

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hicks, H. Beecher
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr.,
Dates:	November 30, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:13:55).
Abstract:	Pastor Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr. (1943 -) leads the 6,000 member Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and is the author of five books including, 'My Soul's Been Anchored' and 'Preaching Through A Storm'. In 1993, Hicks was designated by 'Ebony Magazine' as one of "America's Fifteen Greatest African American Preachers." Hicks was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 30, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_240
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Henry Beecher Hicks, Jr. was born on June 17, 1943, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He spent his early childhood years growing up on the campus of Leland College where his mother was dean of the English department and his father was dean of the Chapel. The family moved to Columbus, Ohio, when his father became pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church. Hicks earned his high school diploma from Columbus East High School in 1960, where he was active in the speech and drama clubs and debate team, and was a band announcer.

After high school, Hicks attended Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, until 1961. Yearning for a more nurturing environment, he transferred to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. During that same year he preached his trial sermon at his hometown, Mount Olivet Baptist, and shortly thereafter he was licensed to preach. In 1964, Hicks earned his B.A. degree from the University of Arkansas. From 1964 until 1967 he attended Colgate Rochester Divinity School in New York, earning his master's of divinity in 1967. Between 1965 and 1968, Hicks served as senior minister at Second Baptist Church in Mumford, New York. In 1968, he worked as a training coordinator and field director of the National and Rochester Urban League before leaving to serve as senior minister at Mount Ararat Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania until 1973. Hicks then became the senior minister at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Christ in Houston, Texas. In 1977, he was called to pastor Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., where he continues to serve today.

Under his leadership, Metropolitan has grown to include a school, over sixty ministries and a 6000-member congregation. Hicks is the author of five books including, *My Soul's Been Anchored* and *Preaching Through A Storm*. In 1993, Hicks was designated by *Ebony Magazine* as one of "America's Fifteen Greatest African American Preachers."

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr. was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on November 30, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Pastor Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr. (1943 -) leads the 6,000 member Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and is the author of five books including, 'My Soul's Been Anchored' and 'Preaching Through A Storm'. In 1993, Hicks was designated by 'Ebony Magazine' as one of "America's Fifteen Greatest African American Preachers."

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:

Hicks, H. Beecher

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Warwick, Rick (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hicks, H. Beecher--Interviews

African American clergy--Washington (D.C.)--Interviews

African American religious leaders--Washington (D.C.)--Interviews

African American families--Ohio--Columbus

African Americans--Genealogy

Columbus (Ohio)--Social conditions

Eduction--Ohio--Columbus

Wittenberg University

Discrimination in higher education--Ohio--Springfield

Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College

Colgate Rochester Divinity School

Liberalism (Religion)--United States

National Urban League

Big churches--Washington (D.C.)

Authors and publishers--United States--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Metropolitan Baptist Church (Washington, D.C.)

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 Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., November 30, 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 Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., Section
A2004_240_001_001, TRT: 0:30:23 ?

Minister H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., discusses his family history, including details of his parents' and grandparents' backgrounds. Hicks also lists his siblings' names and occupations. He shares his earliest childhood memories, including a description of his childhood home in Columbus, Ohio, in a neighborhood he describes as poor and racially diverse.

African American clergy--Washington (D.C.)--Interviews.

African American religious leaders--Washington (D.C.)--Interviews.

African American families--Ohio--Columbus.

African Americans--Genealogy.

Columbus (Ohio)--Social conditions.

Education--Ohio--Columbus.

Wittenberg University.

Discrimination in higher education--Ohio--Springfield.

Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College.

Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

Liberalism (Religion)--United States.

National Urban League.

Big churches--Washington (D.C.).

Authors and publishers--United States--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., Section
A2004_240_001_002, TRT: 0:30:08 ?

Minister H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., recounts his elementary and high school years in Columbus Ohio. He recalls the absence of any black teachers during his childhood, but still recalls several teachers of note. Hicks also discusses his early desire to be an attorney and not a minister, going against his family's long involvement in the church. Hicks also describes his experience at Wittenberg University in Ohio.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., Section
A2004_240_001_003, TRT: 0:29:56 ?

Minister H. Beecher Hicks describes his collegiate years at Wittenberg University, where he encountered racism, then later Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College, where he felt more encouraged and accepted as a young black man. Answering his call into the ministry, Hicks attended Colgate Rochester Divinity School and soon accepted positions at progressive churches in the midwest, Texas and Washington D.C. Hicks also talks about his tenure with the National Urban League.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., Section
A2004_240_001_004, TRT: 0:30:16 ?

Noted minister H. Beecher Hicks Jr., discusses his life in the ministry, in particular the business aspects of leading a large church, the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Washington, D.C. He explains how his church has helped improve many African American neighborhoods. He also discusses his book, *My Soul's Been Anchored*, his legacy, and his hopes for the black community.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., Section
A2004_240_001_005, TRT: 0:13:12 ?

Minister H. Beecher Hicks narrates his photographs.