lion Negroes registered in the south for the 1960 elections. With the enthusiasm that we hope to kindle and the aid of the Civil Rights Bill this should not be difficult.

Let me say before closing how deeply grateful all people of goodwill are to you for your assiduous labor and dauntless courage in seeking to make the Civil Rights Bill a reality. This has impressed people all across the country, both Negro and white. This is certainly an expression of your devotion to the highest mandates of the moral law. It is also an expression of your political wisdom. More and more the Negro vote is becoming a decisive factor in national politics. The Negro vote is the balance of power in so many important big states that one almost has to have the Negro vote to win a presidential election.

Again, let me thank you for your hospitality and generosity. You have my prayers and best wishes for the great work that you are doing in making our democracy a living reality. With persons like you occupying such important positions in our nation I am sure that we will soon emerge from the bleak and desolate midnight of man's inhumanity to man to the bright and glittering daybreak of freedom and justice for all men.

Please extend my best regards to Mrs. [Pat] Nixon and our other friends around the White House.

Very sincerely yours,

[signed]
Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Minister
MLK:mlb

P.S. At your earliest convenience I hope you will see your way clear to speak to the President concerning the conference that we discussed. It was a real pleasure talking with you by telephone the other day.

THLS. PPRN-CYINL.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

To Billy Graham

31 August 1957

[Montgomery, Ala.]

King congratulates Graham on his successful New York crusade and urges him to extend his biracial revivals to "the hardcore states in the deep south." Graham had conducted interracial crusades since 1953, and during the New York crusade he recruited his first black associate, Cleveland pastor Howard Jones.
Dr. Billy Graham  
The New Yorker Hotel  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Graham:

For many weeks now I have intended writing you, but an extremely busy schedule has stood in my way. I want to express my deep appreciation to you and the members of your staff for your great hospitality on my visit with you in New York. I will long remember the fellowship we enjoyed together. The discussion period that we shared together will remain one of the high points of my life. It was also a great Christian experience to share the platform with you at Madison Square Garden and be a part of such a meaningful service of Christian worship.

I am very happy to know of the great success of the New York Crusade. There can be no gainsaying of the fact that this crusade has reached an all time high in the area of evangelism. History will have to record it as a literal tour de force in the area of evangelism. God has certainly done marvelous works through you in this great crusade.

I am deeply grateful to you for the stand which you have taken in the area of race relations. You have courageously brought the Christian gospel to bear on the question of race in all of its urgen dimensions. I am sure you will continue this emphasis in all of your preaching, for you, above any other preacher in America can open the eyes of many persons on this question. Your tremendous popularity, your extensive influence and your powerful message give you an opportunity in the area of human rights above almost any other person that we can point to. Your message in this area has additional weight because you are a native southerner. I am delighted to know that you will be conducting a crusade in Charlotte, North Carolina on a non-segregated basis. This is certainly a great step. I hope you will see your way clear to conduct an evangelistic crusade in one of the hard-core states in the deep south, even if it is not on as large a scale as most of your crusades.\(^1\) The impact of such a crusade would be immeasurably great.

Although we have a long, long way to go in solving the internal problem of race facing our nation, I still have faith in the future. We are gradually emerging from the bleak and desolate midnight of injustice into the bright and glittering daybreak of freedom and justice. This remains true because God is forever at work in his universe. I am convinced now more than ever before that God lives. They that stand against Him stand in a tragic and an already declared minority; they that stand with Him stand in the glow of the world’s bright tomorrows.

\(^1\) Graham’s Charlotte crusade in the fall of 1958 attracted more African Americans than any other since he began holding integrated revivals. A rally in Columbia, South Carolina, was scheduled to follow the one in Charlotte, but Governor George B. Timmerman denied Graham access to state property for the integrated gathering. The meeting was relocated to nearby Fort Jackson military base, and sixty thousand people attended the event. Nonetheless, Graham was criticized for not confronting Timmerman and for allowing former governor and segregationist James Byrnes to sit on the platform (John Pollock, *Billy Graham: The Authorised Biography* [London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1966], p. 290).
Again let me thank you for all that you did to make my visit with you such a joyous one. May God continue to bless you in the marvelous work that you are doing. You will have my continued prayers. Please extend my best regards to Mrs. [Ruth McCue Bell] Graham and all of the other fine persons that I met on your team.

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely yours,
Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Minister
MLK:mlb
TLC. DABCC.

To T. Y. Rogers

31 August 1957
[Montgomery, Ala.]

King sends greetings to his former assistant at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.¹

Rev. T. Y. Rogers
Crozer Theological Seminary
Chester, Pa.

Dear T. Y.:

This is just a note to say hello to you and LaPelzia.² I have kept up with your work for the summer with a deal of interest. The report which you recently issued on your activities for the summer is a very fine piece of work. I can see that you well represented Montgomery in the non-violent approach.

I guess you are now about ready for school. I am sure you will be doing a most acceptable job at Crozer. If there is any point which I can be of help to you please feel free to call on me.

We certainly miss you around Dexter. It was a real pleasure having you work with me for several months. I hope this contact in some way enriched your experience.

I will probably be within the vicinity of Chester sometime in the near future. When I am up that way I will be sure to stop in to see you. Please give my best re-

¹ Theophilius Yelverton Rogers, Jr. (1935–1970), born in Sumter County, Alabama, received a B.S. (1955) from Alabama State College and a B.D. (1960) from Crozer Theological Seminary. In 1956 Rogers became assistant to the pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. Rogers returned to preach at Dexter during his summer and winter breaks from seminary.
² King refers to Rogers’s wife, LaPelzia Rankins-Rogers.