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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY

AN INTERVIEW WITH PRIMUS BUTLER
FOR THE
GEORGIA BLACK FISHERMEN

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY
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THUNDERBOLT, GEORGIA
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Interviewee: Primus Butler

Interviewer: Dr. Jolvan Morris

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Abstract:

Primus Butler was born on January 31, 1932 in Thunderbolt, Georgia—five miles southeast of Savannah in Chatham County. In his youth, he fished and learned how to swim in the river behind Savannah State University. Before he completed high school he was drafted for the Korean War and served one year. He returned and graduated from Beach High School and briefly attended Savannah State College until his GI Bill expired. Mr. Butler loved working on the water, which supported his wife and six children—five daughters and one son—and can be frequently found fishing and enjoying what he has loved his entire life.

Mr. Butler recalls his most enjoyable moments on the water while fishing with his father, uncle, brother-in-law, nephew, and the “saltwater Geechee boys” in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. He learned how to fish from his father, who was a seaman in Thunderbolt. Mr. Butler’s father introduced him to commercial shrimping and he recalls his first trip out, which scared him and solidified his decision to work on land instead. Mr. Butler recalls helping and cleaning boats owned by the Murrays—the only Black owned shrimpers in Thunderbolt. He still loves recreationally fishing and has perfected his techniques—bait, equipment, and timing—and always carries his net and bathing suit, just in case. Mr. Butler displays his gratitude and faith in God for all that he has received in his life and knows that “God is in charge now.”

Jolvan Morris 00:00

So, basically tell us a little bit about yourself, your background, and what you do. [laughing]

Primus Butler 00:10

First, my name is Primus Butler. I'm originally from Thunderbolt, Georgia. My hometown is Thunderbolt, Georgia. I'm um a native to Savannah S-S-U, SSU and I was living in Thunderbolt all my life and fishing I always go down to the landing—they call it the landing. I have all my homeboys have shrimp boats and I always go on the shrimp boats and I usually cleanup for them. Then I have a cousin I went out fishing with him and learned about what they do out there in the ocean. What it's all about. And um, my my um my learning about fishing, I usually get my my uncle and me and him—he have a boat, outboard motor—we goes out in the creek. He showed me how to hook up the lines and he showed me how to throw it out. And when you got a fish on it you can tell when the fish hit the lie and you winning him in and when he come in, you hope to be a nice fish. If it happens so it be a shark or be a stingray a stingray with the long tail and the big wing that flap like this that's a stingray. And so that then we go we'll be pulling a crab sometime on the line and the neat thing about it. What I like about it is a recreation is fun. When you out there in the water and you see a lot of things, you see the porpoise going up, coming down the porpoise. And next thing you see the...What'd you call uh the pelican—he divin' down and grabbing the fish. Bring it in there and we look at that, but the best part of what I like about going out it's fun to me is the recreation. I like it, cause you go out and you catch your fish. You bring your fish in and you clean it. It's your fish! You ain't throwing it back overboard for the birds. But the one thing I can say about this about when you're going out there you have to have a license. You can't go out, less you have a license because the game warden they go come to the board and they gone check the boat over see if you have life preserver, oars, and then they can gone see the tag number they gonna ask you let me see your license. First you got to show him your license. All the fish you have in that boat and they ain't got no license. They take that fish, but then they can give you a ticket. A ticket it just like a car ticket, you driving and they give you a ticket for speeding. That's one thing I hate about it, you know. Cause when we—Blacks out in the water you know and you're in a nice boat. You know they go come in, check you out. But that's all right. That's that's they job. That's they job. But getting back to Mr. Butler. It's fun. All I can say, I enjoyed throwing the line out, catching your own fish, bringing your fish home. You know they gotta a size of fish you have to get. It's got to be at least, three, three exactly about four inches. If it got a uh uh about a one and a half or two inches, you don't 'posed to bring him and you throw him back over board. See that's not eatable. You have to have the regular fish, uh a size fish so you can put in your boat. And um, get back to Mr. Butler. Mr. Butler always carry his bathing suit. In case you don't catch no fish. We go in the creek and we throw a anchor out, off the boat, we throw it out. Then we relaxed and we dive over board and we swim a little while bout an hour or so then we get back in the boat. Be careful because you can't catch no fish on ebb tide, ebb tide—I mean high ti—high water. High water is up, fish ain't gone bite. Ebb tide, it fish low water with the tide coming in or going out. Mostly you're gonna catch your fish on tide

