

A Child Shall Lead Them: Martin Luther King Jr., Young People, and the Movement

by Rufus Burrow, Jr.

Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014. 331 pp. \$19.00.
ISBN 978-1-4514-8454-0.

POPULAR MEMORY DEPICTS the civil rights movement as a monolithic social action. A more careful study recognizes the multiple parties and tactics that it entailed. For instance, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s measured leadership of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was not always agreeable to those engaged in the nimble, grassroots labor of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. The divide between older establishment leaders and the work of young people has been increasingly recognized in recent years.

Drawing upon primary and secondary accounts, Rufus Burrow, Jr. contends that the tensions between King and the young people in the civil rights movement were part of the growing pains of inspiration. In fact, King's documented encouragement of youth suggests that the charismatic leader expected, needed, and desired the next generation to make the movement their own—even if it led to differences of opinion.

King's relationship with young people provides an index of the leader's disposition. Burrow describes King as a "dialectical thinker" who believed non-violent direct action was needed to supplement the slow, legal work being carried out by elder institutions (p. 53). At times, King played the apprehensive guardian concerned with the children's safety. In other instances, King ushered them to the front lines—for all the world and cameras to see. And there is the "pondering" King on whom the young people's activism would not wait (p. 236). Burrow convincingly shows that the movement's story cannot be told without considering both King's strategies and pathos.

This book would be a welcome addition to undergraduate and graduate courses on the civil

rights movement, particularly in a Christian setting. Students unfamiliar with the major players may want to consult encyclopedia articles in order to make the most of the book's rich storytelling. Its most lasting contribution to historical King studies may be the foundation it lays for contemporary reflection. Strain between youth-led groups (e.g., the Dream Defenders) and legacy entities (e.g., the National Action Network and the NAACP) have led many political commentators to revisit the events detailed by Burrow. *A Child Shall Lead Them*, especially the final chapter, has much to teach us about the dynamics at play in today's civil rights movements.

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A Sense of the Heart: Christian Religious Experience in the United States

by Bill J. Leonard

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IN *A SENSE OF THE HEART*, Bill Leonard tells the story of Christianity in the United States through the prism of personal religious experience. He describes religious experiences as they are documented in primary sources and discusses the meaning of such experiences among various communities in various times and places. He also analyzes the criteria by which those communities determined ideal or normative religious experience.

As the title implies, Leonard focuses primarily on Christian experience, though he occasionally treads into religious realms that are not specifically Christian. The first chapters follow an essentially Anglo-Protestant narrative, considering the Puritan settlers, the colonial revivals, and the various expressions of nineteenth-century evangelicalism. The remaining two thirds of the book integrate the experience