2 May 1955 Well take it easy Mike and let me hear from you sometime when you are not too busy. Hope to see you before long. Kind regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,
[signed] Whit
H. Edw. Whitaker

TLS. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

From H. Councill Trenholm

2 May 1955
Montgomery, Ala.

Trenholm, president of Alabama State College and a deacon at Dexter, invites King to give the baccalaureate sermon at Alabama State’s commencement.1 King accepted the invitation.2

Dr. M. L. King, Jr.
303 S. Jackson Street
Montgomery, Alabama

IN RE: Sunday Afternoon, May 15

Dear Dr. King:

I herewith extend to you the invitation to serve as the baccalaureate minister for our 1955 May commencement on Sunday afternoon, May 15, at 3:30 at the College Gymnasium.

At that time we will have approximately 300 candidates for the baccalaureate degree and possibly 8 candidates for the master of education degree. The nineteen candidates for the senior high school diploma also share that baccalaureate service although their graduation is not until May 27.

From the enclosed copy of the program of last year, you will note the organization of the program. We have just the brief “atmosphere program” preceding your message. We also “introduce you” through the statement on the program for which we will ask Mr. Brooks to obtain the necessary information. It is our pleasure to have our baccalaureate minister to share the recep-

1. Harper Councill Trenholm (1900–1963) received his A.B. from Morehouse in 1920 and his baccalaureate in philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1921. He was president of Alabama State College from 1925 to 1960.

2. Trenholm to King, Jr., 15 May 1955, MLKP-MBU: Box 117, confirms participation.
tion to the graduates and we shall be hopeful that it will be convenient for you and Mrs. King to share that occasion.

We should like also to extend to you and Mrs. King the invitation to be our house guests for the dinner courtesy preceding the exercises and at such hour as may be most acceptable in relation to your obligations for that day.

I also take this occasion to extend congratulations upon your having completed the work for your doctor’s degree.

Pleased to look forward to your reply in confirmation of the preliminary indication which you made in my requested exploratory conversation through Mr. Brooks, I am

Yours very truly,

[signed]
H. Council Trenholm

HCT:A
cc: Mr. J. T. Brooks

TLS. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.

From Walter R. McCall

6 May 1955
Fort Valley, Ga.

McCall describes his plan to build a soda shop at Fort Valley State College and says that he may ask King for a loan. King's response is not documented.

Dear Mike,

At last, I have an opportunity to sit down and write a letter! Boy! I have been a busy fellow: Work! Work! everywhere I turn, but things have slowed down a bit now. In spite of things being in a whirl, I have no reason to complain, I guess.

Hope things are going your way. I wanted to drop in on you on last Sunday past, but I discovered that I was too far off the Montgomery route from Talladega, therefore I had to take the shortest route back. Had an exceedingly good time there, as ever. By the way, I recommended you to Dr. J. R. Pross, Dean of Philosophy and Psychology and Head of Chaplaincy at Talladega. You may hear from him relative to speaking there. He is a very fine fellow. He and his wife holds the Ph.D. degree in philosophy from the University of Chicago. I hope that you both get to know each other.

By the way, I have gone a long way on the plans for constructing the College Soda Shop here: Have bought six thousand dollars ($6,000.00) worth of equipment, and will pick it up on Saturday. It is bought on a good bargain.