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Oral History Interview Transcript with Mack Homer

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Interviewee: Mack Homer

Interviewers: Bonnie Hamer, Nehemiah Tucker

Interview Review Date: 7/9/2025

Interview Location: Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA (Phone Interview)

List of Acronyms: MH- Mack Homer, BH- Bonnie Hamer, NT- Nehemiah Tucker

Transcript by Nehemiah Tucker

[Begins transcription 0:03]

[0.03] Bonnie Hamer: It is recording. Can you please begin by stating your full name, where you were born, and your date of birth for the record?

[0.11] Mack Homer: Yes, my name is Mack Homer, I was born in Valdosta, Georgia, and Homer, my grandparents. That's Beulah Homer and (Laurel?) Homer, I was born in their house. We attended River Hill Baptist Church [in] Valdosta, Georgia.

[0.33] BH: So, what are your earliest memories of River Hill Missionary Baptist Church?

[0.40] MH: From a child, I remember a lot of things, as far as the school. We had our two-room schooling house, where we had the upper classmen, we had the lower classmen, and we were raised by the people that were in charge of the church, I would say. I was always taught that Pete Wilson was the founder of the church, which is a great-grandfather. Which, I didn't really know myself, but that's my earliest age, and earliest time, knowing. But I do remember my grandmother and grandfather, and all of the aunts and uncles in the area. And it was basically an area church, and it was in Valdosta, Georgia. And that's where the street names, and to remember, I wouldn't remember all those names. Only through years of going down myself, now. And being recognized by being taught by family, and spending summers there. So, that was it. We actually, we left Valdosta, Georgia, in 1959. My age is now 76. And so, I was born and raised there in Valdosta, up until the fourth grade. And we also I'm a have to stop there.

[2.17] BH: Yeah, no problem. Are your earliest memories of River Hill Missionary Baptist Church at the old location or the new one?

[2.24] MH: No, it was the old location. It was right at the beginning of the road that led into, I guess that would be, I don't know the street name now. It was at the beginning of the, going into the Jones settlement.

[2.41] BH: Oh, ok, ok. And how old were you in your earliest memory?

[2.48] MH: My earliest memory? I would say five. Five or six years old.

[2.55] BH: Five. In our previous, like, pre-interview, we talked about you moving out of Valdosta. Can you- can you talk a little bit about your move, and how old you were, and your experiences in Connecticut?

[3.14] MH: Oh. My earliest remembrance of Valdosta, being 5 or 6 years old, we actually moved out of Valdosta in 1959, I would say. Is the year that I registered for school in Stamford, Connecticut. There, I attended the fifth grade. From the fifth up into high school, so I graduated high school in Stamford, Connecticut. So I do remember attending the two-room classroom early in life. Mrs. Balloon, I remember that teacher specifically, she was the music teacher, and also, I believe she was like a musician at the church, with River Hill Baptist Church. And I do remember actually walking to Hunter McCormick Lane, a road it is now. And that's where my grandmother, and my aunt, my older aunt, my grandmother's sister Clara McCormick [unintelligible] and the McCormick family. So basically, there was one family, the McCormicks, and the homeless, and the lane now is called McCormick Lane.

[4.39] BH: Did you live near the church?

[4.42] MH: No, that was quite a distance. It felt like two miles to me, to walk from the church to my grandmother's house, where we stayed. And so, not only me and my siblings, she also raised my cousins over there. They were the Homers also. But that was Gus Homer, which is her son, and also, we called him Gus Junior, which is a grandson, another grandson. And also, we [were] raised along with the Hunter family. And that's there too, that's part of my family. Which, we have a family reunion coming up, in the month of July, I think it's the last weekend in July. And so we'll be celebrating there with the, a family reunion, and this is how I stay in contact with a lot of 'em. I was also raised by an aunt, a great aunt, which is in- in the city of Valdosta, and her name was Amy Adams. And so that was a part of my upbringing also. And also have another great aunt- not a great aunt, an aunt, which is a mother- a sister to my, mother, Mattie Homer. And, I remember her, and her family. That was the (Staten?) and Hunter family. And that was older cousins, that I lived with, and was raised by. And her name was (Ailee Hunter. Ayla- Ailee Staten Hunter?)