coming in. And that's the best part of it, when the fish bittin' the line. First, let me get back to that swimming. Once we get in, we we relaxed a little bit and wipe ourselves off with the towel then we get back to our fishing. It cooled off a little bit and we we leave out where we creek you know it's so many places out there in that river you can go. You can go to Tybee. You can go to Warsaw, and you can go way to the ocean. But the type of boat he got a four-point type of boat. You don't want to go too far to the ocean because you don't have that, you know, the tide. So, get back to Mr. Butler. I love it. It's good. I'm waiting on him right now. You have to have a boat overhaul for me and him can go. But getting back to Mr. Butler fishing. I always keep me a scoop net, a a drop net in case there be any crabbin' and drop nets is wide like this. The scoop net with the long stick on it and you got a line and you bait that line with chicken, chicken back, or either uh uh uh chicken gizzard. We put all that in the net, now just the net. Now we we fish with the net and we drop it, drop the scoop net down in the water and let it sit for about four or five minutes. And we pull it up and check it then we got lines to throw or either be—one thing about it we always carry uh um a cast net. Now you know what a cast net is? A cast net is something...

JM 07:13

It's a long net that's got the weights at the bottom?

PM 07:17

No, a cast net is something like a net, but they catch shrimp with it, as cast net. How you do that thing, is I learned I learned put one end in the mouth and then you spread it out and something like a spread in the string and you throw it out to get the shrimp or whatever come in and you start pulling it in. Pull it in. When you pull it up just like the fishermen that have the big net but the only drag, but that cast net we throw out and it spread just like this here. And then you pull it in, pull it in and pull it in and when you look you see shrimps. You can see little baby fish jumpin'. Maybe you might catch a big fish in there. Pull him in and then we put him in the back whatever we catch. But what we don't want, we throw it back on over board.

JM 08:11

Now how long have you been fishing? When did you start?

PB 08:16

I'm going back a little bit. Let's see. I've been going out fishing some doing in between the sixties and seventies, off and on. I just been in the river last Tuesday. I was in the river last Tuesday and we did a—we catch whiting. We catch spots and we catch, we didn't catch no trout. That's a good fish, that's a nice fish. We catch what I say whiting, spots, and we catch sharks. We throw them back. We caught sting ray—throw them back overboard. But the whittings and the spots, they nice. Sharks is good, but we throw them back over but we don't want to go through that trouble with them cleaning 'em, but it's nice. But get back to Mr. Butler now. I love

it. I love going out now. I'm waiting right now for my brother-in-law man to get his boat out the shop. Me and him fixen to go. He gonna come pick me up and I'm going to Carolina this time. I was fishing in Georgia water—Warsaw. The motel going Warsaw back over here. Warsaw. But this time, me and him gonna try Carolina he gonna carry over to his hometown. I had him over here in my hometown. So, he gonna carry me to his hometown. Me and him going fishing over there. So, that's Mr. Butler.

JM 10:06

Now has anybody in your family any commercial fisherman or have you all been recreational?

PM 10:11

No, I'm 'bout the only one. I have a brother, but he passed away. He's been a fisherman and my brother-in-law, I have a brother-in-law, he's a fisherman. But I can't point him now because he's a veteran like me. I was in the service; I'm a veteran. And um, he he gone to see 'bout hisself to the VA. So, uh me I'm alright.

JM 10:42

That's good. Now was this a taught skill or did you learn it yourself? Or...

