

# Martin Luther King Celebration

**Monday, January 18, 1988**

7:30 p.m.

**Mallory Avenue Christian Church  
126 N.E. Alberta**

Featuring Choirs:

**Bethel A.M.E. Church  
and  
Sharon Seventh Adventist**

Speaker:

**The Rev. Milton Green**

Sponsored by:

**Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon,  
Albina Ministerial Association  
and The Greater Portland Association  
of Evangelicals**

**Ecumenical Evangelicals**

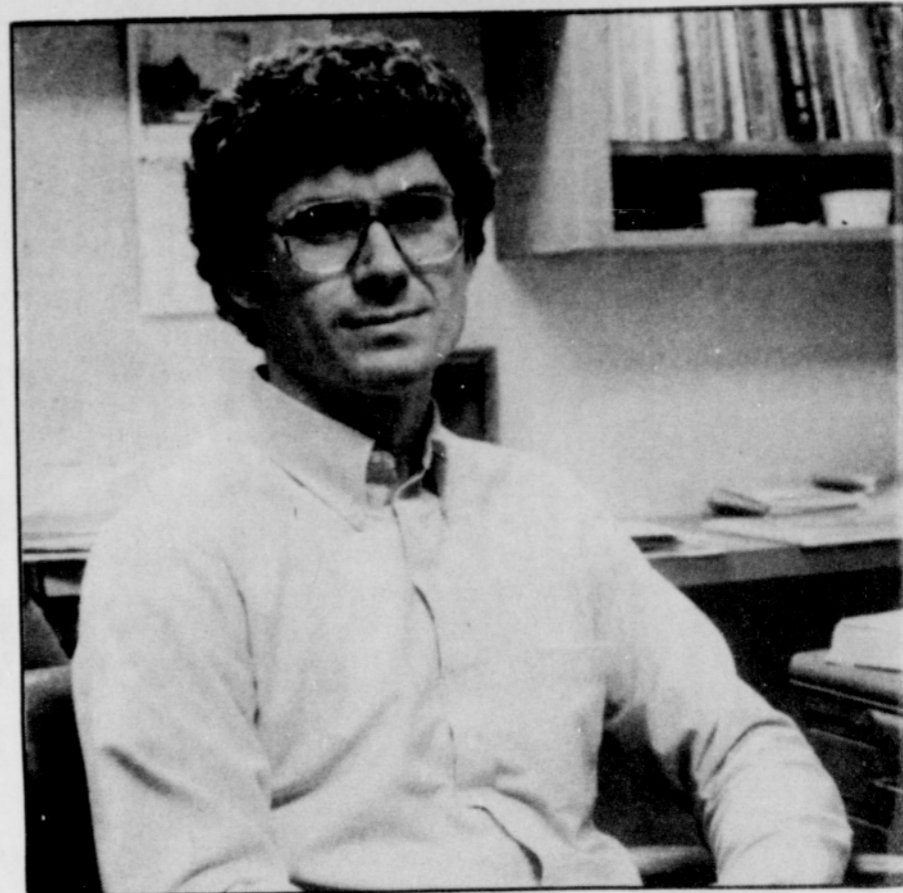
## "King Remembered"

by Rev. Terry Allen Moe  
Redeemer Lutheran Church

I was six when Martin Luther King began organizing for justice and equality for all people, prodded by the spunky witness of Rosa Parks. I was in seventh grade when he made his famous "I have a dream" speech in Washington, D.C. I was just eighteen and not yet eligible for the draft when he was assassinated in Memphis.

Since that time, I have come to know the man I didn't know in my younger years. I have come to know him through his speeches, through his writings, through what others have said and written about him. But most clearly I have come to know him in the spirit of those who continued his tradition of non-violent resistance. In Jesse Jackson and Ralph Abernathy, and closer to home in Rev. John Garlington and Rev. John Jackson. And as I reflect on these people's lives, I have come to understand that Martin Luther King was caught up in a spirit greater than himself, a spirit which like a wave carried him over and through time, rolling on like the waters of justice the prophets foresaw. Martin Luther King was caught up in this Great Spirit — the same spirit which gave voice to the prophets and birthed the Savior and planted Gandhi in South Africa and India and is ours as well. It is the spirit of peace and justice, peace with justice, a spirit which shines like a beacon in the darkness, and the darkness has not put it out. The spirit spoke so many times, but in the words Martin Luther King spoke the spirit was so clear and precise:

"To our most bitter opponents we say: 'We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We shall meet your physical force with soul



force. Do to us what you will, and we shall continue to love you. We cannot in all good conscious obey your unjust laws, because noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good. Throw us in jail, and we shall still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and we shall still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our communities at the midnight hour and beat us and leave us half dead, and we shall still love you. But be ye assured that we will wear you down by our capacity to suffer. One day we shall win freedom, but not only for ourselves. We shall so appeal to your heart and conscience that we shall win you in the process, and our victory will be a double victory.'" (From a sermon entitled "Loving Your

Enemies" published in "Strength To Love", Fortress Press, Philadelphia, 1963.)

Since I have come to know Martin Luther King in my twenties and thirties — I'm now thirty-seven, the age of Martin at his death — I feel the Great Spirit lifting others and even myself at times, lifting and carrying us upon a great rolling river of justice. Though at times it seems nothing has changed, and for each step forward there is one backward, or even two, through racial and economic violence threaten like incurable cancer, we are riding a wave and when it crashes upon the shore at our death, another crests inexorably, and another, and another, for the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. To Martin and to the Spirit which carried him I say, "Amen!"

*"If you think I came to tell you  
to hate white people,  
you have the wrong man.  
Our goal is not to defeat or humiliate  
the white man,  
but to win his friendship and love."*

—The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*King— a modern  
Moses for his people.*



**Dick Bogle, Commissioner  
City of Portland**

**The Portland Trailblazers  
salute Martin Luther King Jr's  
Birthday Holiday**

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