

March 25, 1957

The Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy
First Baptist Church
347 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Ralph:

Thanks for your kind letter of March 21st sharing with us the loss of our chapel and inviting me to deliver your Youth Day Message on April 14th. Both your expression and invitation mean a lot to me.

April 14th is Founders Day here at Tuskegee and unless President Eisenhower delivers the address I shall be expected to preach the Founders' Day Sermon at 11 a.m. and march in the academic procession at 2 p.m. I know this is selfish but I wish the date could have been April 7th. Harvey, who knows my order of service is preaching for me on that day and I could get away.

I am happy that you accepted the invitation to deliver the Guide Right Message for our Fraternity on April 28th. I told the brothers that you would come if possible when I suggested your name.

It looks as though I may be absent on the occasion. I am due at a meeting which begins in Ann Arbor, Michigan on April 29th and may have to leave Tuskegee before the Vesper hour. If this cannot be avoided, I am sure you will pardon my absence.