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### Cultural Contact Assignment

Being an African American, I have been apart of a Baptist church all my life. I have been part of a Baptist church that is all black and one that had a few Caucasians attend. Living in Indiana for most of my life, I have accepted the fact that there are not a lot of African Americans where I'm from. I love being around others like myself but it does take me a while to get comfortable.

At first I was a little nervous about going to this church. My family is from Kansas City, MO. My mom was in the military and that's how we got put here in Indiana. She's a civilian now but she still works at Grissom Air Reserve Base. Besides that and my mom really didn't want my brother and I growing up in a bad neighborhood, we stayed here in Indiana. Sometimes I get uncomfortable when I'm around alt lot African Americans because I'm always around Caucasians. I am always afraid someone's going to say I act to white just because there aren't a lot of black people where I'm from. I also feel like I act a little "white" sometimes but it's kind of natural because that's the environment I grew up in. I never know what kind of reaction I'm going to get.

For my church assignment, I attended Christ Temple in Anderson. This church was an Apostolic church and I had never even heard of this type of church before. I just thought it was another type of black church in Anderson. I didn't feel uncomfortable at this church but it was a new experience for me. Everyone in the church was very accepting. As soon as you walk

through the door, people come up and greet you. They just didn't want to know your name, they wanted to get to know as much about you as possible. It was very reassuring.

There were some differences in this church from a typical Baptist church I was use to. First, they don't have a pastor or minister but they have an elder and his name was Hasea Bannes. There was also a time difference. The church started at 11:30a.m. and got over around 2p.m. At my church, the service starts at 10:45a.m. and lets out around 1p.m. Church use to start at 11 but you know black churches don't start or end on time. They thought if they moved the time back it would help but it doesn't. I was kind of use to sitting that long.

You know that certain time in church where you have prayer request for others and possible for yourself. That was different. In my church, the pastor calls everyone up to the front of the church and they form a circle. He goes around and prays for those who come and those listed in the bulletin who are sick and shut-in. At Christ Temple, the people stand and get called on one at a time and say their concerns and then it's prayer time. Not only does the elder pray out loud but so does everyone in the congregation. Everyone prays until they're finished with what's on their hearts and minds. It was hard to focus and it just sounded like everyone was speaking in tongues.

Sometime, after 1pm the elder got to the offering, the sermon, and closing. It felt like it took forever. I enjoyed the service. The elder was very interesting. Not all people who preach the word of God are interesting to listen to. Sometimes they can be very boring especially the older they are. Elder Bannes didn't do too bad. He kept me interested because he was feeling what he was saying. He had a good speaking voice so he didn't put me to sleep because he looked fairly old (but not too old).

The atmosphere was comfortable and the people were very accepting. It was different from the typical Baptist church I've been to. The best part about the church service was the choir. They had a piano player and a guy on the drums. The choir was also dominantly teens or

young adults. There were people dancing in the aisles as the holy spirit was moving through them. It was very entertaining but I've seen it before. The usher always walked around and asked if the people were ok or needed anything. There was nothing I didn't like about the church besides the location of the bathroom. You had to go all the way downstairs and it was quite a trip. Other than that, the service was just fine.

This was a positive experience for me. The people at Christ Temple really care about each other and their church. I don't usually go to church here in Anderson and I go home. Feeling out of place is fear of mine. I also don't know my way very well around Anderson. Even though this isn't my denomination, I could see myself going to Christ Temple again.