



# THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Volume 1

## STROLLIN' DOWN MLK STREET

The story imagines what may happen if Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his wife, Coretta, reflected on life in 21st Century America, making their observations by walking along any thoroughfares named in his honor.

Written by Michael Edgar Myers

Presented by Kingdom Impact Theater Ministries



### ABOUT THE SHOW

"Strollin' Down MLK Street" imagines what may happen if Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his wife, Coretta, reflected on life in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America, making their observations by walking along any thoroughfares named in his honor.

"Strollin' Down MLK Street" was written by Kingdom Impact Theater Ministries at the request of the Hoffman Estates Cultural Awareness Commission and debuted January 21, 2018 as part of the Commission's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Celebration.

### THE ORIGINAL CAST

Michael Edgar Myers

Vikki J. Myers

Musical Accompaniment: Garlan Garner





## **"STROLLIN' DOWN MLK STREET"**

### **People You Should Know**

#### **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Minister

Jan. 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968

Martin Luther King Jr., born Michael King Jr., was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from 1954 until his death by assassination in 1968. Born in Atlanta, King is best known for advancing civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience, tactics his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi helped inspire.

#### **Coretta Scott King**

American Author

April 27, 1927 - January 30, 2006

Coretta Scott King was an American author, activist, civil rights leader, and the wife of Martin Luther King Jr. Coretta Scott King helped lead the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. She was an active advocate for African-American equality. King met her husband while attending graduate school in Boston. They both became increasingly active in the American Civil Rights Movement. She was also a singer, and often incorporated music into her civil rights work. Married Martin Luther King in 1953.

**Women, if the soul of the nation  
is to be saved, I believe that you  
must become its soul.**

— *Coretta Scott King*

AZ QUOTES



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## Martin Luther

Monk, Theologian, Founder Lutheran Denomination of Christianity

November 10, 1483 - February 18, 1546



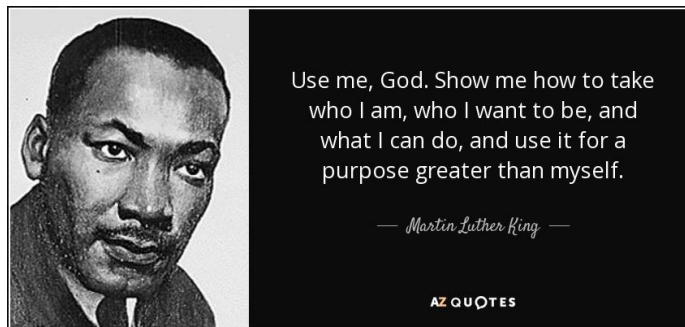
Martin Luther was a German professor of theology, a priest, author, composer and Monk. As a Catholic priest he questioned the processes and leadership of Pope Leo X. He expressed his protests in a series of Biblically-based questions and ideas to reform the Catholic church. These became known as Luther's 95 Theses, the most inflammatory challenging Pope Leo's status as the only person who could interpret Scripture. Martin Luther's theses established two theological ideas: His protest against introduced Protestant believers in Jesus Christ. Protestant believers who agreed with him left the Catholic church and began worshipping as Lutherans.

## A. Philip Randolph

Labor Leader, Civil Rights Activist

April 15, 1889 – May 16, 1979

Asa Philip Randolph was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, the American labor movement, and socialist political parties. In 1925, he organized and led the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first predominantly African-American labor union. Randolph's perseverance to change unfair labor practices in relation to people of color eventually led President Franklin D. Roosevelt to issue Executive Order 8802 in 1941, banning discrimination in the defense industries during World War II. The group then successfully pressured President Harry S. Truman to issue Executive Order 9811 in 1948, ending segregation in the armed services.



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## Things You Should Know

- Martin Luther King was not as popular when he lived as he became after his assassination.
- His birthdate, **January 15** (1929) became a national U.S. holiday in 1983 during Ronald Reagan's presidency. However, the date was not recognized in all 50 states until 2000.
- He was criticized by black and white contemporaries. He was criticized as a civil rights advocate because he either moved too fast, or too slow.
- He was criticized as an American citizen by individuals who thought he should only protest about civil rights and not politics, economic or military matters.

