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

Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616
info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com

Creator: Long, Bishop Eddie L.

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Eddie L. Long,

Dates: February 28, 2008

Bulk Dates: 2008

Physical Description: 3 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:18:03).

Abstract: Pastor Bishop Eddie L. Long (1953 - ) is the senior pastor of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, in Lithonia, Georgia. He is 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.

Identification: A2008_035

Language: The interview and records are in English.

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 serves 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 has 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 has 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.

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 Betacam SP videocassettes. Pastor Bishop Eddie L. Long (1953 - ) is the senior pastor of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, in Lithonia, Georgia. He is 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.

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:

Long, Eddie

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:
African Americans--Interviews
Long, Eddie--Interviews

African American Ministers-Interviews.

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

**Organizations:**

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

**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**


**Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/26/2011 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**
Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bishop Eddie L. Long

Series I: Original Interview Footage, February 28, 2008

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Eddie L. Long, Section A2008_035_001_001, TRT: 0:28:36 2008/02/28

Bishop Eddie Lee Long was born on May 12, 1953 to Hattie Alston Long and Floyd M. Long, Jr. in Huntersville, North Carolina. Long discusses his relationship with his parents and talks about how his parents met. His parents both met in a restaurant in Columbia, South Carolina and his father persistently pursued his mother, even going so far as to meet her father. Eventually, they married. Long then describes how his mother influenced his father to stop drinking and to become a preacher. His parents moved to Nashville, Tennessee so his father could attend divinity school. After completing school, his family moved back to Huntersville, North Carolina where Long was born. Six months after Long's birth, his parents moved back to Montclair, New Jersey during the Great Migration. Long ends the interview segment by discussing some of his experiences at Rand Elementary School.

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 life—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 Lee Long describes how his family moved back to Huntersville, North Carolina. He attended Northwest Junior High School in Huntersville, North Carolina. After a year, Long was bussed to Ransom Middle School, in Charlotte, North Carolina, a predominantly white high school. Long's only concern with attending Ransom Middle School was his negative interaction with his guidance counselor, Mr. Douglas A. Hogwood. Long then talked about his education at North Mecklenburg High School. Here, Long's sports career began and he started to gain more confidence in himself. In 1972, Long's guidance counselor, Ms. Chapman encouraged Long to apply to North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina. Long discusses memories of growing up in the 1960s, particularly the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The interview segment ends with Long talking about his father's career as a pastor.

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 Lee Long expounds on his decision to enroll in college. He mentions that the friction between his father and the church board swayed his decision to attend North Carolina Central University and major in business.
During the Vietnam War draft, Long was enrolled in North Carolina Central University. He briefly mentions that he was not too concerned about the draft because he was continuing his education in college. Long describes his experiences as a student at North Carolina Central University in 1972, campus life, how he pledged Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and started the first radio show on campus, "What's Happening at NCC." Upon graduation, Long applied to North Carolina Central Law School, but he was rejected because he was three points from the acceptance score. The interview concludes with Long discussing how he started working with Ford Motor Company in Denver.

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.