

## A chronology of the life and times of Martin Luther King Jr.

### 1929

• January 15  
King is born in Atlanta, Georgia, to Rev. and Mrs. Martin Luther King Sr.

### 1948

• February 25  
King is ordained to the Baptist ministry.

### • June

King graduates from Morehouse College with a B.A. in sociology.

### • September

King enters Crozer Theological Seminary and, after hearing sermons on the life and teachings of Mohandas Gandhi, begins to study Gandhi and his philosophy.

### 1953

### • June 18

King marries Coretta Scott in Marion, Alabama.

### 1954

### • May 17

The Supreme Court, in *Brown v. Board of Education*, rules segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

### • October 31

King is installed as pastor of Dexter Avenue Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

### 1955

### • June 5

King receives doctoral degree in Systematic Theology from Boston University.

### • December 1

In Montgomery, Rosa Parks refuses to relinquish her bus seat to a white man and is arrested. This incident touches off a massive bus boycott, led by King as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association.

### 1956

### • February 21

After suffering other legal harassments and personal threats, King is indicted in the boy-

cott on charges of conspiracy against a business without "just or legal cause."

• November 13 The Supreme Court upholds a lower court decision declaring unconstitutional Alabama's laws requiring segregation on buses.

### • December 21

Montgomery buses are integrated.

### 1957

### • February

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is

founded. King is elected president, and shortly thereafter Time Magazine puts him on its cover.

### • September

President Dwight Eisenhower federalizes the Arkansas National Guard to escort nine black students to an all-white high school in Little Rock. The first civil rights act since Reconstruction is passed by Congress.

### 1958

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