

King colleague urges crowd to carry on dream

By Rivers Janssen
Emerald Contributor



Reminiscing of his days in the civil rights movement, a companion of Martin Luther King Jr. urged people Monday night not to forget King's dream.

Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, who worked closely with King

and Rev. Ralph Abernathy, told a Hult Center audience King's work has been frequently misunderstood, and that peace through non-violence remains his essential message.

Alternating his tone between sermonizing and friendly discussion, Shuttlesworth told of an incident between King and a white man in an Alabama hotel. King and Shuttlesworth were waiting to register at the Jefferson Davis Hotel when the man came up to King asking to shake his hand. King agreed and held out his hand. The

man, without warning, reached back and punched King in the jaw.

King, after falling backward, showed no anger on his face. Instead he calmly stood up, looked at the man and asked, "Did it help you to try and hurt me?"

Shuttlesworth used this example to emphasize King's belief that overcoming people by physical force is not the way.

"If we don't destroy violence, violence will destroy us," Shuttlesworth said. "If someone hits you on the cheek, turn to the

other one. We must love one another."

Shuttlesworth said when asked what the white population of Oregon can do about racism, he has a simple answer.

"When the white majority is ready to have freedom, we will have freedom in short order," he declared.

Shuttlesworth said the white population needs to talk about racism for the issue to be noticed. To pound home his point, Shuttlesworth added there has never been a black Ku Klux Klan member.

"Racism is just a nicer word for segregation," he said. "If we all take a swing at the ball, we can knock racism out of the park."

Shuttlesworth said God is an important part of his strength within the civil rights movement.

Despite having his home bombed twice, being beaten on the streets of Birmingham, getting arrested over 30 times for his beliefs, and being sued for over \$3.5 million, Shuttlesworth perseveres because God has proven his belief in human rights.

"Despite the darkness of our generation, I'm still glad to assert that this is my God's world," he said. "America is better off today because in the middle of the 20th century ... while people like Birmingham Safety Director Eugene 'Bull' Connor said 'I'm the law,' while Alabama Gov. George Wallace said 'segregation will live forever,' ... it was becoming clear that only God lives forever."

The crowd was smaller than expected, filling less than half of the Silva Concert Hall. Moderator Jan Oliver expressed disappointment in the size of the audience, lamenting that despite all the tickets being given away free of charge, so few people chose to arrive. Next year, perhaps they should charge, Oliver quipped. Then the people who got tickets would definitely come.

OSU player succumbs to stroke

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Earnest Killum, who decided to play basketball for Oregon State after he was diagnosed with a blood-clotting disorder, died Monday, three days after suffering his second stroke in six months.

Dr. Carl Orfuss, a neurologist at Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital who treated Killum, said that his death was not related to playing basketball.

"It is the opinion of myself and all the physicians who treated Earnest here that he succumbed to a disease affecting the blood vessels and that his resumption of basketball in no way precipitated the terminal event," Orfuss said.

The 20-year-old sophomore guard was pronounced dead at 3 p.m. PST, Orfuss said in a hastily called news conference at the hospital. He said an autopsy was scheduled for Tuesday morning.

Killum, who only gained medical clearance to join the team in late December, suffered a stroke last Friday when he collapsed at a hotel.

He appeared to be improving, but lapsed into a coma early Sunday morning, team doctor Richard Cronk said. He was placed on a respirator after his condition worsened.

Orfuss said that over the 24 hours after he had gone into a coma, Killum lost all brain function.

"On behalf of Oregon State University, we wish to extend our deepest and most sincere condolences to Earnest's family," said Oregon State athletic director Dutch Baughman, who had remained in Los Angeles to be with Killum's family.

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