

Martin Luther King Describes Full Living

by Jan Powers

Dr. Martin Luther King, president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, spoke Wednesday at Chapel. Given world-wide recognition in the Anti-Segregation Movement of Alabama, Dr. King is furthering the opportunities of the Negro in the South. He received his A. B. degree from Morehouse College and is a graduate of Crozier Theological Seminary. He qualified for his Ph. D. in Philosophy at Boston University.

Dr. King's talk, "The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life", followed the theme that life must be three-dimensional in order to be complete. The first dimension is the length of life or concern for rational and moral self-interest. According to Dr. King, "When we do life's work so well that no one else could do it better, we have filled the length of life". The second dimension, the extension of life to others, involves the capacity for "dangerous costly altruism" similar to that exhibited by the Good Samaritan. Dr. King pointed out that every object in our daily life is dependent upon other persons and other parts of the world. It is not enough that our lives have length and breadth. We must reach up and discover God, the third dimension of height.

Dr. King described our civilization as "sensate", having no place for things we cannot discover through one of the five senses. "We can never see all the great things of life, although they exist all about us. We must seek and develop a relationship with the eternal source of reality." Thus, such a relationship with God will give us inspiration to keep going, added Dr. King, giving examples of his own work with segregation in Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. King concluded by saying that we must love the Self to gain length but must not stop there. We should "Love thy neighbor as thyself" to gain breadth. The fulfillment of a complete life is an upward reach to God achieved by loving "The Lord thy God, with all thy heart, soul, and mind." Every life must have this sky.