

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Dignity, dedication and determination, combined with regulating Christian ideals, have made Martin Luther King, Jr., an inspiring leader of the Negro revolution. His desire to obtain personal dignity and freedom for his people was ingrained during his childhood when he suffered the many indignities of a segregated society.

At 15 he entered Morehouse College in Atlanta feeling that he wished to study law or medicine. Later he decided that the ministry was the only framework within which he could work on his growing ideas on social protest. He attended Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa. and went on to receive his Ph.D. from Boston University in Systematic Theology.

He was torn between accepting a pastorate in the South and teaching in the North where he had been offered several positions. In 1955, after much prayerful thought, he decided to accept the pastorate of a Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, where he was instrumental in the Montgomery bus boycott.

As President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, for which post he has refused to accept a salary for six consecutive years, he is dedicated to achieving full citizenship rights and total integration for the Negro in America. He also shares the pulpit with his father in the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. He works 20 hours a day on speeches, sermons, letters and civil rights conferences. His books include Strength to Love and Stride Toward Freedom, which has sold over one million copies.

Dr. King lives in Atlanta with his wife, Coretta, and his four children.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1. PLACE and DATE OF BIRTH: Atlanta, Georgia, January 15, 1929
2. FAMILY: Son of Dr. and Mrs. Martin L. King, Sr. Dr. King, Sr. is Co-Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia
3. MARITAL STATUS: Married to Coretta Scott
4. CHILDREN: Four children, Yolande Denise, Martin Luther, III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine.
5. EDUCATION: Public schools of Atlanta  
A.B., Morehouse College, 1948.  
B.D., Crozer Theological Seminary, (Chester, Pa.) 1951  
Studied at University of Pennsylvania 1950-51  
Studied at Harvard University, 1952-53.  
Ph.D., Boston University, 1955 in the field of Systematic Theology. (Thesis: "A Comparison of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman!")
6. HONORARY DEGREES: Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) Morehouse College, 1957.  
Doctor of Divinity (D.D.), Chicago, Theological Seminary of the Federated Faculties of the University of Chicago, 1957.  
Doctor of Laws (LL.D.), Morgan State College, 1958.  
Doctor of Humanities (L.H.D.), Central State College, 1958.  
Doctor of Divinity (D.D.), Boston University, 1959.  
Doctor of Laws, Howard University (LL.D.), 1957.  
Doctor of Laws, Lincoln University (LL.D.), 1961.  
Doctor of Laws, University of Bridgeport (LL.D.), 1961.  
Doctor of Civil Laws, Bard College, 1962.  
Doctor of Letters, Keuka College, 1963.
7. PRESENT POSITIONS: Co-Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia  
President-Emeritus, The Montgomery Improvement Association, Inc. (The organization which guided and directed the bus protest in Montgomery, Alabama).  
President, The Southern Christian Leadership Conference.
8. RECOGNITION: In 1957 Gallup Roll revealed that he was one of the most admired religious leaders in the world. In 1957 Time Magazine selected him as one of the ten outstanding personalities of the year. He is listed in Who's Who in America. He has received more than 75 citations and awards for his work. ~~(Several of them are listed)~~. In a poll conducted by Link Magazine of New Delhi, India, ranked as one of the sixteen world leaders who had contributed most to the advancement of freedom during 1959.

In 1963 Time Magazine selected him its 37th Man of the Year.

1964- Nobel Prize for Peace

9. PUBLICATIONS:

Author of Stride Toward Freedom, Harper & Brothers, 1958. (This book received the Ainsfield-Wolf Award as the best book in race relations in 1958).

Author of The Measure of a Man, the Christian Education Press, 1959. He has written articles in several theological, sociological and historical journals.

Author of Strength To Love, Harper & Row, 1963. The biography entitled Crusader Without Violence, by L. D. Reddick, traces the life story from birth in Atlanta through college days, the Montgomery movement to national and world recognition. It is also published by Harper and Brothers.

10. TRAVEL:

He has travelled extensively in Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa. In 1957, at the invitation of the Prime Minister, he attended the Independence Celebration of Ghana, West Africa.

He has lectured in more than one hundred colleges and universities in the United States.