—The life of Martin Luther King (A chronology)

(Continued from Page 3)

becomes co-pastor, with his father, of the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

February 1. The first lunch counter sit-in to desegregate eating facilities is held by students in Greensboro, North Carolina.

February 17. A warrant is issued for Dr. King's arrest on charges that he did not pay his 1956 and 1958 state income taxes.

April 15. The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is founded to coordinate student protest at Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina, on a temporary basis. (It is to become a permanent organization in October, 1960.) Dr. King and James Lawson are the keynote speakers at the Shaw University founding.

May 28. Dr. King is acquitted of the tax evasion charge by an all-White jury in Montgomery.

June 10. Dr. King and A. Philip Randolph announce plans for picketing both the Republican and Democratic national conventions.

June 24. Dr. King has a conference with John F. Kennedy, candidate for president of the United States, about racial matters.

October 19. Dr. King is arrested at an Atlanta sit-in and is jailed on a charge of violating the state's trespass law.

Oct. 22-27. The Atlanta charges are dropped. All jailed demonstrators are released except for Dr. King, who is ordered held on a charge of violating a probated sentence in a traffic arrest case. He is transferred to the DeKalb County Jail in Decatur, Georgia, and is then transferred to the Reidsville State Prison. He is released from the Reidsville State Prison on a two-thousand-dollar bond.

1961 January 30. A third child, Dexter Scott, is born to Dr. and Mrs. King in Atlanta.

May 4. The first group of Freedom Riders, intent on integrating interstate buses, leaves Washington, D.C., by Greyhound bus. The group, organized by the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE), leaves shortly after the Supreme Court has outlawed segregation in interstate transportation terminals. The bus is burned outside of Anniston, Alabama, on May 14. A mob beats the Riders upon their arrival in Birmingham. The Riders are arrested in Jackson, Mississippi, and spend forty to sixty days in Parchman Penitentiary.

1961 December 15. Dr. King arrives in Albany, Georgia, in response to a call from Dr. W. G. Anderson, the leader of the Albany Movement to desegregate public facilities, which began in January, 1961.

December 16. Dr. King is arrested at an Albany demonstration. He is charged with obstructing the sidewalk and parading without a permit.

1962 February 27. Dr. King is tried and convicted for leading the December march in Albany.

May 2. Dr. King is invited to join the Birmingham protests.

July 27. Dr. King is arrested at an Albany city hall prayer vigil and jailed on charges of failure to obey a police officer, obstructing the sidewalk, and disorderly conduct.

September 20. James Meredith makes his first attempt to enroll at the University of Mississippi. He is actually enrolled by Supreme Court order and is escorted onto the Oxford, Mississippi, campus by U.S. marshals on October 1, 1962.

October 16. Dr. King meets with President John F. Kennedy at the White House for a one-hour conference.

1963 March 28. The Kings' fourth child, Bernice Albertine, is born.

March-April. Sit-in demonstrations are held in Birmingham to protest segregation of eating facilities. Dr. King is arrested during a demonstration.

April 16. Dr. King writes the "Letter from Birmingham Jail" while imprisoned for demonstrating.

May 3, 4, 5. Eugene ("Bull") Connor, director of public safety of Birmingham, orders the use of police dogs and fire hoses upon the marching protestors (young adults and children.)

May 20. The Supreme Court of the United States rules Birmingham's segregation ordinances unconstitutional.

June 11. Governor George C. Wallace tries to stop the court-ordered integration of the University of Alabama by "standing in the schoolhouse door" and personally refusing entrance to Black students and Justice Department officials. President John F. Kennedy then federalizes the Alabama National Guard, and Governor Wallace removes himself from blocking the entrance of the Negro students.

June 12. Medgar Evers, NAACP leader in Jackson, Mississippi, is assassinated in the early-morning darkness by a rifle bullet, at his home. His memorial service is held in Jackson on June 15 and he is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., on June 19.

August 28. The March on Washington, the first large integrated protest march, is held in Washington, D.C. Dr. King and other civil rights leaders meet with President John F. Kennedy in the White House, and afterwards Dr. King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

September. Dr. King's book *Strength to Love* is published by Harper & Row.