[6.26] BH: That is so cool. I think we-

[add timestamp] MH: And that area, I was raised by family. And communicated with family.

[6.35] BH: That is so cool. I think some of the materials we were given actually have Amy Adams, I know for sure, in the what was it?

[6.45] Nehemiah Tucker: It's just like a program, detailing the offices in the church and things like that.

[6.51] BH: The offices in the church.

[6.52] MH: Oh, offices in the church. I do remember, some of the earlier offices. And, I know, Deacon Frank Jones, I think, he was the head or the chairman, of the deacons of the church. No,

he was- and I also had my uncles, was involved, which came on later, Gus Homer. Before Gus Homer was Peyton Adams, which is my uncle Peyton, and I was also raised with him and my auntie there, Amy Adams. Which came on later, they got me into, Magnolia Elm School, before I left Valdosta. So I went, had classes there, in the fourth grade, I believe that was. In the fifth grade I was in Connecticut. Stamford, Connecticut. I attended from River Hill Baptist Church School. I went to Magnolia Elm, and I believe that was on Oliver Street. It might have been the next street over from Oliver Street.

[7.59] BH: Do you remember anything while you were in the River Hill Missionary Baptist Church, like, school?

[8.08] MH: Yes, I remember the classes, and the upper classes, and things that I got into, and things that happened to me from the upperclassmen. The class itself, we had the music classes, and the music, like I said, Mrs. [unintelligible]. Mrs. Balloon was her name. I remember her quite vividly. She was, I was like one of her small child. I remember her. And she called me, the, not the class pet, no. But I had so many cousins and friends and people there at the school, all related, so I had big protectors at the school a lot.

[8.58] BH: [laughs]

[9.00] MH: So, they made sure that I got there and got home, also all my cousins around.

[9.07] BH: Did a lot of your cousins go with you to Magnolia Elm?

[9.11] MH: No. Not a lot of 'em went to Magnolia Elm with me.

[9.18] BH: So how did you go from River Hill Missionary Baptist Church School to Magnolia Elm?

[9.24] MH: Oh, through my aunt, Amy Adams, and Peyton Adams. [unintelligible] They also had me before I actually started in River Hill in a daycare center with Mrs. White. I remember that as a child, and that was like, a really early age, like three or four. So, they had me there.

[9.58] BH: Oh, wow. So, what did you do after school?

[10.01] MH: After school, it was always family work or chores around the house after school. Or things to do. Then as a child, I played a lot, too. So, you know, I remember birthday parties and things that they did, but even at in school, at church, we would have church programs and Easter programs and recitals to do as a child or kid. We had night school or night-night programs and rehearsals going, going on, so that that was a lot through the church.

[10.50] BH: Do you have any-

[10.51] MH: We would have to walk. Walk from there to my grandmother's house or one of my aunts, and so there was always some protector of people around you and you didn't realize it. You thought they were scared, trying to scare you, or someone's coming after you, where you

end up being like an uncle or a cousin, an older person walking you back and forth from the church to school at night or in the evening. We have programs going on there, practices and programs. I do remember one uncle, or he was an uncle, a cousin or uncle. His name was Tim McCormick, and his kids also, we all walked together back and forth in the church. And so, he would be the one we find out later in life, and he would be the one trying to scare us if we walk, walk up and down the road, going to, going to the various homes. And we always had homes passed by as we walked home. And that's where the McCormicks came in at too. And so, we had a lot of cousins there, McCormicks and Hunters and Statens, so we were all related. And those are actually evening protectors when you're not working or doing things, and then you had jobs to do when you had different crops to go in. So, you would have small jobs to do, working at [the] tobacco barn or working in various fields. And so, you would talk to do that too.

[12.39] BH: Were you paid for any of those? Were those, like, official jobs?

[12.43] MH: Were they? They were family jobs, with my, a lot of sharecroppers. Family had their own fields to work in, and so you actually worked at home with them.

[12.58] BH: Are you ok if I ask you to elaborate more on the sharecropping?

