

Subject: Lunch with Aleesha Taylor, Teachers College
Location: Cafeteria in basement of Interfaith Center, Riverside Drive
Time: 2:05pm – 4:45pm

Aleesha grew up in the Bronx and went to school in Harlem, a school on Convent Ave, which is Morningside Ave up to 125th or so.

She thinks we should look at changes in the neighborhood over time on 145th street (I may have misremembered). She mentions that it used to be the middle-class area for African Americans, then was taken over by crack houses, and is now home to expensive condos. [I did not ask her about Striver's Row, which I suppose is still intact.]

She gets upset when I mention the Mormon Church. She seems to think that black people are misled about the church: either they don't know about the Mormon Church teaching about black people as inferior, or they don't know that the Church of Latter-Day Saints is the same as the Mormon Church. She says that black folks get "confused" by the name, Church of Latter-Day Saints. She says they think it's Christian.

She mentions that a friend made a walking map of Harlem, and she'll give us a copy of it. She says she's been wanting to speak with Herve and this will give her a chance to do so, with something to talk about.

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