September 2-10. Governor Wallace orders the Alabama state troopers to stop the court-ordered integration of Alabama's elementary and high schools until he is enjoined by court injunction from doing so. By September 10 specific schools are actually integrated by court order.

November 22. President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

1964 Summer. COFO (Council of Federated Organizations) initiates the Mississippi Summer Project, a voter-registration drive organized and run by Black and White students.

June 21. Three civil rights workers — James Chaney (Black) and Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner (White) — are reported missing after a short trip to Philadelphia, Mississippi.

December 10. Dr. King receives the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway.

February 21. Malcolm X, leader of the Organization of Afro-American Unity and former Black Muslim leader, is murdered by Blacks in New York City.

1965 March 7. A group of marching demonstrators (from SNCC and SCLC) led by SCLC's Hosea Williams are beaten when attempting to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on their planned march to Montgomery, Alabama, from Selma, Alabama, by state highway patrolmen under the direction of Al Lingo, and sheriff's deputies under the leadership of Jim Clark. An order by Governor Wallace had prohibited the march.

March 9. Unitarian minister James Reeb is beaten by four White segregationists in Selma and dies two days later.

March 15. President Johnson addresses the nation and Congress. He describes the Voting Rights Bill he will submit to Congress in two days and use the slogan of the civil rights movement, "We Shall Overcome."

March 16. Black and White demonstrators are beaten by sheriff's deputies and police on horseback in Montgomery.

March 21-25. Over three thousand protest marchers leave Selma for a march to Montgomery, protected by federal troops. They are joined along the way by a total of twenty-five thousand marchers. Upon reaching the capitol building they hear an address by Dr. King.

March 25. Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, wife of a Detroit Teamsters Union business agent, is shot and killed while driving a carload of marchers back to Selma.

July. Dr. King visits Chicago. SCLC joins with the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations (CCCO), led by Al Raby, in the Chicago Project.

August-December. In Alabama, SCLC spearheads voter registration campaigns in Greene, Wilcox, and Eutaw counties, and in the cities of Montgomery and Birmingham.

August 6. The 1965 Voting Rights Act is signed by President Johnson.

August 11-16. In Watts, the Black ghetto of Los Angeles, riots leave thirty-five dead, of whom twenty-eight are Black.

1966 February. Dr. King rents an apartment in the black ghetto of Chicago.

February 23. Dr. King meets with Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Black Muslims, in Chicago.

March 25. The Supreme Court of the United States rules any poll tax unconstitutional.

March. Dr. King takes over a Chicago slum building and is sued by its owner.

Spring. Dr. King makes a tour of Alabama to help elect Black candidates.

Spring. The Alabama primary is held, the first time since Reconstruction that Blacks have voted in any numbers.

May 16. An antiwar statement by Dr. King is read at a large Washington rally to protest the war in Vietnam. Dr. King agrees to serve as co-chairman of Clergy and Layman Concerned about Vietnam.

June 6. James Meredith is shot soon after beginning his 220-mile "March Against Fear" from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi.

June. Stokely Carmichael and Willie Ricks (SNCC) use the slogan "Black Power" in public for the first time, before reporters in Greenwood, Mississippi.

July 10. Dr. King launches a drive to make Chicago an "open city" in regard to housing.

August 5. Dr. King is stoned in Chicago as he leads a march through crowds of angry Whites in the Gage Park section of Chicago's Southwest Side.

September. SCLC launches a project with the aim of integrating schools in Grenada, Mississippi.

Fall. SCLC initiates the Alabama

(Continued on Page 5)

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Kwaisi Mfume, Class of 1976, U.S. Congressman and Chairman, 1989 Annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Conference.

Hughlyn F. Fierce, Class of 1961, Senior Vice President, Asia Pacific Corporate Finance, Chase Manhattan Bank.

Charlee Taylor-Hines, Class of 1978, Vice President and Associate Director, Consumer Insight, advertising firm of Young and Rubicam, Inc.

