forefront, Dexter will rise to such heights as will stagger the imagination of generations yet unborn, and which even God himself will smile upon. This is our profound challenge. This is our overwhelming responsibility.

TD. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.

Notes on Speech by Martin Luther King, Jr., at Woman's Auxiliary, National Baptist Convention on 9 September 1954

On 9 September 1954, King delivered the noonday message to the Woman’s Auxiliary, National Baptist Convention. The brief minutes of the convention show that King, introduced as the “son of the organist of the Woman’s Convention,” exhorted his audience to do more than simply pay lip service to the spiritual life. The minutes included only these few lines from the speech.

We must rediscover that all reality has spiritual control. It is possible to affirm there is a God with our lips but deny it with our lives. Most of us unconsciously leave God behind. He admonished us to pick up these values so we can move forward to the New World.

Record of the 74th Annual Baptist Convention, 1954; copy in SBHL-TNSB.

From H. Edward Whitaker

15 September 1954
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Whitaker inquires about King’s assessment of the recently concluded National Baptist Convention’s annual meeting.

Dear Mike,

For quite a little while I have been intending to write, but the work here has been most confining and trying. I now know what it is to be put through the mills. Things are, however working out to our favor after much effort. We have finally arranged for the financing of our Church, and the building of the same. Construction will begin in about another week. We had our ground-breaking ceremony on the 1st Sunday. This will be the first real Negro Church