[13.05] MH: As much as I can recall or do. I can talk on like, how there was always an older person to teach you how to do things, and if I could remember their name, so who they, in what way they helped me, we can go into it, yes.

[13.28] BH: Okay, I honestly don't know.

[13.36] MH: There was always an educator, you know, my grandmother and I see them as educated. It taught you how to read, how to count, how to count crops, how to do things, how to count, or how to, produce.

[13.59] BH: Did they stay in sharecropping?

[14.01] MH: Pardon me?

[14.02] BH: Did they keep doing sharecropping?

[14.06] MH: Did they keep doing?

[14.07] BH: Like was that their lifestyle?

[14.09] MH: The older, as you grew up and you became more adapt to things or how to do things around, you started out with when you crop or did things you wouldn't be with the women handing things or doing things like that, or very few planting like the older children actually did the planning, older people. And they taught you how you work along with them, as you came along. I always had cousins and aunts and uncles around or older. I was like one of the younger ones, even with the fun times when they went out hunting very few day things they would let you do, and then you stayed back as a child. So, I had a lot of older cousins.

[15.09] BH: Can you tell us about more instances when the church community came together?

[15.16] MH: Oh. There was always a thing that we came, that they did, if it wasn't for kids' programs or family gatherings and family reunions or family get-togethers, they would always have. I do remember what I really enjoyed was the cookouts and things that they had, like they would have the, ice and the, fruits, or, you know, your soft drinks, it was all made up. And it was always a fun time when you got together. They had different programs going on, and you would have to be a part of it as the programs went on, they participate. We got a chance to participate in there as kids.

[16.10] BH: Do you remember any holidays with the church?

[16.14] MH: No, not that early. Not specific holidays or specific programs. It was more, I think I enjoyed more, like the kid programs, where we had to recite and do things like that. I remember more, though, now the official meetings and things like that. We very seldom, we knew that the meetings, the big meetings, were going on, but we didn't have a full understanding of what they were. And, you know, like church revivals and things like that, I didn't have a full understanding at the age of five and four, and then you had funerals that went on. I remember my great, my grandfather's funeral. I remember that, and different things, situations like that, programs that they had. And then you had the baptism program. I remember that. And we did that at a river. I, actually knowing where the river was. I don't even know where the river was or how to get to it, but I do remember the water place and how we all dressed for that baptism, and when they went on the different baptisms. And I remember actually being baptized and stuff. And I remember the preacher's name at the time. He had seen. There was no, no grandfather, anyone there, [but] a preacher, that actually taught or preach[ed]. And we had Sunday programs like that; we always had those. We always had those Sunday programs. Now, what Sundays they were, I don't know, because now I'm finding out there wasn't every Sunday that they had, so, had changed completely. I thought it was every Sunday, and I remember traveling would- sometimes I would have to travel from, actually, my aunt's house, which is Amy Adams. And they would come, we would come by car coming back out there, so I got a chance to actually stay over there sometimes. And that was like my fun time getting away from the country or going into the city. And I remember as a child, who wanted to go with my uncle Peyton, or aunt Amy. I really, really enjoyed that, and staying with them. So I enjoyed going into the cities, where a lot of my cousins didn't do that.

[18.56] BH: We talked previously about your move to Connecticut, and you said that you visited the church on many summers.

[19.03] MH: Yeah.

[19.04] BH: Can you talk more about those?

[19.06] MH: Well, my mother, when she migrated, she migrated to sisters and brothers, to the north, to New York area, New Jersey. And I believe my uncle, he actually stayed in Spring

Valley, New York, and he would actually take us back down and visit him back. He was a railroad worker, and he would actually get us on the train to bring us down and stay with my grandmothers. And his name was Dennis Homer. He's now deceased, and he's actually buried in their graveyard. They had their own graveyard, but my grandfather, my grandmother and my other ancestors buried at River Hill graveyard, which is not far from where the church actually was at one time, and that was on the main highway coming up. This might have been off of- off of Austin. I'm thinking of Austin Street. I don't know, I can't remember...

[20.10] BH: It's on James Street now.

[20.12] MH: Pardon me?

[20.13] BH: James Street.

