Although I advise that you keep the faith, I also warn and advise that you be
careful in all your movements ever. Even Jesus did. Seek to be alone, leave the
scene, seek solace from above as this will do much to keep your parts in-tact, re-
vitalized, well re-energized and—daring[ly] fortified for the great tasks at hand
and those that lie ahead. You, I am sure, are aware of such need in evene undue
proportions.

We know not how long the crises will last. Though long or short, we need the best
ammunitions available—in alert minds, consecrated hearts and in daring souls.

Remember that my prayers follow you always. Your assistant preacher visited
our church on last Sunday.¹ Was glad to have him.

Norma and Juanita join me in best wishes to Coretta and the child.²

I am,

A pal,

[signed]

Mac.

TALS. MLKP-MBU: Box 17.

¹ McCall likely refers to Dexter’s assistant minister T. Y. Rogers.
² McCall refers to his wife and daughter and to the Kings’ daughter, Yolanda.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

From J. E. Nesbitt

[14 February 1957]
Los Angeles, Calif.

Still a Dexter member after many years in California, Nesbitt responds to a call in the
Dexter Echo for donations to finance the Kings’ trip to the Ghanaian independence
celebration.¹ At a 24 February bon voyage party at Dexter Church, congregation
members presented the Kings with a $2,500 check to cover “the cost of transportation,
as a courtesy from the church to express its love and Christian affection to the honorees”;
Nesbitt’s letter was read to the gathering.² On 3 May King thanked Nesbitt for his
contribution.

¹ “Dexter To Be Represented in Ghana,” Dexter Echo, 6 February 1957. Nesbitt’s letter was erro-
neously dated 14 January. James E. Nesbitt (1906–1996) was born in Montgomery. After finishing
high school there Nesbitt moved to Los Angeles but remained associated with Dexter, where his
brother Robert D. Nesbitt served as its longtime clerk and deacon.
² “Dexter Bids the Kings Farewell,” Dexter Echo, 6 March 1957. In addition to the money from the
congregation, King also received a donation from the MIA and a $500 gift from a supporter of In
Friendship (MIA, Financial report, 1 April 1957; “A Brief Digest of the Activities of In Friendship,”
6 March 1957).
Dear Dr. King,

Best wishes and a continuance of God's blessing for the fine work that you have done and are still doing, is, and has been my prayer for many, many, months.

I saw in "The Dexter Echo" that the church is giving you a trip to Gold Coast, Africa. It is a wonderful and highly deserved gesture on the part of the church to realize just how tired + worn you must be, and that you need a rest + a change, if any one ever needed it. I am so much in accord with the plan, that I want to have a little part in it, so am sending you $5.00 for a dinner aboard ship. And may God be with you all the way + return you to us safely, feeling better in every way + ready to take up the cross again,

You will be welcomed with open arms in Africa, just as you will be welcomed on your return to the states + especially, (Montgry.] Alabama. God bless you.

Sincerely,
[signed] J. E. Nesbitt

Best wishes to Mrs. King.
Think as little as possible of conditions in your city + try to enjoy every minute away from it. You owe that to yourself, your wife, + your friends.
Hope you won't be too tired to enjoy the Great Celebration, which will be so meaningful to the Gold Coasters, and to all of us, for their blessings.

ALS. MLKP-MBU: Box 63A.

From John Wesley Dobbs

15 February 1957
Atlanta, Ga.

King receives congratulations from one of his parents' friends. The Dobbs family lived near the Kings in Atlanta for many years.¹

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
309 S. Jackson Street
Montgomery, Alabama

¹ John Wesley Dobbs (1882–1961), born in Marietta, Georgia, graduated from Morehouse College in 1901 and worked as a railway mail service clerk for 32 years. Along with King, Sr., he promoted black voter registration in Atlanta in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1936 he founded the Atlanta Civic and Political League to promote patronage of black businesses, voter registration, and improved schools and recreational facilities for African Americans. A former vice-chairperson of the Georgia state central committee of the Republican party, Dobbs also served as a national vice president of the NAACP, and as grand master of the Prince Hall Masons of Georgia from 1932 to 1961.