

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prophet For Our Age."

By Rev. C. T. Vivian



April 4, 2007
4:00 p.m.
112 Thach Hall, Auburn University

Dr. C.T. Vivian will present a lecture to mark the 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's 1967 Riverside Church address, "Beyond Vietnam," in which Dr. King voiced his opposition to the Vietnam War. This lecture will also commemorate the 39th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination.

Proclaimed by Emory University as "spiritual leader, apostle of social justice, strategist of the Civil Rights Movement...in the vanguard of the struggle for social equality in America," Rev. C. T. Vivian, whom Dr. King called the best preacher he had ever heard, began his nonviolent direct actions in 1947, opening segregated lunch counters in Peoria IL.

Founder of the Nashville Christian Leadership Conference, he organized the first sit-ins there in 1960, rode on the first "Freedom Bus" into Jackson, MS, served on Dr. King's personal executive staff as National Director of Affiliates for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. During the summer following the Selma Movement, Rev. Vivian conceived and directed an educational program, Vision, putting 702 Alabama students in college with scholarships. This program later became Upward Bound.

Vivian was the first King staffer to analyze the Civil Rights Movement in his book, *Black Power and the American Myth*. The subject of a PBS documentary, "The Healing Ministry of C.T. Vivian," he is also a featured commentator in "Eyes on the Prize," a PBS series on the Civil Rights Movement. Chair of the board of Selma's National Voting Rights Museum, Rev. Vivian continues working for justice and peace in many capacities.

At 3:00 p.m., preceding Dr. Vivian's presentation, an audio recording of Dr. King's 1967 speech, "Beyond Vietnam," will be played.

A reception for Rev. Vivian will be held from 5:30-6:30 at the Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 450 E. Thach Ave.

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