

# ZEPHYRHILLS ORAL HISTORY

## INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

**Rev. Alvin McKenzie**

Recorded February 5, 2019

- Steve: Reverend McKenzie, good morning.
- Alvin: Good morning.
- Steve: Tell me a little bit about your early years: where you were born and where you grew up and where your neighborhood was.
- Alvin: My early years...I was born in Plant City, Florida, and I was raised completely in Zephyrhills, Florida. I come from a very religious family, and I've been in the Church of God in Christ all my life and that's where I am today. Today I am the pastor of Victorious Church of God in Christ, and also I am a district superintendent for the Western Florida jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, and I'm a district superintendent of the Ocala district, even though I'm in Zephyrhills. The Ocala district expands from Ocala to Zephyrhills and the towns that are in between.
- Steve: Was your father a minister, or anybody in your family? Or were you just brought up in the church?
- Alvin: My father was a deacon in the Church of God in Christ. He didn't start out a deacon. He started out as an early brethren of the Church of God in Christ. Well, he met my mother. He was baptist. They were both baptist, but they came over to the Church of God in Christ. They liked the teaching and preaching there. So that's where they came when they moved to Zephyrhills. That's what they were doing. And then, when I come into the world, they were still doing it. When they left, they were still doing it. Okay.
- Steve: Where were your parents from?
- Alvin: My parents were raised in Plant City, Florida. My daddy came out of Knights Station, which is a suburb of Plant City, and my mother was from the city of Plant City, even though she was born in Georgia. They migrated down here to Florida.
- Steve: Where was the first church you went to? Where was the first Church of God in Christ located? Was it in this same spot? Or was it somewhere else?
- Alvin: Like I said, when I came into the world, my parents were in church. They had us going to church for a long time. I can remember stuff from when I was really small. When I was a baby, we had a church another block down from here where we are today. They had a church there (if you don't laugh when I tell you about it) but it was a church that was

probably built of some type of plywood or something because when people shouted—see, in the sanctified church, they shout, they dance—when the people shouted...one person shouted, then everybody shouts. When they bounced, the whole floor rustled, everything shook across the ground. I remember a preacher, and when he got saved, the spirit got on him and he rolled all up under the pews. They say I shouldn't remember that, but I was a little child, and I saw that man rolling under that pew. This is the type of church I was raised in. And that was a Church of God in Christ back then. The superintendent was, I think, Elder Belfort. He was a pastor of the Church of God in Christ. And all I ever knew from my parents was the Church of God in Christ.

Steve: Now, where did you start your school years? Elementary school?

Alvin: Elementary school: I started my school year in Dade City, Florida. I went to Dade City from first to second grade, and then after that we went to first and second grade in Dade City, I forget the name of that school. We went to Moore-Mickens. And Moore-Mickens, that's where I went from third grade to eighth grade. I was there at Moore-Mickens school. During the course of my years, I was in the ninth grade. This is when desegregation began, but instead of going to Zephyrhills, I went to Plant City. My parents sent me to Plant City because my grandmother and grandfather were used to having kids in the house, but all the kids now had gone on and were going to school. They had 13 children, and all the kids were gone, so I was elected to go stay with my grandparents. I was supposed to stay with them until I graduated from school, but that didn't happen. But I was there in ninth grade and went to Marshall High School in ninth grade and tenth grade. We came back and we went to Zephyrhills High School.

Steve: Was that the first year? So it was integrated then? Or were you the first class [to be integrated]?

Alvin: I was one of the first classes that went over. In the tenth grade I was there. My oldest sister was there. She was two years ahead of me. I was in tenth. She was in twelfth. And things...were a little different.

Steve: What was your introduction like there? How were you received in school?

Alvin: Well, in school we were received pretty well. Pretty well. Zephyrhills is a small place. You had some rowdy kids on both sides, but it was more good people than there were bad people and both sides tried to handle the third side, the bad side. So I tried to bring them all [together].

Steve: As a teenager, were you aware of the big changes that were taking place in the community across the country, or were you just focused on going to school?

Alvin: Actually, I was focused on both, and I pride myself on my grades in school. I was an athlete. I prided myself in athletics, but I also was a community person. I prided myself on being in the community. We did face some opposition in the school.

Steve: May said that you led a walk-out one year in school over the playing of “Dixie” in the school and that you met with the principal and worked that out.

