And after the fall of [South] Vietnam, things just was so different that they made some plans to leave. His family and a total of sixty other people went on his boat. And they packed up. They didn't bring a lot, just their clothes and some food to eat. And they were able to get on the boat and leave from Vietnam.

VanZandt: And who left in your family? Who left with you?

Angel: Trong gia đình á, nguyên gia đình đi luôn hay sao?

(Did whole family go with you?)

Dang: Nguyên gia đình chứ. Hai vợ chồng với 5 đứa con. Rồi gia đình, rồi người thân, bạn bè.

(Whole family. Us and five kids. Then relatives and friends.)

Angel: Chỉ có gia đình của bác thôi, chứ ba mẹ chú không có đi?

(Did your parents come?)

Dang: Không.

(No.)

Angel: Anh em có đi không hay chỉ gia đình bác thôi?

(How about your siblings?)

Dang: Không. Gia đình đi không thôi.

(No, just my family.)

Angel: It was just his family. He had five kids at the time. Có 5 đứa con hả?

Dang: (speaking Vietnamese)

Angel: (speaking Vietnamese)

VanZandt: Oh, *you* had five children.

Dang: Five children.

VanZandt: OK. We'll have to get to that.

Angel: Yeah. He had five kids. It was him and his wife and his friends and other people. And the total was sixty [sixty-two].

VanZandt: But not his parents?

Angel: Not his parents, not his siblings. Just his family.

VanZandt: Just you and your family. And how did you make that decision to leave your family? Was there discussion about maybe the parents and siblings would go? If he can talk about how they came [to that decision]. Did they [parents and siblings] know he was leaving?

Angel: Ba mẹ chú, và anh em có biết hù quyết định đi qua Mỹ không?

(Did your parents and siblings know you were going?)

Dang: Cũng biết.

(They did.)

Angel: Yes. He actually let them know. They did know.

VanZandt: OK. And none of the others wanted to come?

Angel: Rồi mấy anh em không có muốn đi hả?

(Did your siblings not want to go?)

Dang: Có đi. Sau đó hai mươi ngày mấy anh em có đi vì ở nhà có mấy chiếc tàu lặn.

(They did. They went after me twenty days.)

Angel: Dạ. Sau đó hai ba ngày sau.

(After two or three days?)

Dang: 20 ngày sau một chiếc tàu trong gia đình cũng đi nữa. Mấy anh em đi nữa.

(After twenty days, another family boat left.)

Angel: Lúc đó thì mấy anh em được đi?

(How many of your siblings left?)

Dang: Lúc sau đó thì bốn anh em.

(Four.)

Angel: So he was the first one to leave. But their family had many boats, and so four of his siblings and their families left.

Dang: Sau đó ba người nữa đi.

(Three more.)

Angel: Instead of four, it was three of his siblings and their families had left on the other boats that they had.

VanZandt: *After he did?*

Angel: After he did.

VanZandt: He was the first one to go.

Angel: But he was the first one to go.

VanZandt: Wow. And so it was your boat, your family—

Dang: (Inaudible)

VanZandt: How many boats did your family have?

Dang: Bị gì tui cũng không còn sống chung trong gia đình nữa, ở riêng rồi. Tui đi là phần của tui. Gia đình anh em cũng sống riêng hết rồi, thì sau đó sau hai mươi ngày, một chiếc tàu trong gia đình cũng đi nữa. Ba anh em sau cũng đi nữa. Còn ở Việt Nam cũng mấy người anh em. Còn bốn người ở Việt Nam nữa.

(I was living separately at that time. This was my own business. All my siblings had their own family. After twenty days, another family boat left, too. I still have four siblings in Vietnam.)

Angel: So he's just saying that at that time, yeah, he had his own family so he had to take care of his family. And so their decision in going was based upon his family and finding a better opportunity for them. And then, they actually decided afterwards to go.

VanZandt: What year was this that they left?

Angel: Chú đi năm mấy?

Dang: Năm 81.

Angel: Nineteen eighty-one.

VanZandt: Nineteen eighty-one, OK.

Dang: Um-hm, 1981.

VanZandt: That was six years after the fall of Saigon. Why did he wait? And did anything special happen at that time that made him decide that was the year to leave, 1981? Why the six years? Were there previous attempts?

Angel: Trong sáu năm đó cái này là lần đầu tiên mình đi vượt biên phải không?

(Within this six years, was it your first attempt?)

Dang: Đúng.

(Yes.)

Angel: Trước đó là không có ý định đi?

(You did not have that idea before that?)

Dang: Trước đó là không có ý định bỏ vì mình. Hồi trước, mình nghĩ là hồi trước là chiến tranh sau nghĩ là hết chiến tranh thì xong rồi phải hem. Nhưng mà mình sống dưới chế độ Cộng Sản không được, không có tự do, không có đủ thứ hết. Càng ngày mình sống mình mới biết rõ là Cộng Sản thực sự là như thế. Hồi trước đó mình không biết bởi vì tưởng rằng đất nước hết chiến tranh thì mình đâu cần phải đi đâu? (chuckles) Mình đâu cần phải đi làm gì mà mình sống dưới chế độ cộng sản, mình sống không được nữa nên mình phải đi thôi.

(No. Because first I thought the war was ended, so everything should become normal again. But under Communism, there was no freedom. I had nothing. After a while, I understood what it was like. (chuckles) I never thought I would leave Vietnam. But I had to go.)

Angel: Yeah. Well, he did not know that after the fall of Vietnam that [the Communists] were going to be so controlling. They didn't have the life that they had before. It was his first attempt to leave in 1981.

VanZandt: So he had just had enough; decided it was—

Angel: He'd just had enough. After the fall of Vietnam, they tried to stay there, and they thought that was going to stabilize and normalize and get back to where they used to be. But there was just a lot of torture going on, so he said it was best that his family leaves.

VanZandt: How did the Communist takeover affect his family? Did they lose any of their property or boats or—

Angel: Cái lúc đó Cộng Sản nó vô nó có chiếm đất của mình, tàu của mình hay là những cái gì của mình không?

(So did Communist take anything from you?)

Dang: Không. Nhà đâu có gì đâu mà để nó chiếm? Mình đâu có tài sản gì dư giả.

(No, because I had nothing to take.)

Angel: Nó chỉ có kèm mình?

(So they just controlled you?)

Dang: Sống dưới chế độ thấy khó khăn, không có tự do vậy thôi. Hồi trước mình sống tự do sau này mình không có tự do.

(It was hard to live there, no freedom. Just simple like that.)

Angel: Well, before there was just freedom, and they didn't take any (inaudible) after, but you know—

VanZandt: Or boats?

Angel: No. It wasn't taken, but it was just very controlling.

VanZandt: OK. So you left with sixty people, a lot of people on your boat in 1981—

Dang: Um-hm.

VanZandt: How did you arrange to do that so secretly with *so* many people? What was the plan?

Angel: Cái đó có 60 người mình đi ban đêm hay là ngày?

(So did you leave at night?)

Dang: Ban đêm, nhưng mà hỏi trước đi.

(Night. But before leaving—)

Angel: Chú là chủ tàu? Chú là captain?

(Were you the owner? Were you the captain?)

Dang: Chủ tàu và là captain luôn.

(Yes.)