### **The Streets**

- More than **1,000 roadways** worldwide honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a reflection of his enduring impact across cultures.
- The first street renamed in his honor occurred less than a week after his assassination, April 4, 1968. This was in **Haarlam in the Netherlands**.
- There was not a street names for him in **Memphis**, the city where he was slain, until 2012.

### **Personal Life**

- His name was changed by his father, **Rev. Michael King Sr.**, who visited Germany in the 1930s and became fascinated by the radical, non-violent work of 16<sup>th</sup> century monk **Martin Luther**, whose protest against indulgences of the Catholic church gave birth to Protestant Christian faiths.
- Martin Luther King Jr. was among the founders of the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference**, originally an organization seeking to overcome non-civil injustice.
- As happened with Martin Luther, followers of Martin Luther King were prone to **violent rebellion** countering the principles of their founder.
- King's work later expanded to include economic and social injustice, which included, to him, opposition to the war in Vietnam.



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## Controversies

- King's alliances with multi-ethnic coalitions led to charges that he was a Communist and led to investigations and wiretaps by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- The wiretaps were approved by attorney general **Robert Kennedy** in hopes to disprove the theory of Communist infiltration, as dangerous at the time as the fear of terrorist cells in the U.S. today.
- The wiretaps exposed that King had extra-marital affairs. Recordings of these affairs were sent to his wife, Coretta, in hopes that they would cause the Kings to stop their civil rights work. They did not.
- The tapes showed King was as vulnerable to temptation as any man; and that the Kings had marital challenges, as any couple. They remained a couple until his death.
- After King's assassination, Mrs. King took up his causes and became more vocal about injustice and continued so until her death.
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## Script References to For Further Research

Asa Phillip Randolph

Martin Luther

John Kennedy

Mahalia Jackson

Mahama Ghandi

J. Edgar Hoover

Robert Kennedy

Barack Obama

## Events in 1968 Rev. King Did Not Live To See

- Robert Kennedy Killed
  - Riots at the Democratic National Convention
    - Mexico City Olympics Boycott
    - Richard Nixon Elected President
- The First Manned Flight to the Moon at Back to Earth



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## Questions You Have

Because of seeing "Strolling Down MLK Street," what questions do you have, about the show or about the Kings' lives?

## Questions from the Show

- What Did Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King do that inspires you?
- How have relationships or activities changed in your neighborhood because of the spirit of Rev. and Mrs. King?
- What's one thing you wish to do that seems impossible, but you still believe you can get it done? What resources do you need?

## Music in The Show

*Martin Luther King loved music, and both Kings were musicians. Coretta was a classical singer and pianist. Martin played guitar. Singer Mahalia Jackson was a close family friend.*

*The following songs were referenced in the script. Enjoy.*

[Soon and Very Soon](#)

[Everybody Talkin' About Heaven Ain't Going There](#)

[Free at Last](#)

[The Madison \(Instructional Video\)](#)

[The Impossible Dream](#)



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## Conversations For Talk or Journaling

- What does "content of their character" mean to you? List positive character traits. How do you, your family or friends honor Dr. King by living by these character traits.
- If you are not African-American, using Dr. King's life as a model, who are the individuals from your cultural heritage you recommend your friends learn about?
- What facets about Rev. King's faith do you understand differently or for the first time? How do your faith, religious or spiritual experiences influence your behavior or community participation?

## Comments in the Show

*The following passages were quoted during the script. Why? Which passage(s) resonate with you? Why?*

**Mrs. King:** "O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer." - [Psalm 31:23 \(King James Version\)](#)

**Mrs. King:** "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." - [Psalm 116:16 \(King James Version\)](#)

**Rev. King:** "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." - [2 Chronicles 7:14 \(Multiple Translations\)](#)

**Rev. King:** "I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb..." -- [Revelation 7:9 \(Multiple Translations\)](#)







