Well, Doc., how the news reach other schools about my being here I know not. I have two very important preaching engagements: one at Talladega and Florida A&M, Tallahassee; in addition to these, I'm preaching at Dexter on the First Sunday, February. A special delivery was here waiting my return with the hope that I fill the pulpit on 1st. Sunday, January. But that was too late. If you are interested in getting that church, I would be glad to put in a plug for you. You may inform me. Take it from me, that is a Great Church, Mike. Much honor will go to the man who gets it. Frankly, I have fallen in love with those people. Don't let anybody tell you that that church is such a hell raiser! It has some laymen, men who are concerned about the future of our preaching ministry among young men. That is a healthy sign.

Do not forget me Doctor. Drop me a line every now and then. All my boys are gone from the "Fort", so I am the only guy left here. I am void of intellectual companionship. Gals are rushing me and I am staying clear of them down here. For I want no "mess" from here out.

Your Pal,
Mac.

TL. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

A. A. Banks, Jr.,
to Martin Luther King, Sr.

25 January 1954
Detroit, Mich.

Banks, a friend of the King family and pastor of Second Baptist Church in
Detroit, confirms King, Jr.'s preaching engagement at Second Baptist in
February. Banks refers to King, Sr.'s sister, Woodie Clara King Brown, who lived
in Detroit at the time.

Dr. M. L. King,
193 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Dr. King:

I received your letter of January 21, 1954 confirming the engagement of your son, Rev. M. L. King Jr., to preach for us on the fourth Sunday, February 28, 1954 at ten-thirty o'clock in the morning.

1. Allen A. Banks, Jr. (d. 1977), graduated from Bishop College with a B.A. and received an M.A. in economics from Howard University. He then received his B.D. in 1938 and his M.A. in 1943 from Howard University's School of Religion. From 1947 until his death he was pastor of Second Baptist Church in Detroit. In 1956, the congregation of Second Baptist would contribute over $2,600 to the Montgomery Improvement Association.
I will be out of the city. In fact, I will leave probably the previous Wednesday as I am to preach at Virginia Union University February 26th and at Virginia State on February 28th.

Since I am leaving then, I would like for him to contact me when he gets to Lansing. I understand that he will be in the state prior to preaching here. Our office is closed on Saturdays. However, if he can let the office have his subject by Monday, February 22nd, the same can be posted on bulletin board and listed in order of worship; also suggested Scripture.

I believe your sister’s name is Brown; is that right? Things are moving nicely. Note ‘I have a Sermon in “Pulpit Digest”’ for February.

Yours in Christ,

[signed]
A. A. Banks Jr., Pastor,
Second Baptist Church of Detroit.

AAB:ACW

TLS. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.

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2. A. A. Banks, Jr., “Jonah’s Folly: A Prerequisite to Our Fellowship with God Is Brotherly Love for All Men,” Pulpit Digest 34, no. 190 (February 1954): 61–64.

From Alberta Williams King

[25 January 1954]

Alberta Williams King writes to her son on the other side of Reverend Banks's letter to her husband, whom she often referred to as “King.” She sends regards to “Coco,” the family's nickname for Coretta Scott King.

Daddy wishes you to answer this letter from Rev. Banks. Be sure to write him in time. (over)

Will try to write tonite We are all fine at present. A. D. is off his crutches—using a stick. Church is still progressing—balcony half full each Sunday—Jeff & King organized Brotherhood last week—Men quite enthusiastic. Will write real soon.

Love to Coco—

[signed] Mother

ALS. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.

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1. A. D. (Adam Daniel) Williams King (1930–1969) was Martin Luther King, Jr.'s younger brother.