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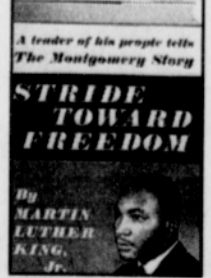
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# His Life and Times

## Chronology of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior

- **1929 Jan. 15:** Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia at noon. His mother was Alberta Christine Williams King and his father was Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. 
- **1935-1944:** King attended David T. Howard Elementary School, Atlanta University Laboratory School and Booker T. Washington High School. He passed the entrance examination to Atlanta's Morehouse College without graduating from high school. After graduation he was admitted to Morehouse at the age of 15.
- **1947:** King was licensed to preach and became an assistant to his father, who was the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.
- **1948 Feb. 25:** King was ordained to the Baptist ministry at the age 19. In June King graduated from Morehouse College with a B.A. in sociology.
- **1948 September:** King entered Crozer Theological Seminary, in Philadelphia, PA. After hearing Dr. A. J. Muste and Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson preach on the life of Mahatma Gandhi, he began to study Gandhi seriously. "Gandhi was inevitable," King said. "If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore Gandhi at our own risk."
- **1951 June:** King graduated from Crozer with a Bachelor of Divinity and entered Boston University for his graduate studies.
- **1953 June 18:** King married Coretta Scott in Marion, Alabama.
- **1954 May 17:** The Supreme Court of the United States ruled unanimously in *Brown v. Board of Education* that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. 
- **1954 Oct. 31:** King was installed by his father as the 20th pastor of Dexter Avenue Church in Montgomery, Ala.
- **1955 June 5:** King received a Ph.D. of Philosophy in Systematic Theology from Boston University. His Dissertation Title was 'A Comparison of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Wiseman.'
- **1955 Nov. 17:** Yolanda Denise, the King's first child was born.
- **1955 Dec. 1:** In Montgomery, Ala., Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old seamstress, refused to relinquish her bus seat to a white man and is arrested. King joined the bus boycott after Rosa Parks' arrest on Dec. 1. On Dec. 5, he was elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, making him the official spokesman for the boycott.
- **1955 Dec. 5:** The Montgomery bus boycott began. 
- **1955 Dec. 10:** The Montgomery Bus Co. suspended service in black neighborhoods.
- **1956 Jan. 30:** A bomb was thrown onto the porch of the Kings' Montgomery home. Coretta King, Yolanda King and church member, Lucy Williams, were in the house but no one was injured.
- **1956 Feb. 2:** A suit was filed in federal district court asking that Montgomery's travel segregation laws be declared unconstitutional.
- **1956 Feb. 21:** King was 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." 
- **1956 June 4:** A United States district court ruled that racial segregation on city bus lines is unconstitutional.
- **1956 Oct. 30:** Mayor W.A. "Tackey" Gayle of Montgomery instructed the city's legal department to find a legal means to stop the operation of car pools, the transportation system used during the boycott.
- **1956 Nov. 13:** The U. S. Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the district court in declaring unconstitutional Alabama's state and local laws requiring segregation on buses.
- **1956 Dec. 20:** Federal injunctions prohibiting segregation on buses are served to bus company officials. Injunctions are also served on city and Alabama state officials.
- **1956 Dec. 21:** Montgomery buses were integrated.
- **1957 Jan. 27:** An unexploded bomb was discovered on the Kings' front porch.
- **1957 February:** The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was formed and Dr. King elected its president.
- **1957 May 17:** King delivered a speech to 15,000 at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom in Washington, D.C. The pilgrimage was held on the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision.
- **1957 September:** President Dwight D. Eisenhower federalized the Arkansas National Guard to escort nine black students to an all-white high school in Little Rock, Ark.
- **1957 Sept. 9:** The first civil rights act since Reconstruction was passed by Congress, creating the Civil Rights Commission and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.
- **1957 Oct. 23:** Martin Luther King III, the King's second child, was born.
- **1958 June 23:** King; Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP; A. Philip Randolph, civil rights activist; and Lester Granger, executive director of the National Urban League, met with President Eisenhower.
- **1958 September:** King's book 'Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story' was published. 
- **1958 Sept. 20:** On a speaking tour Dr. King was stabbed in the chest by Izola Curry while he was in a New York City department store autographing his recently published book.

"Although I cannot pay the fine, I will willingly accept the alternative  
which you provide, and that I will do without malice."

-MLK Statement to an Alabama judge, 1958

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