Angel: Vậy là mỗi người đi là phải đưa tiền?

(Did people pay you?)

Dang: Không. Trong gia đình và bạn bè và một số người họ nghe mình đi họ đi theo, họ không trả tiền. Tui có lấy tiền chút định để mà mua dầu mua mỡ này kia thôi. Còn lại là những người trong gia đình đi, bạn bè có, bà con, người thân thôi.

(No. Most of them were friends and relatives. They just came with us. They did not pay. I actually got some money for fuel.)

Angel: Vậy lúc đó chú có biết đi biển ra sao không rồi đường đi qua không?

(Did you know the direction to go?)

Dang: Thì mình chỉ biết là cái hướng đó thôi về tới những cái nước.

(I just know the way.)

Angel: Mà chú có bản đồ không?

(Did you have map?)

Dang: Có bản đồ.

(Yes.)

Angel: Dạ.

Dang: Có hải bàn.

(I had compass, too.)

Angel: I had a compass, and I had a map. And I knew which direction to go. He was the captain, actually, and a lot of his relatives actually went with him, his family, friends, relatives. And he didn't charge them anything. They only chipped in for the fuel and some things that he needed to travel. But at that time the compass and the map helped him go to where he needed to go.

Angel: Chú đi theo hướng nào về đảo nào?

(So you just went to direction to island?)

Dang: Về hướng Nam. Qua bên Malaysia. Tới đảo Bi- đông. Chú đi tới là đi tới mấy cái giàn khoan bên Mã Lai. Người ta mới chỉ hướng mình đi vô bờ.

(To the south. To Malaysia. To Bidong Island. I met oil rig. They showed me the way to the island.)

Angel: Cái người ta đó là người trên tàu hay là?

(Who were they?)

Dang: Trên giàn khoan đó. Tới giàn khoan thì mình hỏi họ thì họ chỉ cho mình đi. Họ cho thêm nước và lương thực cho mình ăn.

(On rig oil, I asked them the direction. They showed me, and gave us food and water.)

Angel: Cái giàn khoan đó tiếng Mỹ là cái gì?

(How to say it in American?)

Dang: Platform.

Angel: Farm?

Dang: Platform.

Angel: Platform.

Dang: Oil rig. Yeah.

Angel and VanZandt: Oil rig, OK.

Angel: Platform, OK. Yeah. Dạ, Vậy là tới cái giàn khoan nó chỉ đường mình đi thêm nữa?

(So people on the rig showed you the way?)

Dang: Chỉ vô tới đảo [Pulau] Bi Đông.

(To Bidong Island.)

Angel: Oh, OK. Yeah. So he went south. And he went to Malaysia, but he got to one of the oil rigs, and there were people working on the oil rigs that actually pointed him there to Malaysia.

VanZandt: Pulau Bidong [refugee camp]?

Angel: Pulau Bidong?

Dang: Pulau Bidong.

VanZandt: Yes.

Dang: Yeah.

Angel: Con sanh ở tại đó. Con sanh ở Mã Lai.

(I was born in that place. In Malaysia.)

Dang: Ờ vậy hả? Sanh ở đó năm mấy?

(Really? When?)

Angel: (speaking Vietnamese) [1983].

Dang: Chú ở đó năm 81. Tháng giêng năm 1983 chú đi Mỹ.

(I left to America in 1983.)

Angel: Yeah.

Dang: I left in about, Pulau Bidong, January 1983.

Angel: Yeah.

VanZandt: Nineteen eighty-three. So you were there almost two years?

Dang: Yeah. Just one year and a half.

VanZandt: A year and a half, OK.

Dang: One year.

VanZandt: OK. How did you know to go there? Had you heard that others made it there? How did you know that was the way to go, toward Malaysia, to Pulau Bidong, and not Thailand or any other direction?

Dang: I don't know, but I just left Vietnam. I don't know Malaysia or Indonesia; just go south.

VanZandt: Yeah. Just head south.

Dang: Yeah, head south to the oil rig and ask somebody over there, "Show me the way to the Pulau Bidong."

VanZandt: Ah. How long was that journey? How many days did it take?

Dang: Three days—

VanZandt: Three days.

Dang: —three nights. Three days.

VanZandt: Was it relatively safe on the way there, or did you have any bad experiences?

Dang: Safe.

VanZandt: No danger.

Dang: No. No danger.

Angel: Yeah.

VanZandt: Very lucky.

Angel: Không có hải tặc không có gì hết ả?

(No pirates?)

Dang: Không.

(No.)

VanZandt: Very, very lucky.

Dang: Very lucky.

VanZandt: Yeah.

Dang: Yeah. Many boats bị hải tặc. Chắc cháu cũng biết mà ha, Pulau Bidong nhiều hải tặc cướp. Có lần, nhiều người mang tới bệnh viện luôn. Tàu lên đênh cả tháng, tại bị tàu hải tặc cướp ở gần đảo Pulau Bidong.

(Many boats met pirates. You know, right? There were a lot of pirates near Bidong. There were some people taken to hospital.)

Angel: Mà hải tặc thường nó là người gì vậy?

(Who were the pirates?)

Dang: Thì nó là người Thái Lan.

(Most of them were Thai.)

Angel: Yeah. I asked him, normally the pirates, what nationality were they, and he said that most of them were Thai.

VanZandt: Yeah. Yeah, that's why I wondered. The other day we interviewed the gentleman who went toward Thailand, and he didn't have any bad experiences, so it was unusual. Well, you made it to Malaysia safely.

Dang: Mm.

VanZandt: What did you feel in your heart, your mind, leaving Vietnam, when you had to leave? What were you thinking?

Angel: Cái lúc mà phải rời khỏi Việt Nam đó, trong lòng mình có sợ hãi, vui hay là?
(When you left Vietnam, were you happy? Or worried?)

Dang: Mới rời hay là rời khỏi rời?

(After or before?)

Angel: He said, before he left or after he left?

VanZandt: Well, both, if he has—I was thinking of after, what he felt seeing his land, you know, leaving.

Angel: Trước khi đó.

(Before that?)

Dang: (phone rings) Trước khi mình rời đi thì mình rất là sợ vì sợ bị bắt lại. Chú này ra ý định vì chú ở trong quân đội, nếu mà chú mà bị Cộng Sản bắt lại thì chú sẽ bị hành cho tới chết. Chú nói với vợ con, nếu mà rủi mà bị công an chặn lại tui sẽ phóng xuống sông tui lội, rủi nó bắn chết thì bỏ thôi. Còn gia đình thì nó bắt ở tù thôi. Con nếu tui bị bắt thì nó hành tội cho tới chết luôn bị vì mình trong quân đội ngày xưa mà. Thành ra, tui quyết định là sẽ phóng xuống sông nếu nó bắn thì chịu chết thôi. Lúc đó cũng hồi hộp dữ lắm vì không biết mình đi có lọt không nữa. Nhưng mà khi đi lọt ra ngoài biển thì mừng lắm, tới đảo ở chín tháng. Sống cũng cực khổ nhưng mà mình cũng được tự do, thì chờ ngày để đi định cư thôi.

(Before that, I was so scared. Because I used to be in the Army, if they caught me, I would be tortured to death. I told my wife that if I was caught, I would jump into the water. And if they shot me, just let me die. Then my family could be put in jail. So I'd rather jump into water and die instead of being arrested because I would die anyway. That's why I was so happy when I was able to go out the sea and come to the island.)