PM 10:48

I learned this by my father. He was a seaman and I picked this up and by me going out with them on the real boat and see the real thing! [laughing] I learned from that and when they catch all that shrimp and pile up on the boat deck. Everything live! That's what scared me too! When I first got out there that's what scared me. I used to get a pair of hip boots, bring it all the way up there cause when they bring that net in that net net that net come in everything live on the everything and everything jumping! But I have on gloves because you know they say you get stung by a fish or by you know. So that's what I like about that's what I say work and they sitting down on a little stool. Everybody of course one thing it don't be but three on that or two and the captain and be up and then he'd be guiding the boat to keep from hitting other boats. Out there boats fishing just like that but you don't want to get out in there in the ocean now, nothing but sky and water. And that's the first time I've been out with my cousin and see how they work. You know what I say? "That's a lot of work". You got to head the shrimp, you got to ice them down, they got to put them down in there, put ice in them—that's some work. And I can see they make the money, but I said man y'all put in a lot to come and throw way this money like it ain't nothin'. And you can't put a pin in and see you going back out the following week going to go catch something. But I've seen so much shrimp in my life; I ain't never seen that much shrimp. Know what I mean? But eatable, it's alright. But working for it? You got to work for it! I be telling my cousin and I went out with my one of my brother-in-law and all of us went out. But I said, "Man, y'all work for this money!" "The way ya'll show me this money man." And this like it ain't nothing, but you ain't gonna say go back out there and you gonna catch something the following week.

Cause you have might have a good week. You might have about 10 or 15 boxes, I mean a hundred pound of shrimp. Yes. And hey, coming up and make that kind of money? I said, "Lord, lookie here". But I didn't put myself in that fishermen. No, of course that's, that's I say you might go out and you might don't catch nothing this week. You might scrap but I say scrap you might get probably 10, 15, 20 pounds of shrimp; that's it. Come back in, you done spend the whole week and ain't nothing out there. You got to get about the weather. The weather and the ti—I mean the tides and then you got to know if the shrimp in that spot where you used to go; shrimp moving. Because that ocean moving just like this here. Ain't nothing but sky and water. Hey, it scared me, but I didn't put that fisherman. I come out and got me a job on the hill. I didn't like that that kind of work on the water. No, I didn't put myself to that. See I got a family. I got, I got married. I said I got to find me a job. I know it's gonna come in. Cause see you don't know about that water out there. You don't know about God's water. You going out there and them boats go out there they stay for weeks, but sometimes they don't catch nothing. They have to come back in. That's another thing, let's see. And they put all that in and when they do catch, you take that money and put it up for security. You understand me? But hey, they throwed out money like nothing, like nothing man.

JM 15:00

Now your father, was he a fisherman around this area?

PB 15:04

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. My father was a fisherman around this area. My father was a seaman.

JM

Did he travel?

PB

Yeah, yes. Yeah. My father used to do a little bit of everything. Fishing and then after things didn't [inaudible]. I had a father, my mother and them, God bless the dead, and I don't have...they was oyster. You ever see a oysters and opened a oysters?

JM

Yeah! Your mother was...

PB

Yeah. My daddy was the oyster bring 'em in and my mama used to work. You ever heard about the Ambose? Down in Thunderbolt? The well-to-do, had all the prawn boats and 'bout owned Thunderbolt, down there. We used to go down there and work for them. You understand me? I used to go down there and watched the boat like you say go down there and throw rocks in the water. Like right now, I'll go to the landing and sit down and watch the water now and then.

Then and another thing I do, I like to swim. I'm a swimmer baby. I used to swim now. Back there Savannah State, where they got their thing, they stopped us. We couldn't swim back there no more. Because the College Creek used to been our little creek back there back on the college. That's been our creek. But they stopped us from swimmin' back there. And that's where I learned how to swim, right back there in that hole. They call it the hole back there. But that was our home the College creek, right there below Savannah State. Right on back the back round back there and I loved that.

