

December 10, 1964

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RECEIVES THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The Nobel committee awarded Martin Luther King, Jr. the Nobel Peace Prize today in Oslo, Norway. Reverend King, a father of four children, became the youngest person to receive the prize.

According to set requirements, the recipient of the Peace Prize must play a key role in “the furtherance of brotherhood among men . . . the abolishment or reduction of standing armies and . . . the extension of these purposes.” No other man of our time so clearly stands for these ideals than Reverend King.

The prize citation goes on to praise King as the “undaunted champion of peace.” Reverend King is “the first person in the Western world to have shown us that a struggle can be waged without violence.”

The Nobel board described King as “the man who has never abandoned his faith in the unarmed struggle he is waging, who has suffered for his faith, been imprisoned on many occasions, whose home has been subjected to bomb attacks, whose life and those of his family have been threatened, and who nevertheless has never faltered.” King called the teachings of Christ and Mahatma Gandhi his guidepost.

While accepting the Nobel Peace Prize Reverend King vowed, “We will return good for evil. Christ showed us the way and Mahatma Gandhi showed us it could work.” He dedicated his prize to the “humble children” of the civil rights movement. These courageous marchers carry on their crusade through the practice of nonviolence.