

TIMELINE: KING IN THE WILDERNESS - 1965-1968

1965

- **January 2 until March 25:** The Selma Voting Rights Campaign.
- **March:** First U.S. Marine Corps combat units arrive in Vietnam.
- **March 7:** "Bloody Sunday" attack on non-violent civil rights activists occurs, Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma, Alabama.
- **March 21-25:** Dr. King leads the final march from Selma to Montgomery.
- **August 6:** President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act.
- **August 11 -16:** Watts Riots/rebellion in the Watts section of Los Angeles, California.



U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War escalates; U.S. troop levels increase from about 15,000 to 184,000.

1966

- **January:** Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) announce plans for Chicago Freedom Movement to expand their civil rights activities from the South to northern cities beginning in Chicago.
- **January 26:** Dr. King and Coretta Scott King move to Chicago and into a railroad flat on the corner of Hamlin Avenue and 16th Street.
- **June 6:** James Meredith shot in Mississippi during a March Against Fear.
- **June 16:** Stokely Carmichael, newly appointed chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), issues a call for Black Power.
- **Late June:** Carmichael and Dr. King debate Black Power versus nonviolence as they continue the Meredith March through Mississippi.
- **August 5:** Dr. King leads nonviolent march from Marquette Park to Gage Park, Chicago resulting in the Summit Agreement whereby Mayor Richard J. Daley and the Chicago Real Estate Board pledged to make housing open and fair and Dr. King agreed to stop marching.

1967

- **April 4:** Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam sponsor event at Riverside Church. Dr. King delivers "Beyond Vietnam" speech urging an end to the war.
- **May 17:** Coretta Scott King and Dr. Benjamin Spock lead anti-Vietnam War rally in front of the White House.
- Riots/rebellion in Newark, New Jersey (July 12-17) and Detroit, Michigan (July 23 - July 28).
- **December 4:** Dr. King announces launch of the Poor People's Campaign, a campaign to "dramatize the plight of America's poor of all races."



U.S. troop levels in Vietnam increase to 485,600.

1968

- **April 3:** Dr. King travels to Memphis, Tennessee to support striking sanitation workers.
- **April 4:** Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis.
- **April 9:** Funeral for Dr. King, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.
- **April 11:** President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968.
- **May 12-June 19:** Poor People's Campaign, Washington, D.C.



U.S. ground troops in Vietnam increase to 536,100.