

Recovering the History of Religion in Civil Rights

Name: L.V. Hall

DOB:

Location: First African Baptist Church

Interviewed at 11:15am on 11/17/11

Interviewed by: Jeremy Rodgers, Jessica Smith, & Marlon Golden

Jessica: Were you in the church that day?

L.V. Hall: Yea I was there that day.

Marlon: Do you remember the first thing that happened that day or do you remember anything different that day when you were in the church?

L.V. Hall: We didn't know, but they came in and busted all the glass doors out the church and a tear-gassed the church.

Marlon: Where were you when it happened? Were you inside the sanctuary?

L.V. Hall: I was inside the sanctuary. Finally got out cause of the tear-gases you know, restin.

Jessica: Ok. So can you describe how you got out of the church and where you went?

L.V. Hall: We went out the side door.

Jessica: Ok.

Marlon: Right. And when you went out of the side door, what did you see? What was there?

L.V. Hall: Well, they was out beatin them and goin on the tree out there, there was a tree sittin out there (mumbling...)

Marlon: So there was a man in the tree and there was police officers in the...

L.V. Hall: yea

Marlon: ...and the law enforcement was pulling him out of the tree.

L.V. Hall: He climbed up the tree from the you know before he got whooped up.

Marlon: Right, right. And then what happened?

L.V. Hall: He had he finally came down and then you know he was restin.

Marlon: mmmhmm.

Jeremy: Do you know anybody that was in there that was close to you?

L.V. Hall: So that's information there that you might want to write down.

Jessica: OK.

L.V. Hall: (mumbling...)

Marlon: Alright.

Jessica: And do you have, we'll have somebody to write it down. Do you have anywhere in the church that you can sit and talk?

L.V. Hall: Yea we can...(mumbling)

Jessica: OK.

(walking)

L.V. Hall: Church beautiful ain't it?

Jessica: It is beautiful. We actually came in and ah got to have a history of the church told to us. He told us...

Marlon: Ms. Gray?

Jessica: Ms. Gray. Mhm.

(walking)

L.V. Hall: Kinda cool in here ain't it?

Jessica: Mmmmhm. Alright this will be great.

L.V. Hall: do you wanna take a seat somewhere?

Jessica: Yea

L.V. Hall: Just wait till a light come on.

(mumbling)

Jessica: This is fine, we just wanna talk to you.

L.V. Hall: This is fine?

Jessica: mmmhm.

L.V. Hall: OK.

(Mumbling)

Jessica: This looks perfect. Okie dok, so we are going to record you if that's ok...so that we can hear some more about your wife and how it was in Tuscaloosa.

L.V. Hall: Yea

(Mumbling)

Jessica: So we have questions. So um, what is your full name?

L.V. Hall: That's all I'm supposed to have, just an "L" and a "V", it don't stand for anything.

Jessica: So it doesn't stand for anything?

L.V. Hall: Naw.

Jessica: OK. Where were you born?

L.V. Hall: I was born in Hale County and ah back in 1930.

Jessica: OK.

L.V. Hall: I went to school down there and then I went to school at Central High School in Tuscaloosa, came here to First African Baptist Church. And uh, those windows...

Jessica: uuuhuh

L.V. Hall: all those windows were busted out, we had to send them to England to get those windows, cause you don't see no windows like these do you?

Jessica and Marlon: (motioning no)

Jessica: Kay. And so how long have you lived in Tuscaloosa?

L.V. Hall: Uh well over the last fifty-somethin years.

Jessica: Okay.

L.V. Hall: Im eighty one now.

Jessica: Woooooow alright so you have seen a lot.

L.V. Hall: Yea, after the teargas they had to put new rugs and everything down. Church was jam-packed that day. They just beat em all with sticks like... now what they had to do, they couldn't get any insurance up in here so...uh, cause they couldn't lie and they said they were havin these meetin's...So they couldn't get no insurance from the state...lady down the road...

Marlon: So where did you say they go to get the insurance since they couldn't get it anywhere else. I missed that

L.V. Hall: Well they had to get it overseas

Marlon: overseas ok

L.V. Hall: in England

Marlon: WOW!!! That's incredible

Jessica: Can you describe your family to me.

L.V. Hall: Mame

Jessica: Your family, parents and sibblies.

L.V. Hall: Yea, my mother was leaving in Hale County she past away and my dad pass away and all that. I married..My recent wife pass away I just married her about two years ago so we are doing pretty good.

Marlon: What was your parents names? If you don't mind us asking.

L.V. Hall: My dad was name **Minton** Hall and my mother name was Sharon Hall

Jeremy: What did your parents do for a living?

L.V. hall: Sir

Jeremy: What did your parents do for a living?

L.V. Hall: they were farmers

Marlon: In Hale County?

L.V. Hall: Yea Sir

Marlon: They live there all their life?

L.V. Hall: Yea you know

Marlon: Ok

Jessica: Did you have any brother and sisters?

L.V. Hall: Yea, they way up in Detroit and Pinacik, Michigan working with General Motor

Jessica: oh ok

Marlon: When did they leave Alabama?

L.V. Hall: Well, After they finish high school.. some didn't finish they just fought out they could get a job at General Motor.. everybody just....when they fought a job they will go up there.. they would hire them

Jessica: Right, they would hire them.... Good morning.

L.V. Hall: Mame

Jessica: Umm so how many sibblies? How many brother and sister?

L.V. Hall: Well I got two sisters living now and two brothers and I got three or four brothers dead.

Jessica: Ok, so a big family?

L.V. Hall: Yea big family sure was

Jessica: Alright.. uhmm.. So you say your parents... You was in Hale County when you was growing up.. Is that right?

L.V. Hall: Yea

Jessica: and can you just tells us a little more about your childhood and and what you do for fun if you had to work

L.V. Hall: Yea I work and I came to Tuscaloosa and I work for the city of Tuscaloosa.. I work at Holly baker and work at S.S trust downtown Tuscaloosa

Jessica: Ok