

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Michael A. Battle

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Battle, Michael A.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael A. Battle,
Dates:	March 22, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:15:15).
Abstract:	College president and theologian The Honorable Michael A. Battle (1950 -) was the seventh president of Interdenominational Theological Center and was an administrator at Hampton University, Virginia State University and Chicago State University. Battle was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 22, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_032
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dr. Michael A. Battle, the seventh president of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), was born on July 28, 1950, in St. Louis, Missouri. He earned his B.A. degree from Trinity College, the master of divinity degree from Duke University and the doctor of ministry from Howard University. Other academic achievements include certifications from the Institute of Educational Management at Harvard University, the Executive Leadership Institute of Hampton University, and American Association of State Colleges and Universities' Millennium Leadership.

Before assuming the presidency of ITC, Battle was vice president of student affairs at Chicago State University. From 1996 to 1998, Dr. battle served as associate vice president of student affairs at Virginia State University, where, under his leadership, the institution's successful planning and assessment was widely acknowledged. From 1976 to 1996, Battle served as dean of the University Chapel at Hampton University, pastor to the Hampton University Memorial Church and executive secretary and treasurer of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference, the nation's largest interdenominational conference among African American clergy. His active participation in the conference helped increase the number of members, which successfully raised significant amounts of money toward the construction of the university's convocation center. Dr. Battle was also a teacher of philosophy and religion, and served for twenty years as a Chaplain in the United States Army Reserve.

Other notable achievements include serving as vice president of the American Committee on Africa from 1994 to 1998, as well as participating as an election observer for the first free election in South Africa. Awards and honors given to Battle include: the Leadership Award from the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals; the Martin Luther King Memorial Speakers Award from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; the Echoes of Excellence Award for Community Service; the National Conference of Christians and Jews Humanitarian Award; and was a Rockefeller Fund for the Theological Education Scholar from 1973 to 1976. Dr. Battle has also authored numerous

books and publications on topics related to ecumenism and the Black church.

Battle is married to the former Linda Ann McClure, and is the father of three children: Michael Jr., Lisa Angela and Martin Luther. Michael is a graduate of Malcolm X College in Chicago, Lisa is a graduate of Elizabeth City State University and Central Michigan State University and is also a captain in the U.S. Army; and Martin is completing his undergraduate work in religious studies at Hampton University.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Michael A. Battle was conducted by Jodi Merriday on March 22, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. College president and theologian The Honorable Michael A. Battle (1950 -) was the seventh president of Interdenominational Theological Center and was an administrator at Hampton University, Virginia State University and Chicago State University.

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:

Battle, Michael A.

Merriday, Jodi (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Battle, Michael A.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Interdenominational Theological Center (Atlanta, Ga.)

Occupations:

Theologian

College President

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers|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 The Honorable Michael A. Battle, March 22, 2004.
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 The Honorable Michael A. Battle, Section
A2004_032_001_001, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

Interdenominational Theological Center president Michael A. Battle talks about his parents' background in Mississippi and shares his own childhood memories of growing up in St. Louis, Missouri in the 1950s.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael A. Battle, Section
A2004_032_001_002, TRT: 0:28:50 ?

Dr. Michael A. Battle, president of Interdenominational Theological Center, talks about growing up in a nurturing, close-knit African American neighborhood in St. Louis Missouri, in the 1950s and 1960s. He discusses the destructive myths about black neighborhoods and the segregated black schools at that time, and examines the deterioration of black communities in the years since his own youth. He recalls his experiences at school and church and mentions some individual church folks who had a positive influence on him and other youth.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael A. Battle, Section
A2004_032_001_003, TRT: 0:28:40 ?

Interdenominational Theological Center president Michael A. Battle talks about his adolescence including influential teachers and experiences at Soledad High School in St. Louis, Missouri and at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut . He also talks about extracurricular activities including his volunteer work with the African American community in Hartford.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael A. Battle, Section
A2004_032_001_004, TRT: 0:28:00 ?

Dr. Michael A. Battle talks about his career--twenty years as chaplain at Hampton University, followed by vice-president jobs at Virginia State and Chicago State, and then the presidency of Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He also discusses his family and reflects on his accomplishments and his personal philosophy.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Michael A. Battle, Section
A2004_032_001_005, TRT: 0:20:25 ?

The Honorable Michael A. Battle narrates his photographs.