JM 16:34

Now how long did your mother work for Miss Ambose?

PB 16:38

The Ambose and them? My mama worked, my mama worked—you know oyster season have a season. It's a season for everything. My mama worked for the Ambose I say pretty close to about, let's see. My mama, she got about 65, my mama working there when she been in her forties and worked for them Ambrose and up till oyster season. But see, one thing about oyster season, it change just like you see oyster is got a certain time or oyster season. My mama go right back the work. That was her occupation.

JM 17:21

Okay. Now do you remember about how much she got paid for doing that?

PB 17:26

Oh, back they then? During my time, back there in the thirties, back they then. They weren't getting no more than \$2. Back they then, my mama and them were making nothin' but a dollar a hour, back they then. And that was back they then baby and that was somethin'. I've caught some of them. I was born in the 30s, born 1930—31, 1932. So, you imagine that pay that's from thirty to January 31, 1932, back they then I was a little—I graduated from Beach High School. Then I went—well I went over to Savannah State to take up um TV, radio and TV service. Over at Savannah State, I've been over there 'bout a year. But I see where Uncle Sam they don't foot the bill. I've been I've been on Uncle Sam time that and I had to get a job and I've run out my time. So, Sam didn't want to pay me for going to school. They paid me for going back to high school because they took me out of high school. When I got 18 years old they drafted me. When I was 18 years old from Beach High school. I came back; I went to Korea, stayed a year over there. Then I came back. I got out the service on um Uncle Sam time. And I didn't, I didn't want to resign up I just want to get out. I just say this enough of it. And I got out. And um after I got out I went back to Beach. I had a subject to take before I could graduate because they pulled me out in '50 '55 when I come out. Then I went over here for about a year. I've been Savannah State then [inaudible] by Savannah, they by together. And Mr. Butler, here I is, still here. But fishing, I love it. I love fishing. By going down there and then throwing a rod over. Just like now go down

there throw your rod over, catch you a fish, bring it back home that's your fish! You understand me? But, I love it! All I can say is I picked that up for my older parents. They learned me how to survive and that's how I survived. Going—she say, just like you say you want a fresh fish and the stores is high and you don't like it. I get me my line and my stuff and I go on down to the landing and then I've tried if the fish bittin' and and and I got me some worms. I used to back they then, ain't been no shrimp, used to carry worms. Go and dig up earth worms.

JM

Yeah, that's what me and my father used to do. [laughing]

PB

And you know the best thing about it? You know the wood? You know the old rotten wood? That big old worm! I've gotten, what do they call it? I wooden worm! That big old worm! You catch that, you guarantee you catch a fish! Cause the fishes see that, but a little worm where you see you dig up. But I go back to this, I used to go and dig for worms and sale worms. Worms cost you now, really you don't hear about it now. See, now these big firms put you out, because they have live shrimp, dead shrimp. But another thing I learned, the same fish we used to throw over—the minnows—they sells them, and they fishing with them. Yeah, the same little fish, they fishing with them. Then they got that reel with the fish you don't have to put nothing on. That's expensive, that's expensive.

JM 21:48

Do you think that's why African American fishermen are going down because everything getting costly? What's your opinion on that?

PB 21:53

Well, my opinion on that, it's good. By me, by fishermen take all that from them. Now, they losing; they really losing cause they hurt. You know 'bout this on TV you see bout the oil and all that. Now they say they might give 'em 10 days the okay to go back but you're losing when that's your occupation. That's that's everything to you. That's where you make your living at. You know what I mean? And it's hurting me to see them right now, you know. Cause it hurt, cause you know. I got a lot of happen so the water didn't hit Georgia water and that's nice. You know what I say? Thank you Jesus. Thank you Jesus, cause it didn't hit a lot—see these fellas go out here, they catch the shrimp from but see the people in some certain parts of Florida didn't hit. But look at Louisiana see how they hurt them people. Now them people hurt, you know they hurt, but what can we do? I always say two words I say, “the Lord know what He doing.” He can he can he can put you in and he can run you out. You know God do His work. We don't realize that I be telling my daughter and my wife, I said Lord got this fixed. He know when to fold up and He know when to slow down. He'll slow you down. He can slow you down now, don't let nobody fool you. God is in charge everything. Now after this clear this oil field up and

