

SIDE 1

Band 1 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
Swing Down Sweet Chariot medley
(Cleo Kennedy & Choir)

Band 2 Ralph Abernathy speaking

Band 3 I'm On My Way
(Mamie Brown & Choir)

SIDE 2

Band 1 City Called Heaven
(Cleo Kennedy, acc. by Carlton Reese on Organ)

Band 2 Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking

Band 3 99 1/2 Won't Do
(Carlton Reese & Choir)

Band 4 Ralph Abernathy speaking

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In this recording of a mass meeting in Birmingham at the height of the confrontation, you will hear all of these elements—the preaching, relevant to the struggle; the humor along with the seriousness of the situation; the singing of the choir (honed by singing together night after night in a heightened emotional period) and of soloists; the response of the congregation, typical of Black churches though again heightened by historical developments; traditional songs and those changed to fit the immediate situation.

In those years, during the early 1960's we often travelled with our large Ampex recorder—well aware that we were observers and participants in an historic time. This particular weekend, we got more than we bargained for. We had been invited to do some singing at New Pilgrim Baptist Church by Reverend Charles Billups and we hoped to record a mass meeting while we were in Birmingham. We had long followed the impressive work of Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, and now that SCLC had come in to join with the local movement in a major campaign, developments were approaching a climax.

As we tried to enter Rev. Billups' church, we were detained by Sheriff Bull Conner and finally arrested. In his mind it was illegal for whites to sing in church together with blacks. We spent the weekend in jail, our one-year-old son at a local babysitter's, getting out just in time to rush over to the mass meeting scheduled for Sunday night.

We had only one microphone and Guy maneuvered himself onto the platform at the front of the church and scurried around best he could from speaker to lead singer to choir. We were amazed, considering the situation, at the good quality of our tapes.

Guy & Candie Carawan

LEST WE FORGET VOL. 2

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, 1963

MASS MEETING

with Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Ralph Abernathy and the
Birmingham Movement Choir

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET.
COVER PHOTOS BY CHARLES MOORE

Recorded by Guy and Candie Carawan of the Highlander Cer

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