

# We've got difficult difficult days ahead

**1929 January 15.** Martin Luther King, Jr., is born to Reverend and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr. (the former Alberta Christine Williams), in Atlanta, Georgia.

**1935-1944.** King attends David T. Howard Elementary School, Atlanta University Laboratory School, and Booker T. Washington High School. He does *not* graduate from high school, but enters Morehouse College (Atlanta) by passing the entrance examination.

**1947.** King is licensed to preach and becomes assistant to his father, who is pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta.

**1948 February 25.** King is ordained as a Baptist minister.

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

**September.** King enters Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa. After hearing Dr. A.J. Muste and Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson preach on the life and teaching of Mahatma Gandhi, he begins to study Gandhi seriously.

**1951 June.** King leaves Crozer with a B.D. degree.

**1953 June 18.** King marries Coretta Scott in Marion, Alabama.

**1954 May 17.** The Supreme Court of the United States rule unanimously in *Brown vs. Board of Education* that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

**1954 October 31.** King is installed by Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., as the twentieth pastor of the Dexter Avenue Church, Montgomery.

**1955 June 5.** Boston University grants King the Ph.D. in Systematic Theology.

**November 17.** Yolanda Denise King born in Montgomery.

**December 1.** Mrs. Rosa Parks, a forty-two-year-old Montgomery seamstress, refuses to relinquish her bus seat to a white man, and is arrested.

**December 5.** The first day of the bus boycott. The trial of Mrs. Parks. A meeting of movement leaders is held. Dr. King is unanimously elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, whose name is proposed by Rev. Ralph Abernathy.

**December 10.** The Montgomery Bus Company suspends service in black neighborhoods.

## 1956

**1956 January 26.** Dr. King is arrested on a charge of traveling thirty miles an hour in a twenty-five-mile-an-hour zone in Montgomery. He is released on his own recognizance.

**January 30.** A bomb is thrown onto the porch of Dr. King's home in Montgomery. Mrs. King and Mrs. Roscoe Williams are in the house with baby Yolanda. No one is injured.

**February 2.** A suit is filed in federal district court asking that Montgomery's travel segregation laws be declared unconstitutional.

**February 21.** Dr. King is indicted with other figures in the Montgomery bus boycott on the charge of being party to a conspiracy to hinder and prevent the operation of business without "just or legal cause."

**June 4.** A United States District Court rules that racial segregation on city bus lines is unconstitutional.

**June 27.** Dr. King is the guest speaker at the annual NAACP convention in San Francisco.

**August 10.** Dr. King is a speaker before the platform committee of the Democratic Party in Chicago.

**November 13.** The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the lower court in declaring unconstitutional Alabama's state and local laws requiring segregation on buses.

**December 21.** Montgomery buses are integrated.



## 1957

**1957 January 27.** An unexploded bomb is discovered on Dr. and Mrs. King's front porch.

**January 10-11.** The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is formed at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta. Dr. King is elected its president.

**February 18.** *Time* magazine puts Dr. King on its cover.

**May 17.** Dr. King delivers a speech for the Prayer Pilgrimage For Freedom celebrating the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's desegregation decision. The speech, entitled "Give Us the Ballot," is given at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.

**June 13.** Dr. King meets with then-U.S. vice president, Richard Nixon.

**September 2.** Dr. King addresses a Labor Day seminar on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee.

**September.** President Dwight D. Eisenhower federalizes the Arkansas National Guard to escort nine Negro students to an all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**September 9.** The first civil rights act since Reconstruction is passed by Congress, creating the Civil Rights Commission and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

**October 23.** A second child, Martin Luther III, is born to Dr. and Mrs. King.

## 1958

**June 23.** Dr. King, along with Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, A Philip Randolph, and Lester Granger, meets with President Eisenhower.

**September 3.** Dr. King is arrested on a charge of loitering (later changed to "failure to obey an officer") in the vicinity of the Montgomery Recorder's Court. He is released on one hundred dollars bond.

"The dream is one of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where man will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few; a dream of a land where men do not agree that the color of a man's skin determines the content of his character; a dream of a place where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity; the dream of a country where every man will respect the dignity and worth of all human personality, and men will dare to live together as brothers. . . ."

— 1960