Alvin: “Dixie” was very offensive and today is still very offensive to most blacks. We do not want to be reminded of our loved ones and our fore-parents being legally hanged on trees, and crosses burned in our yards, and nothing was done. You just bring up horrific energy that we really don't need. Before I had the walkout, they were bringing this up during my school years. During my tenure in school, there were three black leaderships: the Black Panthers, the Muslims and Malcolm X, and Dr. Martin Luther King. My preference while I was in school was Dr. Martin Luther King. I imagine it was maybe a bit because of where I was raised, but I abhorred violence. I did not like the violence. I appreciated what the other groups did, what they were up, what they tried to do. But the violent methods were not right. So I took to Martin Luther King's way. He would discuss matters before he did anything. Before we had any marches, we would go and talk to the government. They didn't hear it. Then he'd march. Now, what I did on the “Dixie,” I went to the principal of Zephyrhills High School and let him know how we felt. He said that was beyond him, and I needed to go talk to the student body. So I went and talked to the student body and told them how we felt. They didn't hear; they pushed it on. They said I needed to talk to the band director. So I went and talked to the band director and I told him. He said, “That's the theme of the school, so that's what we play.” So I said, “Okay.” So I got with all the black kids and I had them write in a note why they disliked “Dixie” in their own words. If they played “Dixie” at the pep rally, we get up and we're going to walk out, because I have gone to talk with everyone. If they don't do what we ask, if they're still going to disrespect us, we're going to walk out. They played “Dixie” at the pep rally. I got up and motioned to everybody: Okay, let's go. And we just walked out. I said if [they ask you why you are walking out], don't say a word. Just hand them your paper and we're gonna keep moving. So that was the impetus behind the walk out and all that.

Steve: And what was the result? What happened?

Alvin: The result was: we never heard “Dixie” ever played again at the school. [smiles]

Steve: So you were a leader in school?

Alvin: Yes.

Steve: Tell me about some of those services you did outside of school, organizing students and young people.

Alvin: Okay. Now, I was a very community[-oriented] person, even though I was quiet—a little shy—but I just stood for some reason. I just stood for what was right and what was decent. All of the black kids in Zephyrhills had no place to go, no place to hang out. And so we'd just gather them. We might gather in somebody's porch or somebody's square. We'd just find some place to go. We had no place to go. So we formed a club and we established dues and those dues went to—we had a mission, because we wanted to do things for the community, do things for the kids. So everybody was paying their dues.

Everybody did pay the dues, but we wasn't getting enough money. So we got together and we liked to kid and play an act. So we got up a few different skits that we could do and liked to do. We decided to give a talent show and see what we can do, how much money we can raise, if we put on a talent show. So we looked around and tried to find a place to let us do it. And we saw that we had a church uptown in Zephyrhills that was big enough that they were going to let us have a talent show there. But somehow the people at Zephyrhills City Hall heard about it and they requested that we do it at the City Hall. So we did it at the City Hall. We had to put on the program. We put out fliers that we were having it. When we got there, the place was pretty full, and it was full of not blacks, but whites. And they come in and we'd picked out the judges from the crowd to rate the different skits as they come forward. So we go and put on the skits, and after the skits and everything were done, the judges were sitting down, tabulating the scores, and the whole talent show crew got together and we did a line dance. If you've never seen somebody doing a line dance, that was real popular here a few years back. But we did it back then in the '60s. We did a line dance and we broke up and did the thing and then would come back and do the line dance, and the crowd, they loved it. And we found out, they said if we'd have put the line dance on for the judge [as part of the talent show], the line dance would have won hands down. But that was just a part of the show, just to entertain them. But the show was a success. We don't know how much money was left to the city, if they took any, but we raised enough money that now we were able to try to rent a house so we could start a club. Mr. Krusen found out about what we were doing, and, nice man that he was, he let us use a house rent-free to start out our club. We started in this club house, and now we had a place for the blacks kids to together. We started selling drinks and snacks and making extra money [along] with our dues, and then we even got a Piccolo. Somebody rented a Piccolo and, you know, you put your money in and hear the latest records—the latest songs, wasn't no records back then—rhythm and blues: play your song and do your dance and everything. So, hey! We were lovin' it! The kids were loving it.

Steve: So it was like a jukebox?

