One of the most significant notes of the Association was its endorsement of Dr. D. C. Washington and Dr. A. W. Wilson for the President and Vice-President respectively of the Alabama State Baptist Convention.

The session ended with overwhelming success, and it was the sentiment of the entire body that the Hutchinson Street Baptist Church serving as host under the dynamic leadership of Dr. H. H. Johnson along with the cooperation from other churches of the city manifested a hospitality that can hardly be surpassed.

Respectively submitted,

PD. The Baptist Leader, 4 November 1954. Also in A-Ar.

To Ebenezer Baptist Church Members

6 November 1954
[Montgomery, Ala.]

Members of Ebenezer Baptist Church participated extensively in King's installation as pastor at Dexter: King, Sr., gave the sermon, Alberta King played the organ, and the Ebenezer choir sang. "As I have said to you before," King tells the church members, "you can never know what your presence in such large numbers meant to me at the beginning of my pastorate."

The Ebenezer Baptist Church
The Rev. M. L. King, Sr., Pastor
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Members:

I would like to take this way to express our deepest appreciation to you for the "big way" in which you helped to make our recent installation a great success. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude, and I assure you that your tremendous response to this occasion shall be remembered so long as the cords of memory shall linger. Both your presence and your financial con-

over Montgomery's First Baptist Church in 1952. A student activist during his undergraduate years at Alabama State, Abernathy shared Martin Luther King, Jr.'s social gospel outlook, and the two became close friends after King arrived in Montgomery in 1954. For biographical information on Abernathy, see note 142 in Introduction and Abernathy's autobiography, And the Walls Came Tumbling Down (New York: Harper and Row, 1989). Marshall Cleophus Cleveland, Sr. (1882–1978), was the pastor of Day Street Baptist Church and chair of the board of trustees of Selma University.
tributions were appreciated beyond expression. All of this continues to prove
to me that there is but one Ebenezer. Your generosity and big heartedness
will always keep you in the forefront, and you will always stand as a symbol of
what other churches ought to be.

As I have said to you before, your prayers and words of encouragement
have meant a great deal to me in my ministry; and you can never know what
your presence in such large numbers meant to me at the beginning of my
pastorate. I want you to know Ebenezer, that I feel greatly indebted to you;
and that whatever success I might achieve in my life's work you will have
helped to make it possible.

Mrs. King joins me in this expression of our appreciation to you. We pray
God's blessings upon all of you as you go forward in trying to bring His King-
don on earth.

With sincere affection,
M. L. King, Jr.

TLC. MLKP-MBU: Box 116.

From Samuel W. Williams

18 November 1954
Atlanta, Ga.

Williams, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta, was King's philosophy
professor at Morehouse. Williams refers to Christine King, King's sister.

The Reverend M. L. King, Jr.
309 South Jackson Street
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear M. L.:

I'm very happy that it was possible for you to accept our invitation to deliver
the Mens' Day Sermon on November 28. The entire Church is delighted that
you're coming.

Now Brother, we need to have the likeness of you in the newspaper. So if
you have available a cut or a mat, would you please send the same to us for
publicity purposes next week? We would like also a brief biographical sketch.

1. Samuel Woodrow Williams (1912–1976) received his A.B. from Morehouse in 1937 and
his B.D. and M.A. from Howard University's School of Religion in 1941 and 1942, respectively.
He completed his course work, though not the dissertation, for a Ph.D. in philosophy at the
University of Chicago. After teaching at Alcorn College in Lorman, Mississippi, and Alabama
A & M in Normal, he joined the Morehouse faculty in 1946. In addition to teaching at More-
house, Williams also served as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church from 1954 until his death.