



# OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Special Friend of Dr. MLK to Speak at Oakwood University

**Huntsville, Ala. —** Rev. Samuel "Billy" Kyles will be Oakwood University's featured student chapel guest speaker, 9:50 a.m., Tuesday, February 23, at the Oakwood University Church, 5500 Adventist Boulevard. He is the only living person who actually spent the final hour of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life with him that fateful night of his assassination.

According to an interview with The HistoryMakers in 2003, "It was on that evening, marked by active thunderstorms, that an enthusiastic, packed crowd heard Dr. King give what has come to be known as the 'Mountaintop' speech. In it, he gave an unusual glimpse into his personal fears and challenges, as well as his prophetic insights into his own fate. The next day, Kyles and his family planned to host Dr. King and his entourage at their home for a home-cooked meal. Dr. King was assassinated as they prepared to go to the Kyles' home. The last hour of Dr. King's life he spent with Kyles and Rev. Ralph Abernathy in his room at the Lorraine Motel. Rev. Abernathy has since passed on, leaving Kyles as the only living person that actually spent the last hour of Dr. King's life with him."

Kyles has pastored the Monumental Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, since 1959 and has maintained his involvement with civil rights work since the 1960s. Read his biographical sketch online at: <http://www.thehistorymakers.com> . Select the biography category, "ReligionMakers."