

# King's Words Merit Lessons Today

continued ▲ from MLK Front

King celebrated the world's diversity and that's why if he were alive today, he would most certainly embrace not just the Christian traditions, but also Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim traditions, and much more.

Would King disagree with the current American policies in the war on terrorism? His words are still relevant today:

*"You must not harbor anger. You must be willing to suffer the anger of the opponent, and yet not return anger. You must not become bitter. No matter how emotional your opponents are you must become calm."*

One of the purposes of the United Nations is to deal with major world crises in a calm and efficient manner. Would King have agreed to bypass the United Nations and go fight a war alone over alleged weapons of mass destruction?

U.N. Secretary Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela, and many others with heavy political clout all warned America that rushing into Iraq was not the right thing to do. Would King have found a better way? His words:

*"The nations have believed that greater armaments will cast out fear. But alas they have produced greater fear... We must shift the arms race into a peace race."*

King saw how war begets more war. Though the winners may celebrate, the losers will be full of hate for the victors. He believed that war couldn't bring peace, that only peace can bring peace:

During the Civil Rights era, Dr. King was not only looking for better schools for black children, but also for children of any color entrenched in poverty. Would he have chose the tools of war and left our school children behind? His words are still relevant today:

*"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom."*



*A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom.*

— Martin Luther King Jr.

The Civil Rights era that both built and tore down the great Alabama minister was pivotal in breaking the backs of the Ku Klux Klan and all it represented. Though King was murdered, a nation finally opened its eyes. Again, his words:

*"Non-violence does not mean refusing to fight. Nonviolence is a way of fighting without resorting to violence. It is a method of fighting for what you believe in, without giving in to oppression and without oppres-*

*sion others. It is a way of winning a lasting victory instead of a temporary advantage. It is a way of ending the conflict by refusing to perpetuate it. It is a way of overcoming evil by refusing to play the game according to evil's rules."*

King said one of the most persistent ambiguities of world leaders is that everybody talks about peace as a goal, but among the wielders of power peace is practically nobody's busi-

ness:

*"Many men cry 'Peace! Peace! But they refuse to do the things that make for peace."*

More from King:

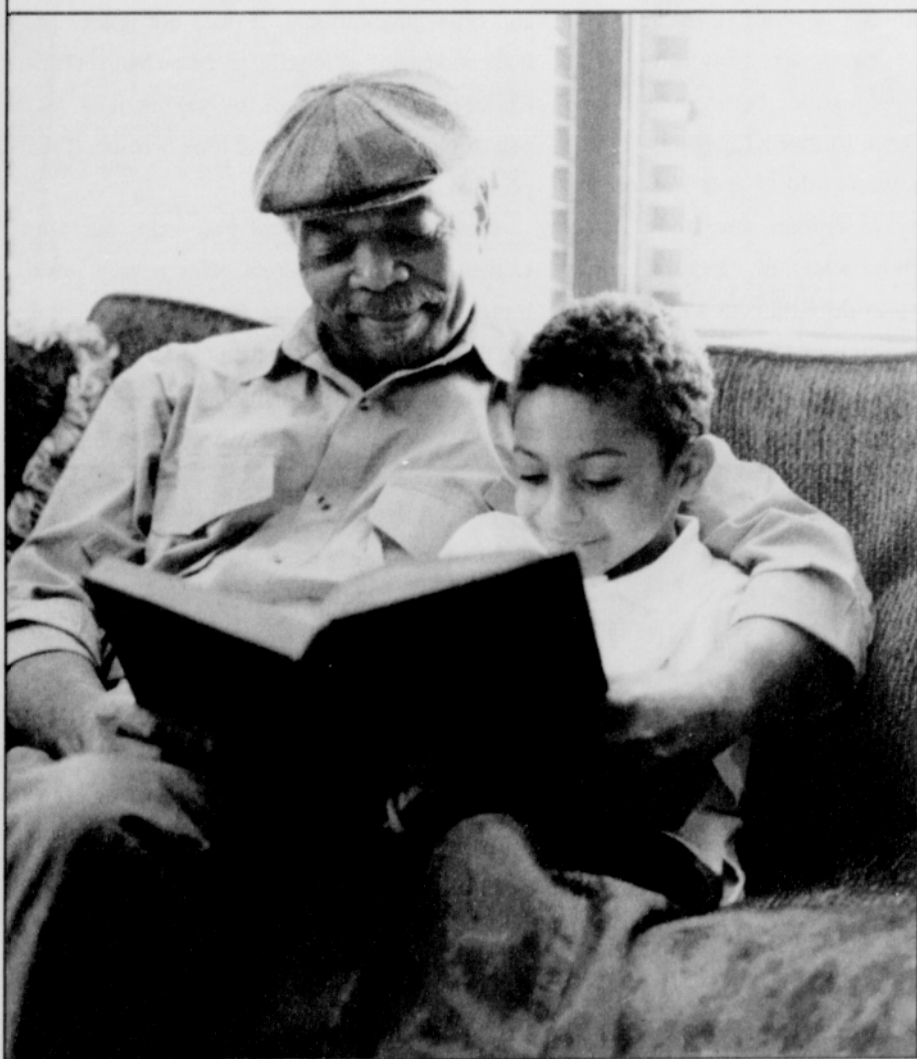
*"It is one of the strangest things that all the great military geniuses of the world have talked about peace. The conquerors of old who came killing in pursuit of peace — Alexander, Julius Caesar, Charlemagne, and Napoleon — were akin in seeing a peaceful world order. If you will read 'Mein Kampf' closely enough, you will discover that Hitler contended that everything he did in German was for peace."*

Even Dr. King knew that he would die a violent death as a result of his pursuit for peace. As our president speaks of an "Axis of Evil" in the world, would King have added our own country to that list? Consider his words:

*"In spite of the fact that the law of revenge solves no social problems, men continue to follow its (revenge) disastrous leading. History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path."*

Just minutes after the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy, George Bush spoke of "getting them back." Would King have approved of our plan to go after "the bad guys?" King often spoke of the wrongness of the eye-for-an-eye approach:

*"Above all, our experience has shown that social change can take place without violence...The United Nations is a gesture in the direction of non-violence on a world scale...It (Violence) is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than to win his understanding; it seeks to annihilate rather than to convert. Violence is immoral because it thrives on hatred rather than love. It destroys community and makes brotherhood impossible. It leaves society in monologue rather than dialogue. Violence ends by defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers"*



**WELLS  
FARGO**

The Next Stage®

Can you put a price on words?

Words that secure men's hearts and move them to tears.

Words that inspire every generation to dream.

Words that multiply in value when proclaimed by a King.

Wells Fargo honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
A man whose words will always be treasured.

