

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

(1929- 1968)

January 15, 1929: Born in Atlanta, Georgia to Reverend Martin Luther and Alberta Williams King.

1948: Graduates from Morehouse College and ordained a minister at his father's church, Ebenezer Baptist, in Atlanta.

1951: Graduates from Crozer Seminary.

June 18, 1953: Marries Coretta Scott.

April 1954: Becomes pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery.

1955: Receives his Ph.D. from Boston University and becomes President of the MIA, an organization leading bus boycotts.

August 28, 1963: Presents "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

October 1964: Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway.

April 4, 1968: Assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee by James Earl Ray.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was taught early in life about segregation in the South. His experiences with discrimination and prejudice molded him into a powerful equal rights leader. From a lecture he attended while at Crozer Seminary, he learned of the Indian leader, Mahatma Gandhi, and his beliefs in the power of love and protesting without violence. King became very interested in Gandhi's life and values and believed that non-violence could desegregate the South. King spent the rest of his life speaking and organizing marches for equal rights. He fought for desegregation and equal voting rights. He fought against poverty and the war in Vietnam. Though blacks were beaten, attacked by dogs, and sprayed with fire hoses, King spoke of peace and non-violence until he was assassinated at the age of 39.

"I am not willing to kill, but I am willing to die." – MLK