

Oral History

Amy, Dale and Justin

July 13, 2020

Justin: Hey, Amy. How are you doing?

Amy: Doing fine, and you doing ok?

Justin: Yes, ma'am. I'm sorry I'm calling you a little later than usual. I had a couple things this morning that I got backed up on. So I hope I didn't inconvenience you too much.

Amy: No, you didn't. I was gonna answer the phone and there was this spam call. You were supposed to call...and I was like oh no, that's not him.

Justin: I get those all the time. So I understand. I'm just gonna let you know that I'm recording our conversation today, if that's ok with you?

Amy: That's fine.

Justin: Did you guys have a good weekend?

Amy: We did, we did. We had a good weekend. It was just relaxing, but it was good. Yes. We went out to have our Dairy Queen and that was good. We gotta have that. But we didn't get the Georgia one, we got our usual one.

Justin: Well I'm just counting on your trying it at some point. It doesn't have to be this week.

Amy: We did try it. We did try it.

Justin: Well, good. So today...actually before we get started with the questions, did you guys get the paper worked filled out for your medication? Were you able to address that?

Amy: No, I need to call that number again today because she said they were going to have it by the end of the week and they did not. She said if not, call this number again. So I'm going to call

it this morning, but I wanted to wait until after you were, you know, calling because I didn't want to be on the phone when you called.

Justin: Oh ok, well I appreciate that. Thank you. Well, hopefully when I give you a call back...I'm probably going to schedule you guys for again for the beginning of next week, just to touch base. I think I'm gonna cover the last two official questions today.

Amy: Ok.

Justin: And then I'll touch base with you guys, probably Monday, and just kind of get a feel of what's going on and hope you guys have some good news to share with me about that...I'd love to hear it.

Amy: Yes, if not I'm just going to have her email...you know and have somebody come over and get that off from our computer.

Justin: Ok.

Amy: And get that. I know somebody that can do that, so if they have to email it or she mailed it, I do not know. She did not say. She said she was going to mail it, that's what she said.

Justin: I gotcha. And that was Kim---?

Amy: No, it was a lady from Lilly Care.

Justin: Oh ok, Lilly Care.

Amy: Yeah, yeah. That's who I'm dealing with.

Justin: Oh, ok. Alright, well today's first question is going to be, what lessons have you learned about living through difficult times?

Amy: What lessons have I...have we...well I have the support of my husband and he seems to be good through all of this. He's been my support, you know through those good and bad times. My lord, you know, he's the one who helps and sustains me through everything. I just get

through them and sometimes I have to be reluctant and say, “Hey, I can’t do this alone. I gotta have help.” That’s my bottom line on everything. But it, you know, through illnesses with him we just make it through and sometimes it’s difficult and different things that have happened, but we just have to be positive about things and just keep going and keep going. This has always been my bottom line. You just gotta go and be...can I take this call a minute?

Justin: Oh, absolutely.

Amy: Hello? Ok, can I call you back, I’m on a line with another person and I’ll call you back in about an hour. Thank you, bye. Ok, I’m back with you Justin.

Justin: Ok, was that something really important?

Amy: No, she’s the lady I’ve been working and cleaning for.

Justin: Ok.

Amy: And I don’t think she has anything today. I’m just not sure, but it’ll be fine. She said it would be fine to call her back in an hour and that will be ok.

Justin: Ok, so would you say that some of the lessons you’ve learned... you mentioned reaching out to people and you know, even through prayer or you know you reach out to your loved ones like your husband for help. Would you say that was the lesson you’ve learned throughout living through difficult times—was leaning on others or asking for help?

Amy: Yes, leaning on others. Even in our own children. They have been very, very, supportive, especially through the illnesses and the pand... you know...this time that we are in. Our children have brought us groceries and it’s been an encouragement through that, that we got to see them and somebody cared enough that they didn’t want us to get it. Bring the groceries and stay their distance. And they still are that way. So just giving us encouragement, but I think we need to give them encouragement. I think they need to get out and do stuff now, you know. It’s hard, you

know, to know really what to do. You just go ahead and feel like its ok, you know. Put your mask on and do what you need to do and wash your hands and get going. I mean that's just what the difficult time is now for me. Not to be able to just jump in your car and go and get in the grocery store and get what you needed. And different things like that. Visit with friends, you know. We miss that time we had with our friends and all we can do is call them and have encouragement with one another and see what they're doing and you just keep going and keep going. That's my goal: keep going keep going.

Justin: I feel like you should sell bumper stickers and t-shirts with this logo on it. It's your brand.

Amy: It's my brand: keep going, keep going.

Justin: It is, I'm telling you. I mean, Amy it is definitely your brand.

Amy: Well, I guess that's been all my life. I've been determined person. I keep on persevering. I just gotta keep on. I just thank you for the...thank god for the help to keep on doing that kind of thing and everything like that. I just gotta keep going, yes. So other than that, that's all I can say about that. You just gotta have people and we have still have our church and we go to church and that's the only thing we have you know, to be able to get out and have fellowship with one another. To talk to one another. We're so thankful for our church that they kept on going. They only had not one service. We had it outside, you know, we had it in our cars. Then towards last week begin to go inside and be distanced from each other. But we haven't been able to get together with our friends. They have stopped and we have visited with them. I said, just come in the house, you know, we're not, they're ok. And two of them, and we just felt like we were comfortable with it and we have not got anything from them. It's been a while since they were here, say about two or three weeks. We've just been able to visit with them and we've gotten

cards and I've sent out cards and our daughter of course was here and give us encouragement and we gave her encouragement.

