In Memoriam

1 April 1939

Atlanta, Ga.

Eight years after the death of A. D. Williams, his influence remained strong in the family. His widow, his daughter, and his three grandchildren published this poem in his memory in the Georgia Baptist, the official publication of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia.

Eight years ago you left us,
And the wound has never healed
From the shock of your sudden going,

And the loss time has revealed
We are striving hard to meet you
In heaven some sweet day,
Where we may dwell together once more
As the ages roll away.

Mrs. J. C. Williams, wife,
Mrs. Alberta Williams King, daughter,
Christine King
M. L. King, Jr.,
A. D. Williams King,
Grandchildren

PD. Georgia Baptist, 1 April 1939.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project
To Martin Luther King, Sr.

18 January 1940
Atlanta, Ga.

Three days after his eleventh birthday, King, Jr., uses a child's typewriter to write to his father, who was preaching at a two-week revival at Shiloh Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. "Mother Dear" is his mother, Alberta Williams King. "Mama" refers to his grandmother, Jennie Celeste Parks Williams. The ward was a residential subdivision of Ebenezer Baptist Church's congregation. "Uncle Jim and Aunt Essie" are King, Sr.'s younger brother, James Albert King, Jr., and his wife, Esther King. "Miss Rutland" is Miss Carrie Rutland, a member of Ebenezer Church and a neighbor of the King family on Auburn Avenue. "The Ray family" refers to the family of the Reverend Sandy Ray, a friend of King, Sr., since their
days together as students at Morehouse College. Ray was the pastor of Shiloh Baptist.

I am getting along fine and hoppe you are the same we got your letter. We are praying that you might have a safe trip home. I am doing fine in my scool work. Mother dear bought me a hat for my birthday present from you. We have been having warm wether every day since Tuesday. We went to the ward Tuesday and we had a very nice metting. Uncle Jim and Aunt Essie said hello. I hope you are having a nice metting. And we are looking for coal wether tomorrow it was in the paper. At the scout metting Tuesday and we had fifteen boys and we are doing fine in scouting. Mama said hello and keep well and so did Miss Rutland give love to the Ray familly I am going to end

Your truly
Your son M. L. Jr

TL. CKFC.

To Martin Luther King, Sr.

24 January 1940
Atlanta, Ga.

William Gibson was a handyman and a hymn leader at Ebenezer Baptist Church. King, Jr., comments on one of Atlanta's rare snowstorms.

Dear Daddyy

Just a few lines to let you know that I am feeling fine and hope you are the same. We are having some snow and the last report we heard the snow was a {little} more than ten and a half inches and we are really having a fine time makeing snow men and throwing snow balls. And the policemen made everybody clean off their sidewalks and Christine and I cleaned off and it was a hard job. I received your letter and I am glad you liked my typeing. I am

1. Sandy F. Ray (1898–1979) graduated with Martin Luther King, Sr., from Morehouse College in 1930. He served Baptist churches in LaGrange, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Columbus, Ohio; and Macon, Georgia, before moving to Cornerstone Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where he was pastor for forty years. Ray served as president of the New York State Baptist Convention and as an officer of the National Baptist Convention for many years. In 1953, he was one of six candidates for president of the National Baptist Convention. Ray remained a close family friend. In 1958, King, Jr., convalesced in Ray's Brooklyn parsonage after being stabbed while autographing copies of Stride Toward Freedom, and Ray offered the eulogy at the funeral of Alberta Williams King in 1974.