



Maria Correia

He went to Portugal to marry. I am going to say it in Portuguese.

Interviewer: It's OK. A mix is fine, as well.

Eu casei em São Miguel, Furnas. Ele veio para aqui sozinho, eu vim atrás 3 meses depois. Começámos a nossa vida aqui. Fomos morar num apartamento pequenino, depois engravidei e quando nasceu o meu filho tivemos que mudar de casa porque a casa era muito pequenina. Mudámos para um apartamento, tivemos lá quatro anos. Tive uma filha. Depois disso comprámos uma casa em Dartmouth, em 1978, a minha filha tinha 4 e aí fizemos a nossa vida trabalhando. Tive numa fábrica 27 anos, o Cliftex, a fazer casacos de homem. Trabalhei 27 anos e trabalhava numa fábrica e criamos a nossa filha. Ela foi para o Voc.—não quis estudar. Estudou depois de casada. Mas durante este tempo, tive uma doença grave de Crohn's e colitis. Tive em casa quase um ano doente e em tratamento. A vida ... [inaudible] ... a vida virou do avesso, era só o meu marido a ganhar, eu era da união, mas a união só dava-me \$40.00 por semana. Tinha que pagar a renda, tinha que pagar a baby-sitter, porque eu não tinha quem tomasse conta da minha filha, porque eu estava muito doente, ia ao hospital fins de semana. Isto, depois tratei-me, fiquei boa. A vida melhorou na nossa casa. Sempre tivemos a nossa horta. O meu marido sempre teve os seus animaizinhos, umas galinhas, um coelho. Fazíamos uma vida mais ou menos um romance. Só tivemos uma filha. A minha filha casou aos 21 anos. Temos agora dois netinhos, e uma netinha que tem 24 anos. Temos um netinho que a minha filha adotou, de ano e, treze meses mais ou menos que ele tinha quando veio para nós. E agora tem 6 anos, é a alegria da nossa vida. Certamente pois, isto tudo. Formou-se. Agora estamos reformados e passeando alguns lados, aqui e ali. E agora temos a nossa reforma e fizemos, há duas semanas, 50 anos de casados, e estamos vivendo a nossa vidinha normal no nosso cantinho. Esperamos que a vida nos deia--que Deus nos deia a vida mais cumprida, não gostaria de morrer já. You understand what I am saying?

Interviewer: I can catch about probably a quarter of it, because of the Spanish, like it's very, Spanish and Portuguese. I do understand the Colitis because my husband also has Colitis.

And I had Crohn's.

Interviewer: Yes, and we have been watching because it may seem like he may have Crohn's as well. But I feel like I want to do the Terceira, however you want to say it in Portuguese and whatever you want to tell me is fine.

To tell you the truth, my life wasn't that bad here. I love being here. When I came, I went to school, I went to high school nights, in high school. I graduated, and when Cliftex was about to close I changed shifts. I went to ... [inaudible] ... I went to daycare. I took the course to do teaching. I went to BCC 3 times, took some little courses—3 months, 4 months, about this, about that, behaviors, and I retired after from ... [inaudible] ...

Interviewer: Ok, yeah.

Normal to me. Being sick was bad, but ...

Interviewer: Things happen in life, right?

Yeah, yeah. But, that's part of my life.



Interviewer: When did you retire?

I retired in 2013.

Interviewer: OK.

Ten years.

Interviewer: Yeah, what do you do?

A lot of stuff. I cook. I clean. I crochet. We go for a walk; I go to the gym. I love to cook, and I like to give. I give some soup to my neighbors, I go far to bring some stuff to a friend of ours that we visit, she's in a wheelchair. So, that's what we do on a day trip or a weekend trip. We are planning to go to Portugal in September of this year. Just waiting on some results from the doctor. After that, if God is with me. I know He is—we are going to go. At least two weeks.

Interviewer: Where in Portugal?

St. Michael.

Interviewer: St. Michael?

