

CHRONOLOGY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

- 1929** **January 15.** Born in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1948** Received a Bachelor of Arts degree through a special program for the gifted from Morehouse College, Atlanta.
- 1951** Received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Crozier Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania.
- 1953** While studying at Boston University, married Coretta Scott, an Alabamian who was studying at the New England Conservatory of Music. Became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.
- 1955** Received a Ph.D from Boston University. Became leader of the Montgomery bus boycott, which began on December 1 when Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a White and ended on December 21, 1956.
- 1957** Became President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) at its founding meeting.
- 1958** Wrote *Stride Toward Freedom*, a description of the Montgomery boycott and his own first involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.
- 1960** Became co-pastor with his father of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Arrested in a sit-in at an Atlanta lunch counter; released from jail through the intervention of Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy.
- 1963** **April.** Led Birmingham desegregation campaign, in which nonviolent demonstrators faced the dogs and fire hoses of Bull Connor's police. **August 28.** Delivered "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 who had come to Washington to protest against discrimination.
- 1964** Wrote *Why We Can't Wait*, a description of the events of 1963 and an analysis of the next directions for the Civil Rights Movement. Won the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1965** Led a voter registration campaign in Selma, Alabama, and the march from Selma to Montgomery.
- 1966** Led a campaign for open housing in Chicago.
- 1967** **April 4.** Speaking at Riverside Church in New York, condemned the Vietnam War as unjust, thus going beyond the established scope of the Civil Rights Movement. **November.** Began organizing the Poor People's Campaign to demonstrate the needs of poor people of all races in the United States. Wrote *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or COMMUNITY*, an examination of discrimination and poverty as the causes of national discord.
- 1968** **April 4.** Assassinated in Memphis while supporting a strike by sanitation workers.