[20.15] MH: No, it's one of the main highways, the main roads, now.

[20.19] BH: Oh, I-75?

[20.21] MH: What is that?

[20.22] BH: I-75?

[20.24] MH: No, it wasn't I-75. Wasn't far from it when it was built, when it came in. I-75 wasn't there when I, when we left, but it came on afterwards, 75. But it's not off of the 75, but it was off of the main road leading into town where the mall is now. I was trying to think of the street name.

[20.55] BH: So, you came down on summers from New Jersey?

[21.01] MH: From- no, from Connecticut. Connecticut or New York. My uncle was from New York. He was from Spring Valley, New York. And he would be the one sometime to get us, train tickets or whatever. And he would, in fact, and sometimes he would actually take us down, and sometimes my mother would drive us down, mother and cousins, because we all migrated other families migrated up with us into Connecticut. We had an older uncle there, and there was two older uncles in that area. One was in Connecticut, and one was in New York. Willie Homer was in, Connecticut, Stamford, Connecticut, where we end up staying, and Dennis Homer was in, Spring Valley, New York. And so, we had those who actually traveled with us.

[22.05] BH: If you don't mind me asking, if a bunch of your family was up north, what...why? Why did you want to go back to Valdosta to go to the church every summer, or most summers?

[22.21] MH: We enjoyed being back with family, and, you know, being back with family, and I was raised with all the family, and then, we were like, we were in a strange place, coming up to Connecticut, but it to have them to actually migrate back up there with us to, Connecticut. For instance, Virginia was like a sister, sister to me. She migrated up with us. Then I had an older aunt who took care of me down in Valdosta, and her name is, Anna Molly Hunter. It was Hunter

later, but it was anybody at home, and she was like a great sister to the crew. So, she was right with me, with my grandmother, moving down there as kids. So, we had all those, we had more people. My uncle, I had an uncle that stayed down in Valdosta, and his name was Gus Homer. These are older people that helped to raise me. I think Gus Homer just died in, maybe five years ago. No, more than that. I think it's got to be 10 years. My aunt, grandmother, she asked me since 1980.

[23.59] BH: So, how would you describe the community while you were in Valdosta, and how would you describe the community where you lived in Connecticut?

[24.14] MH: My Georgia community was always beautiful because of the people, and Connecticut was more like getting adapted to it through the years. After the age of nine years old, they became a home to me, and now I've been here for over 60 years, here in Connecticut. So, I've adapted to that. And through military time and any other time, high school, from elementary school or high school, and even to college or military, I've, become close to this area. I've adapted over here. Became close here. I've got a family here, apart from my biological family in Georgia, but my biological family has always been there, the people I've loved there.

[25.23] BH: So why did you move to Connecticut?

[25.27] MH: Basically, we migrated to Connecticut- the job situation. You know, as a people, we've been doing that, migrating and getting away from farmland, and then I had so many family members that had migrated up here. Like I said, I had two uncles, and then from the two uncles, then we all came up in the Connecticut area. So, my parents, also, my mother migrated up to my uncles, migrated up here for work purposes, but at that time, I wasn't considering job or work purpose. I was [unintelligible] as a child. So, you got to remember, I came up here at the age of I guess, high- elementary school, so I was five years- nine years old. I turned 10 until fifth grade, and that's when I got here. Came here and moving here we were in elementary school, and I had younger brothers and brothers at the time. There was only three of us at the time, and they were young too. I was like the older one, older one of my family moved up here with my uncle, older child at nine. But I enjoyed it, to move. I really wanted to be up here with my mom. And my uncles and I really got to enjoy them now. I had older cousins with them, with my uncles that were migrated up there. Willie Homer had a Willie Homer, his name was Willie Frank Homer. He had a son. Dennis Homer had, Philip Homer, and his older daughter, Margaret and Barbara. And so all those people were migrated to, up here. So, that was joining our family. So, I enjoy both areas. Got to enjoy those family members and get to know them too and enjoy being with them. And so, they taught me a lot, those family members and how to adjust.

[28.11] BH: Can you. What did you do after high school?