stuff and I hope they rush it up for these people and they go back because they hurtin'. Because they got the benders, they got the benders. That's why I say, Thunderbolt, Savannah, Georgia thank you! Well, the water ain't hit us and hurt a lot of my seaman. My boy fishing, you know what I mean? It hurt them see but—God is in charge. All I can say is my Father's in charge, He know when to stop things and He know when to He know when to open up on you. God is in charge now.

JM 23:58

Now, did your father—did he own his own boat or was he captain for someone?

PB 24:01

No, no he'd been working for the Ambose. Yeah he was working for them he didn't—matter of fact, back they then, back they then before your time. We didn't—Black people when I say Black people. We had to work for everything we get and we ain't got nothing on a silver plate like ya'll young people got now. Everything now all you got to do is just get your education and reach out it's there. It's there for you. If it for you, you got it. You understand me? But back they then, we had the work for it. We had to work for it, and ain't been nothing. But God make a way. He will make a way out of no way. That's right. All you got to do put your trust in God. Baby I'm telling you, put your trust in God. Say a prayer every day. Like you young man going things things might don't jump when you want it right then, but just hold on, don't give up! Don't throw your cards in. Take your time. Cause things gone come your way. Just keep keep keep keep moving. Keep moving. You know what I mean? You know because some of the young people now be telling my my young people now don't don't take things for so for granted. You know what I mean. Cause, look here, you got everything. I be telling my daughters and stuff—I have four daughters and I had five, but God took one and tell her now see how it is. All my daughters are school teachers.

JM 25:36

So, none of them went into fish?

PB 25:38

No, no man. No, no. Not that. They school teachers. My daughters are school teachers. But they ain't going into the water like I did. See, I the one going to bring the food. Daddy bring the bacon in. [laughing] You hear what I say young man? That's right. So, I'm the one that like to water, salt water. I love it. That's why they called us "saltwater Geechee". You might have heard it, but that's what they said. Thunderbolt, them "saltwater boys" man they just hang round, look at 'em. That's alright, we made a living. You understand me? Being the holes and stuff. You just ask your mama about Primus, she'll tell 'ya. Yeah, yeah well known. We just like family. [inaudible] and John Hall and all, we just like family. Just ask around and say I went out and interviewed Mr. Butler, man, on Butler Avenue. And they tell you, they say Jake! My man Jake! Yeah this

girl, ya'll them this a nice man, man. Yes. Nice, man. So, um what else I can tell y'all now?
Cause my stomach is jumping.

JM 26:47

Oh, we don't want to hold you up, but that provides...

PB 26:52

I hope I say more than I should say. I said, hey it's good to talk to young people. Young people, you know what I mean? And it's good to be around young people. But you know, they say tell him some good things. Yes. But at my age at age 78. Me, I'm 78 years old.

JM 27:16

You don't look it. For somebody to get around like you do!

PB 27:21

I'm thankful how the Lord have opened up for me. You understand me? And He made a way my man, I'm a tell you now. See my home and my whole family. Yeah, you see 'em down here. And to see this, He had to own everything. My family, my—the Butler, own everything. His daughter stay right there on that corner there. And this whole thing. Yeah, He everything, that's why they named the street after us. I got a niece here, another niece here, a sister down on the same line. Yeah.

JM 27:55

Now do you have any of your boys, still fish? Any of your boys still...commercially?

PB 28:02

Um, you mean my family?

JM 28:04

Yeah. You say you hang out with your boys and you go...

