

Chronology of Dr. King's Life

1929
January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. is born to the Rev. and Mrs. Martin Luther King Sr. at 501 Auburn Ave. in Atlanta.

1935-1944
King attends David T. Howard Elementary School, Atlanta University Laboratory School, Booker T. Washington High School and enters Morehouse at age 15.

1947
18-year-old King is licensed to preach and becomes assistant to his father, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

1948
February King is ordained to the Baptist ministry.

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

September King enters Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. Here he begins a serious study of the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

1953
King marries Coretta Scott in Marion, Alabama.

1954
May The U.S. Supreme Court rules unanimously in *Brown vs. Board of Education* that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

October Rev. King is installed as the 20th pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

1955
June King earns a Ph. D. degree in systematic theology from Boston University.

December Mrs. Rosa Parks is arrested because she refuses to give her bus seat to a white man. The bus boycott starts on December 5th, and King is elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association.

1956
January King is arrested in Montgomery and released on his own recognizance. A bomb is thrown onto the porch of the King home.

February King is indicted with other protesters on the charge of being part of a conspiracy to prevent the operation of business without "just or legal cause."

June A United States district court rules that racial segregation on city bus lines is unconstitutional.

October The mayor of Montgomery instructs the city council "to file such proceedings as it may deem proper to stop the operation of car pools and transportation systems growing out of the boycott."

November United States Supreme Court upholds decision of district court in declaring Alabama's segregation on buses' laws unconstitutional.

December Federal injunctions prohibiting segregation on buses are served on city and bus company officials and state officials. On the 21st Montgomery buses are integrated.

1957
February Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is founded. Dr. King is elected its first president. King appears on the cover of *Time* magazine.

May King delivers "Give Us the Ballot" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on the third anniversary of the *Brown* decision.

September President Eisenhower federalizes the Arkansas National Guard to escort nine Negro students to an all-white high school in Little Rock. The first civil rights act since Reconstruction is passed, creating the Civil Rights Commission and the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

1958
June Dr. King, Roy Wilkins, A. Philip Randolph and Lester Granger meet with President Eisenhower.

September King is arrested in the vicinity of the Montgomery Recorder's Court and released on \$100 bond. King is convicted and fine is paid by Montgomery Police commissioner over King's objection. King's book *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story* is published.

1959
February Dr. and Mrs. King begin a month-long visit to India to study Gandhi's techniques of non-violence.

1960
January King family moves to Atlanta. King becomes co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

February First lunch-counter sit-in is held by students in Greensboro, North Carolina.

April The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is founded at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Dr. King and James Lawson are the keynote speakers.

June Dr. King and A. Philip Randolph announce plans to picket the Republican and Democratic national conventions.

October King is arrested with other demonstrators at an Atlanta sit-in on the charge of violating Georgia's trespass law. All of the arrested demonstrators are released except Dr. King. He is released later from Reidsville State Prison on a \$2,000 bond.

1961
May First group of Freedom Riders, organized by CORE, leaves Washington, D. C. shortly after the Supreme Court has outlawed segregation in interstate transportation ter-

minals. The bus is burned outside Anniston, Alabama, the Freedom Riders are beaten in Birmingham and arrested in Jackson, Mississippi. They spend 40 to 60 days in Parchman Penitentiary.

December Dr. King arrives in Albany, Georgia in response to a call from the leader of the Albany Movement to desegregate public facilities. King is arrested at a demonstration.

1962
February King is tried and convicted for leading a march in Albany.

May King is invited to join the Birmingham protests.

July King is arrested at an Albany City Hall prayer vigil.

September James Meredith makes first attempt to enroll at the University of Mississippi. He is enrolled by order of the Supreme Court and escorted onto the campus by U.S. marshals on October 1st.

1963
March Sit-in demonstrations are held in Birmingham. Dr. King is arrested.

April King writes the "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

May U.S. Supreme Court rules Birmingham's segregation ordinances are unconstitutional.

June King's book *Strength to Love* is published.

August The March on Washington is held. Dr. King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

1964
May King joins other SCLC workers in demonstrations for the integration of public accommodations and is arrested.

June King's book *Why We Can't Wait* is published.

July King attends the signing of the Public Accommodations Bill, part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

July-August Riots occur in Harlem, New Jersey, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

September Dr. King and Rev. Ralph Abernathy visit West Berlin at the invitation of Mayor Willy Brandt. King has an audience with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican.

December King receives the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway.

1965
March Over 3,000 marchers leave Selma, Ala., for a march to Montgomery where they hear an address by Dr. King.

August The 1965 Voting Rights Act is signed by President Johnson.

1966
March U.S. Supreme court rules poll tax unconstitutional.

Spring King tours Alabama to help elect black candidates. For the first time since Reconstruction, a number of blacks vote in the Alabama primary.

May A King antiwar statement is read at a Washington rally to protest the war in Vietnam. King agrees to serve as co-chairman of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam.

July King launches a drive to make Chicago an "open city" in regard to housing.

August King is stoned in Chicago while leading a march through crowds of angry whites.

September SCLC launches a project to integrate the public schools of Grenada, Mississippi and initiates the Alabama Citizens Education Project in Wilcox County.

1967
January King writes *Where Do We Go From Here?*

March The desegregation of public schools is ordered in Alabama. Dr. King attacks U.S. policy in Vietnam in Chicago speech.

April King makes "Beyond Vietnam" speech at Riverside Church in New York City.

July Riots in Newark, New Jersey and Detroit, Michigan. Dr. King and other prominent black leaders call for an end to the riots.


October Supreme Court upholds the contempt of court convictions of Dr. King and other black leaders who led the 1963 marches in Birmingham, Alabama.

November King announces the formation of a Poor People's Campaign by SCLC to address the problems of the poor black and white.

1968
March King leads 6,000 protesters on a march through downtown Memphis in support of striking sanitation workers.

April King delivers his last speech "I've Been to the Mountain Top" at the Memphis Masonic Temple. On the 4th, Dr. King is assassinated. He dies in St. Joseph's Hospital.

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."




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