

There are just and unjust laws

1963

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. "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 rules Birmingham's segregation ordinances unconstitutional.

June 11. Governor George Wallace "stands in the schoolhouse door" to try to stop integration of the University of Alabama, and personally refuses 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 at his home by a rifle bullet. 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.

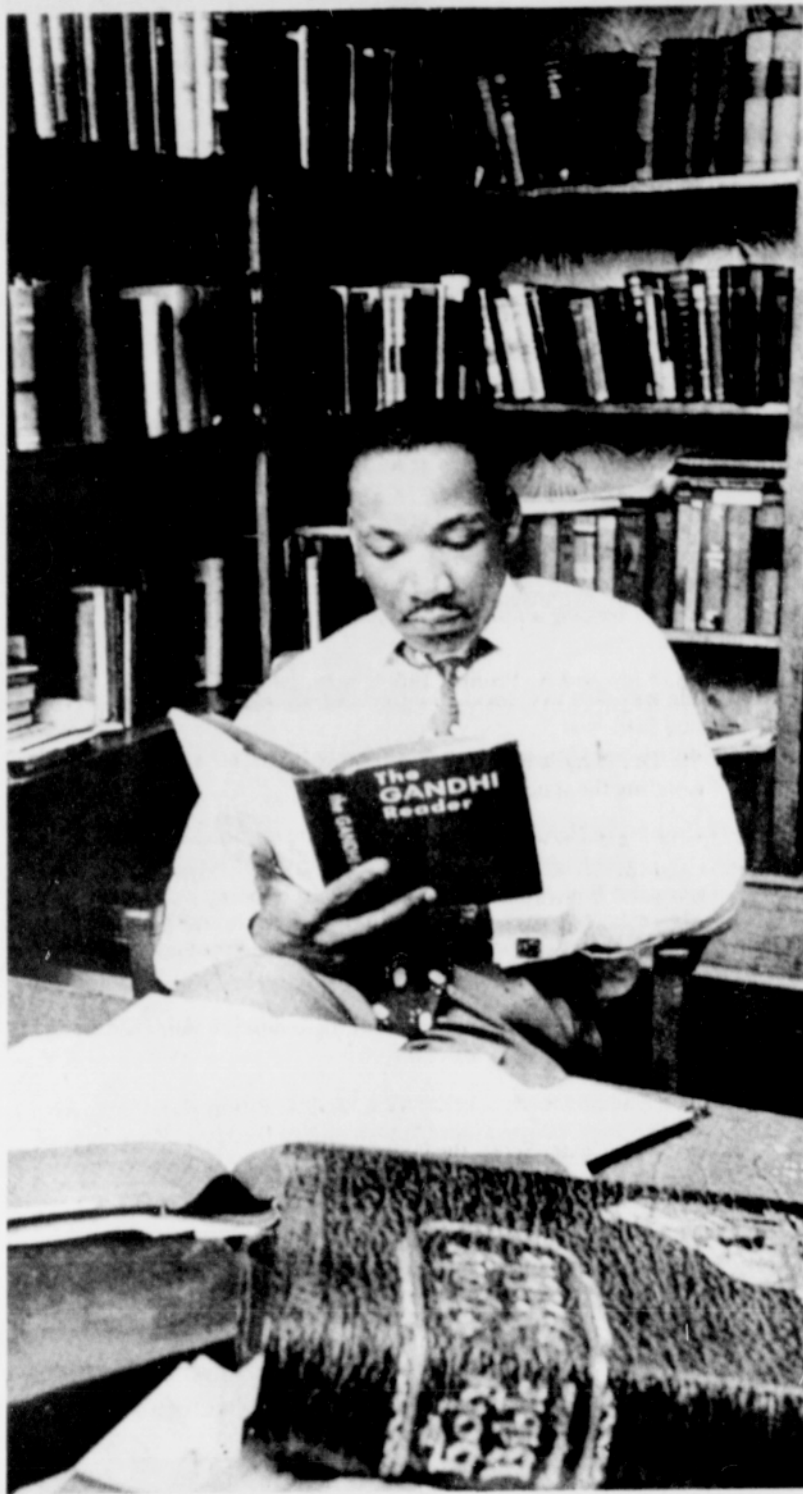
1964

March 25. The Supreme Court rules poll taxes 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.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., studies Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence, which will become the guiding light in his quest for freedom.

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 Laymen Concerned about Vietnam.

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

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. James Chaney (black) and Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner (white), three civil rights workers, are reported missing after a short trip to Philadelphia, Mississippi.

May-June. Dr. King is jailed for demonstrating, along with other SCLC workers, for the integration of public accommodations in St. Augustine, Florida.

June. Dr. King's book, *Why We Can't Wait* is published by Harper & Row.

July 2. 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.

July 18-23. Riots occur in Harlem. One black man is killed.

August 4. The bodies of civil rights workers Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner are found by FBI agents buried near Philadelphia, Miss. Neshoba County Sheriff Rainey and his deputy, Cecil Price, are allegedly implicated in the murders.

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

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

September. Dr. King and Reverend Ralph Abernathy visit West Berlin at the invitation of Mayor Willy Brandt.

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

1965

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.

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

March 9. James Reeb, Unitarian Minister, is beaten by four white segregationists in Selma and dies two days later.



"One who breaks an unjust law must do it openly, lovingly . . . I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the very highest respect for law . . ."

— M.L.K.



"But if physical death is the price that a man must pay to free his children and his white brethren from a permanent death of the spirit, then nothing could be more redemptive."



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