

FEATURE

Important Dates in the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 1929 — Martin Luther King Jr. is second of three children born to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. and Mrs. Alberta Christine Williams King in Atlanta.

September 1944 — He enters Morehouse College at age 15 after passing entrance examination and skipping 12th grade.

February 25, 1948 — He is ordained to the Baptist Ministry.

June 1948 — He graduates, at 19, from Morehouse with bachelor of arts degree in sociology.

September 1948 — He enters Crozer Theological Seminary where he was one of six black students.

June 1951 — With an A average, King is graduated from Crozer, where he was most outstanding student, president of the senior class and recipient of graduate fellowship.

June 18, 1953 — He marries Coretta Scott in Marion, Alabama, Martin Luther King, Sr. officiated.

May 17, 1954 — Racial segregation in public school is declared unconstitutional by U.S. Supreme Court which ruled unanimously in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case.

September 1, 1954 — Dr. King becomes full-time pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

June 5, 1955 — He is awarded Ph.D. in systematic theology at Boston University.

December 1, 1955 — Mrs. Rosa Parks is arrested and charged with violating Montgomery city segregation code after refusing to relinquish her bus seat to a white man.

December 5, 1955 — Montgomery Bus Boycott begins.

January 10-11, 1957 — He is elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference at founding meeting.

May 17, 1957 — Dr. King delivers the speech, "Give Us The Ballot," at Lincoln Memorial during Prayer Pilgrimage For Freedom on the third anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's desegregation decision.

September 17, 1958 — *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, Dr. King's first book, is published.

September 20, 1958 — Izola Curry, later alleged to be mentally deranged, stabs Dr. King while he is autographing his book at Harlem.

February 2 - March 10, 1959 — At the invitation of India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. and Mrs. King spend a month in India studying Gandhi's techniques of nonviolence.

October 19, 1960 — In Atlanta, Dr. King and 51 others are arrested for participating in a sit-in and are jailed on charges of violating the state's trespass law.

October 27, 1960 — Dr. King is released on \$2000 appeal bond after Robert F. Kennedy, campaign manager for presidential candidate John F. Kennedy, intervened.

October 16, 1962 — Dr. King meets with President John F. Kennedy at the White House.

April 16, 1963 — Dr. King writes his "Letter From Birmingham Jail" during his imprisonment.

June 12, 1963 — Medgar Evers, a Jackson, Mississippi NAACP leader is assassinated before dawn by a rifle bullet at his home.

August 28, 1963 — The largest integrated mass protest, The March On Washington, is held, Dr. King delivers his "I Have A Dream" speech before 250,000 at the Lincoln Memorial.

September 15, 1963 — Four children attending Sunday School at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham are killed and 21 others are injured when the church is bombed.

November 22, 1963 — President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas.

June 21, 1964 — Three civil rights workers (James Chaney, black, and Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, both white) are reported missing after traveling to Philadelphia, Mississippi.

July 2, 1964 — Dr. King is present at the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, by President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House,

The bill, which guaranteed access to public accommodations, are submitted to Congress by President Kennedy.

August 4, 1964 — FBI agents discover bodies of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner buried in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

September 18, 1964 — At the Vatican, Dr. King has an audience with Pope Paul VI.

December 10, 1964 — In Oslo, Norway, Dr. King receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

February 21, 1965 — Malcolm X is assassinated at Audubon Ballroom in New York City.

March 9, 1965 — Civil rights worker Rev. James Reeb, a white Unitarian minister from Cleveland, is beaten by four white men in Selma. He dies two days later.

March 15, 1965 — President Johnson addresses a joint session of Congress to call for the passage of the Voting Rights Bill, using the Civil Rights slogan, "We Shall Overcome."

March 25, 1965 — The wife of a Detroit Teamsters Union business agent, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, is shot and killed while driving to Selma after the rally.

August-December 1965 — Dr. King and SCLC spearhead voter registration campaigns in Alabama.

August 6, 1965 — President Johnson signs the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

August 11-16, 1965 — Thirty-five persons, including 28 blacks, are killed during riots in the Los Angeles' Watts neighborhood.

May 16, 1966 — At a large Washington rally to protest the Vietnam war, an anti-war statement by Dr. King is read.

June 6, 1966 — Activist James Meredith is shot after starting a 220-mile "March Against Fear" from Memphis to Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. King, Floyd McKissick and others continued the March.