PB 28:07

Yeah yeah yeah, I got one, but he gone to Charleston to the VA. I would send y'all round there. Now he's a fisherman. Yeah, he's a fisherman. Don Green, you ever heard about Don Green? You ain't never heard of that name? Well, your mama, she well known outside here. He's a real fisherman. The Murrays; you know about the Murrays? You get an interview from him.

Guest

She did!

PM

She did? Now they used to have shrimp boats. They used to have six and seven shrimp boats!

JM

You told me! [laughing]

PB

Yeah. Now them the Murrays. Now we used to hook up with them because I used to go down when they come in. I used to clean up. I used to go down and clean the boat for them. You know what I mean? But the Murrays and uh, they 'bout the only one to have shrimp boats to be Black way back they then. They had boats. I mean boats too, I mean big prawn boats. Yeah, I mean no little prawn boats, them big ones. Man, boy, there's like a kitchen. Just like you say you're in the palace. Man, they built some fine boats, hey. Look at it now. James, Charles—they daddy gone and they mama gone, but they still living. The two—the boys still living, there's five of them, there's six of them. They're still living. You see what I'm talking about? Sisters, he got 'bout let's see, he got 'bout one, two sisters still living.

JM

We'll, I'm going to let you get you something to eat. But I will definitely give you a call about the number and we'll come back this way. [laughing]

PB 29:46

Yeah I would like to send you over to my brother, he on Lincoln Street. And I would like to of course he's a fisherman too. And he'd been from Key West, Fort Myers; now see they been going down and they call it the "bottom". They going down in the bottom. See, when the season open here, they move on. You understand me? But me, I'm one of the homeboy, be here when ya'll gone and be here when ya'll come back! [laughing] And wish ya'll luck! [laughing] You hear what I say! [laughing] You can't drink on that water out there, but I know one thing. I'm on dry land and I can go to the water, but I can't drink all that water. [laughing] I'm telling you the truth man! But hey, ain't nothing 'bout going out there in the water. Just like I say, me and my brother-in-law last Tuesday we was out there in the water. We was going to—we went far as Warsaw, but we stopped to the gate. But the ocean, you'll see nothin' but water. I said, "Man, this is far as we can go." Man, you know, hey man can't drink all that water out there man. You know what I mean? Hey, but anyhow I love it. I love it!

JM

Now was your wife, was she...into...?

PB 30:59

No, she wouldn't know.

JM

She wouldn't go fishing?

PB

No, no, no she don't like the water. She wouldn't even get in the little bateau. I'd say, "Come on baby, get into the bateau." "Who me?" Not that little bateau, ya'll go down there, ya'll have fun. My wife don't like that water man, but I love it. I was raised up in that water, I love it! Every chance I get, I go. And there's another thing I want to say about it. Ninety, ninety-eight, I was down in Miami. I got a nephew in Miami. And he has a big boat and he's another fisherman; he love it! He got a boat man; I went out with him and let me tell ya'll something. He said um me and my daughter me and my two daughters and my niece we went down to Miami. We stayed a week; they came back, but I stayed down there a week with him. Man, he got a boat. He say—he call me—he say, "Prime, we going out tomorrow morning man, what you think?" I say, "Yeah man!" One thing about it, down there in the bottom down there. It got a big old pool! You know something and don't go swimming in it! And here go me, I ain't too much for no freshwater, but I said man it's hot! Man, and you going to for big old pool man! I said, "Man!" I said, "Man!" I tell you one thing, me and my niece she said, "This evening, when it cool off a little bit we gonna christen that pool." Man, I been in that pool two or three times before I left from there. But when he said let's go to the water, go in a big ocean. Man I said, "That's alright, that's alright man, I love this." I love this man. When I went down to Miami, girl that whole week, man I didn't want come back. I'm telling you, I enjoyed myself! You know what I mean? I said, "Shit, everything there for you." And he livin' he got him a big old, I can't stop but he got him a mansion. And nobody can come in; he got fence and he got two of them big old dogs. He had to lock 'em up. They call the mutt, them dogs they look like them dog used to run um. You you know them dogs, them them them uh what do you call 'em? Not grey—greyhounds! Yeah, big dog man. He said that protect the yard. The one thing I like about him, he got a basketball court in his yard. Got tennis, he got a track, he got a pool. What more can you ask for a man? He's a schoolteacher and he's a young man. He turned about 47 years old man. One kid man, he living the life down there—school teacher. That's right and I love it man down there in Miami. As a matter of fact, I'm just see, yep. Any part of Florida cause once you cross over Florida line you can tell the difference.

