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An AP News Special

Mrs. King a year later-Bjt, 420, 2 takes, 550 total

With Wirephoto

By KATHRYN JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA, Ga. AP - Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr., in the year since her husband's assassination, has made his dream hers. She is becoming a symbol, in her own right, of his struggle for peace and brotherhood.

The resolute, attractive 41-year-old widow of the civil rights leader has created a series of firsts for women in the past year-traveling worldwide in the process.

She has received numerous honors for herself and for her husband and has been busy writing a book about their life together.

She also has been caring for their four children. And working on plans for a multimillion-dollar Atlanta memorial center honoring King, who was killed by an assassin in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

The "firsts" include being the first woman to preach at a regular Sunday service in St. Paul's Cathedral in London; the first non-Italian to receive a "universal love prize" and the first woman to give the Class Day address at Harvard.

Wherever Coretta King goes, she attracts crowds and receives ovations.

During her husband's lifetime, she played a strong supporting role. But now she has emerged as an independent personality, an eloquent voice pleading the cause to which her husband gave his life.

The strong will that lies beneath the placid calm and dignity of Mrs. King's character was shown soon after his murder, when she said:

"I'm more determined than ever that my husband's dream will become a reality."

A few months later, dressed in black, she stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington where King, more than five years earlier, made his stirring "I Have a Dream" speech.

In London, only a few weeks ago at St. Paul's, Mrs. King stood in the same carved pulpit where her husband preached in 1964.

Wearing a black academic gown and gold-tasseled mortar board, Mrs. King stood under the 17th century Christopher Wren dome and told 2,000 whites and blacks, including her two eldest children:

"Many despair at all the evil and unrest and disorder in the world today, but I see a new social order and I see the dawn of a new day."

At Verona, Italy, last month Mrs. King accepted a "universal love prize"--the first non-Italian to win it. The prize is given for services to the cause of brotherhood and understanding among races and religions.

"To me this prize symbolizes not only the love of man, it symbolizes the love of nation for nation," she said, in accepting it. "I pray this spirit will pervade the Vietnam peace talks."

Then Mrs. King flew to Rome where she had a private audience with Pope Paul VI.

From there, she flew to New Delhi, India to receive the Jawaharlal Nehru award given posthumously to her husband.

During the ceremonies, a group of Delhi University students started singing "We Shall Overcome," to the accompaniment of a guitar.

Mrs. King joined in singing the song so closely associated with her husband's struggle for civil rights, and before it was over, she and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were in tears.

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Mrs. King lives in a simple modest red brick home in Atlanta with her four children, Yolanda, 12, Martin Luther III, 11, Dexter, 8, and Bernice, 5.

In a recently remodeled oak-paneled basement, five secretaries daily tackle a volume of mail.

Mrs. King refuses interviews because they would violate her book publishing contract, for which she has received \$500,000. The book will be published in June. She occasionally issues statements, however, in printed form.

There have been rumors of rifts with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which her husband founded. But her busy schedule is regarded by many as the cause of her relative inactivity with the organization.

As a member of SCLC's board, she receives \$12,000 a year. And she has been active in raising funds for it.

And she will join the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, now head of SCLC, and others in an anniversary observance for King in Memphis.

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