[28.13] MH: After high school, I got drafted into the military. I first went into what we call a community college here, and then I tried to transfer out of a community college to a four-year college, and then I looked at the expense, and decided not to put that burden on my mother at the

time. And so, I decided to go into the military. So that was one of my choices that I made as I grew up, either due to military, which a lot of my family members did anyway, the military, or college. So I tried college with the community college here in this area, and then I transferred out of the community college, and I ended up getting drafted. I dropped out before I actually realized it, but I got drafted into the military, and so I chose to just go ahead with it and not run to Canada anyway. I chose to serve my country. I didn't want to leave the country. I was also offered a chance to leave and go into Canada because of family members up in Detroit area, but I decided to go into the military, do my duty here and stay in the United States. I didn't feel right trying to practice another language or going into another country at the time.

[29.38] BH: Which branch were you a part of?

[29.40] MH: Army. I got drafted into the army when I went to the, draft ward here in Connecticut, when I got drafted, they sent me, they chose me to go into the army, so I didn't try to get into navy or anywhere else at the time. Once they assigned you to the army, that was it. And so, I was assigned to the United States Army.

[30.09] BH: Did you have to complete, like, a full contract?

[30.13] MH: Complete a contract with the military? Yes.

[30.16] BH: How long was that?

[30.19] MH: Oh. I've just... let's see. '72, I came out, of the, army. After Vietnam, so February of '72, that was done. And so, six years after that, I believe it was the re- reserve time. And so, I finished that. I finished that class with the, reserve, after my induction into a local union as an electrician. So, I completed those courses there after my time, and that was '67. Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, not '67. '68 was when I went into the army. '69, so '70, in '70, [and] I completed [in] '77. I completed my time as the, in the, electrical union. I completed my courses there. Became a journeyman in '77.

[31.33] BH: A journeyman?

[31.35] MH: A journey electrician.

[31.36] BH: Oh.

[31.38] MH: '77. And I retired in 2010- 2011. Yeah, I retired.

[31.50] BH: Well, thank you for your service. And I'm glad that you retired. You get to, you know, relax. [laughs]

[32.00] MH: Yeah. [laughs]

[32.02] BH: So, you're coming back down to Valdosta for the reunion with the church?

[32.06] MH: Yes, yeah. Every chance I get now, I've missed it for the last five years. My son, I've had a son in the meantime, and his college is completed, and so now he's got a family. A family gave me [the] gift of a granddaughter. So, first granddaughter for me, at 76. So... so, I got married at 38, and [at] 40, he was born. 40 years.

[32.55] BH: Wow.

[33.01] MH: Now I got my little princess.

[33.07] BH: [laughs] Congrats.

[33.08] MH: She's only two. She'll be two.

[33.10] BH: Oh wow. Oh gosh. I love the twos. [laughs] They aren't the terrible twos, they aren't.

[33.17] MH: Yeah.

[33.18] BH: They can be so cute.

[33.19] MH: Ah, she's sweet. She'll be two, three months, two months. And looking forward, I'm not gonna say that now, leave him alone. [unintelligible] Him and his wife enjoyed himself, yeah. So, they're determined. They want to go down this year so and so they're paying for them taking us down. They're not, they're getting used to the family there. So, she's a newlywed too. He's a newlywed.

[34.01] BH: Oh, wow. So you- you've also raised your family in the church.

34.05] MH: In my church? Yes, yes, but leave it up to themselves. You know, they've got to find their relationship with God themselves and stuff. I'll leave it up to them or be a leader or an advisor. But it's up to them to decide. So, they've decided to raise them up in the church.

[34.32] BH: Do you have a deep affiliation with Missionary Baptist Churches?

[34.35] MH: Yes, affiliation with them? Yes, even the church that I'm in now. So that's with faith-Faith Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church of Stamford, for the pastor, Joseph Ford, who's not pastor, the young pastor. So, we've been through a series of pastors through the years that I've been in church and that my family attend here, before I came out of the army, I actually joined after coming out of the Army, church, but we've always been members of a church or affiliated with the church. We started with River Hill Baptist Church, and now, now, we're Faith Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. And before that, we were with my aunt, who was Willie Homer's wife at the time, Sarah Homer, and I would say, with him when we first came to, Stamford, Connecticut.