Alvin: Yeah! Yeah, it was. It was a jukebox. I suppose you'd call it a jukebox. But we still wanted to do other things. So, we got together and we thank the Lord for one adult, he looked out for us: Mr. Emerson—you told us you don't want to call any names—but he was the only adult that helped us. He was a driver. He knew how to get stuff for us. We wanted to go on a hay ride. So, he provided. He knew some people that had a big flat bed and threw the hay bales on it. So we had a hayride. Of course, now we had to get permission from our parents to do these things. Everybody had to get permission, but we did it right, and we took the kids and went on a hayride, and, on our hayride, we had hot dogs and mushrooms and then we circled around through Knights Griffin and came back to Lakeland through that back road and got back into the Lumberton-Zephyrhills area. We sat down in the wooded area, started a bonfire, had hot dogs and mushrooms, having a ball. Everybody was loving it, man! And yet, we wanted something else to do. We wanted to take a trip to Cocoa [Beach, FL]. All this from our club. We were keeping everybody paying their dues with what we were going to do with the dues. So we were paying the dues. We were going forward, we were going forward. So we got the bus again. We had everybody: "You've got to get your permission from your parents so we

can go to Cocoa [Beach]. We want to go to Cocoa Beach.” So we did. The club was working. I mean, we were doing really well. This is all high school kids.

Steve: So, even though you were integrated in school, outside of school, you were still kind of segregated or separate?

Alvin: Yes, we were. Yes.

Steve: That came a little later.

Alvin: Yes. Yes we were. It came up during this same course of time. It's a matter of fact that I was an athlete. I loved sports. But I knew, playing sports in Zephyrhills, I mean, I know you ain't gonna go anywhere. So I let sports take second fiddle to my community work, working with people.

Steve: So you chose to save your activities outside of the school for the community, and just concentrate on your schoolwork and then you're [participating in community activities rather than extracurricular]?

Alvin: Yes, I was. It was amazing to me. To me, it just felt natural. I just don't know how you're going to explain that. It just felt natural for me to do it, and just felt good, and, man, to see the excitement on all the kids' faces...

Steve: A lot of kids at that time probably hadn't even seen the Atlantic Ocean. The first time you see the ocean...

Alvin: Yes. Yes, yes.

Steve: Tell me about what happened when you graduated from high school. What did you do then?

Alvin: There's still some more stuff back then in school that I did. When I graduated, I signed a thing for the club. I said, “Listen, we're doing this on our own. All the boys. You know, we do what we do picking fruit, and the girls are working however they did, but we've managed to pay our dues. We're the ones to put forth the money. We're the ones to put forth the effort. We're the ones that put forth the rules and regulations,” and I put a rule in there to say, “We ain't gonna have no adults!” and I didn't realize that I was going to graduate and be out.

Steve: You outgrew your own club.

Alvin: I outgrew my own club. [laughs]

Steve: Did they club keep going once you graduated?

Alvin: Unfortunately, no sir. I hated that. I did. I moved on because I moved out of the city. I moved out of the city and came back to find out that the camaraderie was not there.

But, you know, like I said, to me, I thought it was just natural for everybody. Anybody can do it. I didn't know. I didn't realize at that time that it was a type of gift.

Steve: Well, once you graduated and a couple of years went on, did more African-American kids participate in school activities? Were things more acceptable at that time?

Alvin: Yes. Yes, after I left, kids were much more acceptable, much more acceptable in everything, as a matter of fact. I was surprised, but I came close to becoming the homecoming king. It was tied between me and another fellow. So, we had to disappear while they vote again to break the tie. So, he won after that, but after I graduated, my brother, my baby brother, he became president of the student body. That was a big thing then that opened things up for others.

Steve: So you see that some of the things you did, in leadership and maybe the walkout and by working with the different groups, caused changes in the school, made things evolve to a better place?

Alvin: Yes. There was a serious issue at school. We had to walk two plus miles to school. I had no problem with that, walking to school, but, one day, I happened to walk out after the tardy bell rang. For some reason, I didn't go to class. I walked out and I saw a little black student sitting on the step. He was crying. And I asked him, "Why are you crying?" He said, "'Cause I missed the bus." And I said, "How did you miss the bus?" "Because when I got up here it was gone. Now, when I go, I got to walk over to the school, which is another two miles across heavy traffic, and then, when I get there, they're going to put me on detention because I'm gonna be late for class. And then I've got to stay after school and then I'm going to have to walk back home." You're talking about something *very* disturbing. I immediately went to the principal's office and I asked the principal if he was aware of this and he acknowledged that he was. He *was*! And I told him, I said, "There is something *really* wrong with this! How can we straighten this out?" He said, "Well, you have to go to the city council meeting." I said, "Really?" And I knew that there weren't any black parents going to city council meetings. I said, "Where and when do they meet?" He said such and such. I said, "Well, I'll go there. If you can't do anything about it, I'll go there and speak for them. Man, this is serious! That child shouldn't have to walk two miles to the school to catch a bus and then walk another two miles to get to his own school, and then, after that, he's going to be put on detention. Man, there is something really wrong with this picture! What do you need me to do? I'll go do it now! Where do I need to go?" He said, "Okay, hold on. I'm going to take care of him. I'm going to take care of it." I said, "You could take care of it? He says, "Yes, I could. I could take care of it." I was pleased with that statement, because I didn't know where to go or what to do, but I know he should have been in a position to not let that go on in the first place. It wasn't settled right then, but from that discussion with him, he got buses to bus those kids, the ones who were walking, all to bus those kids to school and then that kid didn't have to be walking four miles. So, we got the buses started. That was very necessary. I told him I didn't care about me. I can do it. But, man, I'm seeing that little old grade school kid—he's second or third grade—he's got to walk like that? That is not right. Excuse me. I don't mean to get excited, but stuff like that...We got that corrected.

