

A Series: THE BLACK FAMILY AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE 80's

PART VII — FOR OUR CHILDREN... FOR OUR COUNTRY... FOR OUR WORLD

"MANDATE FOR THE BELOVED COMMUNITY..."

by Maudra Jones

"... God called the grandson of a slave on his father's side and the grandson of a man born during the Civil War on his mother's side and said to him — 'Martin Luther — Speak to America about war and peace. Speak to America about social injustice and racial discrimination. Speak to America about its obligation to the poor and speak to America about nonviolence...'"

Eulogy for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered by Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President Emeritus, Morehouse College April 9, 1968, Atlanta, Georgia



Maudra Jones

"belonged to the world" and "he was a man called of God to do His work and to interpret the clear and intelligible language of the will of God...." And that he did — to millions of hearts around the world — propelled by a deep sense of duty to love and serve humanity. This is no less the will of God.

Nobel Committee Director Gunnar Jahn said in his presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize to Dr. King in 1964 at Oslo, Norway:

"Martin Luther King's belief is rooted first and foremost in the teaching of Christ, but no one can really understand

him without the knowledge that he has been influenced by the great thinkers of the past and

MAUDRA JONES, who has served educational institutions and community organizations in the field of Human Resources Development for over 30 years is Regional Director of the National Association of Family and the Religious Community.

the present. He has been inspired above all by Mahatma Gandhi, whose example convinced him that it is possible to achieve victory in an unarmed struggle... 'Gandhi,' he (King) says, 'was probably the first person in history to lift the love ethic of Jesus above mere interaction between individuals to a powerful and effective social force.'"

King found in Gandhi's philosophy of love and peace the "only morally and practically sound method open to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom...." Gandhi struggled only with the weapons of truth, soul-force, non-injury and courage. Among Dr. King's treasured books is "The

Gandhi Reader." He often discussed the lives of Christ and Gandhi in relation to his own life.

The means for eliminating what Dr. King referred to as "modern man's chief dilemma," that of our moral and spiritual "lag," might be found in these words once written by Mahatma Gandhi:

"There are several sins in the world; wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principle." In many ways, the meanings of these words could be found in Dr. King's appeals to the "conscience of the great decent majority, who, through blindness, fear, pride and irrationality, have allowed their consciences to sleep."

Expanding on the (yet) prevailing "poverty of the spirit," Dr. King related, "The richer we become materially, the poorer we become morally and spiritually." He

believed that human progress comes through the tireless efforts of men (and women), willing to be co-workers with God. He affirmed that mankind's survival is dependent upon man's ability to solve the problems of society and that such solutions depend upon man squaring his moral progress with his scientific progress and learning to love in harmony. Dr. King believed with all his heart, mind and soul that "love is the key to the solution of the problems of the world."

We are challenged, therefore, to make the unfinished work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. truly our own — and, in the spirit of true brotherhood — with love, faith and courage, let us continue the march toward the creation of "THE BELOVED COMMUNITY." Let us cherish his dream — let us make his dream our dream and work to make it come true — for our families, our children, our country and the world.

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During this week, American families throughout the nation will join in "A Celebration of Life: A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," commemorating the 55th birthday of our 20th century prophet of love and peace. 1984 will mark the Sixteenth Annual Birthday Observance, reaffirming the significance of Dr. King's life and work — reaffirming, as in the words of the immortal John Fitzgerald Kennedy, "that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s unfinished work on earth must truly be our own."

This is no less the challenge to Black families, to all Americans and to the world. As Dr. King once said, "We have made of this world a neighborhood, now we are called to make of it a brotherhood."

On that day in Atlanta, Georgia, when thousands of people walked behind the horse-driven wagon that carried Dr. King's coffin to its final resting place, Dr. Mays had spoken of Dr. King's moral courage and his capacity to love all people — he said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



JACKIE BOLDEN, (left) and Anita Lewis freeze Girl Scout cookies during the annual cookie sale in order to enjoy them in later months. The campaign to raise funds for troop and council programs ends Jan. 30. For more information, call 382-7788.

True Love Young Adult Choir To Hold Second Annual Concert

The True Love Missionary Baptist Church's young adult choir, The Voices of Praise, will be having its second annual Harmony in Praise Concert. It will be a two-day event — Saturday, Jan. 14 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 15 at 4 p.m. at the True Love Missionary Baptist Church, 1941 North "H" St.

Special guests will be Morris Chapman, Linda and Moore's New Edition, the Hall Singers and various choirs and soloists from the community.

The public is cordially invited and admission is free.

Directors of the True Voices of Praise are Wallace Broadnax and Esther McKinney.

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