

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bishop Eddie L. Long

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Long, Eddie
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Eddie L. Long,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 28, 2008
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2008
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:18:03).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Pastor Bishop Eddie L. Long (1953 - 2017 ) was the senior pastor of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, in Lithonia, Georgia. He was co-chair for the Hosea Feed the Hungry Project, and in 2004, he established a mentorship program for boys known as the Longfellows Summer Academy. Long was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 28, 2008, in Lithonia, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2008_035
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Pastor Bishop Eddie Lee Long was born on May 12, 1953 in Huntersville, North Carolina, to Floyd and Hattie Long. Long graduated from North Mecklenburg High School in Huntersville, North Carolina in 1972. In 1976, he earned his B.A. degree in business administration from North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina where he became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

From 1979 until 1981, Long worked for the Ford Motor Company as a zone manager in parts and services. He then was hired at HoneyWell where he worked in the energy management division from 1981 until 1987. In 1986, Long received his M.A. degree in divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and in 1987, he became the senior pastor of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia. Since his installation, New Birth's membership has multiplied to well over 30,000 members. In 2001, Long began serving as co-chair for the "Hosea Feed the Hungry" Project, and in 2004, he established a mentorship program known as the Longfellows Summer Academy in order to assist in the mental, physical and spiritual development of young men between the ages of twelve and sixteen. In 2006, Long earned his Ph.D. in pastoral ministry from the International College of Excellence in Tampa, Florida.

Long served as a member on several boards including the Morehouse School of Religion Board of Directors (Vice President); Board of Trustees for North Carolina Central University; Board of Trustees for Young Life; Board of Directors for Safehouse Outreach Ministries; and 100 Black Men Of America. Long authored numerous books, including *I Don't Want Delilah, I Need You; Power of a Wise Woman; What a Man Wants, What a Woman Needs; Called to Conquer; Taking Over; It's Your Time!; Gladiator: The Strength of a Man; The Blessing in Giving* and *Deliver Me From Adam*.

Long married Vanessa Griffin Long, a native of Columbus, Georgia on March 10, 1990. They were married at Central United Methodist Church. Long had two adult children, Eric and Edward, and two teenage children, Jared and Taylor.

Bishop Eddie Lee Long was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 28, 2008.

Long passed away on January 15, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bishop Eddie L. Long was conducted by Denise Gines on February 28, 2008, in Lithonia, Georgia, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Pastor Bishop Eddie L. Long (1953 - 2017 ) was the senior pastor of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, in Lithonia, Georgia. He was co-chair for the Hosea Feed the Hungry Project, and in 2004, he established a mentorship program for boys known as the Longfellows Summer Academy.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Long, Eddie

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Long, Eddie--Interviews

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African American Ministers-Interviews.

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African American businesspeople--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

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## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## **Occupations:**

Pastor

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

ReligionMakers

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## **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 Bishop Eddie L. Long, February 28, 2008. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

## Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Eddie L. Long, Section A2008\_035\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:36 2008/02/28

Bishop Eddie L. Long was born on May 12, 1953 in Charlotte, North Carolina, to Hattie Alston Long and Floyd Long, Jr. After the death of Long's paternal grandmother, his paternal grandfather, Floyd Long, Sr., married Lillie Mae Long, with whom he raised thirteen children in South Carolina. Long's maternal grandparents, Mariah Alston and Hampton Alston, owned a farm in South Carolina, where they raised livestock. His mother left school in the sixth grade, and worked at a restaurant in North Carolina. There, his parents met and married, after which his father studied to become a pastor. Following Long's birth, his family moved to a diverse community in Montclair, New Jersey. His mother worked as a housekeeper, while his father was a pastor and truck driver, and later owned an automobile service station. Long attended the integrated Rand Elementary School, where he excelled in mathematics, and was teased for his second-hand clothes. He describes his two older brothers, Floyd Long III and James Long.

African American families--North Carolina--Huntersville.  
African American parents--North Carolina--Huntersville.  
African American children--Social life and customs.  
African American families--New Jersey--Montclair.  
African American theological seminaries.

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Eddie L. Long, Section  
A2008\_035\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:14 2008/02/28

Bishop Eddie L. Long's family purchased a home in the Trinity Park neighborhood of Charlotte, North Carolina. There, he attended the all-black Northwest Junior High School, where he was influenced by his teacher, Miss Phillips. After one year, he was bused to the predominantly white Robert Lacy Ranson Junior High School, where he played as a defensive tackle on the football team. He shared his aspirations to become a lawyer with his guidance counselor, who discouraged him, and told him to become a mechanic like his father. He then studied at North Mecklenburg High School in Huntersville, North Carolina, where he experienced color discrimination from his classmates for his darker skin tone, but was also elected president of the student council. His counselor encouraged him to apply to North Carolina Central University in Durham, where Long enrolled after his graduation in 1972. Long also recalls the assassinations of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

African American children—Education (Elementary)—  
New Jersey--Montclair.

African American neighborhoods--New Jersey--  
Montclair--History--20th century.

African Americans--Education (Secondary)--New Jersey--  
Montclair.

North Carolina Central University.

African American fathers.

African Americans--Religion.

African American ministers.

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Eddie L. Long, Section  
A2008\_035\_001\_003, TRT: 0:20:13 2008/02/28

Bishop Eddie L. Long was deterred from a religious vocation by his father's challenges as a rural pastor, which he witnessed firsthand as a child. From 1972, Long attended North Carolina Central University in Durham, where he majored in business and marketing. He excelled in the predominantly black environment, and was mentored by his marketing professor, Sundar Fleming, as well as his black history professor. Long established a school radio program, 'What's Happening at NCC,' at a station in Durham, where he broadcast music, sports games and interviews. He also pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; and, in his junior year, was elected president. In this role, he created elaborate routines and special effects for the fraternity's parties. His grades fell due to his social activities, and he was not accepted into law school. After graduation, Long accepted a position as a paperboy at The Durham Morning Herald, and was later hired by the Ford Motor Company as a manager in Denver, Colorado.

African American ministers.

African American fathers.

North Carolina Central University.

African American universities and colleges.

African American college students--Social conditions.

Ford Motor Company--Employees.