

# Chronology



front porch. **February:** The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is formed. Dr. King is elected its president. **May 17:** Dr. King delivers a speech at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom in Washington, D.C. The pilgrimage was held on the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's desegregation decision. **September:** President Dwight D. Eisenhower federalizes the Arkansas National Guard to escort nine black 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

Granger, executive director of the National Urban League, meet with President Eisenhower. **September:** Dr. King's book "Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story" is published. **September 20:** Dr. King is stabbed in the chest by Izola Curry while he is in a New York City department store autographing his recently published book.

**1959 February 2-March 10:** Martin and Coretta King spend several weeks in India as guests of Prime Minister Nehru, studying Gandhi's techniques of nonviolence.



Civil Rights Commission and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. **October 23:** Martin Luther King III, the Kings' second child, is born.

**1958 June 23:** Dr. King; Roy Wilkins, executive director of NAACP; A. Philip Randolph, civil rights activist and founder of the Pullman Porter's University; and Lester

**1960 January 24:** The King family moves to Atlanta. Dr. King becomes copastor, 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 Non-violent 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 K. 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.

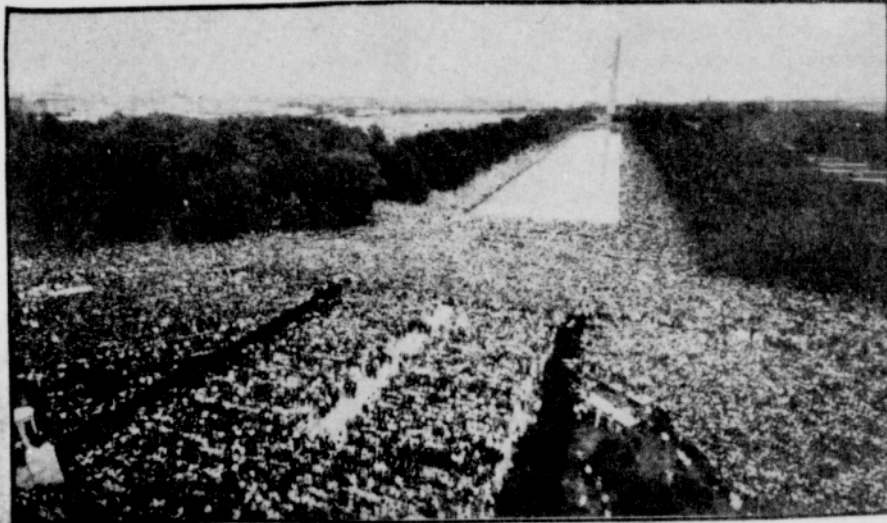
**1961 January 30:** Dexter Scott, the Kings' third child, is born. **May 4:** The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organizes the first group of Freedom Riders. The Freedom Riders, intent on integrating interstate buses, leaves Washington, D.C., by Greyhound bus shortly after the Supreme Court has 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, 4, 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 C. 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.

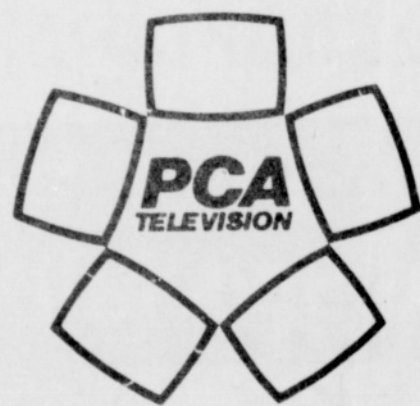
**1964 March 7:** Bloody Sunday. About 650 marchers in Selma were attacked by police wielding tear gas, clubs and bullwhips. The assault, recorded by the national media, left 70 blacks hospitalized and another 70 injured. **Summer:** Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) initiates a voter-registration 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 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."

tional. **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. **October 30:** Mayor W.A. "Tackey" Gayle of Montgomery instructs the city's legal department to find a legal means to stop the operation of car pools, the transportation system used during the boycott. **November 13:** The United State Supreme Court affirms the decision of the district court in declaring unconstitutional Alabama's state and local laws requiring segregation on buses. **December 20:** Federal injunctions prohibiting segregation on buses are served on bus company officials. Injunctions are also served on city and Alabama state officials. **December 21:** Montgomery buses are integrated.

**1957 January 27:** An unexploded bomb is discovered on the Kings'



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