July 23-30, 1967 — In the worst race riots of the century, 43 persons die and 324 are injured.

July 26, 1967 — Dr. King, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins and Whitney Young call for rebellions to end, terming them "ineffective and damaging to the civil rights cause..."

March 28, 1968 — Dr. King leads 6,000 civil rights protesters on a march through Memphis in support of sanitation worker's strike. Against his wishes, disorder breaks out. One 16-year-old is killed and 50 persons are injured.

April 3, 1968 — At the Memphis Masonic Temple, Dr. King delivers the speech, "I've Been To The Mountaintop."

April 4, 1968 — As he stands talking on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Dr. King is shot in the neck by a sniper and dies at St. Joseph's Hospital, James Earl Ray is later convicted for the murder.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
January 15, 1929 — April 4, 1968

Ways to Keep the Dream Alive

Few 20th century leaders have inspired our nation as profoundly as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His moral, spiritual and political courage turned the cry for equality and justice into a reality.

By inspiring individuals of all races to join together in peace to work for peace—even in the face of violent attacks—Dr. King convinced millions that discrimination and brutality have no place in a democracy.

So that our children will understand the legacy of Dr. King, it is important to celebrate the holiday in ways that highlight the spirit of his dream.

The following activities were designed by the American Federation of Teachers for elementary and secondary school students to help them rekindle the spirit of Dr. King's work for peace and to help them understand his importance in their lives.

WHAT YOUNGER CHILDREN CAN DO

Learn the words and sing the song sung by protesters at the August 28, 1963 March on

Washington, where 250,000 people, both black and white, congregated to fight for human and civil rights.

They sang:

*We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome
someday
Oh deep in my heart
I do believe
We shall overcome
someday*

*Black and white
together
We'll walk hand in
hand someday*

Show your support for Dr. King's pleas for justice, freedom and peace by hanging our nation's flag outside your home.

Talk to relatives that lived through this historic era. Ask them to share their memories.

WHAT OLDER CHILDREN CAN DO

Read Dr. King's speech, "I Have a Dream," that he delivered the day of the March on Washington. Think about its meaning and the changes in our society in the past 25 years.

Commit yourself to a cause or volunteer time to an organization that reaches out to those less fortunate.

Possibilities include some of the same cause that Dr. King fought for—education and training, housing, health care, the hungry, the homeless and the poor.

Learn more about Dr. King and his crusade for human and civil rights.

Suggested reading:

- *Stride Toward Freedom*, by Martin Luther King, Jr.;
- *Why We Can't Wait*, by Martin Luther King, Jr.;
- *Martin Luther King, Jr.—A Profile*, edited by C. Eric Lincoln;
- *King—A critical Biography*, by David L. Lewis;
- *EyeWitness: The Negro in American History*, by William Loren Katz.

WE ALL CAN PLEDGE...

To keep the Dream alive by taking the "Living the Dream" pledge: *In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and work, I pledge to do everything that I can to make America and the world a place where equality and justice, freedom and peace will grow and flourish.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations

- **Friday 14 at 12 p.m.**—Aboard the USS Nimitz at PSNS. Call 476-3070.
- **Saturday 15 at 6 p.m.**—Olympic College Multi-cultural Center and SABA. "Keep the Dream Alive" musical program. Olympic College, A-103. No charge. Call 478-6976.
- **Saturday 15 at 6 p.m.**—Blacks in Government, Region X, Banquet. "Defining the Dream in a Changing Environment" with guest speaker Actor Al Freeman. Seattle Westin Hotel. \$35 per person. Call 1-800-286-0756 or (206) 923-0756.
- **Sunday 16 at 2 p.m.**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund of Kitsap County annual luncheon. Guest speaker State Rep. Jesse Wineberry. Kitsap Golf and Country Club. \$15 per person. Call 692-3411 or 479-1292.
- **Monday 17 at 12 p.m.**—Ebenezer AME Church, 902 Park Avenue in Bremerton. Movie and carillon bells playing favorite christian songs of MLK. No charge. Call 377-2915.
- **Monday 17 at 12 p.m.**—Seattle Center House Stage. Song, dance, entertainment and speakers. No charge. Call 684-7200.
- **Monday 17 at 12 p.m.**—Capitol Building in Olympia. "Stop the Violence—Live the Dream" rally and visit with legislators preceding the rally at 10 a.m. Call 324-0340.
- **Monday 17 at 12 p.m.**—Tacoma Dome. No charge.