Justin: She was taking it kind of rough, being cooped up, wasn't she?

Amy: Yeah. Younger people are more so, especially when you have your mate in the house, too. Your children and you have to get them educated and the decisions they have to make with their son, like I told you. It was stressful for them. You have to help them and work with them and it's all together, family is all together. Even if they're grown up and have their own family, they still need mom and dad's guidance.

Justin: Mhmm.

Amy: And encouragement, so. Yep. So. And we're enjoying the beautiful day, we haven't had the rain you guys have had down there.

Justin: Mhmm. We've been dry for a few days. It seems like most everything that comes through here just passes us over. We haven't got too much rainfall, lately. Mhmm. But you would definitely say that like being part of community and having your family and your church community and your communities with...

Amy: Senior communities. We have the seniors come by and give us our lunch and we get to see them. And Kim calls often from the senior center. We really have been encouraged by all things around us. We're just thankful for...thank them for that. Keeping us going and keeping us alert and keeping us informed on everything, so other than that, we're keeping going.

Justin: Keeping going, I love it. Alright, so with this theme of "keep on going," and this is the last question on the list of narrative questions...and I already feel like I already know how you're going to structure your answer, but I'm going to ask it anyway: what would you like to pass on to future generations?

Amy: What would I like to pass on to future generations is to not think in the past, to think forward, but not too far forward. Take each day as you have it because it's a day you need to be doing whatever you need to be doing and progress toward whatever you feel like your goal is and have guidance and direction from other people in that if you need it. If not, just keep on going and keep on going. You know? That's the second thing for the generation is to look what your goal is to pursue it. Don't worry about what's going on today because today will pass and yesterday is already gone. And think about your future and work toward your goals and what you want to do and like I say, don't worry about things. No fear about things. It's easy to tell somebody else that, but you know I feel like that has been my help is to keep on going and just think of what you want and would feel best for you. You have to think on that yourself. You know, just don't worry about what has passed and do what you need to do for today and work for goals you have in your own mind and heart and maybe people can guide you on and encourage you on whatever you need encouragement for because you do need people. You need to ask people what they think too and then pursue what you felt like you needed to do for that situation. That's all I can think of right now. Just like us, we need to change banks and it's just been not a go because Sun Trust is getting out of it and we just do what we need to do and it's not been very easy for us but they're making it easy as far as I know. They're supposed to be taking care of all of your stuff that's been in the bank, like you know, you have payments coming out and you hope they take care of it. I'm going to check on that today because the end of the week is they're going to be a new bank for us, gonna be new horizons. It's not gonna be Sun Trust anymore.

Justin: So I have a question: when you say that you suggest people not to dwell on the past and look ahead, how do you do that? How do you keep yourself focused from dwelling on the past and what keeps you motivated to continue moving forward?

Amy: Well, your last mistakes you learn from them. And you just gotta keep going. You know, they might be mistake you can handle and take over and change. It's just like I say, you have to have...I'm gonna go back to god. He has been our guidance all of our lives and we just need to check and make sure we're on his path and what he wants for our lives. We just gotta keep on and do what we think is best and sometimes he says, no, or yes, or wait, and you just gotta keep on his guidance and his direction and make sure that you inline for what your goal is for your life. Because that's what it's all about. You shouldn't say me, me, me, or my, my, my or whatever. You just got to think of what you really need and sometimes that comes in as yourself. You gotta think about what your goal is. You can't always let somebody else run your life, either. I think sometimes that happens and you just gotta do what is best for you. Whatever you feel like needs to be done. But I don't know if that is the answer you want.

Justin: Oh no. That's absolutely perfect.

Amy: That's what my answer would be for others. You just gotta think of what your goal is in your life and be asking other people and have encouragement to keep going and check with people, too. To see if personality wise, or anything else that would be helpful to progress with what you have in mind. And anything as far as whether to buy something, do something, or change your job...you just check and see. You got to make sure that it's on the right track for what's best for you. Just like changing jobs, you gotta know it's the right timing and it will open up for you and it'll be there. Just like you, going to school. You'll be there. You just gotta keep progressing on your goal for your individual lives. Like with your professors you know, console with and they can be an encouragement and if you still have your parents, you know still around or you have brothers or sisters that are still around that could help you out that you are trustworthy or pastor or somebody else, you know, that you feel comfortable. Any counselors

that you feel comfortable with. So these people from Athens, the M--, P--- and D----. They joined our church yesterday. They drive way from Athens to come to our church and she's a counselor. I think she's finished with her education, too. I think she's almost 70, so you know.

Justin: Oh my goodness. Wow, that's amazing.

Amy: Yes, it is. And she just continued her education and trying to make sure she's down on the same path she wants to be in and be an encouragement to other people and to keep going and keep going. Just don't stop, we gotta keep going.

Justin: I'm just telling you, it's your brand. I love it. I really do. Well Amy, I'm going to go ahead and let you guys go for today and I know you have a couple of phone calls that you need to make. I do want to thank you again. I think the things that you have shared with us for this project is going to be very impactful for people to read. You've given me just very inspiring answers and it's just always really refreshing to get your very up-beat and positive feedback and your information. It's just a pleasure to talk to you guys, it really is.

Amy: Well I appreciate it Justin. I appreciate you so much and asking us all these questions that will be helpful for you, yes I do. If that's all, you have a great day.

Justin: Ok, I'll probably give you guys a call next Monday at 9 am if that works.

Amy: Yep, I got you down.

Justin: Alright, well, thank you for making the time for me once again. Y'all have a great and a great week, ok.

Amy: Thank you so much. You too. Bye, bye

Justin: Bye.