GREATER BIRMINGHAM
COLORING BOOK
A Little History
A Little Mystery
A Lot Of Fun
A coloring book for a colorful city.

Colored by: ____________________________________________________________

Produced by

BIRMINGHAM

Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau

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After the Civil War, railroads came to a place called Jones Valley in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. In the mountains, the settlers found rich minerals---coal, limestone and iron ore---for making iron, and the area began to grow. In 1870, a group of investors used their money to form a company to build a brand new city. They knew the new city would be great because of its big iron industry.
They named the new city Birmingham after the city of Birmingham, England, because they both were iron- and steel-producing centers. Birmingham was recognized as a city by the state legislature on December 19, 1871. Some people said the new city sprang up so fast that it was just like magic, so Birmingham became known as “The Magic City.”
With the rich minerals for making iron, Birmingham soon became the industrial center of the South. Wealthy and important men in Birmingham built blast furnaces to make the iron. The iron was called “pig iron” because it was cast into bars that looked like sleeping pigs.
My Dear Fellow Clergymen:

While confined here in the Birmingham city jail, I came across your recent statement calling my present activities “unwise and untimely.” Seldom do I pause to answer criticism of my work and ideas. If I sought to answer all the criticisms that cross my desk, my secretaries would have little time for anything other than such correspondence in the course of the day, and I would have no time for constructive work. But since I feel that you are men of genuine good will and that your criticisms are sincerely set forth, I want to try to answer your statement in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms.

I think I should indicate why I am here in Birmingham, since you have been influenced by the view which argues against “outsiders coming in.” I have the honor of serving as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization operating in every southern state, with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. We have some eighty-five affiliated organizations across the South, and one of them is the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. Frequently we share staff, educational and financial resources with our affiliates. Several months ago the affiliate here in Birmingham asked us to be on call to engage in a nonviolent direct action program if such were deemed necessary. We readily consented, and if that were brought about we lived up to our promise. So I, along with several members of my staff, am here because I was invited here. I am here because I have organizational ties here.

But more basically, I am in Birmingham because injustice is here. Just as the prophets of the eighth century B.C. left their villages and carried their “thus saith the Lord” far beyond the boundaries of their home towns, and just as the Apostle Paul left his village of Tarsus and carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to the far corners of the Greco Roman world, so am I compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my own home town. Like Paul, I must constantly respond to the Macedonian call for aid.

Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial “outside agitator” idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds.

You deplore the demonstrations taking place in Birmingham. But your statement, I am sorry to say, fails to express a similar concern for the conditions that brought about the demonstrations. I am sure that none of you would want to rest content with the superficial kind of social analysis that deals merely with effects and does not grapple with underlying causes. It is unfortunate that demonstrations are taking place in Birmingham, but it is even more unfortunate that the city’s white power structure left the Negro community with no alternative.

In any nonviolent campaign there are four basic steps: collection of the facts to determine whether injustices exist; negotiation; self-purification; and direct action. We have gone through all these steps in Birmingham. There can be no gainsaying the fact that racial injustice engulfs this community. Birmingham is probably the most thoroughly segregated city in the United States. Its ugly record of brutality is widely known. Negroes have experienced grossly unjust treatment in the courts. There have been more unsolved bombings of Negro homes and churches in Birmingham than in any other city in the nation. These are the hard, brutal facts of the case. On the basis of these conditions, Negro leaders sought to negotiate with the city fathers. But the latter consistently refused to engage in good faith negotiation. Then, last September, came the opportunity to talk with leaders of Birmingham’s economic community. In the course of the negotiations, certain promises were made by the merchants—for example, to remove the stores’ humiliating racial signs. On the basis of these promises, the Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and the leaders of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights agreed to a moratorium on all demonstrations. As the weeks and months went by, we realized that we were the victims of a broken promise. A few signs, briefly removed, returned; the others remained. As a result, we decided on a carefully planned program of demonstrations and civil disobedience.

In the 1960s, Birmingham became the place where African-American people began to fight for their rights. It was called the “Civil Rights Movement.” Brave men like Fred Lee Shuttlesworth and Martin Luther King Jr. risked their lives to help African-Americans get to do the things white people could do.
It was a hard time for Birmingham. It was time to change. The people of the country voted to outlaw segregation in America. Everyone was free to shop and eat and play wherever they wanted to. African-Americans also could vote and take part in the government.
In 1979, Birmingham elected its first black mayor, Richard Arrington, Jr. Since that time, the city has grown and progressed. Birmingham today is a modern city. It has one of the best medical and research centers in the country at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).
Birmingham is the largest city in Alabama. Visitors come from all over the world to learn about the things that happened here during the Civil Rights Movement. They visit places like the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.
People come to visit for lots of other reasons too. They like to climb up the statue of Vulcan and see all around the city from up high. Vulcan is the largest cast iron statue in the world, and he doesn't wear any underwear!
The Birmingham Zoo has hundreds of different animals. Some are endangered species. The beautiful Birmingham Botanical Gardens are right across the street from the zoo.
Do you like motorcycles? **Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum** has the largest collection of old and new motorcycles in the world. It’s amazing to see hundreds of bikes all in one building.
McWane Science Center has fun stuff to do for all ages. You can ride the High Cycle or pet the sharks and rays in the Touch Tank or see a movie in the IMAX Dome Theater.
Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark is a cool place to learn about Birmingham’s history in the iron and steel industry. You can walk among the tall stacks and see where the hot iron was poured to make pig iron. Some people say a ghost lives at Sloss Furnaces.
Birmingham has a AA professional baseball team named the **Birmingham Barons**. They play in a stadium right downtown. Many years ago, they played at Birmingham’s **Rickwood Field**. It is the oldest ball field in the country. You can see more sports history at the **Alabama Sports Hall of Fame** and at the **Negro Southern League Museum**.
The Birmingham Museum of Art has lots of beautiful artwork to explore. They also have a gallery called Art Venture especially for children where you can do cool hands-on stuff.
Lots of people come to Birmingham just to play golf. Two of the best courses are on the famous Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail that runs through the whole state. You can also have a good time practicing your swing at Topgolf Birmingham.
Everybody has a good time at **Red Mountain Park**. You can ride ziplines, climb treehouses and walk across rope bridges. If you want to, you can even bring your dog.
If there’s one thing people really like to do in Birmingham, it’s eat out. Birmingham has lots of fancy restaurants and lots of places for hamburgers and barbecue, too. Many people call Birmingham the “Dinner Table of the South.”
Birmingham has beautiful parks like Railroad Park to play in. Sometimes the Alabama Symphony has a concert in the park. People in Birmingham like live music, and there’s lots of it.
People in Birmingham like to see live theater too, especially in Birmingham’s historic theater district. There’s even a theater company just for kids. It’s called the Birmingham Children’s Theater.
Birmingham has lots more things to do and see. You can find out all about them at inbirmingham.com