Angel: Vậy là cái lúc đó bác thà là phóng xuống sông chứ không chịu bị bắt.

(You'd rather jump into the water than being captured?)

Dang: Đúng rồi, vì nếu bị bắt thì cũng bị hành cho tới chết thôi. Mình tham gia chính quyền cũ mà, nó bắt nó đâu có tha mình đâu. Hồi đó, đi sợ lắm. Nhưng rút cuộc thì đi cũng khỏi ra biển thì mừng lắm. Lên đênh trên biển mấy ngày cũng không có gì, cũng an toàn. Đi tới đảo, được tự do rồi thì cũng mừng. Thì ở đó cũng 8 9 tháng, cũng khổ cực, cũng đâu được đầy đủ đâu, thì mình cũng ráng cố gắng thôi.

(Yes. If I was arrested, I would die. I served the old government. They would not let me go. I was so scared. But after I escaped, it was safe on the sea. I made it to the island. I tried hard months there.)

Angel: Yeah. Of course, before he left, he was *very* afraid. He was very afraid that he wasn't going to be able to leave Vietnam, and he had a plan that if they captured him, he'd rather just jump in the water, and if he made it, he made it. If not, he'd rather die than be captured. And so he was just very happy whenever they *were* able to make it. And very hopeful because now they have their freedom.

VanZandt: (tearing up) Hm.

Angel: Yeah.

VanZandt: I can understand that. Yeah. And you had five *children*. Do you remember the ages of your children when you left?

Dang: Left, the oldest was just eleven years old.

VanZandt: Ahh.

Dang: And the youngest, two years old.

VanZandt: Two, oh, my goodness.

Dang: Youngest.

VanZandt: They have their own story to tell, too, I'm sure; what they remember. When you made it to Malaysia, you were there a year and a half. What was that like? Any special memories of time in the camp there in Malaysia? Any special bonds—

Angel: Ở Mã Lai đó, lúc đó chú làm công việc gì?

(What did you do?)

Dang: Thì cũng đâu làm công việc gì đâu. Ở đó đi học ngoại ngữ. Rồi qua Ga Lăng, để học đời sống mới đó, rồi học Anh Ngữ.

(Nothing. I just study English. Then moved to Galang for lifestyle training.)

Angel: Vậy 9 tháng đó là chỉ đi học thôi? Rồi nhà nước nó cho mình.

(So you just studied during 9 months. Did the government help you?)

Dang: Thì liên hợp quốc cho thức ăn này kia kia nọ.

(UN [United Nations] helped us.)

Angel: Thì nguyên gia đình ở trong cái trại hả?

(So you lived in a camp?)

Dang: Ở trong cái nhà, thì cháu cũng biết mà.

(House, you know that.)

Angel: Cháu thấy giống như cái trại.

(I think it looked like a camp.)

Dang: Thì nhà nhỏ nhỏ nhỏ nhỏ.

(Yes, small houses.)

Angel: Có mấy cái giường.

(Thin beds.)

Dang: Ờ thì có mấy cái giường, đại khái vậy đó. Nhà nhỏ chỉ để tạm trú

(Right. Just for refugee.)

Angel: Mà ở đó có TV coi không? Hay radio không?

(Did you have TV or radio?)

Dang: Đâu có đâu. Muốn có thì có TV ở trên đó, mình phải đi coi thôi, chứ ở nhà đâu có. Mình phải đi lên mấy cái khu mà, cháu biết mà.

(No. If you want to watch TV, you have to go other places.)

Angel: Vậy sống ở bên được 9 tháng gia đình làm cái gì cho qua ngày?

(So what did your family do during this time?)

Dang: Bà thì đi bán cá. Có bán cá nữa. Cá mà mấy người họ đi câu đó, câu về bán lại bà, bà đem ra chợ bà bán kiếm tiền sống chứ không ấy, thì Liên Hợp Quốc chỉ cho mình chút đỉnh gạo ăn chứ đâu có đủ đâu.

(My wife sold fish. Some people fished. They sold to her, and she sold back to the market to earn some money. UN did not give us enough.)

Angel: Ai bắt cá cho vợ chú bán?

(Who caught the fish?)

Dang: Thì mấy người đi câu, cũng đi câu lén nữa, thì nhỏ nhỏ đó.

(Other people who secretly went fishing.)

Angel: Câu bằng cần câu hả?

(By rod?)

Dang: Câu bằng xuồng, đi ra ngoài sâu câu á.

(No. By small boat, in deep water.)

Angel: Dạ.

Dang: Mã Lai mà nó gặp được nó cạo đầu hết chon.

(If Malaysia knew, they would shave us all.)

Angel: (laughs)

Dang: Nhưng mà chiều tối cũng lén đi câu, rồi giấu xuồng trong lùm trong bụi, khuya họ đi, đi về bữa được ồ cá nè.

(But they still did it. They hid the boats in the bush.)

Angel: So ở Mã Lai nó cũng có lính nữa hả?

(So Malaysia had soldiers, too?)

Dang: Đánh chứ. Nó cấm.

(Yes. They prohibited.)

Angel: Lính mà nó bảo vệ cái.

(They protected.)

Dang: Ủ. Nó không cho mình

(Yes. They did not allow us.)

Angel: Lính hay là security?

(Soldier or security?)

Dang: Security. Lính của Mã Lai đó. Malaysian [soldier].

Angel: Lính của Mã Lai. Malaysian soldier.

Dang: Nó cạo đầu luôn á. Bị gì nó cấm nó không cho mình làm, tại vì tới đó cùng đường không có tiền có bạc mình sống, thì mình, chú thì không có đi câu. Mà mấy đứa mười mấy hai mươi tuổi đó, rồi nó mới làm mấy cái ván ép bậy bạ đơn giản để ra biển câu. Câu rồi về bán lại, bả mua, thí dụ, bữa kiếm lời được vài ba đồng, năm bảy

đồng Mã Lai. Hồi đó 2 đồng Mã Lai đổi được 1 đồng dollar. Rồi, cũng sống qua ngày.

(They would shave our heads. They prohibited us, but because they needed money so badly, so they had to take risks. Most of them were young guys. They put light wood together, made a small boat. They sold to my wife. Our revenue about couple of dollars. Two Malaysia dollars equaled to one U.S. dollar.)

Angel: Con nghe nói có người học cái này học cái kia dựng làm đó. Hồi đó chú có để tóc dài không?

(So did you leave your hair growing long?)

Dang: Không, để tóc ngắn bình thường trước giờ.

(No. I always have short hair.)

Angel: Chú đi vô tiệm cắt hay là ở nhà?

(Did you have your hair cut at salon or at home?)

Dang: Ở nhà chứ sao ở tiệm được? Ở nhà thím cắt.

(Home. My wife did it.)

Angel: Vậy là thím cắt cho chú với mấy đứa nhỏ.

(She did it to your children, too?)

Dang: Mình đâu có tiền đâu mà vô tiệm cắt lộn. Tự động là người này hớt cho người kia, người kia hớt cho người nọ. Thay phiên nhau hớt.

(We had no money for that. We helped each other.)

Angel: (laughs)

Dang: Đâu có xấu đẹp gì. Ai mà coi đâu.