Steve: You made people aware of efficiencies that were offered to part of the community but not everyone.

Alvin: Yes.

Steve: That's important. So when did you become a preacher?

Alvin: Now I must say this now: even though I was raised up in the church and I sang in the choir, I was not the ideal choirboy. I had faults. I had *big* faults. I'm not gonna even go [over] things I did before I became a preacher. But yes, the Lord called me. I felt the Lord call me, and I finally answered His call, after running away for a while. I did one of those Jonah acts, but He finally got my attention. He called me, and when He called me—I can't even tell you the year, people know the year and the dates and everything that they change in their life. All I know is that the Lord just completely changed my life because He worked with me gradually. He worked with me. I like to reason. I was like, "You've got to reason with me. Why are you doing this? Why do you want me to do this?" Because to me it was a scary, scary thing to try to lead God's people. But yes, I was called into ministry, and after I was called into ministry, I thought, "Oh man!" I can't even tell you. I guess I was just one of the ones who said "Lord, let your will be done." I'm just reading and then just going and He's just processing me through every step. I did not know He was processing me when I was back in high school. I realize today that He was processing me, but not back then, and not while I was in the world. But He processed me and I allowed Him to process me, and, the next thing you know, in 2000, I became the pastor of this church. I think about 10 years ago now, they saw me—the jurisdictional bishop saw my work—and they placed me up for superintendent in the Church of God in Christ. I've been here. Now, this church here was built by my father, Eddie McKinsey, Sr. and Pastor King David Cooper. They saw this church built. They saw this sanctuary built. My dad—you might've heard this from my sisters—my dad's was the first service that we had in the church. Even though, at the time, it was illegal because we didn't have occupation to permit, but, when he passed, everything was done. All we had to do was get the pews. We had to purchase some chairs to have his funeral here. But he was very instrumental in having this place built, and his funeral was the first service we had here.

Steve: Wow! That's...amazing, actually. And that was like 19 years ago?

Alvin: Yeah, 20 years. 20 years ago.

Steve: Now you're retired. You worked at CF industries.

Alvin: Yes, I did.

Steve: But you haven't retired from the church, and you're a superintendent, so you keep pretty busy.

Alvin: I keep *very* busy. I do not understand how I worked and was a pastor. I do not know how I did it.

Steve: How big is the congregation here?

Alvin: Oh, we have a small congregation. If everyone would be in attendance ,we would have roughly 75 people. If everyone was in attendance.

Steve: Yeah, we don't all make every Sunday. What were some of the changes you've seen? You grew up in Zephyrhills. You live in Lakeland now, but what are some of the changes you see in this area now that you've come back as an adult?

Alvin: Well, you know, Zephyrhills has gotten mighty big. When I was in high school, we had two traffic lights. All the traffic lights were turned off at 11 o'clock or 12 o'clock and everything was done. We had a sign up here at Fort King [Rd.] and [Highway] 301. The sign said "You're now entering Zephyrhills." And another sign close by: "You're now leaving Zephyrhills." So you can see Zephyrhills expanding really big.

Steve: You could see both sides of it from one spot, right?

Alvin: Yes you could. Yes you could. We had two traffic lights. Now we have quite a few. We had the black and white water fountains in public right there as you walked down the main street of Zephyrhills: on the one side, *Whites Only*. They had a little canopy over the top of the water, and the water was cool, but the blacks, we had a water fountain, but there wasn't anything over it and the water was not cool when it came out. Just straight. But Zephyrhills had the best water. I don't care which way. Back then Zephyrhills had the best water.

Steve: Was it strange to you that they had two water fountains and different things, or was it just [normal]?

