



Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati
405 West Seventh Street
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**An Excerpt From the Life and Legacy
of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
1929-1968**

“The Montgomery bus boycott lasted a year, ending with a Supreme Court ruling that Alabama’s state and local segregation laws were unconstitutional. The day after the court order became effective; King woke early so that he could be the first black passenger on a bus. Throughout the day he rode different buses to ensure there was no trouble.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. who took his place on those buses in December 1956 was in many respects a changed man from the one who had motivated his supporters to transform “thin paper into thick action.”

The moment he became the public face of the boycott he became a target. He received threatening late-night phone calls which disturbed him to such a degree that he wondered if he shouldn’t step down. He became fearful. Then he was arrested for a minor traffic offense that was nothing short of police harassment. It meant being fingerprinted and locked in a cell with hardened criminals. Although he was bailed out within a few hours, the experience unnerved him. The following evening, having been awoken by yet another ominous phone call and unable to sleep, King sat at his kitchen table, a cup of coffee untouched and growing cold before him. He was ready to give up. He thought about the previous comforts of his life, his cherished baby daughter, and his loyal and devoted wife and he believed he was losing his courage. **And then he heard an inner voice, a voice he took to be that of Jesus, saying, “Martin Luther, stand up for justice. Stand up for truth. And lo I shall be with you. Even until the end of the world.”** That experience restored King’s inner strength. His fears dissipated, his uncertainty waned. He switched off the kitchen light and went upstairs to bed and sleep came instantly. For King that moment was seminal – an epiphany – a time that he would repeatedly recall whenever the doubts came.” **AMEN.**

Dream – The Words and Inspirations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

~By Mike Nicol

Cape Town, 2006

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.” (I Corinthians 3:11)

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20





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