

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Horace Earl Smith

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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>	Smith, Horace E. (Horace Earl), 1949-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Horace Earl Smith,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 8, 2003
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:09:17).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Pediatric oncologist and bishop Dr. Horace Earl Smith (1949 - ) serves as the director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell/Thalassemia Program at Children's Memorial Hospital, and is a recognized leader in his field. In addition to his career as a pediatrician, Smith is a bishop in the Apostolic Faith Church. Smith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 8, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2003_150
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

As a pediatric hematologist and oncologist at Children's Memorial Hospital and pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church on Chicago's South Side, Dr. Horace E. Smith has treated the bodies and souls of Chicagoans for more than two decades. Born in Chicago on December 10, 1949, Smith lost his mother at age ten and, with his grandmother's guidance, turned to the church to fill the void left by her loss.

Smith earned his B.A. degree with honors from Chicago State University in 1971, before entering the University of Illinois Medical Center. Smith completed residencies and fellowships in pediatric hematology and oncology before becoming an attending pediatrician at Rush Presbyterian Medical Center in 1980. From 1986 on, Smith served as the director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell/Thalassemia Program at Children's Memorial Hospital, and became recognized worldwide as a leader in his field.

In addition to his career as a pediatrician, Smith became a pastor in 1980 at the Apostolic Faith Church, which he had attended since youth. In 1983, Smith became a district elder, and in August 1997, was elevated to the status of bishop. Smith remained active through his church, assisting with its Boy Scout chapter, helping redevelop the historic Wabash YMCA, leading a \$3.3 million church renovation project, and helping reshape the surrounding inner-city neighborhood.

In 1976, Smith married Susan Davenport; the couple had three daughters.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Horace Earl Smith was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 8, 2003, in

Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Pediatric oncologist and bishop Dr. Horace Earl Smith (1949 - ) serves as the director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell/Thalassemia Program at Children's Memorial Hospital, and is a recognized leader in his field. In addition to his career as a pediatrician, Smith is a bishop in the Apostolic Faith Church.

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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:

Smith, Horace E. (Horace Earl), 1949-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Smith, Horace E. (Horace Earl), 1949---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:

Pediatric Oncologist

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Bishop

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers|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 Dr. Horace Earl Smith, July 8, 2003. 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).

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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 Dr. Horace Earl Smith, Section A2003\_150\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:17 ?

Horace Earl Smith gives some of his family's background, telling of his grandparents' and parents' migration from the South to Chicago and relating some of their stories about the Jim Crow era. Smith then gives a description of his mother, who died when he was only ten years old. He also describes his father, who was a Chicago police officer for decades. Smith shares the lessons he learned from both of his parents. Smith then reflects on his childhood, recalling his old neighborhood in Chicago, playing with his siblings, and sharing

some of his favorite activities and recreations as a boy. He recalls the influence his grandmother had on his spiritual life. Smith then details his experiences in grammar school, describing the schools he attended and his ability and diligence as a young student. Smith credits his mother with keeping him motivated to excel in school.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Horace Earl Smith, Section A2003\_150\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:18 ?

Horace Earl Smith discusses two of his mentors from childhood, including his first employer and the pastor of his church. He describes the lessons he learned from them and how they helped set him on the path to success. Smith then describes his high school experience, explaining the difficult transition he had to make while attending a mostly white school. He talks about incidents of racism he encountered, but concludes that his experience was positive, as he achieved academic success and made many friends. Smith then discusses his successful efforts to win scholarships and attend college at Chicago State University. He explains how his undergraduate experience led him to attend medical school at the University of Illinois. Smith also spends time describing the racial climate in Chicago during the Civil Rights Movement, and explains why he was discouraged from attending protests. He recalls the darkest days of the Movement, specifically the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Horace Earl Smith, Section A2003\_150\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:39 ?

Horace Earl Smith describes his experience at the University of Illinois medical school in Chicago, detailing the rigorous courses and examinations. He recalls struggling at first, but says he was able to learn from his mistakes and work his way to graduation. Smith explains how his studies led to his interest in sickle cell anemia, which he spent much of his medical career researching. He dispels common myths about sickle cell anemia, and discusses current treatment plans and hopes for a future cure. Smith reflects on his successful career as a hematologist and oncologist, saying he is especially proud of his treatment of young children. Smith then discusses his decision to become a pastor in his church, the Apostolic Faith Church in Chicago, describing the difficulty of balancing his professional medical career with his spiritual service. He explains that this balancing act became much harder once the church expanded and he became a bishop. Smith says he relishes the challenge and will continue be both a doctor and a bishop as long as he can.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Horace Earl Smith, Section A2003\_150\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:08 ?

Horace Earl Smith has a detailed discussion about his spiritual beliefs, focusing on the compatibility of faith with science and medicine. Smith believes that his study of medicine and the human body has strengthened his faith, saying that the more he has learned about science, the more he becomes convinced that a spiritual life and scientific life are fully compatible. Despite his conviction, Smith does share some questions that trouble his faith, but explains that such questions do not weaken his faith. Smith then discusses the role of faith in medicine, saying that while he does not force his beliefs on his patients, he often finds that patients want to use faith as a healing agent. Smith shares his hopes and concerns for the future of the black community, advocating black mentorship and improvements in education. Smith follows by discussing his legacy and how he would like to be remembered. Smith then provides descriptions of photographs he brought to the interview.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Horace Earl Smith, Section A2003\_150\_001\_005, TRT:

0:08:55 ?

Horace Earl Smith provides descriptions of photos he has brought to the interview.