

Day celebration; that Anderson, Indiana has a full size bronze statute of Dr. King paid for by total community; that Anderson, Indiana provides scholarships to both needy students and students who have demonstrated academic achievement, service to community; that we have a Martin Luther King Memorial Commission that takes the lead in our city-wide clean-up; scholarship drive; and stop the violence efforts; that in all of our efforts, service, interracial cooperation, nonviolence are priorities. The president of the Indiana Federal Holiday Commission, Z. Mae Jemison, was at this planning retreat and she wanted to learn more about our cooperative efforts in Anderson, Indiana and I was more than happy to share our many accomplishments.

LOOKING AT THIS YEARS THEME: "KINGIAN NON-VIOLENCE IN ACTION: EMPOWERING FUTURE GENERATIONS TO SERVE."

I would like to quote a scripture found in the Book of Nehemiah chapter 4 verse 6 reads: So built we the wall, and all the wall was joined together to half of its height; for the people had a mind to work.

For a few minutes, I'd like to talk briefly on the topic "What Are You Doing to Empower Future Generations to Serve?" If you want to be remembered in history loved and admired by your fellow man you have to "do something." You have to "do something" meaningful and worthwhile and what ever you do should be of benefit to others. Not just for yourself, but for others.

The late Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president emeritus of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, who was president when Dr. King was an undergraduate student there wrote and I quote: "To be able to stand the troubles of life, one must have a sense of mission and the belief that God sent him or her into the world for a purpose, to do something unique and distinctive and that if he or she does not do it life will be worse off because it was not done." When Nehemiah learned that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and its gates burned with fire he did something. First he prayed to God, used his influence with the king to receive the necessary materials to rebuild the wall, and he used his God-given talents to unite the people to rebuild the wall. Dr. King was not a dreamer, he was a doer. Dr. King did something. Dr. King was a great student, having skipped both the ninth and twelfth grades. Dr. King entered Morehouse College at the age of fifteen. That's doing something. Dr. King was quoted as saying "Education without social action is a one-sided value because it has no true power potential. Social action without education is a weak expression of pure energy.

Dr. King was committed to the improvement of his community, the "beloved community" for he said, "I can never be what I ought to be, until you are what you ought to be; and you can never be what you ought to

be, until I am what I ought to be." This is the interrelated structure of reality. What are you doing to empower future generations to serve? I sincerely believe that "Service to humanity, not self service is the price we pay for the space we occupy." It would not be fair for me to ask such a question without offering a few suggestions.

No. 1. You can work as a committee of one to cultivate "Unity in the community. . . ." And by community I am referring to the entire city, where you live, work, play, socialize, worship, everybody matters. Unity has no boundaries, unity excludes no one; is all inclusive; unity in the community is key.

To truly have unity in the community we must strengthen our hands to rebuild walls in Anderson, Indiana torn down by envy . . . Envy will tear down unity; jealousy . . . jealousy will tear down unity; hate . . . hate will tear down unity; lies . . . lies will tear down unity; illegal drugs . . . illegal drugs will tear down unity; apathy . . . apathy will tear down unity; racism . . . racism will tear down unity.

No. 2. Bigotry . . . bigotry will tear down unity. You can work as a committee of one to do those preventative things to help "stop the violence" in our community. . . .

A couple of months ago I telephoned the Herald-Bulletin newspaper sound-off number and left this message . . . I feel it is appropriate for this occasion and I will admit publicly that I made the call. End violence now! was the title. It read: There are three words in the English language I would like to use to describe what I would like to see take place in Anderson, Indiana . . . our community.

The first word is all. I would like to see all violence end.

The second word is here. I would like to see all violence end here in Anderson, Indiana, our community.

The third word is now. I would like to see all violence end in our community now. I would like to see all violence end. I want to see it end in Anderson, Indiana, our community, and I want to see it end now.

You can use your influence, energy, talent, resources, in the prevention mode to help "Stop the violence in our community." Young people . . . you have influence—use it to help stop the violence in our community. Adults you can use your wisdom; energy; to help "Stop the violence" in our community. Business community—you have resources and talented employees . . . allow them to help "Stop the violence" in our community. Our city, county, State, national law enforcement agencies have the skills and training but they need our help in the area of community policing . . . give it!

Third, be tolerant of individual differences, recognizing that sociologically speaking different things, have different meaning, to different people, in different places at different times . . . deal with it!

First, unity in the community; second, help stop the violence in our community; third, tolerance of individual differences. Issues may differ, whether we're talking about more recreational activities for youth . . . better paying jobs for parents . . . better education for all students . . . but both the task and the challenge remains ever before each and everyone of us—do something!

Dr. King warned us of "The triple evils . . . the triple evils of poverty, racism, and violence. The triple evils are interrelated and all inclusive. They are barriers that stand in the way of our living in the beloved community. Dr. King taught that if the work to remedy on evil, we effect all evils. The issues change in accordance with the political and social climate of our nation and world, but the model of the interconnected triplets remain true throughout time." What are you doing to empower future generations to serve.

We must take every possible opportunity to remind ourselves and share with young people the words of Dr. King's college president Dr. Benjamin E. Mays "You are what you aspire to be and not what you now are; you are what you do with your mind, and you are what you do with your youth."

We can't all do the same things, nor should we want to but we can all do something to empower future generations to serve. And if we do there is compensation . . . you see millionaires have lived and died and no one ever remembered their names, but just carve you name on human hearts for they alone are immortal. Do something; and remember whatever you do should be of benefit to others, not just for yourself, but for others . . .

#### COMPENSATION

I'd like to think when life is done  
That I had filled a needed post.  
That here and there I'd paid my fare  
With more than idle talk and boast;  
That I had taken gifts divine,  
The breath of life and manhood fine,  
And tried to use them now and then  
In service for my fellow men.

I'd hate to think when life is through  
That I had lived by round of years  
A useless kind, that leaves behind  
No record in this vale of tears;  
That I had wasted all my days  
By threading only selfish ways,  
And that this world would be the same  
If it had never known my name.

I'd like to think that here and there,  
When I am gone, there shall remain  
A happier spot that might have not  
Existed had I toiled for gain;  
That some one's cheery voice and smile  
Shall prove that I had been worthwhile;  
That I had paid with something fine;  
My debt to God for life divine.

Thank you very, very, much and may God bless each and every one of you.