

Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement

1960-1968

1960

January 24: The King family moves to Atlanta. Dr. King becomes co-pastor, with his father, of the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

February 1: Students in Greensboro, North Carolina launch widely publicized sit-ins which spark a wave of similar protests throughout the south.

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

April 15: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is founded to coordinate student protest at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, on a temporary basis. It becomes permanent in October 1960.

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

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

October 19-27: Dr. King is arrested at an Atlanta sit-in and is jailed on a charge of violating the state's trespass law. That charge is dropped but King is still held on a charge of violating his probation in a traffic arrest case. He is ultimately transferred to Reidsville State Prison, where he is released on a two-thousand-dollar bond.

1961

January 30: Dexter Scott, the Kings' third child, is born.

May 4: The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organizes the first group of Freedom Riders. The Freedom Riders, intent on integrating interstate buses, leave Washington, D.C., by Greyhound bus shortly after the Supreme Court has outlawed segregation in interstate transportation terminals.

1962

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.

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

1963

March 28: Bernice Albertine, the Kings' fourth child, is born.

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

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

May 3-5: Eugene "Bull" Connor, director of public safety of Birmingham, orders the use of police dogs and fire hoses on the marching protestors.

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

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

June 11: Governor George 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.

June 12: Medgar Evers is assassinated in front of his home in Jackson, Mississippi.

August 28: In Washington, D.C., the March on Washington is held. Dr. King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

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

1964

March 7: Bloody Sunday. About 650 marchers in Selma were attacked by police wielding tear gas, clubs and bullwhips. The assault, recorded by the national media, left 70 blacks hospitalized and another 70 injured.

Summer: Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) initiates a voter-registration drive, run by black and white students, called the Mississippi Summer Project.

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

June 21: Three civil rights workers—James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner—are reported missing after a short trip to Philadelphia, Mississippi. Their bodies are found six weeks later by FBI agents.

July: Dr. King attends the signing of the Public Accommodations Bill, part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, by President Lyndon B. Johnson in the White House.

August: Riots occur in New Jersey, Illinois, and Pennsylvania.

September 18: Dr. King has an audience with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican.

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

1965

February 21: Malcolm X is assassinated in New York City.

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, describing the voting rights bill he will submit, and uses the slogan of the civil rights movement, "We Shall Overcome."

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, they hear an address by Dr. King.

March 25: Viola Liuzzo is shot and killed while driving a marcher from Montgomery to Selma.

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

August 11-16: Thirty-five people die in riots in the Watts area of Los Angeles, CA.

1966

Dr. King rents an apartment in a Chicago ghetto.

February 23: In Chicago, Dr. King meets with Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Nation of Islam.

March: Dr. King takes over a Chicago slum building and is sued by its owner.
March 25: The Supreme Court of the United States rules that any poll tax is unconstitutional.

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

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

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

1967

January: Dr. King writes his book *Where Do We Go From Here?* while in Jamaica, West Indies.

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

March 25: Dr. King attacks the government's Vietnam policy in a speech at the Chicago Coliseum.

April 4: Dr. King makes a statement about the war in Vietnam at the Riverside Church in New York City.

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

July 23-30: Forty-three die and 324 are injured in the Detroit riots.

July 26: Dr. King, A. Philip Randolph, and Whitney Young, Jr., appeal for an end to the riots.

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.

1968

February 12: Sanitation workers strike in Memphis, Tennessee.

March 28: Dr. King leads six thousand protestors on a march through downtown Memphis in support of striking sanitation workers. Disorders break out during which black youths loot stores. One person is killed, fifty people are injured.

April 3: Dr. King delivers "I've Been to the Mountaintop" at the Memphis Masonic Temple.

April 4: Dr. King is shot at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. He dies in St. Joseph's Hospital.

April 4-11: Riots erupt in 125 cities around the country, including the nation's capital.

April 7-9: Dr. King lies in state at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Mourners file by at the rate of twelve hundred per hour.

April 8: Coretta King, Yolanda King, Martin Luther King III, Dexter King, and Ralph Abernathy lead a memorial march for Dr. King in Memphis.

April 9: The funeral of Dr. King is held at the Ebenezer Baptist Church. He is laid to rest at the South View Cemetery.