Christine told me this morning that you’re likely to be in town Saturday. I hope I may see you, but in any case, call me.

Very fine reports are reaching Atlanta of your works at Dexter. Our prayer is that all will continue to go well.

Very sincerely yours,

[signed] Sam/s
Samuel W. Williams
SWW/japs

TLSr. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.

To Ralph Abernathy

24 November 1954

[Montgomery, Ala.]

King sent variations of this letter to Abernathy and other participants in his installation ceremony. King thanks his good friend Abernathy, pastor of First Baptist Church, for supporting his installation, even though Abernathy could not attend. The other recipients were T. M. Alexander, M. C. Cleveland, H. H. Johnson, B. D. Lambert, Joseph C. Parker, Sr., W. J. Powell, and G. Franklin Lewis. At the ceremony Parker introduced the speaker, King, Sr.; Alexander provided the Charge to the Church; Cleveland presided over the Charge to the Minister; Johnson delivered the welcome from the community churches; Lambert led the Prayer of Installation; and Powell gave the Scripture reading. Abernathy and Lewis sent greetings in the official program.

The Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy
1327 South Hall Street
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Ralph,

This is just a note to express my appreciation to you for the big part which you played in making my recent Installation a real success. Words cannot adequately express my deep gratitude to you.

1. See letters to T. M. Alexander, M. C. Cleveland, H. H. Johnson, B. D. Lambert, Joseph C. Parker, Sr., W. J. Powell, and G. Franklin Lewis; all dated 24 November 1954, in MLKP-MBU: Box 116. Alexander was an Atlanta investment broker, chair of the board of directors of the Butler Street YMCA, trustee of Morehouse College, and a former member of Dexter. The other six men were pastors in Montgomery: Cleveland, of Day Street Baptist Church; Johnson, of Hutchinson Street Baptist Church; Lambert, of Maggie Street Baptist Church; Parker, of Hall Street Baptist Church; Powell, of Old Ship AME Zion Church; and Lewis, of First Congregational Church.
24 Nov 1954

Although you could not be present, your encouragement and financial contribution were appreciated beyond expression.

I intended writing you long before now, but as you know, I was absent from the city for more than two weeks which prevented my doing so.²

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,
M. L. King, Jr.
MLK/csk

TLC. MLKP-MBU: Box 116.

2. King traveled to Boston immediately after his installation as pastor at Dexter.

To William H. Hester

24 November 1954
[Montgomery, Ala.]

During the two weeks King spent in Boston working on his dissertation he preached at Hester's Twelfth Baptist Church.

Reverend W. H. Hester
38 Howland Street
Roxbury, Massachusetts

Dear Rev. Hester:

This is just a note to again express my appreciation to you for the opportunity to preach at your very fine church on last Sunday. I always feel a rich sense of fellowship whenever I come to your church and you are to be commended for keeping this fellowship alive.

Words cannot adequately express my appreciation to you for your kindness and big heartedness. I only hope that at some time and in some way I shall be able to return your kindness.

Give my best regards to Mrs. Hester and Mattie. With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,
Martin L. King, Jr.
MLK/csk

TLC. MLKP-MBU: Box 116.