(We did not care whether we looked good or not.)

Angel: Dạ. Yeah. Yeah. He talked about his time in Malaysia, and what they did. And he began to tell me more and more about what they did over there and how they were living. His wife actually sold fish in the market. I asked him, “Where did you get the fish?” And he said that they had to go and fish at night with poles on a little boat. But they had to sneak out there to go, because if the security there in Malaysia had caught them, he said that they would shave his head. (laughs) They would shave his head off. And then we talked about, when you were over there in Malaysia, who cut your hair? And then he said that his wife did, and his wife cut his children’s hair, and so that’s very admirable that his wife knew how to do many things.

VanZandt: Sounds like it, yeah. Where did they get the boats to fish, sneak out?

Angel: Cái tàu đó ở đâu mà mình có?

(Where did the boat come from?)

Dang: Thì cái ván ép trên bờ, ván mà mỏng mỏng, rồi họ làm thành cái xuống chiều ngang bây lớn, chiều dài bằng nhiều đây.

(We used light wood, put them together with that width and that length.)

Angel: Oh, my god.

Dang: Chiều dài đủ người ngồi trên đó để đi ra ngoài câu.

(Just enough for one person.)

Angel: Oh, wow. They *made* it.

VanZandt: They built—

Angel: They were able to get the wood—

Dang: Plywood(?). Plywood.

VanZandt: Where did you get the plywood?

Dang: I don't *know*. (laughter)

Angel: From everywhere. He said that they just found it, and they just put it together.

VanZandt: Oh, my. And built your own boats.

Dang: Um-hm.

Angel: Wow. That is amazing.

VanZandt: How big?

Dang: The boat about this wide and long, about from here to here. About two people.

VanZandt: OK. And for the tape, he's saying maybe this wide (motioning)?

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: So maybe four feet wide?

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: Not very wide.

Dang: Three foot wide, and—

VanZandt: And seven feet, eight feet—

Dang: —maybe seven feet long.

VanZandt: —long?

Dang: Two people on there. Go fishing by the line.

VanZandt: Yeah, line fishing. Pole?

Dang: Yeah, pole.

VanZandt: Did you catch a lot?

Dang: I didn't catch, but somebody catch, and my wife bought the fish and sold (laughs) to somebody, make some money. (laughter) Yeah. (laughter) Thời gian ở Bidong sau Galang học đời sống mới học tiếng Anh nữa mấy tháng nữa rồi thím cũng bán bánh mì để kiếm tiền đặng mua cái này cái kia thêm ăn. Thí dụ ở đó có phát mình đồ hộp hay gạo nhưng mà nhiều khi không đủ ăn, mấy đứa nhỏ cũng đòi ăn cái này cái kia, rồi bữa thím đi bán bánh mì thịt để kiếm thêm trong thời gian mà ở bên đảo.

(During time in Bidong then Galang, my wife also sold sandwiches to earn some money to buy more food. For example, we were just given canned food. It was not enough. My children needed more food.)

Angel: Yeah, his wife also sold sandwiches to make more money so that they could buy the things that they needed, more things they wanted to eat.

VanZandt: So you were very enterprising at the camp.

Angel: Yeah.

VanZandt: Did they provide some food? It just wasn't enough, and they wanted to have their own [supply]?

Angel: Lúc đó nó cho mình đồ ăn mà không có đủ thôi.

(They did but it was not enough.)

Dang: Cho mình đồ ăn nhưng không phải những thứ cần khác. Nó đâu phải cho mình mọi thứ đâu. Chẳng hạn có nhiều cái đâu có cho, thí dụ, quỹ cao Ủy Liên Hợp Quốc phát chớ tem food hay là rice, những cái thứ khác. Chẳng hạn đâu có cá tươi để mà ăn. Mình phải buôn bán để kiếm tiền mua cá tươi.

(We also needed something else apart from food. They did not give us everything. UN gave us food stamp, but we did not have fresh fish. That's why we needed money for fresh food.)

Angel: Cái con nhỏ nhất của chú là mấy tuổi hồi mà đi qua bên đảo.

(How old was your youngest kid?)

Dang: 2 tuổi. 2 years old.

Angel: 2 tuổi. Rồi nó cũng cho sữa, tã.

(Did they give you milk or diapers?)

Dang: Có mà cũng chỉ chút đỉnh thôi. Cũng đâu có đủ cho cuộc sống mình hàng ngày. Thí dụ, mình ăn những cái thứ đó hoài cũng không nổi, thí dụ đồ hộp, nhưng mình cũng đâu ăn hoài, ăn mãi được đâu.

(Yes, just little. It is not enough for daily life. We could not eat canned food forever.)

Angel: Rồi mấy đứa con ở bên nó làm cái gì?

(So what did your children do?)

Dang: Thì cũng đâu có làm gì đâu, cũng chơi, chứ đâu học hành gì đâu.

(Nothing. They just played around. There was no school for them.)

Angel: Tại nhỏ tuổi, nó ở nhà chơi thôi.

(Yes. They were so young.)

Dang: Ờ.

Angel: Rồi mấy anh em chơi chung thôi.

(So they just played together?)

Dang: Ờ. Còn đứa con gái lớn nhất thì đi theo mẹ xách đồ bán bánh mì hồi qua Ga Lãng. Đâu có trường gì học đâu, mấy đứa nhỏ chơi không thôi.

(Yes. My oldest daughter helped my wife with sandwiches. No school for them, they just played.)

Angel: So I asked about the children: what did *they* do? And I asked how old was his youngest one, and he said his youngest one was two years old. And he said that there wasn't school or anything. They just stayed home. But my oldest daughter helped her mom, and they went and sold sandwiches during the day.

VanZandt: Did you or your wife take English classes? Was that offered in Malaysia?

Angel: Lúc đó có học tiếng Mỹ không?

(Did you study English at that time?)

Dang: Có. Qua đó có học English.

(Yes.)

Angel: Chỉ có hai người lớn được học thôi?

(Just adults only?)

Dang: Hai người lớn với con gái lớn học. Còn mấy đứa nhỏ thì nhỏ quá.

(Me, my wife, and my oldest daughter. The others were so young.)

Angel: Just my oldest daughter, my wife and I, we were able to take some English courses.

VanZandt: What an adventure that was. Thanks for sharing those great stories from the camp. Where did you go after Malaysia? Straight to America?

Dang: No. To Galang, to Indonesia.

VanZandt: Ah, yes, OK.

Dang: Indonesia.

VanZandt: Sure.

Dang: For study English and about the li—

VanZandt: Life in America?

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: So you would know kind of what to expect.

Dang: Yeah. If I come here, you know, the life, and then can—

VanZandt: Yes. When did you find out you were coming to America? In Indonesia? When did he find out?

Angel: Hỏi nào chú biết là mình sẽ đi qua Mỹ?

(When did you know you were going to America?)

Dang: Thì nó nhiều cái phái đoàn nó tới để mà nó phỏng vấn để nhận mình. Đến phái đoàn Mỹ, hỏi đi xin đi Mỹ mà nó không nhận, thì sau xin đi Úc cũng không nhận nữa. Sau ở thêm mấy tháng nữa, Mỹ phỏng vấn trở lại thì phái đoàn Mỹ nhận.

