

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Marcus Garvey Wood

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Wood, Marcus Garvey, 1920-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Marcus Garvey Wood,
Dates:	January 10, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:12:02).
Abstract:	Pastor Reverend Marcus Garvey Wood (1920 -) was a classmate of Martin Luther King, Jr. at Crozer Theological Seminary, and served as a pastor for forty-five years at Providence Baptist Church in Baltimore. In 1998, he published, "And Grace Will Lead Me Home," a collection of sermons and personal reflections on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Wood was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 10, 2005, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_005
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Marcus Garvey Wood was born on June 18, 1920, in Gloucester, Virginia. His mother was a domestic and homemaker. His father, a carpenter, was born and raised on a slave plantation. Wood earned his high school diploma in 1937 from Gloucester High School where he was active in the drama and 4-H clubs and a member of the debate team. During his senior year of high school, Wood joined the ministry and preached his first sermon at his home church, Union Zion Baptist, in Ware Neck, Virginia.

After spending a semester at Virginia Union College in Richmond, Virginia in 1937, Wood was invited to train at Enon Baptist Church in Baltimore. In 1946, Wood became pastor of sister churches in West Virginia -- Wainwright Baptist in Charles Town and Zion Baptist in Johnstown. While serving at both churches, he met and married his wife, Bessie, in 1948, and earned his B.A. degree in history from Storer College. In 1949, Wood was called to pastor Bethlehem Baptist Church in Woodbury, New Jersey. The following year, Wood and nine other African American ministers made history when they were admitted to Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. The group of students included Nobel Peace Prize winner Martin Luther King, Jr. Wood earned his master of divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in 1951.

In 1952, Wood began his forty-five year tenure as pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Baltimore. At Providence, he created an adult day care center, an AIDS ministry, and educational programs. In 1998, he published *And Grace Will Lead Me Home*, a collection of sermons and personal reflections on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Wood has completed missionary work in South America, Haiti, Russia, Ghana and South Africa. He continues to lecture and educate grade school students about Martin Luther King.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Marcus Garvey Wood was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on January 10, 2005, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Pastor Reverend Marcus Garvey Wood (1920 -) was a classmate of Martin Luther King, Jr. at Crozer Theological Seminary, and served as a pastor for forty-five years at Providence Baptist Church in Baltimore. In 1998, he published, "And Grace Will Lead Me Home," a collection of sermons and personal reflections on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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:

Wood, Marcus Garvey, 1920-

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Wood, Marcus Garvey, 1920---Interviews

African American clergy--Maryland--Baltimore--Interviews

Baptists--Maryland--Baltimore--Interviews

African American families--Virginia

Racially mixed people--Interviews

African Americans--Genealogy

Segregation--Virginia--Gloucester

Discrimination in education--Virginia--Gloucester

Discrimination in employment--Virginia--Gloucester

Virginia Union University (Richmond, Va.)

Low-income college students

Storer College

Baltimore (Md.)--Race relations

Charleston (S.C.)--Race relations

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968

Crozer theological Seminary

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Pastor

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 Marcus Garvey Wood, January 10, 2005. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 6/7/2022 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 Marcus Garvey Wood, Section A2005_005_001_001, TRT: 0:30:04 2005/01/10

Clergyman Marcus Garvey Wood, former seminary classmate of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., describes his family background and upbringing in the tidewater region of Virginia. He notes his multiethnic genealogical background, which includes slaves and slaveowners. Wood shares early memories from his childhood, including his neighborhood, his household, and his elementary school. Wood also comments on his limited contact with whites.

African American clergy--Maryland--Baltimore--Interviews.

Baptists--Maryland--Baltimore--Interviews.

African American families--Virginia.

Racially mixed people--Interviews.

African Americans--Genealogy.

Segregation--Virginia--Gloucester.

Discrimination in education--Virginia--Gloucester.

Discrimination in employment--Virginia--Gloucester.

Virginia Union University (Richmond, Va.).

Low-income college students.

Storer College.

Baltimore (Md.)--Race relations.

Charleston (S.C.)--Race relations.

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968.

Crozer Theological Seminary.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Marcus Garvey Wood, Section A2005_005_001_002,
TRT: 0:29:35 2005/01/10

Clergyman Marcus Garvey Wood details his hardscrabble existence in Gloucester, Virginia during the 1930s. He describes the pernicious effects of racism, color-consciousness and discrimination on education and job opportunities. Wood tells of his high school years in Gloucester, Virginia and explains his decision to become a minister. Wood then details his enrollment at Virginia Union University and explains his struggles to make ends meet and pay tuition.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Marcus Garvey Wood, Section A2005_005_001_003,
TRT: 0:30:58 2005/01/10

Clergyman Marcus Garvey Wood recalls transferring to Morgan College in Baltimore, Maryland, and details struggling through poverty to stay in school, eventually ending up at Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. He talks about his experiences as a pastor in Charleston, West Virginia and discusses skin color prejudice in the African American community both in Charleston and Baltimore. Wood then explains his decision to attend Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, where he was a classmate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He shares several anecdotes about their relationship.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Marcus Garvey Wood, Section A2005_005_001_004,
TRT: 0:29:52 2005/01/10

Clergyman Marcus Garvey Wood continues to describe his experiences at Crozer Theological Seminary, including his relationships with Martin Luther King, Jr. and other seminarians. He discusses his career at Providence Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland, where he spent forty-five years as pastor, where he focused on improving civil rights. Wood then recalls Dr. King's assassination and considers King's legacy. Wood reflects on his life and career and explains why he published a collection of his sermons, titled *And Grace Will Lead Me*.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Marcus Garvey Wood, Section A2005_005_001_005,
TRT: 0:11:33 2005/01/10

Clergyman Marcus Garvey Wood narrates his photographs.