Yes.

Interviewer: Oh, it's the rain.

I have one daughter, 48.

Interviewer: Does she live here?

She lives in North Dartmouth.

Interviewer: Ok. What year then did you get here?

1973.

Interviewer: Ok, 'cause you did say that you were married in Portugal.

In 1973.

Interviewer: How has it changed since you've been here?

So, it was great. I came from a small town into this world. To me it was like a world. So big, so big. But, since the first day, I was loving it. I had my house, I had my ... [inaudible] ..., my mother was very strict with me. She didn't want me to marry, she wanted me with her all the time ...[inaudible]... I don't know how to tell you how it was in Portugal. We had a good life there ... [inaudible]... my father, he came here in 1971 to visit his brother. And his brother said: "If you want to stay, I can do the papers and you can come." So, he said OK, my Mom got upset. It was a life change for my Mom. My Mom was really upset to leave her house there, and she left the first granddaughter, 9 months old. My brother had married a year and a half before. It was harsh. For me too, but I came with my husband.



Interviewer: You were of age!

To me, it was a great experience coming here. I mean, I learned a lot, I learned a lot. The first time I took my lesson, I was really excited. All I wanted to do was write.

Interviewer: (Laugh)

...[inaudible]..., I mean, I got married at 22, ...[inaudible]... It was a very good experience [sound of 3 knocks on wood]. To me, it was a big thing. It was very big.

Interviewer: Was your father able to be a tailor here as well? To continue his work?

Not on his own. He used to work in a factory as a supervisor. Had a lot of work at the time he came in 1971, a lot of factories used to make a lot of suits. Some factories was pants, jackets, and others would do vests. He used to work in Fall River.

Interviewer: Ok.

Darwood, Darwood was a factory under the bridge. ...[inaudible]... He came here already 50, 50 years old. He only worked 11 years. So, after that, he went back.

Interviewer: He went back?

My mother never got used to this climate and she would cry. She was very independent in Portugal, and when she came here was like she was in a box. He had to do something.

Interviewer: So, she was happier when they moved back?

And he was too. ...[inaudible]...

Interviewer: Do you have any aunts or uncles that are there still? In Portugal, any family?

I have a brother. My youngest brother lives in Portugal. He used to work for the town.

Interviewer: Ok.

My sister-in-law ...[inaudible]... She had twins ...[inaudible]... They live in the continent, in Lisbon.

Interviewer: Ok.

And life goes on. We go to visit, sometimes they come here. ...[inaudible]... Thank God it wasn't that bad. But a lot of people have a lot of bad stories to tell.

Interviewer: I know, yeah. For sure.

What goes behind doors.

Interviewer: Do you feel like you have, kind of like there's a community here already of people that were welcoming, that were either had, were from Portugal or had the language or there is places for you to ?



When I came here, I used to live in a small apartment on this side of my apartment and another apartment was another lady ... [inaudible]... she was already aged. I was home alone for a month, so she used to come to my house. She taught me a lot. When I started to work, that was a month after I came. She was coming to my house teaching me how to speak the English. So, she would bring the book, the pen, the pencil, the eraser, everything to teach me. She would say to me the days of the week, count to a hundred, the months, the days of the week, oh, I already said that. And she was telling me the day she was coming to my house she would say: "You better read that book and write like this one hundred times." So, she would put one column with Monday, Tuesday, the numbers, the months, and I had to write that a hundred times. I learned a lot in a month. I would know more than my husband in three years. I used to love school. That helped a lot. She used a lot to teach me because the next day she would come to my house and say: "Good afternoon, good afternoon, how are you?" Trying to tell me, to explain. I would say "ow ar you." She'd say: "That's now the way to say 'how are you—how are you?'". She was a big teacher. She was for me. I learned a lot.

Interviewer: Yeah, we usually have about 20 minutes so that way, when it gets transcribed, it's easier and it takes its time. So that way it will all be written out and we also archive it.