(There were many representatives came to interview us. First I was rejected by American and Australian representatives. Then after few months, I got another interview and got it.)

Angel: Mà cái đó là ở Mã Lai hay ở Indonesia?

(Was it in Malaysia or Indonesia?)

Dang: Ở Malaysia, nó nhận bác. Nó đưa qua Indonesia Galang để mình học đời sống mới với đời sống mới. English, and new life—

(In Malaysia. Then they took me to Indonesia for lifestyle training.)

VanZandt: [In Indonesia] they prepared you to go to America. So you knew in Malaysia you were going to America, and then they took them to Indonesia to prepare them.

Angel: Yeah. (laughs)

VanZandt: So when you found out you were coming to America, what did you think about that? And what were your expectations? What did he hope he would find in America?

Angel: Cái lúc mà mình học xong rồi đó, chú có suy nghĩ gì về đất nước Mỹ?

(When you finished, what did you think about America?)

Dang: Thì mình chỉ học vậ thôi, học cho hiểu biết về cuộc sống ở đất nước Mỹ thôi chứ mình cũng đâu có biết gì đâu. Nhưng mà tới chừng đi qua đây mình sống từ từ mình mới biết đất nước Mỹ. Hồi đó mình chỉ biết nước nào nó nhận mình thì mình đi. *(Just study to understand the lifestyle in America. But I only understood it when I actually lived here.)*

Angel: Thì nó dạy gì về nước Mỹ.

(What did they teach you about America?)

Dang: Thì nó dạy về cái phong tục, thí dụ, mình ăn mặc. Như là mình không thể mặc đồ ngủ đi ra ngoài đường, rồi đại khái cái này cái kia cái nọ. Nói chung là về phong tục về cuộc sống nước Mỹ để mà mình biết mình tiếp nhận, để qua đây mình khỏi bỡ ngỡ.

(They taught us about culture, clothes. Like we should not wear sleeping clothes in public. Everything. To help us not be surprised when we came.)

Angel: Rồi nó có dạy gì về xe cộ không?

(How about cars?)

Dang: Nó không có dạy gì về xe cộ hết. Lái xe này kia ấy hả?

(They did not teach how to drive. What do you mean?)

Angel: Dạ. Nó có cho mình biết là ở bên Mỹ này nhiều đường lộ với có xe này kia.

(Did they teach you about the traffic here?)

Dang: Thì đại khái là nói chung là nó cho mình biết cuộc sống mới của mình sẽ là như vậy như vậy.

(Generally, they just let us know how it would look like.)

Angel: So when he was in Indonesia, they taught him about the American ways, and one of the things I asked him was, "What do you remember that they had taught you?"

And he said that they taught me not to wear my sleeping clothes out during the day.
(laughter)

VanZandt: Is that something that you did in Vietnam?

Angel: Well, yes.

VanZandt: Yeah.

Angel: They would wear their pajamas everywhere. Ở Việt Nam mình mặc đồ ngủ đi ngoài đường đi chợ, đâu nói cái gì được.

(In Vietnam, we can wear pajamas everywhere.)

Dang: Đúng rồi. Nhưng mà qua đây thì nó khác. (chuckles)

(Right. But it is different here.)

Thì nó dạy trước mình, chẳng hạn, cũng nhiều vấn đề lắm, mình phải biết thôi để khỏi bỡ ngỡ. Thật sự khi bước chân tới đây, tất cả đều là xa lạ hết. Khác với những gì ở quê nhà mình.

(They taught us a lot of things. Actually it was very different from my hometown.)

Angel: Yeah. He said the culture is *totally* different. (speaking in first person) And I had to learn *everything* all over again. Of course in Vietnam we had our ways already, but in Indonesia, they prepared us to come to America, but with the preparation, it wasn't enough. I had to come over here and just be surprised with so many things. And I've learned as I've stayed here.

VanZandt: I can imagine. So different. What were some of the things that surprised you when you came?

Angel: Qua tới Mỹ, cái gì mà mình bỡ ngỡ nhất?

(So what surprised you most?)

Dang: Cái gì cũng bỡ ngỡ hết bị gì, bị gì ... Từ chỗ mình ăn ở, rồi chỗ mình đi siêu thị, hay mình ra đường xe cộ, hay cái gì nó cũng lạ hết.

(Everything. From where I live, supermarket, even traffic. Everything was strange.)

Angel: Chú nói siêu thị là siêu thị Việt Nam hay là siêu thị Mỹ?

(American market or Vietnamese?)

Dang: Siêu thị Mỹ hay Việt Nam đều vậy. Thí dụ.

(Both of them.)

Angel: Oh, lúc chú qua Mỹ là đã có siêu thị người Việt Nam rồi?

(So there was Vietnamese market here when you came?)

Dang: Thì người Việt Nam ở Cali đó. Hồi đó là qua Cali ba năm rồi mới xuống đây năm 86. Ở Cali từ 83 đến 86. Ba năm.

(Vietnamese people in California. I was there for three years before coming here in 1986. Three years. From 1983 to 1986.)

Angel: (speaking in first person) *Everything.* I was just shocked by everything, from the supermarket to cars going in the streets. I was just surprised by everything.

VanZandt: Air-conditioning, maybe?

Angel: Ở bên Mỹ thì nó có máy lạnh, chú có thấy nó khác Việt Nam không?

Dang: Ừm, thì đủ thứ. Xe cộ thì bên đó xe đạp không chứ đâu có xe hơi.

(Yes. Everything. In my place, there were no cars.)

Angel: Qua tới Cali nó cho ở đâu?

(Where did you live in California?)

Dang: Ở San Diego. San Diego, California.

VanZandt: San Diego is where you went?

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: Camp Pendleton?

Dang: Three year. For three year, over there.

VanZandt: Two years—three years?

Dang: Three year.

VanZandt: *Three years.*

Dang: Three year over there.

VanZandt: Was it Camp Pendleton?

Dang: Hm?

VanZandt: Camp Pendleton? Was it a [refugee] camp?

Dang: No.

VanZandt: Oh, OK. No.

Dang: Um (pause)—

VanZandt: Sponsored?

Dang: My cousin sponsor me.

VanZandt: OK. You were sponsored.

Dang: Yes, sponsor, my cousin.

VanZandt: Do you remember your sponsor's name, who helped you when you first arrived?

Angel: Chú có nhớ tên người sponsor chú không?

(Do you remember your sponsor's name?)

Dang: Có chứ.

(Yes.)

Angel: Người Mỹ hay người gì?

(Vietnamese or American?)

Dang: Người Việt Nam.

(Vietnamese.)

Angel: Việt Nam luôn hả? Vậy ở căn nhà đó có mấy phòng?

(So how many rooms were there?)

Dang: Nhà đó cũng ở tạm đâu một tuần lễ à, I was there for one week, rồi có hội nhà thờ đó. Vietnamese Baptist.

VanZandt: Vietnamese Baptist?

Dang: Yeah. Baptist help me to rent a house, take my children to school, and to everything.

Angel: Vậy chú có đi nhà thờ luôn không?

(Did you go to church?)

Dang: Có đi nhà thờ.

(Yes.)

Angel: Chú có thích đi nhà thờ không?

(Did you like it?)

Dang: Vô trồng buồn ngủ.

