

January 30, 1962

The Rev. Charles H. Smith
First Baptist Church
1731 Coulton Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia

Dear Rev. Smith:

When I talked with you the other day, I thought it might be possible for me to accept your invitation to speak for you in Huntington, West Virginia at First Baptist Church in April or May of this year. After returning to the office, I have gone over my calendar very scrutinizingly and find that I do not have any Sundays open for the next several months. Very recently I had to adopt a policy of preaching at my own church at least two Sundays in each month. All of the other Sundays for the Spring and Summer are taken up with long standing engagements. But for this I would be more than happy to serve you. Please know that I deeply regret my inability to come.

Please let me take this opportunity to apologize to you for not returning your calls. My secretary checked her telephone receipt book and it does not reveal a call from you. This means that your call came in at a time that she and I were both out and we did not get your message. I am sorry about this. I certainly would have returned your call if I had known about it.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Km