JM

That's right, you can! [laughing]

PM

You can tell the difference. Once you cross over, man you see this tree and you see nothing but water. You say I'm home free now! Miami, here I come!

JM

You're making me miss home, more and more! [laughing]

PB 34:22

Jokes aside, I'm gonna calling I'm gonna call this weekend see. His mama is a little sick, but I'm gonna call him and see can he get things hook up? He said, "Well, school 'bout to close and he'll be free." So, I'm gonna tell him say man, he say I send you—no first I said, "You'll send me my flying ticket or my bus ticket?" No, he said—you know what he said? "I'll come down there and pick you up!" Yes, man! Yeah, it's nice girl, I enjoy myself. Florida I'm a tell ya, I'm a Georgia boy. All saltwater, but Florida! Wooowoo, Jacksonville! Well, any part of Florida! That's it man, just crossover girl you'll say lookie here. Lookie here, we in heaven now man. Yeah it is, but you know when you get down there in Florida, you know of course Florida you know people you know they have you know but you got to know who you is and got to know where you at and you got to know who you going there. Cause you know things is things now; everywhere you go things is things now. But man, the Florida man I'm telling you I'm trying to get him hooked up. Man, tell him see look man can I come on down and spend a couple of days with you. Cause my my my suitcase already packed. I ain't got to throw nothing but some clothes and get to chillin' man. [laughing] Yeah, that's hooked my daughter up—he's another place. If I don't [sniff] right as I'm saying this. I was telling him my daughter I say, "Well, when ya'll get out of when you get out of school, let's go over in Carolina." You know I'll go to Carolina man. I've crossed, I've crossed that water man over there. Yeah cause I like over there too now. You know, I got a brother-in-law over there. Got his own home. He got the boat and everything. So, I tell him say man come on over there man hey. I'm in retirement; you understand me? You can hook me up. Yeah, he say, "Brother-in-law come on and I'll put you up, man you stay with me." You know what I mean? I say, "Shit, when you come here you can stay with me man." I always keep three, I got three empty bedroom up there with nobody in 'em. Kids and my daughters, any of them come back home they got a place here to stay. But anyhow, that's what I love girl. You know what I mean? Life is life now. You know all those, like you say old man what you doing? See that rocking chair he in? See this one you in? My old lady get in this and I get in, but I didn't stay in it all day now and rock. [laughing] I'm say, "Foot, don't fail me now!" [laughing] I got to put these foots ahead of me girl and move 'em now boy, while I'm able to move. That's right! I ain't gonna sit down now, cause I can sit down. No, no no, but the heat is on. But hey, you get in there and close door. [walks to close the door] All the air going out, but anyhow, anyhow. [door closed] I love it girl, I love it. Yeah life is good. Imma tell you, life is good with me fellas. You know what I mean? What's the use in grumbling now? You understand me? Take life easy now. What they say? Old man take life easy. Talk to the Lord. Go right round the corner to College Park Baptist Church. Hey, tell the Lord thank you. Tell him what doing for me; He doing great things for me. Cause He wake ya'll up this morning—matter of fact He wake me up to talk to ya'll. I'mma put myself first. He wake me up this morning so I can talk to ya'll this morning. But

you surprised me girl. But anyhow, I love it. But if my words good for ya or did I say a little bit too much. But I'm thankful. I'm thankful, you know.

JM 38:08

That was fantastic. Thank you.

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Reviewed by Michelle Duncan [7/25/22]