

Newsletter Against Drugs and Violence

FOR A NON-VIOLENT & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

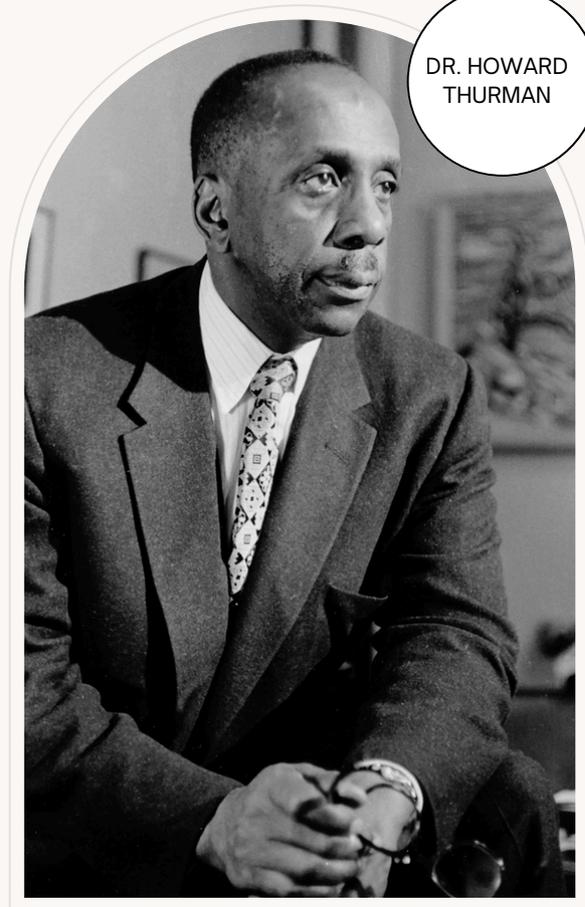
Dr. Howard Thurman



Last month, we heard from our founder here at the March Against Drugs and Violence (MADV), South Side Mike. He shared the inspiration behind the organization's founding, specifically his profound influence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In honor of Black History Month, we would like to highlight another monumental leader of the Freedom Movement: Dr. Howard Thurman.

Dr. King often noted that every movement needs a "chaplain" to help participants refresh their resolve. For King and many others in the Civil Rights Movement, Thurman was that person.

A longtime family friend of the Kings, Thurman deeply shaped the philosophy of nonviolence. While he authored many books, his most esteemed work remains *Jesus and the Disinherited*. It is said that Dr. King carried this book wherever he went as a constant reminder of the stakes of his work.



DR. HOWARD
THURMAN

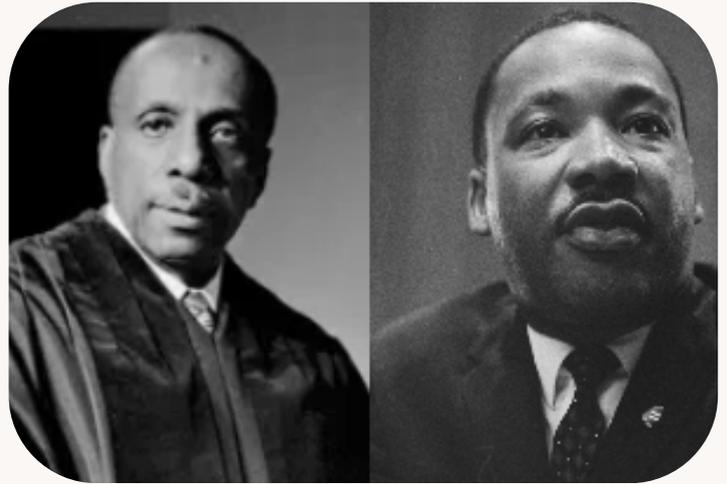
Who is the March Against Drugs and Violence

We are a community-driven movement dedicated to raising awareness and fostering collective action against the destructive impact of drugs and violence in our neighborhoods.

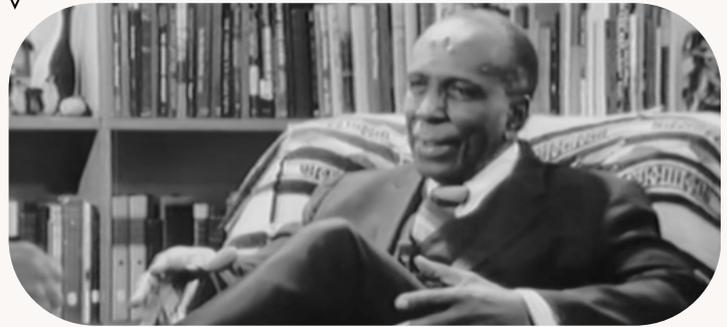




Thurman's central thesis was that the life of Jesus of Nazareth spoke directly to those "whose backs are against the wall." He explored the negative ways humanity often responds to oppression and argued that a nonviolent approach is the only answer capable of truly breaking an oppressor's hold.



Thurman's perspective was rooted in his upbringing. He was raised by his maternal grandmother, Nancy, who had been enslaved on a plantation in Florida. Though she could not read or write, Nancy possessed a prodigious knowledge of the Bible. Interestingly, she forbade her grandson from reading the letters of the Apostle Paul; she had heard those specific scriptures used by slaveholders and ministers to justify the institution of slavery. This distinction played a massive role in Thurman's developing faith.



Thurman eventually graduated as valedictorian from both Morehouse College and Rochester Theological Seminary. Throughout his career as a dean, professor, and minister, he traveled the globe and met with world leaders—most notably Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi encouraged Thurman's use of Satyagraha (truth-force) and the nonviolent techniques being utilized in India.

There are endless lessons to take from Dr. Thurman's incredible life, and we encourage you to explore his writings. But if there is one takeaway to shape your own commitment to nonviolence, let it be this: a nonviolent solution is the only solution that can effect real change in any part of our lives.

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