Florence Marcus, Class of 1987, Fulbright Scholar to Switzerland, Senior Cytogenetics Technician, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

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'I'VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP'

EXCERPTS

April 3, 1968
Masonic Temple, Memphis, Tennessee

Thank you very kindly, my friends. As I listened to Ralph Abernathy in his eloquent and generous introduction and then thought about myself, I wondered who he was talking about. It's always good to have your closest friend and associate to say something good about you. And Ralph is the best friend that I have in the world.

I'm delighted to see each of you here tonight in spite of a storm warning. You reveal that you are determined to go on anyhow. Something is happening in Memphis, something is happening in our world.

As you know, if I were standing at the beginning of time, with the possibility of general and panoramic view of the whole human history up to now, and the Almighty said to me, "Martin Luther King, which age would you like to live in?" — I would take my mental flight by Egypt though, or rather across the Red Sea, through the wilderness on toward the promised land. And in spite of its magnificence, I wouldn't stop there. I would move on by Greece, and take my mind to Mount Olympus. And I would see Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Euripides and Aristophanes assembled around the Parthenon as they discussed the great and eternal issues of reality.

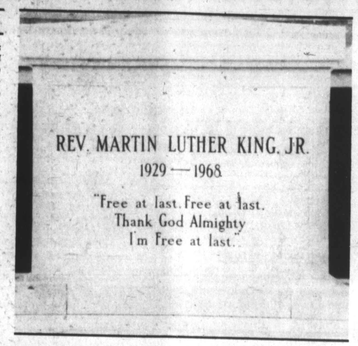
But I wouldn't stop there. I would go on, even to the great hey-day of the Roman Empire. And I would see developments around there, through various emperors and leaders. But I wouldn't stop there. I would even come up to the day of the Renaissance, and get a quick picture of all that the Renaissance did for the cultural and esthetic life of man. But I wouldn't stop there. I would even go by the way that the man for whom I'm named had his habitat. And I would watch Martin Luther as he tacked his ninety-five theses on the door at the church in Wittenberg.

But I wouldn't stop there. I would come on up even to 1863, and watch a vacillating President by the name of Abraham Lincoln finally come to the conclusion that he had to sign the Emancipation Proclamation. But I wouldn't stop there. I would even come up to the early thirties, and see a man grappling with the problems of the bankruptcy of his nation. And come with an eloquent cry that we have nothing to fear but fear itself.

But I wouldn't stop there. Strangely enough, I would turn to the Almighty, and say, "If you allow me to live just a few years in the second half of the Twentieth Century, I will be happy." Now that's a strange statement to make, because the world is all messed up. The nation is sick. Trouble is in the land. Confusion all around. That's a strange statement. But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough, can you see the stars. And I see God working in this period of the Twentieth Century in a way that men, in some strange way, are responding — something is happening in our world. The masses of people are rising up. And wherever they are assembled today, whether they are in Johannesburg, South Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; Accra, Ghana; New York City; Atlanta, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; or Memphis, Tennessee — the cry is always the same — "We want to be free."

And another reason that I'm happy to live in this period is that we have been forced to a point where we're going to have to grapple with the problems that men have been trying to grapple with through history, but the demands didn't force them to do it. Survival demands that we grapple with them. Men, for years now, have been talking about war and peace. But now, no longer can they just talk about it. It is no longer a choice between violence and non-violence in this world, it's non-violence or non-existence.

That is where we are today.



THE BURIAL VAULT of the late Dr. King is surrounded by a reflecting pond in a quiet courtyard adjoining Ebenezer Baptist Church. Hundreds from around the world come to visit daily.

—life of Martin Luther King

(Continued from Page 1)

Citizen Education project in Wilcox County

1967 January. Dr. King writes his book *Where Do We Go from Here?* while in Jamaica.

March 12. Alabama is ordered to desegregate all public schools.

March 23. Dr. King attacks the government's Vietnam policy in a speech at the Chicago Coliseum.

May 10-11. One Black student is killed in rioting on the campus of all-Negro Jackson State College, Jackson, Mississippi.

July 6. The Justice Department reports that more than 50 percent of all eligible Black voters are registered in Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and South Carolina.

July 12-17. Twenty-three people die, 725 are injured in riots in Newark, New Jersey.

July 23-30. Forty-three die, 324 are injured in the Detroit riots, the worst of the century.

