

My Memories of Dr. Martin Luther King!

By Verna Leatherwood

What I know about Dr. King is that when I was 13 years old and lived in Memphis he came there in March 1968. That was the first time I knew of him. It was a big deal for Memphis.

The Sanitation Department was on strike. That was why Dr. King came to Memphis. Billy Kyles of Memphis contacted Rev. Ralph Abernathy who told Dr. King about the strike. Rev. Abernathy wanted Dr. King to march in Washington D.C. as planned, but Dr. King wanted to go to Memphis to support the sanitation workers.

There was a big march downtown and everybody came out. I could not believe there was so much happening! The news people talked about Dr. King being in town and causing some trouble. Fighting started; people were being jumped on and beaten. Dr. King left Memphis and returned a short time later. The next thing that I heard was that Dr. King was dead. Dr. King was a very strong-willed person. His will is still strong now in people who continue to work for equal rights.