(It was very sleepy.) (laughter)

Angel: He said he did remember his sponsor's name—

Dang: Baptist church. Always sleeping. (laughter)

VanZandt: Always sleeping through church? (laughter)

Angel: He only stayed at the person that sponsored him. They were Vietnamese, as well. But they only stayed with them for a week. And then the pastor at a Baptist Church actually helped him to get his place. And I asked him, "Well, did you go to church with him?" And he said, "Yeah, I did. But I slept in church." (all laugh) That's OK. Lots of Americans sleep, too! Oh my. Well, San Diego—(brief interruption; phone rings)

VanZandt: I know we're going to run out of time. San Diego for three years.

Dang: Three year. And (inaudible)—Hỏi đó được hưởng trợ cấp ở đó.

Angel: Thì con biết sắp hết rồi đó. Thì con hỏi mấy câu sau cuối thôi, từ Cali mà sao mình qua Biloxi làm biển? Ở bên bên làm cái gì?

(So time's running out. I will ask a few more questions. Why did you move from California to Biloxi? What did you do?)

Dang: Trên đó hỏi đó bác qua cũng đâu có làm cái gì, chỉ đi học English vậy thôi. Rồi chính phủ có trợ cấp. Mà chú cảm thấy bây giờ không lẽ mình cứ như vậy hoài? Bị gì nghề nghiệp chú đâu có biết nghề gì đâu, mà sẵn từ nhỏ có biết đi làm biển, thì chú nghe người ta nói dưới này có làm biển, có một vài người họ xuống trước họ quen biết đó, họ mới kể lại. Rồi mình mới đi xuống đây, rồi làm biển luôn. Ở trên thì nhà nước đại khái trợ cấp mấy trăm đồng vậy thôi mà chẳng nhẽ mình ăn vậy hoài thì cuộc sống của mình đâu có được khá lên đâu. Vậy quyết định bỏ, không ăn trợ cấp nữa, đi xuống đây rồi bắt đầu đi làm biển. Làm biển từ đó cho tới giờ luôn, từ năm 86 đến giờ.

(I did not do anything up there. I just studied English. Then I got help from government. But I did not think it's a good idea. I know nothing, but I know fishing. People said that I can do fishing here. So I decided to move here to fish. I moved here since 1986.)

Angel: Yeah. So when they lived in California, they were on assistance programs, but he likes to work with his hands, and so he came to Biloxi, Mississippi. Mà lúc đó có bạn dẫn qua đây hả?

(Did your friend take you here?)

Dang: Có, có người thân người quen điu dắt qua đây chỉ dẫn.

(Yes. My friend helped me to go here.)

Angel: Đi bằng máy bay hay là?

(By plane?)

Dang: Đi bằng xe chứ đâu có tiền đâu.

(By car. I had no money.)

Angel: Lúc đó chú đi mình ên hay là nguyên gia đình đi?

(Did you go alone or with your whole family?)

Dang: Mới đầu chú đi trước một mình, rồi mấy tháng sau về chở hết gia đình xuống đây. Mua chiếc xe cũ kĩ để đi.

(I went alone first. Then after few months, I took all my family here. I bought a very old car.)

Angel: Xe van hả?

(Van?)

Dang: Xe van, mấy trăm đồng bạc mà đi tới đây chứ đâu có tiền mà đi máy bay. Máy bay nhiều tiền lắm đâu có tiền.

(Van. For few hundred dollars. I had no money for plans. It was so expensive.)

Angel: Sao chú đi qua đây mấy tháng rồi mới về rước?

(How long did you go before going back and taking your family?)

Dang: Đi khoảng 5 hay 6 tháng gì đó.

(Around five or six months.)

Angel: Yeah. OK. So he had friends that told him to come to Biloxi, so that he could shrimp and fish again. And he went first, for five or six months, and then he went back over there with some money, and they were able to buy a van. Because, "Yeah, it's an old car, but I was able to bring the whole family back with me."

VanZandt: Driving from California to Biloxi.

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: With the whole family.

Dang: I buy the van. I bought a van about a thousand dollars.

VanZandt: Good deal; got you here.

Dang: Yeah, to here. We have no money to buy airplane ticket for [family].

VanZandt: Right. Sure.

Dang: I have five children. Lot of money.

VanZandt: Oh, absolutely.

Dang: Yeah. I bought the van, \$1000, move our family down here. The van, still use, five year, six year later. (laughs)

VanZandt: *Really?! (laughs)* That was a good buy.

Dang: Yeah. (laughs) Six year later. I have no money move our family by airplane.

VanZandt: Um-hm. So what did you think about Biloxi when you first moved here? Did you like it?

Dang: Yeah. I like it.

VanZandt: What do you like about Biloxi?

Dang: I think right here not too many people.

VanZandt: Not like California?

Dang: The traffic not busy. Traffic, you know. I live in this (referring to his home), very—

VanZandt: Beautiful.

Angel: Oh, it's so nice.

VanZandt: Quiet.

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: Slower life?

Dang: Yes.

Angel: Mấy cái cây ở ngoài là chú trồng đó hả?

Dang: Ờ. Chú ở đây chú thích sống về nghề làm biển, thích sống về biển. Cả đời chú hầu như gắn liền với biển thành ra chú thích làm biển. Với lại ở đây nó không có giàu hay sang trọng như những thành phố lớn, chú thích cuộc sống nó không có bận rộn nhiều, xe cộ không nhiều. Rồi đất đai rộng rãi, thưa người.

(Yes. I love fishing. My whole life is all about sea and fishing. This city is not big or rich like big cities, but it is quiet, not busy traffic. Space is great, small population.)

Angel: Giống như ở Việt Nam phải không ạ?

(Like Vietnam?)

Dang: Chú có đưa con gái nó lấy chồng nó về Houston rồi, lâu lâu chú lên đó thăm con cháu nhưng cuộc sống thành phố nó bận rộn, xe cộ đông đúc. Chú thích ở đây vì nó yên tĩnh, có lẽ sống ở đây tới già tới chết luôn. (chuckles)

(I have daughter living in Houston. I visit them several times. I don't like there. It is very busy. The traffic is very busy. I like here, maybe I will live here until I die.)

Angel: Nhưng con nghe nhiều người nói ở đây giống Việt Nam lắm. Người ta thích cái thời tiết.

(I heard that here is so alike with Vietnam. People like the weather.)

Dang: Thời tiết cũng giống giống vậy đó.

(Yes. Kind of.)

Angel: Rồi trồng cây trồng đồ cũng giống Việt Nam.

(Then we can grow trees like Vietnam.)

Dang: Cũng giống. Phần nữa cuộc đời của chú từ nhỏ đến lớn là biển, xuống đây cũng thích hợp. Hai nữa là, sống ở thành phố không có đông đúc, chúc không thích nhộn nhịp, rần rần. I like it. I like it over here.

(Right. And my life is all about sea. It is very good for me. And it is quiet.)

Angel: Yeah. (pause)

VanZandt: Would you like to share anything [that he said]?

Angel: Yeah. He just said that he likes it here. It's a lot like Vietnam. The climate and the weather is like Vietnam. It's not fast-paced like the different cities. (speaking in first person) I also have a daughter in Houston, and it's just too fast-paced for me. I'd rather live here where there's a lot of space where I can plant my trees. If I were to choose, this is where I will live until the day I die.