[35.44] BH: Can you explain to us what a Missionary Baptist church is and how it's different from other denominations?

[35.51] MH: How it's different? I think we're all autonomous, even the Baptist churches, Southern Baptists, we all believe in Jesus Christ, but we have a covenant, with the church itself and how we would minister to the church, the people of the church, and also go out and minister to people at large. You know, reason missionary is because we not only serve the people within your community, but you are outside of the community, serving people or helping people in some way. And you have a form of helping other people, not just financially, but actually doing service within their community, or their area, or their part of the world, by going out and visiting or contributing to the well-being of the people themselves, not only spiritually, but we are actually give[ing] a helping hand or give[ing] a reason. Not just a reason, but a- a ministry to help them make their lives better, or get them get their relationship with God, build their own relationship with God.

[37.18] BH: Wow.

[37.21] MH: And so, that's basically what our church did down there, the same thing, you know, building your relationship with God, [unintelligible] and your own soul salvation. That was a Missionary Baptist Church. And they all- that was something they took on, Missionary, afterwards, and that was after I became an adult and coming to realize that. Or here, seeing it done.

[37.54] BH: Did you have a- a strong faith throughout the Vietnam War?

[38.04] MH: As a young man, no, not always. But it was something that was instilled in me through my family, and actually my mother and things, and grandmother, grandfather and people like that. As a young man, you're rebellious, of a lot of things, you know. not only did I go out and do things that wasn't according to the church, but I learned to want to do it more since I've come of age, you know, to fall back on my spiritual life or my- my teaching. To fall back on it as I become older and have kids, or work with kids myself or work with other people, I guess you had to learn after you failed. The fall had to come, because Vietnam was a lesson in itself. When I was there, I was there. Did I tell you I was in Vietnam?

[39.13] BH: Yes, sir.

[39.15] MH: Oh, I did, yeah. Okay, so my service, my time in Vietnam. And so, the training, even with the military basic training, I guess, the way of protection and the way of battle and working in [a] war zone area. I was trained, military training [unintelligible].

[39.57] BH: [You] seem to have a lot of inspiring stories. [laughs]

[40.01] MH: Pardon me?

[40.02] BH: You seem to have a lot of- you *have* a lot of interesting and inspiring stories.

[40.09] MH: Mhmm. Yeah, well, through the 76 years, I'm thankful I made it, so that was it. A lot of my friends and people in the military didn't make it. In fact, we weren't welcome home so

much from Vietnam with other warriors and other people. The Cali family, and things that went through there. And so, sad times that we had to go through with. So, we've made it. I've made it. But I've lost a lot of comrades and brothers along the way, and it still bothers me today, still, so.

[41.21] BH: Did you like moving into the reserves after active duty?

[41.26] MH: Yes, well, that's where I got my training as an electrician and a life afterwards in a career. Did I like doing it? Only from the fellowship of people that I've lost, even there with that. We have reserved time, and I'm still losing brothers and sisters, even in this stage in my life, there's a list of them, you know, like we get our mail from the union when we see the number of guys that [we] would lose. We lost 17 guys in 9/11, I think about all of those 9/11 guys we- we lost there. This wasn't the greatest trade in the world either, you're dealing with elements, you're dealing with things, and we [are] still losing guys, if it wasn't cancer or something that's taking my brothers and sisters out. Doing things, Then we have people coming from the- third world, third world countries, bombing, so you still have to go through that.

[42.50] BH: Yes, sir. So, with all this adversity you've faced, what are some hopes for the future of your family, church, and country?

[43.04] MH: My family's future?

[43.06] BH: Yes, sir.

[43.10] MH: That we could, actually, be able to enjoy life to the fullest, but also protect your own family and raise your family. Be able to raise your family and protect them. That's the greatest thing about this country, when you- you can provide for your family, and you can have a family, someone that loves you. When the baby rub[s] you on the head and you're losing your hair and things like that. I would like to see us as a people, to be able to support each other and to love each other. Basically, that's it. Love and want the best for you and your family.

