

We, as a people, will get to the promised land . . .



Selma, Alabama 1965

March 16. Black and white demonstrators are beaten by sheriff's deputies and police on horseback in Montgomery.

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 25,000 marchers. Upon reaching the capitol building they hear an address by Dr. King.

March 25. Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, wife of a Detroit Teamsters Union business agent, is shot and killed while driving a carload of marchers back to Selma.

July. Dr. King visits Chicago. SCLC joins with the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations led by Al Raby, in the Chicago Project.

August-December. In Alabama, SCLC spearheads voter registration campaigns in Greene, Wilcox, and Eutaw counties, and in the cities of Montgomery and Birmingham.

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

August 11-16. In Watts, the black ghetto of Los Angeles, riots leave thirty-five dead, of whom 28 are black.

1966

June. Stokely Carmichael and Willie Ricks (SNCC) use the slogan "Black Power" in public for the first time, before reporters in Greenwood, Mississippi.

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

August 5. Dr. King leads a march through a crowd of angry whites in Chicago's Southwest side. The crowd stones him.

1967

January. Dr. King writes *Where Do We Go from Here?* while in Jamaica.

March 12. Dr. King attacks the government's Vietnam policy in a speech at the Chicago Coliseum.

April 4. King addressed a peace rally at New York City's Riverside Church.

Spring 1967. King was asked to be a peace candidate for the Presidency but declined.

April 16. King was one of the leaders of the Spring Mobilization Against the War in Vietnam, leading a march of 125,000 from N.Y.'s Central Park to the U.N. Plaza.

May 30. King travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, to speak against the "costly, bloody and futile war."

July 12. King visited Cleveland and promised to help Carl Stokes campaign for Mayor.

July 12-17. In riots in Newark, N.J., 23 die, 725 are injured.

July 20. Operation Breadbasket, an SCLC program based in Chicago and directed by Jesse Jackson, was expanded nationwide. In one year the project had secured 2,200 jobs, aided black business, forced the state to do business with black companies and conducted a successful 6 month rent strike.

July 23-30. In the Detroit riots—the worst of the century, 43 die, 324 are injured.

July 26. Black leaders Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young appeal for an end to the riots, "which have proved ineffective and damaging to the civil rights cause and the entire nation."

October 30. The Supreme Court upholds the contempt-of-court convictions of Dr. King and seven other black leaders who led 1963 marches in Birmingham. Dr. King and his aides enter jail to serve four-day sentences.

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 5, 1968. King went to Arlington Cemetery with 2,000 people to hold memorial services for Vietnam war dead.



Memphis, Tennessee, March 1968

Feb. 6, 1968. King addressed a rally in Washington, D.C., reaffirming twin struggles for peace and for racial justice.

February 12. Sanitation workers strike in Memphis, Tennessee.

March 28. Dr. King leads six thousand protesters on a march through downtown Memphis in support of striking sanitation workers. Disorders break during which black youths loot stores. One sixteen-year-old is killed, fifty persons are injured.

April 3. Dr. King's last speech, entitled "I've Been to the Mountaintop," is delivered at the Memphis Masonic Temple.

April 4. Dr. King is assassinated by a sniper as he stands talking on the balcony of his second-floor room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. He dies in St. Joseph's Hospital from a gunshot wound in the neck.

I still believe . . .

I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up. I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid." I still believe that we shall overcome.

—Martin Luther King, Jr., Oslo, 1964