## Your Stroll Down King Street



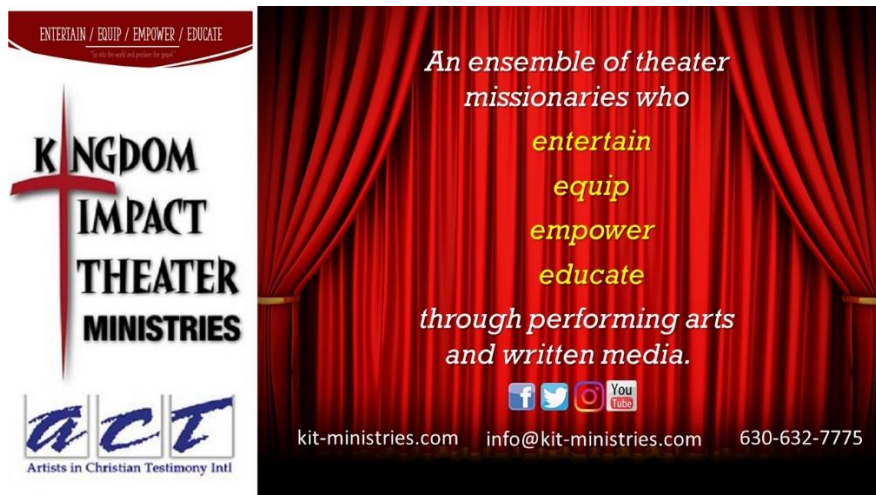
### Things to Do

- Stroll (or drive through) a Martin Luther King Street near you. What do you observe? Take photos or sketch images.
- Visit a Martin Luther King or Coretta Scott King community center near you. What activities interest you?
- What national or regional monuments have you visited that honor Rev. or Mrs. King? Plan a live or virtual trip.



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## ABOUT THE COMPANY

Kingdom Impact Theater Ministries is an ensemble of theater missionaries who entertain, engage, empower and educate using performing arts and written media.

KIT Ministries is a department of Artists in Christian Testimony Intl, a fully registered 501(c)(3) organization serving 590 people in 402 Ministry Departments Serving 37 Countries & 40 States.

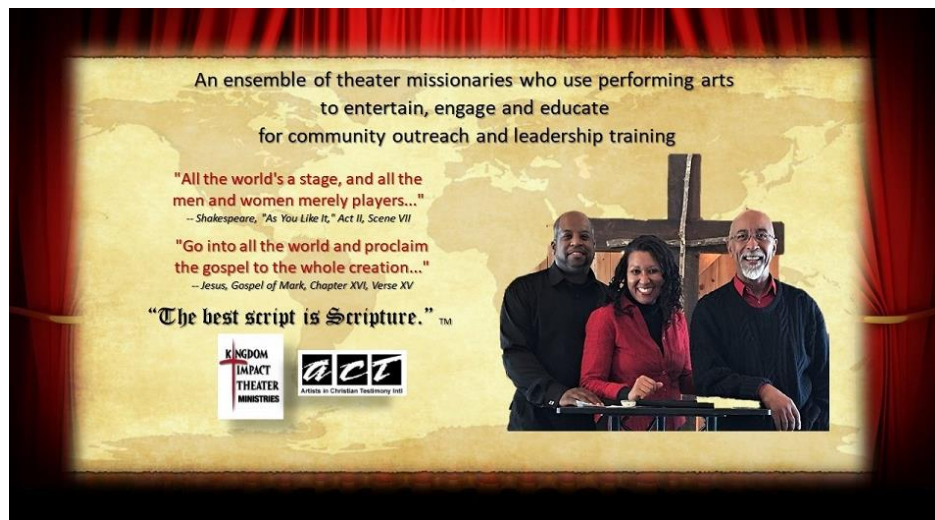
Our purpose is to stimulate conversations on matters of faith, particularly the role of the religion of Jesus the Christ and its relation to daily life in homes and local communities.

Kingdom Impact Theater offers training and consultation in ensemble performance, personal storytelling, and group presentations. We also provide theater-based training in leadership skills such as interpersonal communication, team collaboration, and conflict management.

Our focus is working with smaller and mid-sized congregations, schools, community agencies and businesses who wish to improve relationships and expand cultural understanding.



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## SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

Our dream is to present quality performances live and online without being a financial burden to groups wishing to use our programs.

We don't believe money should prevent access to our message. We also know the reality of production.

We always inviting and welcoming contributions from individuals, groups or corporations who have a similar passion for our mission.

Partnering with Kingdom Impact Theater Ministries is about building relationships.

Monthly, one-time, quarterly or annual gifts allow us to adapt live content to emerging technologies with quality.

If you'd like to partner with us, [Invest in the Dream](#) and become a KIT Road Buddy, learn more at

[actintl.givingfuel.com/kitdonations](http://actintl.givingfuel.com/kitdonations)



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