

KING IN SOUTHSIDE

MARCH 27-29, 1962
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
TOUR OF VIRGINIA

In support of a voter registration drive, Dr. King toured Virginia's Fourth Congressional District, making stops throughout southern Virginia. Over the course of his visit, he gave lectures addressing thousands of students and members of the public, including a talk at E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg, one at First Baptist Church in Farmville, and another at Virginia State College in Petersburg. At the end of his visit, Dr. King visited Hopewell in a show of support for Rev. Curtis West Harris, who was then facing a contempt trial after refusing to give up information on individuals associated with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to a Virginia legislative committee.

MARCH 26, 1963
DANVILLE CITY
AUDITORIUM,
DANVILLE

The Danville Christian Progressive Association, an affiliate of the SCLC, brought Dr. King to Danville to speak to an audience of 2,500 at the Danville City Auditorium. According to Bishop Campbell, a leader in the DCPA, Dr. King stayed in Greensboro, North Carolina, because Danville hotels would not permit him to stay there.

JULY 11, 1963
HIGH STREET BAPTIST
CHURCH, DANVILLE

In response to the police violence against protestors on "Bloody Monday," (June 10, 1963, in Danville), Dr. King visited Danville and spoke at High Street Baptist Church, telling his audience, "As long as the Negro is not free in Danville, Virginia, the Negro is not free anywhere in the United States of America." Following Dr. King's talk, close to 100 attendees marched on Danville's city hall, and 23 were arrested in the peaceful demonstration. Dr. King had told the crowd earlier that day, "If you want to be free, you've got to march and fill up the Danville jail."

NOVEMBER 15, 1963
HIGH STREET BAPTIST
CHURCH, DANVILLE

Dr. King returned to High Street Baptist Church in Danville for the third time in 1963 to take part in a civil rights rally. King was in Danville to prepare for "massive, direct action" in the fight against segregation. The SCLC planned for a major civil rights effort in Danville, comparable to its actions in Birmingham, but the full-scale plan was never implemented.



*Dr. King visits First Baptist Church in Farmville in 1962
Photo courtesy of Virginia Union University*



Dr. King and Wyatt Tee Walker

VISIT MLKCOMMISSION.DLS.VIRGINIA.GOV FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VIRGINIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MEMORIAL COMMISSION'S KING IN VIRGINIA PROJECT

