

In Memoriam

This photo of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was taken in the mid-'50s by Clarence Nottingham, who has a professional photography studio in the city (photo by Clarence Nottingham).

Some reflections on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By JOANNE J. FALLS Home Economics Extension Agent

Many men are endowed with brilliant minds, but history judges men on the way they use their minds to help their fellow men. Men are judged on the impact they have on the lives of others.

What was so different about this man, Martin Luther King Jr.? Why do thousands of people from all parts of the United States and all parts of the world flock to Atlanta constantly to see the Martin Luther King Center and gain new strength from this slain preacher?

They go because of his contributions to society.

He gave people hope.

He gave Americans courage to go forward in spite of roadblocks, hardships, fear and even death. He taught Americans to love their fellow men, both friends and enemies.

He gave the world a living example to follow.

men to action.

He was a preacher and a teacher.

He was an organizer.

He knew how to take advice, and therefore he was qualified to give advice.

While addressing a Miami gathering of the National Baptist Convention Inc., Coretta Scott King, his widow, said that before the Montgomery boycott, King went to Baton Rouge, La., to seek the advice of Dr. T.J. Jemison, who had already conducted a movement to desegregate the buses in Baton Rouge. He always valued the advice he received from Jemison, who is now president of the National Baptist Convention.

King listened to people who were qualified to give advice. He listened to people he trusted.

He did not agree with or clasp to his bosom every piece of advice given, but he picked out what was worthy of consideration and used it.

He was at home with people of all races and all economic backgrounds.

He left us some lessons in He was an orator who moved human development, because he taught self-improvement. He

stressed values. He could cope with stress.

He taught youth not to waste their time in foolishness. He taught them the seriousness of life.

He taught youth the value of education and the folly of violence.

He enjoyed recreation, but he himself had very little time for recreation.

When he was at home, the telephone rang constantly. When he was on the streets of any city, people would quickly spread the word that he was there; crowds followed him -- seeking his autograph, trying to shake his hands, trying to talk with him, trying to question him about different issues.

King taught us to live so that it will matter after we are gone.

Friends who have visited the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta say that it is on record as being one of the finest centers in America. They say it represents planning and years of hard work.

The eternal flame burns at that center, and it will always burn in the hearts of men and women all over the world.

January 19, 1987: A celebration and an inspiration.

Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence, when they help us see the enemy's point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his vision we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition. and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition.

-- Martin Luther King Jr. -- 1968

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Then the Greek language has another word for love, and that is the word "agape." Agape is more than romantic love, it is more than friendship. Agape is understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill toward all men. Agape is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return. Theologians would say that it is the love of God operating in the human heart. When you rise to love on this level, you love all men not because you like them, not because their way appeal to you, but you love them because God loves them

> -- from a Christmas sermon delivered by Dr. King in Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia







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AT&T invites you to share in the legacy of a great American. On January 15th, tune in to "In Remembrance of Martin" and join Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr.'s historic march from Montgomery to Memphis. Get to know him through rarely seen footage. See him through the eyes of friends like Dick Gregory, Rev. Jesse Jackson and Bill Cosby, and be part of the dream.

Brought to you by AT&T and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. An official event of King Week '87.

Watch the PBS special

"IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARTIN"

