

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2022

at The Embassy



ALLYSHIP & LEADERSHIP



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. giving his “I have a Dream” speech at the 1963 March on Washington. It is one of the most famous speeches in U.S. history.
Photo: thekingcenter.org/nonviolence365-education-and-training/

PROFILE ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

An icon of the civil rights movement

Dr. Martin Luther King was born on January 15, 1929.

Christened Michael King, his name change to Martin Luther King was inspired by his father Michael’s visit to the Baptist 5th World Conference in Berlin. His father changed his own name to Martin Luther King Snr. in honour of the great protestant reformer, Martin Luther.

He grew up in Georgia and attended a segregated high school and moved on to university studies first at Morehouse College followed by pastoral studies at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. He graduated from Boston University with a PhD in Systematic Theology. >



While in Boston, he met and married Coretta Scott and the union produced two sons and two daughters. His daughter, Dr. Bernice King, continues his legacy of education and advocacy of nonviolent social change through The King Centre.

Dr. King was pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery and moved on to co-pastor with his dad at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta from 1960 until his death.

In December 1955, he began to lead the first great Negro nonviolent demonstration, the now famous bus boycott which lasted 382 days. Under his leadership of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he organized a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963. In the same year Dr. King also directed the peaceful march of 250,000 people on Washington, D.C., where he delivered his famous address, "I Have a Dream". In March 1965, he led the historic 54-mile walk from Selma to Montgomery.

He was arrested 30 times and assaulted at least four times, his home was bombed and he was subjected to personal abuse; but he became not only the symbolic leader of American blacks but also a world figure and continued to promote and act in non-violent protest. Jesus Christ was one of the central influences on the development of his faith, character and moral principles.

He was assassinated at the age of 39 while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was scheduled to lead another peaceful protest in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city.

Sources: The Nobel Prize, PBS, USA Today, The King Centre.

***"Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that."***

~Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



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