Alvin: Well, when you were raised up, the first thing you see is it's just the norm. You just accept the norm.

Steve: But you didn't, actually. When you got to high school, you started to challenge.

Alvin: I challenged everything. Yes, I did. I challenged everything.

Steve: You've played a role in the changes in Zephyrhills, right?

Alvin: Yes. I was one of the first blacks to integrate the public swimming pool. It was right across the red light, right across the main light of the street here, across from where People's [?] used to be.

Steve: How old were you then?

Alvin: I was a teenager. I was still in high school.

Steve: Was there a big to do about that or was that kind of [whatever]?



Alvin: No. The people accepted it. They didn't make any fuss. They didn't have any qualms about it.

Steve: Some of those things were brave to do in those times. Were you're afraid to do some of those? Did your mom and dad know you were doing those things?

Alvin: Nope, no. I couldn't tell them. [laughs] I couldn't tell them that. They'd have to learn after the fact. But I respected all my elders. I respected everyone. I didn't try to bully anybody. I just wanted to do what should have been—and is supposed to be—right.

Steve: Now, were you in Zephyrhills when the Martin Luther King Street controversy happened, or were you in Lakeland?

Alvin: I was in Lakeland, but I came over to be a part of that because this is my hometown. This is where I teach and preach.

Steve: What did you think of that situation? Were you in the City Hall meeting?

Alvin: I missed the City Hall meetings, but I was informed about them. But I'm not actually a registered citizen of Zephyrhills, so I let them be. I don't want to try to intimidate anybody while being out of town. You people that are in that area: you are the ones that should be there. But I would support them and their efforts, what they did, so I'd just come in and walk the street.

Steve: What were your memories of Mrs. Dobson?

Alvin: Miss Irene. Miss Irene. She was a very nice lady, very instructive, and you can take a lot of her instructions and say, "Ooooh! She's so bossy!" But Miss Irene was very instructive. She would always be on the move and she would always be in the right situation. She'd keep us right. She would always be in the proper place. And she's just a very nice woman. She and my mother were very close. They went to different churches. She was Baptist and my mother's Pentecostal, but they were very close.

Steve: As a pastor, did you work with Reverend [Eddie A.] Nunn at all or have dealings with him and his church?

Alvin: Yes. I had fellowship with Reverend Nunn. Reverend Nunn lived in Tampa—like me, an outsider—and he'd come in and pastor the church there at Macedonia [Missionary Baptist Church]. We were friends, and we wanted the best for the citizens here in Zephyrhills. It looked like Zephyrhills, even though they had changed and were accepting stuff, they were very slowly reactive to the way other cities were. Especially the Martin Luther King thing. They didn't see much what was so special about this man. What's so special about this person? But Dr. King *was* special, not only to the blacks, but to the whites. He was special to the United States of America. He promoted nonviolent issues. When they were clearly getting the bad end of the deal, he still promoted peace. It's hard. It's hard to let somebody just beat on you and you do nothing. That is very hard. He not only spoke it, but he lived it. He showed America that there is a better way than

this conflict or violence. In violence, there's nothing but injuries. You not only get the verbal injury, but you get the physical injuries. And what is that? What's that gonna do? It was not like a war against another nation protecting your nation. This is our nation. We were raised here. We are here together. We were raised here together. We built this nation together. Why can't we be also citizens and like people together? Let us work together. This is how we got this far. I don't care if the black man was a slave and he was forced to do stuff, still, he worked. He helped build the nation. We helped build this nation. We have literaries also to help build the literary part of our nation. We help all around. We should not be fighting one another, but we should be going hand in hand helping each other, sharing with each other, caring for each other and loving each other. This man had presented such a strong atmosphere of faith in the true and living God. He had the vision, whether we heard him speak it or not. You know when he said, "All men are created equal." Man didn't create himself, but God created us. He created us in so many different fashions. He created us, you know, black, white, yellow, red. It makes no difference. He created us. We are one. We come from one. Now, with our differences, He put a challenge to man. "Can you settle things between you? Can you understand what I'm doing? Can you relate? Can you get together and form yourself? You say you want to be one? God is one. They call us all into one." Excuse me. I sound like I'm preaching now, so... [laughs]

Production: What was the name of your club?

Alvin: We didn't have a name. We did not have a name. We just wanted some place for the black kids to hang out, because there was no place to hang out, and that's not good.

Steve: The house that Mr. Krusen gave you, was that in the Krusen Quarters area?

