

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey

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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>	Ivey, Mary, 1937-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 9, 2006
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2006
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:11:55).
<b>Abstract:</b>	City government administrator, elementary school teacher, and minister Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey (1937 - ) founded her own church, Church of God's Love, and is president and CEO of Maine Avenue Ministries. Ivey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 9, 2006, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2006_137
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Reverend Mary Edith Ivey is an accomplished teacher and principal, government manager, and minister. Ivey was born in Vian, Oklahoma on February 9, 1937, the youngest of five children born to Boyd Henry, a barber and construction worker, and Lucy Henry, a domestic and homemaker. She prepared for a career as a teacher, earning her B.A. degree in 1959 from the College of Oklahoma. She taught for several years in Lawton, Oklahoma and then spent twelve years as an educator in the Kansas City, Missouri Public School System - serving as a teacher, student and family home-school coordinator, head teacher and assistant principal. She attended graduate school at the University of Missouri and earned her M.A. degree in education from the University of Oklahoma.

In 1972, Ivey changed careers, becoming the Director of Program Evaluations for the Model Cities Program in the District of Columbia. She next served as Chief of Mental Health Planning for the District with her final government position being Chief of Long Range Planning for the District, before retiring in 1994.

Ivey prepared for the ministry by obtaining her Master's of Divinity degree in 2001 from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington and her Ph.D. in divinity from Howard University. She was ordained into the gospel ministry at the historic Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. and at the First Missionary Baptist Church in her home town of Vian, Okalahoma. She served as an Associate Minister at Shiloh Baptist before founding her own church—the non-denominational Church of God's Love. She is also the founder, President and CEO of Maine Avenue Ministries. Her dissertation for her Howard University divinity degree was published in 2006—entitled *Care Giving and Love; Let's Overcome Violence Everywhere*. Ivey's Maine Avenue Ministries, founded in 1999 in Washington, D.C. is an umbrella for the World of Spiritual Service Leadership Scholarship Awards Program, The Institute for Spirituality, Education and Health and Community Fellowship, the LOVE program (Let's Overcome Violence Everywhere), and the Long Term Advocacy Program.

Ivey is a widow—her husband, Monteria Ivey, who was an economist, passed away in 2002. She resides in

Washington, D.C.

Ivey was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 9, 2006.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey was conducted by Robert Hayden on November 9, 2006, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. City government administrator, elementary school teacher, and minister Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey (1937 - ) founded her own church, Church of God's Love, and is president and CEO of Maine Avenue Ministries.

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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:

Ivey, Mary, 1937-

Hayden, Robert (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Ivey, Mary, 1937- --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:

Minister

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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 Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey, November 9, 2006. 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 Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey, Section A2006\_137\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:40 ?

Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey was born February 9, 1937 in Vian, Oklahoma to Boyd Henry and Lucy Ballard Lacy. Ivey's paternal grandmother, Mary Henry, was a

midwife who rented rooms to teachers, one of whom, Edith Jenkins, taught Ivey to read at three years old. Ivey's maternal grandparents, Henry Ballard and Johanna Ballard Irvin, owned thirty-five acres of land in Vian, where her grandmother sold health and beauty products from their home. Ivey's father was a construction worker and barber, while her mother worked as a domestic. They met and married in the segregated town of Vian, where they raised their five children, of which Ivey was the youngest. Their family home was the first in the area to have an electric stove and indoor plumbing. At a young age, Ivey possessed an entrepreneurial spirit, often picking vegetables to earn spending money. As a child, yet to form strong religious convictions, Ivey attended both Vian's Mt. Olive Baptist Church and a local Pentecostal church.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey, Section A2006\_137\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey initially attended the Douglas School in Vian, Oklahoma. In search of better employment opportunities, her parents relocated to Kansas City, Missouri, where Ivey attended R.T. Coles Vocational and Junior High School. Eventually, her parents separated, and Ivey returned to Vian with her mother, where she graduated from the Douglas School in 1954. As all her role models were teachers, like Edith Jenkins and Gussy Foreman Drew, Ivey wanted to teach, and majored in elementary education and business at the Oklahoma College for Women. In 1958, Ivey graduated, and obtained her first teaching position at the Dunbar School in Lawton, Oklahoma. She later earned a master's degree in education from University of Oklahoma in Norman, and returned to Kansas City to teach at Richardson Elementary School. There, Ivey became a home school coordinator, and was then promoted to assistant principal. Ivey later served as the principal of Kansas City's Booker T. Washington Elementary School.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey, Section A2006\_137\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:11 ?

Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey served on the board of the Opportunities Industrialization Center, through which she obtained a position at Washington, D.C.'s Model Cities program in 1972. Ivey went on to the city's Department of Human Services, serving as its director of long range planning; director of mental health; and special assistant to the health commissioner. While in Washington D.C., Ivey met her husband, Monteria Ivey, Sr.,; and, after twenty-six years of social service, retired in 1994 to care for her mother and husband, who were ill. During this period, Ivey was called to the ministry. She preached her first sermon and was ordained at her family's church in Vian, Oklahoma. In 2001, Ivey completed a master's degree in divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary, where she founded Maine Avenue Ministries. She became an associate pastor of Washington, D.C.'s Shiloh Baptist Church, and earned a doctorate of divinity at Howard University. In 2006, Ivey published her dissertation as a book, 'Care Giving and Love.'

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey, Section A2006\_137\_001\_004, TRT: 0:28:30 ?

Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey founded Maine Avenue Ministries in 1999, while studying at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Through the organization, Ivey awarded college scholarships, and initiated health programs with transplant surgeon Clive Callender. Ivey also established Let's Overcome Violence Everywhere (LOVE), a nonviolent social justice and education program, with sponsors like Eddie Bernice Johnson. Ivey went on to found the Church of God's Love, a nondenominational spiritual organization housed in

Washington, D.C.'s XI Omega Alpha Kappa Alpha Center. In the 1980s, Ivey helped found the National Association of Minority Political Families USA to educate the community about political processes. Ivey also held leadership roles in such organizations as the Metropolitan Women's Democratic Club; Continental Societies, Inc.; and The Links, Incorporated. She concludes this part of the interview by reflecting upon her life, legacy and how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey, Section A2006\_137\_001\_005, TRT: 0:14:04 ?

Reverend Dr. Mary Ivey narrates her photographs.