

Nizana Halim: what is your full name and describe me about yourself?

Mahadai Deosaran: My name is Mahadai Deosaran and I was..like where I was born? I was born in Guyana, South America.

NH: Do you know what your first name means or whom you were named after?

MD: Actually, I was told it means great mother...it was named great mother but I don't think it was named after anybody or so. Just that's what I was told...

NH: Did you personally know this person or what were they like? Your parents...

MD: My parents? Oh yeah I know them, my parents. They were great people.

NH: Does your family have a special meaning?

MD: Not that I know of, no...Like name? No...

NH: When were you born?

MD: I was born in October 1957

NH: Where at home? In the hospital?

MD: I think I was born at home, yeah I was born at home...

NH: What city and what country?

MD: In Guyana, South America.

NH: What is your nationality?

MD: Guyanese.

NH: Was your family name changed when you originally came to this country?

MD: No, no...

NH: Who were your first family members to settle in this country and what were their names?

MD: My brother and his wife, his name is Natura [?] De an and um yeah...

NH: What brought them here and how did they get the money to come here?

MD: I guess they brought their money with them, they brought money with them yeah...

NH: Where did they first arrive and what possessions did they bring with them?

MD: I guess they arrived at Pearson but they didn't bring much, I don't think they brought much...

NH: What language did they speak and where were they actually from?

MD: They spoke English from Guyana.

NH: Do you know any stories they might have told about their life and what it was like?

MD: I guess, yeah. They said when they came first there weren't much people like themselves. The snow was new for them and it was a lot of snow that they had to walk through to get to wherever they were going. Which was new, you know...that was their stories I guess.

NH: Do you know when and where your grandparents were born?

MD: My grandparents, they were born in Guyana I believe..yeah..

NH: How did they make a living?

MD: They were farmers.

NH: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

MD: Yeah, I have 5 brothers and 2 sisters.

NH: Did you ever get along with them?

MD: Oh yeah, we get along really well. We're very close...

NH: What were they like as young people? Do you remember any special or funny stories?

MD: Well, I was the youngest, I am the youngest...So, yeah, we were close and we used to play, like we were brought up in a farm in Guyana so we used to be like...you know, play late into the night in the backyard.

NH: Where did you live as a child and what was your home town like back then?

MD: It was not a....it was country, in the country...yeah, it's Guyana in Zeeland [Zealand?]. Yeah, it was just farm country actually...

NH: Can you describe your home for me?

MD: We had a three bedroom home. And it was...like there were no basement or anything...its just the bedrooms upstairs and then a separate building for a kitchen. So you go up, down a step, and then go to the kitchen by itself yeah...

NH: Can you tell me what life was like when you were very young and growing up?

MD: It was country life, like no electricity. Early ages, no electricity, no brick road, no indoor bathrooms and things like that...

NH: How did you spend your time as a child?

MD: We played with the neighbours kids, played games...

NH: How much schooling did you have? What was your favourite subject?

MD: Oh I don't know....

NH: And was there any subject you hated most?

MD: Math, I hated math...Yeah I went up to high school, I graduated high school...

NH: What did you like most, doing as a child? Was there any games?

MD: Yeah, I remember playing like jacks they call it, but we used to play it with bricks my friends and I...we didn't have those plastic stuff, we used to play it in bricks...like stones...and hopscotch...

NH: What is the happiest memory in your childhood and when did it happen?

MD: I have so many happy memories...I guess when all the family come together, you know, when its like holidays when all my brothers and sisters that's not living there come home...that was really good memories for me...

NH: What were your teenage years like?

MD: It was just basic, we didn't have like...I never used to go anywhere as a teenager...We didn't have movies close by so we weren't...we didn't go anywhere.

NH: What goals did you have as a young person, and what goals if any did your family members have for you?

MD: We weren't brought up to have like....careers....put it that way. We were brought up that you know, you get married, especially the girls, you get married, go to school and get married.

NH: What was life like in the early years of your marriage?

MD: Oh, it was good (laughter).

NH: When you think back to the children, when they were very young, what stories come to mind about them?

MD: My kids? I guess just...good memories going for walks every day back home, we used to go walk and sit by the seawall in the evening or go to movies on the weekend.

NH: Looking back what do you think has been the happiest time in your life?

MD: Just getting my kids, giving birth I think...

NH: What have been the major accomplishments in your life?

MD: I guess when I came to Canada is a good accomplishment and I went back to school and I did my registered nursing...so, that I should say.

NH: How long have you been here in Canada?

MD: I came about...17 years...

NH: How do you overcome your fears about life?

MD: I guess you just have to face it, face your fears, and that's how you overcome it...

NH: What activities do you enjoy most? Sports? Cooking? Reading? Working? Music? Travelling and others...

MD: Travelling, I like to travel...Cook...I don't do any sports, I look at sports on the TV but..

NH: Is there a story that you...that were told as a child that you'd like to recall for me?

MD: A story that I was told?

NH: Yeah, from your parents...

MD: I don't remember right now..

NH: Okay, are there any thoughts you would like to add?

MD: Yeah, it was...I mean it was a good thing coming over. It's a different life here, a different life in Canada. I like my childhood memories and stuff but Canada – it give me a better, you know you have more opportunities for myself and my children too and my family...I think that was a good move.

NH: Thank you for sharing these memories with us, I have much learned from you...

MD: Thank you, you're welcome. I'm sorry I didn't think about a story...