[44.12] BH: So, I think I'm gonna ask-

[44.14] MH: Respect you as a human being, as a person.

[44.19] BH: Yes, sir. How as the church been a home to you, whether that be River Hill Missionary Baptist church, or the church that you've found, that you're in now, how has it been a home to you?

[44.32] MH: They've always shown interest, and raise you up, and do the best- raise you up to be the best that you can in supporting, any report, *supporting* but also respecting each other. And they've also been that way to help other people to be able to live their lives healthy and prosperous and be able to care for themselves and care for their grandma and live healthy and respectful lives. And also, to help your fellow man in any way you can.

[45.19] BH: Yes, sir. If it's okay with you, can I ask you two more questions before we wrap up the interview?

[45.28] MH: Okay, listening.

[45.32] BH: If there was one piece of advice you could give the new generation, what would it be?

[45.42] MH: The new generation?

[45.43] BH: Yes, sir.

[45.51] MH: Respect your fellow man, respect yourself, and have respect for your country. And raise your family to the best of your ability and spread as much love as you can everywhere.

[46.15] BH: Yes sir, amen. [*laughing*] And what do you hope will come from the River Hill Missionary Baptist Church preservation project?

[46.29] MH: I hope that it's able to, survive. This is a problem with a lot of our churches all over the world. And they're not able to survive, and you're not able to continue the work of, raising up a family and improving the country, but always, ready, reconciliation, ready to help, or to forgive, and to be able to live a life, live a life of peace.

[47.10] BH: Peace. Yes, sir. Well, thank you for answering all those questions. Wow. I just wanna say, I'm feeling inspired at the moment. You have a lot of love in your heart. So, thank you so much for participating in this project. It means a lot to River Hill Missionary, and it means a lot to VSU because we're proud to preserve the history of this church.

[47.48] MH: Hmm. Alright, thank you. Thank you. The interview, I don't know how well it went.

[47.54] BH: Oh, it went great.

[47.55] MH: But I would like to, I would like to hear myself and so how could I find out, you know, if I spoke well or if I made any clarity in it with help, helpful in any way?

[48.11] BH: Yes, sir. Once we go through, like, the editing process, we're not going to take out anything you say, it's, it's, we're just going to be taking out maybe a bit of, what is it? Like, interruptions, in a way. And you're going to be able to go on our website of the community archives, which I'll send you a link through the email, the new email that we have. And if you click on that, I think by the end of the summer, we'll be able to upload the recording, and then in hopefully, sometime in the future, we'll have a transcript written so you'll be able to follow along with that as well as listen to the recording. Just makes it more accessible, but that'll be on the website. I can send you a link, okay?

[49.04] MH: Well, you can help me with this. All right. Thank you very much. But I did [*left*] out a lot, like a lot of military service of people in the family, I've lost so many cousins in the military, especially military, especially Philip Homer. I lost Hunter Williams. Who- oh, there's so many cousins I've lost. So, I didn't go over any of those names.

[49.38] BH: Would you like to talk about those names now?

[49.41] MH: No, I think I'll leave it out, other than just call their name. Leonard- Leonard Williams, Philip Homer, Cal Hunter, I'd like to have those names there for the people I lost in the military. Mack Homer. I was named after my uncle Mack, Mack Homer. And so, that's where I get my name from, Mack Homer. And then the other uncles through the years, but they were all military people that we lost as a family.

[50.23] BH: Yes, sir. I'll make sure. I'll make sure to continue the interview until we actually end the recording. So, we will definitely include those names.

[50.34] MH: Okay. Did I get- get them all? I think Philip Homer, Leonard Williams, Cal Hunter, who am I missing? Oh, Mack Homer, who is the oldest uncle that we know of that we lost, Mack Homer. And that's who I was named after. Okay. All right, oh okay, thank you very much, you want to wrap that up with that, thank you.

[51.10] BH: Thank you. I enjoyed it, I hope you did too.

[51.12] MH: Okay, yes, I did. All right, all right. Thank you very much.

[51.17] BH: Yes, sir, have a great day.

[51.20] MH: Likewise.

[51.24] [End of Transcription]