

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Holley, Jim, 1943-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley,
Dates:	June 24, 2014 and March 16, 2022
Bulk Dates:	2014 and 2022
Physical Description:	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:55:45).
Abstract:	Religious leader Reverend Dr. Jim Holley (1943 -) served as pastor of Detroit, Michigan's Historic Little Rock Baptist Church from 1972 to 2022. He also founded the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences and served as president and CEO of Cognos Advertising Agency, dean of Ashland Theological Seminary, president and CEO of Country Preacher Foods, Inc., and chair of the Detroit Police Commission. Holley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 24, 2014 and March 16, 2022, in Detroit, Michigan. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_227
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Religious leader Reverend Dr. Jim Holley was born on December 5, 1943, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Effie Mae King Holley and Charles James Holley, Sr. Holley graduated with his B.S. degree in 1965 and his M.S. degree in international relations in 1968, both from Tennessee State University. He went on to receive his B.Div. and M.Div. degrees in Old Testament from Chicago Theological Seminary, and then his Ph.D. degree in higher education from Wayne State University in 1978. He later received his D.Min. degree in economic development from Drew University in 1999.

In 1972, Holley became pastor of Detroit, Michigan's Historic Little Rock Baptist Church. In addition to his role as pastor, he was named president and chief executive officer of Cognos Advertising Agency in 1988, and has served as dean of the Ashland Theological Seminary, Detroit police commissioner, president of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity, Inc., and president and chief executive officer of Country Preacher Foods, Inc. He also went on to establish and chair the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1997. Holley was appointed to the board of directors of the Detroit Police Commission in 2018, where he has served as chair. Holley retired as senior pastor of the Historic Little Rock Baptist Church in 2022.

As a community leader in Detroit, Holley has acquired the St. Regis Hotel, the Little Rock Pharmacy, the Family Life Center, the Little Rock Health Care Home, Rock Plaza mall, and an education complex for high school dropouts. He is also the author of numerous spiritually-focused books, including the *Handbook for Brotherhood Organizations* (1990); *Manual for Brotherhood Organizations* (1990); *The Mission, The Minister, The Ministry* (1990); *A Guide to Successful Preaching & Pastoring* (1992); *The Drama of Human Suffering* (1992); *The Buck Stops Here* (1994); *Jesus, This is Jimmy* (1994); *The Spirit Speaks: Daily Spiritual Motivation for Successful African Americans* (1997); *Creating a Can Do Attitude in a Can't Do Atmosphere* (2000); and *When the Vision is*

Larger Than the Budget (2006).

Holley was named one of the top five ministers in Michigan by the *Detroit Free Press* and Michiganian of the Year by the *Detroit News* in 1990. He has been recognized by *Crain's Business Magazine* as one of the foremost voices in Detroit, and was honored at the 2010 Trumpet Awards.

Reverend Dr. Jim Holley was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 24, 2014, and March 16, 2022.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 24, 2014 and March 16, 2022, in Detroit, Michigan, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Religious leader Reverend Dr. Jim Holley (1943 -) served as pastor of Detroit, Michigan's Historic Little Rock Baptist Church from 1972 to 2022. He also founded the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences and served as president and CEO of Cognos Advertising Agency, dean of Ashland Theological Seminary, president and CEO of Country Preacher Foods, Inc., and chair of the Detroit Police Commission.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Holley, Jim, 1943-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Holley, Jim, 1943---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Religious Leader

HistoryMakers® Category:

ReligionMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, June 24, 2014 and March 16, 2022. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Section A2014_227_001_001, TRT: 1:28:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Section A2014_227_001_002, TRT: 2:28:55 ?

Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Jr. describes race relations, sights, sounds and smells in his community in West Virginia. As a child, he attended Laurel Creek Baptist Church in Wolfe, West Virginia and watched Oral Roberts' televangelist program, 'The Abundant Life.' He attended Roseville Elementary School in West Virginia for the first through fifth grade. In sixth grade, he relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with his parents, Effie Mae King Holley and Charles James Holley, Sr. where he attended Paul Laurence Dunbar School in Philadelphia. He returned to West Virginia to complete middle school in Bramwell. Holley moved to Mount Pleasant, Tennessee with an aunt and uncle and attended Clarke High School. In Mount Pleasant, he attended Mount Nebo Baptist Church. Holley graduated Clarke High School in 1961 and attended Tennessee State University in Nashville. Holley describes his experience as an undergraduate student and remembers participating in Nashville, Tennessee civil rights demonstrations.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Section A2014_227_002_003, TRT: 3:31:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Section A2014_227_002_004, TRT: 4:28:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Section A2014_227_002_005, TRT: 5:30:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Section A2014_227_002_006, TRT: 6:29:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Section A2014_227_002_007, TRT: 7:31:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Section A2014_227_002_008, TRT: 8:29:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Section A2014_227_002_009, TRT: 9:29:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley, Section A2014_227_002_010, TRT: 10:28:17 ?