Alvin: It was in the Krusen Quarters area. Yes it was. It was actually a block over from where my parents were living, if you know where my parents lived.

Production: Is it still there? Is the house still standing?

Alvin: No, no, no. That house is not there.

### **BREAK**

Production: What gave you the courage to go against the norms?

Alvin: For me, the only way I can answer that: It was just the inner person inside of me. I didn't really look at it as going against the norm. I didn't see it that way. I just saw it was something that needed to be done and I just took initiative to do it. If they follow me, good. If I make sense to them, then I believed they would follow me.

Steve: You said there were three types of movements going. So, my feeling was that you were impressed or influenced by the national movements that were going on in the country, like Dr. King in Virginia. So that was all going on at the same time you were going to high school.

Alvin: Yes, I was very aware of the black movements, and I watched all of them. Particularly, my inspiration came from Dr. Martin Luther King. He was my inspiration. I liked the way he did it. He discussed things, and I know that the only way to really get through stuff is to talk it out. No, it didn't make sense to me to just go in and, you know, try to change stuff. We're not talking about just talking about the situation. I realized from an early age that it has to be just brought up. You have to recognize it. If you don't recognize it, you're going to keep on making the same mistakes. So why keep making those same mistakes if we can avoid them? If we can use them as steps and move to the next area?

Production: In the spirit of that question: we talked earlier about how there are still racial issues today, but the world you're talking about, where it's so overt and so just out in the open and people are so open about it, I have a hard time imagining it like that, the segregation and all that kind of stuff, because, you know, I just grew up in almost a different world. What's a story that you would share with my generation, or the younger generation who thinks that same way, to kind of give us a picture of what it was actually like?

Alvin: You know, at one time, it looked like the people in the United States were moving forward. The racial tension was beneath. It was always there. It seemed like it kept dissipating itself, kept getting lower and lower. So we were in a time period where, you know, we got whites and blacks and Indians and everybody to get along, and we just talked and had fun and joked and carried on. There were some that had it deep-seated, but they kept it dormant. They kept it quiet, and the more you keep it quiet, eventually we're hoping that it would go away. Now you bring me to a different situation, and I don't even like to mention today. I don't like to talk bad about the leader of our country, because he is the leader of our country. He was voted in by the people. Even though the electoral votes had put him in and the popular votes had not, but the electoral calls him [the president]. The people spoke, and it's a shame to say when I heard the statement from a candidate—"I'll stand up in the middle of the street and shoot you and never go to jail"—Whoa. That woke up a lot of stuff. That woke up a lot of stuff. That allows the infiltration of the thought and everything else to start coming up. If a person that would be elected to president can say these things and he can actually get away with that, that is very disturbing. That's not only racial, but that is very disturbing for all races, for all people. And especially to the generation that's coming up now that had never witnessed that, now everything has woken up and is spreading like wildfire. We don't have to go any farther. You know, you can go farther, but I won't do that. But that's a very hurtful thing, not just for your generation, but for all of us.

Production: Your relationship with the principal, I think it was Principal Stewart?

Alvin: Principal Raymond Stewart.

Production: Was that relationship antagonistic? What kind of relationship did you have with him?

Alvin: Mr. Stewart, the principal, and I, we had an off and on relationship. Actually, I think it was a good relationship. During the summer, between 11th and 12th grade, he and I helped tear down some buildings at school. He brought me in, and we tore down some buildings together. Hard-working man to be a principal. We tore down though some

buildings. So we did that type of work together. He understood me, I think. I think he understood me and respected me. I understood him and respected him. And he knew that whatever I stood for, whatever I said, he could bank on it. I can tell you some situations, but I won't, but he could bank on it. Like I said, we did have our run-ins, but he respected me enough to know that I would always stand for the truth. If I'm wrong, he knew I would admit that I'm wrong. I will admit to the problem. So I think we had a pretty good relationship.

Production: So he was fair?

Alvin: Yeah, he was fair. I mean you're dealing with someone like me. [Laughs]

Steve: There are two sides to everything. I mean, we brought up the principal earlier.

### **BREAK**

Production: Could you just do me one favor before we wrap up? Just go ahead and tell me who you are.

Alvin: My name is Alvin Thomas McKinsey. I'm a graduate of Zephyrhills High School and Colorado University. I have a BS in Business Management. And I'm the present pastor of Victorious Church of God in Christ in Zephyrhills, suburb of Lumberton. I'm also superintendent of the Ocala district of the Church of God in Christ.

Production: Anything else you want to add?

Alvin: Man, I'm good.

### **END**