July 26. Black leaders Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young appeal for an end to the riots, "which have proved ineffective and damaging to the civil rights cause and the entire nation."

October 30. The Supreme Court upholds the contempt-of-court convictions of Dr. King and seven other Black leaders who led 1963 marches in Birmingham. Dr. King and his aides enter jail to serve four-day sentences.

November 27. Dr. King announces the formation by SCLC of a Poor People's Campaign, with the aim of representing the problems of poor Blacks and Whites.

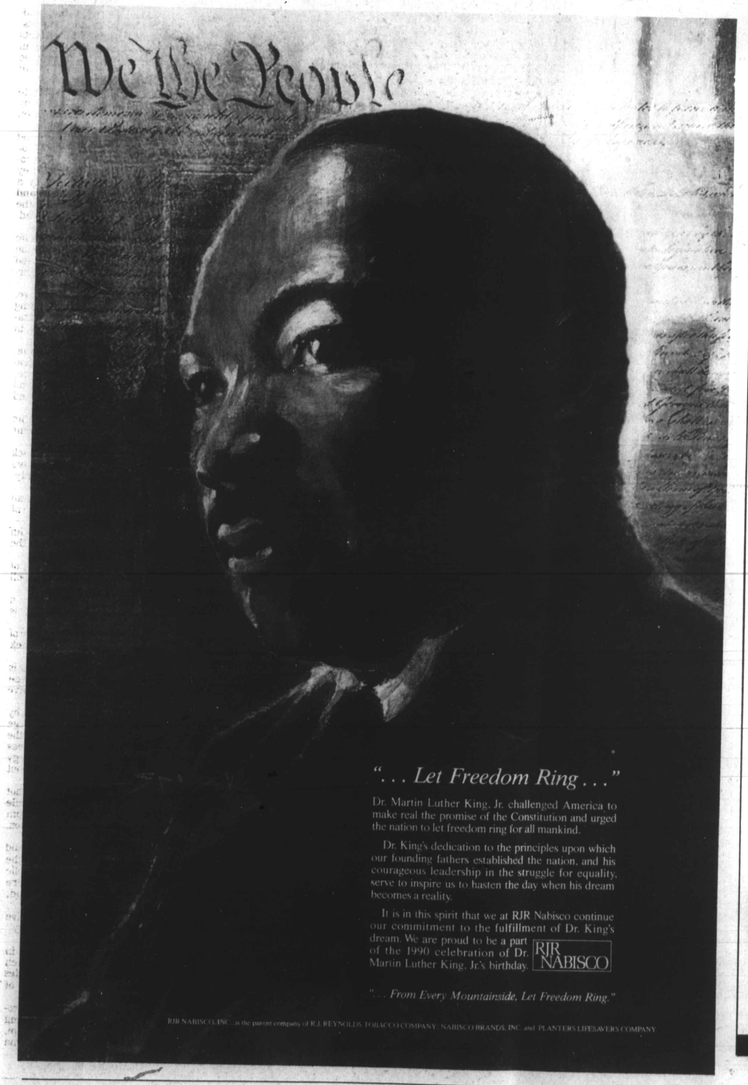
February 12. Sanitation workers strike in Memphis, Tennessee.

March 28. Dr. King leads six thousand protesters on a march through downtown Memphis in support of striking sanitation workers. Disorders break out during which Black youths loot stores. One sixteen-year-old is killed, fifty persons are injured.

April 3. Dr. King's last speech, entitled "I've Been to the Mountaintop," is delivered at the Memphis Masonic Temple.

April 4. Dr. King is assassinated by a sniper as he stands talking on the balcony of his second-floor room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. He dies in St. Joseph's Hospital from a gunshot wound in the neck. James Earl Ray is later captured and convicted of the murder.

June 5. Presidential candidate Senator Robert Kennedy is shot in Los Angeles. He dies the next day.



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"I, TOO, WOULD URGE YOU TO MAKE YOUR PLANS SO LARGE AND BROAD THAT THEY CANNOT BE BOUND BY THE CHAINS OF TIME AND THE MANACLES OF SPACE." -from *Strength to Love*, 1963

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