

HOW I SUFFER FROM THE LIFE IN A NEW PLACE

Dwight Math teacher Beverly Soares on why she moved to England and how was her life here.

Interviewer: Shuning Wu

What was the main reason you left your country?

My husband was in the air force and he was required to go to England or he should go to the war. And it was the time that we invaded Cambodia.

How did you choose where you would move?

It is the air force rule for family members to go together. I was required to go with him, so I had no choice, but to go there.

So you are not going that place with your own willingness, what did you do there?

I did not have a job because I was just graduated from school. So I just stayed at home and raised my children. Two of my children were born in England. They have the British nationality also.

What kind of help did you need most?

My husband and I were new married couple when we first went to that place. I couldn't forget that day. It was the first day that we got there. I



How do you like the food there?

I only like the white chocolate and some kind of dessert there. I could not get the food that I want. It is not like today we could ship, so I was also unable to make food by myself.

I needed all the stuff that we would use at home, so I went to the market and bought them. But, when I checked out, the cashier did not give me the bag. But I had lots of stuff to carry. I had to find boxes by myself. And I remembered that I cried at that time. There were three boxes. One in my hand, and I have to “kick” the other two. When I talked about those now it is so funny, but I was indeed crying at that time. And no one helped me at that time, no one even told me what should I do!

Did you have to learn a new language?

It is basically the same language, but there are still tiny differences. Like when I said truck, they could not understand what it is. So I have to explain to them that is a big car, and they said oh! That is the lorry!

How did your lifestyle change?

I could not get the job because I was just graduated from school. So what I could do is only raising my children up. And I did not have any relatives and friends at that place. And I had to be separated with my family. My grandmother past away when I was in England and I could not go back at that time.

What’s the major difference between living in New York and living in that country?

It is the weather. It was always rainy and foggy in England. I remembered a time when it was too foggy for me to get the way back home!

Did do have any unforgettable experience in England?

Actually, I moved three times during three and a half years when I stayed in England. The first time was in Oxford, where is 25 miles away from my husband’s base. That is a really expensive place and my husband should travel from Oxford to where he worked everyday. So the second time is place where a little bit closer to his working place — Bicester.

However, the environment was really bad and so nasty, as well as horrible. But that is the middle place from where he worked. The price is also at the middle level, not so expensive. And for the last time, we moved to Gaydon. It was a really nice and normal and cheap place for us to live. We moved according to the distance to the base and the price.

Did you receive any help there?

No one helped me. There was no computers and no emails. I could only use letters to communicate with my parents. And it took about a week for the letters to receive. When my son was 1 year old, my mother came for only 1 day because her passport would export in the very following day and it could not be extended.