Dang: Look like quiet. My daughter live in Houston, sometime the road there—

VanZandt: I know.

Dang: —the traffic, *busy*.

VanZandt: Very congested.

Dang: Some traffic jam about an hour.

VanZandt: It takes a long time to get anywhere. Here, in ten minutes you can get anywhere.

Dang: My son live in Dallas.

VanZandt: Oh, in Dallas!

Dang: *Yeah.*

VanZandt: That's where I'm from. I'm from Dallas, so I know.

Dang: Grand Prairie; Grand Prairie, Dallas.

VanZandt: Yeah. Well, you've got a beautiful place. Well, I know we've got a lot more we could talk about. I guess, just—I'm thinking of you fishing here on the Coast, and you've been so successful. You started again, I guess, with very little when you came here to Biloxi. Have you owned your own boat? Were you able to buy your own boat and be captain again of your own boat?

Angel: Qua đây, hỏi mới qua chú mua tàu hay làm cho người ta?

(When you first came, did you work for other people, or you had your own boat?)

Dang: Mới vừa qua thì làm thì từ từ mới mua tàu.

(I worked first and then bought boat.)

Angel: Vậy giờ chiếc tàu của chú là tàu freezer.

(Is your boat a freezer boat?)

Dang: Freezer.

VanZandt: Freezer boat?

Angel: Freezer boat?

Dang: Freezer boat.

Angel: Tên của tàu đó tên gì?

(What's its name?)

Dang: *Sea Lion.*

Angel: Sea—

Dang: *Sea Lion.*

VanZandt: *Sea Lion!*

Dang: Number one.

VanZandt: I've seen your boat!

Angel: Yeah.

VanZandt: In Back Bay? Is it docked in Back Bay?

Dang: Yeah. Back Bay, yes. (chuckles)

VanZandt: Ah!

Angel: Màu xanh phải không?

(*Green?*)

Dang: Đúng rồi.

(*Yes.*)

Angel: Tại hồi nãy qua cầu có thấy.

(*I saw it when I was crossing the bridge.*)

Dang: Hồi nãy chắc không có. Tàu chạy rồi. Chắc hồi nãy là Sea Dolphin, là tàu của đứa cháu.

(*No. So it was my nephew's boat. Sea Dolphin.*)

Angel: Oh, vậy của đứa cháu là *Sea Dolphin*. Vậy có người nào là Sea Angel không?

(*So does anybody have Sea Angel?*)

Dang: Không có.

(*No.*)

VanZandt: So he has which—more than one boat?

Angel: Chú có mấy tàu?

(*How many boats do you have?*)

Dang: Hiện giờ chú có một chiếc rưỡi à. Một chiếc đang hùn với đứa cháu.

(*Now one and a half. I partnered with my nephew.*)

Angel: Và cũng là freezer luôn?

(*Freezer as well?*)

Dang: Ừ.

Angel: He has one and a half. He partnered up with one of his nephews, and half of it belongs to him, and half of it belongs to his nephew.

VanZandt: But the *Sea Lion*—

Dang: *Sea Lion* number five.

VanZandt: Number five, OK. We'll go look for it and get a picture. Yeah. I've seen it.

Angel: And the other one is *Sea Dolphin*.

VanZandt: (writing) OK, *Sea Dolphin*. Both at Back Bay. Well, this last year, since April 2010, when the [BP Deepwater Horizon] oil spill happened, how has the oil spill impacted your fishing, your livelihood?

Angel: Cái vụ dầu tràn đó nó ảnh hưởng công việc của chú nhiều không?

(So has the oil spill affected you much?)

Dang: Thì nó cái vụ dầu tràn thì đâu làm ăn được đâu. Mà có đi làm dầu, được một tháng. Tụi BP nó trả đó. Năm vừa rồi đi làm được một chuyến. Bị dầu tràn đâu có làm được.

(After oil spill, I can't do anything. I worked for BP for one month. Last year, I just made one trip only.)

Angel: Yeah. (speaking in first person) We couldn't use our boat for anything. We couldn't go fishing, but I was able to go and work for BP for one month. And that was it, you know. It's definitely affected his life.

VanZandt: Just one month of work since the spill.

Dang: Yeah. Work for the BP.

VanZandt: Was it cleaning up, the clean up effort?

Dang: (nods) (shy response)

Angel: Yes.

VanZandt: OK. What were you doing with BP? Can you just describe what you did?

Dang: They took the boom—

VanZandt: The boom?

Dang: —from the boat, draw the boom.

VanZandt: OK. So you would lay out the boom?

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: And that absorbed the oil?

Dang: Mm. (shy response)

VanZandt: OK. For just one month.

Dang: One month.

VanZandt: And then they didn't need you anymore?

Dang: Yeah. When they call back (inaudible; chuckles) (shy response)

VanZandt: They stopped calling. So—

Dang: (inaudible; shy response)

VanZandt: It's been tough.

Angel: Yeah.

VanZandt: Yeah. What do you see for the future, Mr. Dang? What are your plans? Do you feel like it's going to get better soon and you'll be shrimping again, or what do you think for the short-term and long-term, as far as fishing?

Dang: Thì cũng không biết nữa. Bây giờ thì cũng đi làm, nhưng mà không biết chuyện dầu mỡ nó có ảnh hưởng gì tới sau này không. Bây giờ tôm tép cũng ít lắm mà không biết là do vấn đề dầu hay vấn đề xả nước làm cho tôm chết. Mà bây giờ hình như ngoài biển.

(Shallow water no shrimp now. In deep water still have some; in shallow water, no shrimp now. The boat tie up.)

Angel: Yeah.

VanZandt: It's still tied up.

Dang: Hiện tại bây giờ nước cạn là không có tôm. Tàu quen đậu hết trơn, nước sâu thì còn có được chút tôm. Mà không được như mấy năm trước nữa, mấy năm trước thì có tôm nhiều. Mà không biết tương lại sao nữa. Tới đâu hay tới đó. Cuộc sống nó vậy, đôi lúc thế này đôi lúc thế khác. Có đôi lúc mình làm ăn được, lúc thì không được. Nên mình phải cố gắng.

(I don't know. I just work. I don't know whether the oil affect us. The shrimps are non decreasing. Now out of the sea, shallow water no shrimps. Deep water still have some. All the people I know just tie their boats. Just deep water have shrimps, but it is not as much as before that. But I don't know about the future. Life is all about ups and downs. I just tried hard. That's it.)

Angel: Tại chú trải qua nhiều.

(You experienced a lot.)

Dang: Lúc nào cũng phải cố gắng. Cuộc đời mình sống có khi nào mà nó bình thường? Phải có lúc lên lúc xuống, xuống thì phải cố gắng mà vượt qua thôi.

(Always trying. My life is never normal. I have to get over all obstacles.)

Angel: Yeah. OK, yeah. He's saying that you just got to continue. I mean, he's been through ups and downs in life, and during the down time, you got to just move forward. You know, just keep on going.

Dang: Mm. Try to work *hard*—

Angel: And the time will pass.

Dang: —something like that. I don't know. But try to work hard. Got to do everything. (inaudible)

VanZandt: Right. So you like fishing. You want to keep fishing?

Dang: Yeah. Yeah, [I've been] fishing my whole life. (inaudible) sometime good, sometime bad. But I can work *hard*.

VanZandt: Um-hm. What do you do in the mean time, while you're waiting? These days, while you can't go out, what are you doing to keep busy? Anything?

Dang: In(?) my boat; I stay home. The captain run the boat now. Yeah. I just stay home from trip to trip and do something, you know.

VanZandt: Do you plan to go out anytime soon?

Dang: Hm?

VanZandt: Do you plan to go out anytime soon?

Dang: My boat already go out.

Angel: Yeah, his boat is a freezer boat; he can go.

Dang: (inaudible)

Angel: Deep sea(?).

VanZandt: OK.

Angel: Yeah. Cái tàu đó có thể đi ra ngoài Texas và ra ngoài sâu phải không?

Dang: Cạn cũng được, sâu cũng được. Shallow water and deep water, too.

(The freezer boat go out for one month and go back.)

Angel: Bắt được tôm nhiều không?

(A lot of shrimps?)

Dang: Lúc này ít tôm lắm.

(Just not that much.)

Angel: Đủ trả tiền này kia không?

(Can you cover all your expenses?)

Dang: Đủ, có dư. Bởi vì tàu có mấy chiếc đi trong cạn thì đi lỗ dầu nhưng mà đi ngoài sâu thì cũng kiếm ăn được chút đỉnh. Không đến độ. Nhưng mà ít tôm hơn

những năm trước. Không biết là do dầu làm cho chết hay sao đó. Còn tàu của chú mới hư freezer mới vô bờ chục ngày để sửa chữa, mới chạy vài bữa à.

(Yes. I have revenue, too. For the boats, which just go for shallow water, they got loss for their fuel. Mine are still good. I still can earn money, although there are less shrimps.)

Angel: He said that he's not sure if it's the oil that's killing the shrimp, but this season there's not a lot of shrimp. And he's lucky to have a freezer boat where he can go further. But most of his friends that have smaller boats, they went into the negative with their fuel and ice because they hadn't caught that much. But with him, he's able to make some money, because it being a freezer boat. But still, comparable to the years before, not enough shrimp.

Dang: Nobody know for the future, you know?

VanZandt: Right. It's unknown.

Dang: Keep working, keep working, but nobody know for the future. (chuckles)

VanZandt: Well, and with a freezer boat it's expensive. A lot of money to go out far, as far as you go; fuel and ice.

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: Is that a risk that you take when you go out, not knowing how much you'll be able to bring back?

Dang: Um-hm.

VanZandt: Big investment.

Dang: I don't know about. Sometime good trip, sometime bad trip; don't know. Just keep working. (chuckles)

VanZandt: Right. Keep on working. Well, some people are saying closer to Texas, [there are] shrimp.

Dang: Yeah. Yeah.

VanZandt: Have you found you have to go further out to find the shrimp?

Dang: Yeah. Yeah. My boat to Texas, too. (chuckles)

VanZandt: To Texas, long way. OK. Well, anything else that—I know we didn't even get to talk about [Hurricane] Katrina. And we may have to do a part two; I'm sure you're ready to take a break and have lunch.

Angel: Yeah.

VanZandt: Is there anything you would like to share that we haven't asked, for people who may hear this fifty years from now? Whether it's what freedom means to you, coming to America, Vietnam, fishing; anything at all you'd like to say, that your grandchildren may hear [years] from now, anything?

Angel: Chú có muốn nhắn gì cho mấy đứa cháu sau này mà nó có nghe được cái bằng này không?

(Do you want to say something to your grandchildren?)

Dang: Thì cũng đâu biết nhắn lại gì. Nhưng thì bác sống ở đây, sống nơi nào cũng vậy phải ráng cố gắng làm việc để mình vươn lên vậy thôi. Mai mốt các con các cháu sẽ khá hơn cha ông bây giờ. Nhắn nhủ cố gắng làm vậy thôi. Mình đâu có biết trước được tương lai mình làm sao. Cố gắng làm, làm việc sẽ cảm thấy vui vẻ hơn.

(Not much. Just anywhere you live, just work hard to achieve in life. You could be much better than us. That's it. I don't know about the future. Work hard and then feel happy.)

Angel: He just wants to encourage them, no matter what they go through, just move forward. Just put one foot before the other one and just move forward. And that's the key. Yeah. He just wants them to strive forward.

VanZandt: Good advice. Good advice. I hope things get better for you, and I thank you very much for sharing—

Dang: I said that the next generation will be better than me.

Angel: Oh. And he also mentioned that he hopes that the next generation can be better than him.

Dang: Yeah. Always work hard, work hard. Chuyện thì mình đâu có biết trước được ngày mai mình sẽ làm giàu. Nhưng mình phải làm việc. Lúc nào cũng phải làm việc. Ráng cố gắng làm việc vậy thôi. Bác tuổi cũng lớn rồi mà ngày nào cũng ráng làm việc, chừng nào mình hết làm nổi thì thôi. Cuộc đời mình lên xuống, mình đâu biết. Con cháu sau này cũng vậy, lớn lên phải đi làm việc. Giờ thì mấy đứa con có nghề có việc đàng hoàng. Chỉ mong vậy thôi. Sống nơi nào cũng vậy, mà nơi này là xứ tự do nên mình có nhiều tự do hưởng tự do. Còn chuyện giàu nghèo còn tùy. (chuckles)

(We can't expect things. So just work hard and then get success. I am old, but I'm still working. I just stop when I cannot work anymore. Life is hard. You have to work to take care of yourself.)

Angel: He just encouraged them to not think about the money, or how much you're making, but always hard work is the key. Just, you know, work hard and then—life, you don't really know where it's going to go, whether you're going to be rich or poor, but just do your best, and you'll get good results.

VanZandt: Mm, excellent.

Dang: Mm.

VanZandt: You've worked very hard and made a lot of sacrifices for that next generation, a good legacy.

Dang: You're from Southern University [The University of Southern Mississippi]?

VanZandt: Yes, yes!

Dang: I have two sons—I have two over there.

VanZandt: (surprised) You do?!

Dang: For four year(?), yeah. And one daughter over there, too. But now one son work in Dallas-Fort Worth. One work in Alabama, and one daughter in Houston—

VanZandt: Houston.

Dang: An RN [registered nurse] nurse.

Angel: RN nurse.

VanZandt: Oh, an RN, a nurse!

Dang: Yeah, RN nurse. Yeah.

VanZandt: Oh, fantastic.

Dang: And two computer, computer—(speaking Vietnamese).

Angel: IT [information technology].

VanZandt: IT! Oh, sure. Computers, oh, smart. (chuckles)

Dang: (smiles) Yeah.

VanZandt: Well, your children at USM [The University of Southern Mississippi]—

Dang: Yeah!

VanZandt: In Hattiesburg or Long Beach?

Dang: Hattiesburg.

VanZandt: Oh, that's where I am!

Dang: Yeah.

VanZandt: What are their names?

Dang: Phuong(?) Dang and Linh(?) Dang.

VanZandt: (writing) Linh and Phuong?

Dang: Linh Dang and Phuong Dang.

VanZandt: Two girls?

Dang: Yeah, and Thu(?) Dang.

VanZandt: (writing) OK, Thu Dang.

Dang: Thu Thuy(?) Dang.

VanZandt: Thank you.

(end of interview)