

Local Peace Activists Inspired by King's Work

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peaceful negotiation and conflict resolution techniques.

The effort is aimed at creating practical programs and principles of peace-building, to take the field of peace-building from the margins of political and societal dialogue and make it a factor in policymaking, investment and understanding. The department would achieve this primarily through a massive public-education, outreach and citizen-lobbying effort.

"Dr. Martin Luther King's teachings about civil rights and equality took time to root into our culture. It didn't happen overnight. Some didn't believe it would happen at all," says Bryan. "this effort is possible but it will take time and participating people to achieve."

The campaign is aimed at the inequality that is still in our society today, issues that include economics, social prejudices and the environment.

"We are approaching peace in the same way as Dr. King did, by working to lift up the poorest among us so that our neighbors are secure economically and resources are shared. There can't be peace unless equality is among all of us," says Bryan.

One of Dr. Martin Luther King's famous quotes is being echoed by the Peace Alliance and peace-

makers 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."

The Peace Alliance effort has a network of volunteers in all 50 states working to urge lobbyists, help fundraising efforts, get donations, speak to the public and spread the word through outside organizations and schools. The grassroots movement is growing rapidly. Its website

"take a look around you and imagine what it would be like to have equality in the way that Martin Luther King dreamed. No matter what your race, age, gender, economic standpoint is, everyone wants to live in peaceful neighborhoods, have their children safe at school and not have to build their houses into fortresses. We all can agree with that and make it a platform for discussion to begin making a change."

Now is a great time to rise up and demand change...take a look around you and imagine what it would be like to have equality in the way that Martin Luther King dreamed.

— Ken Bryan, campaign coordinator for the creation of a U.S. Department of Peace

is receiving 60,000 to a million hits per month. There are 42,000 supporters of the movement nationwide and supporters of the organization have sent over 25,000 letters to a variety of members of congress, not counting postcards, phone calls and emails.

"Now is a great time to rise up and demand change," says Bryan.

To learn more about how to get involved in the Peace Alliance you can visit their website at www.thepeacealliance.org and click on Act Now! or visit dopcampaign.org. Ken Bryan can be contacted at kendbryan@yahoo.com for information on volunteering and events in the Portland area.

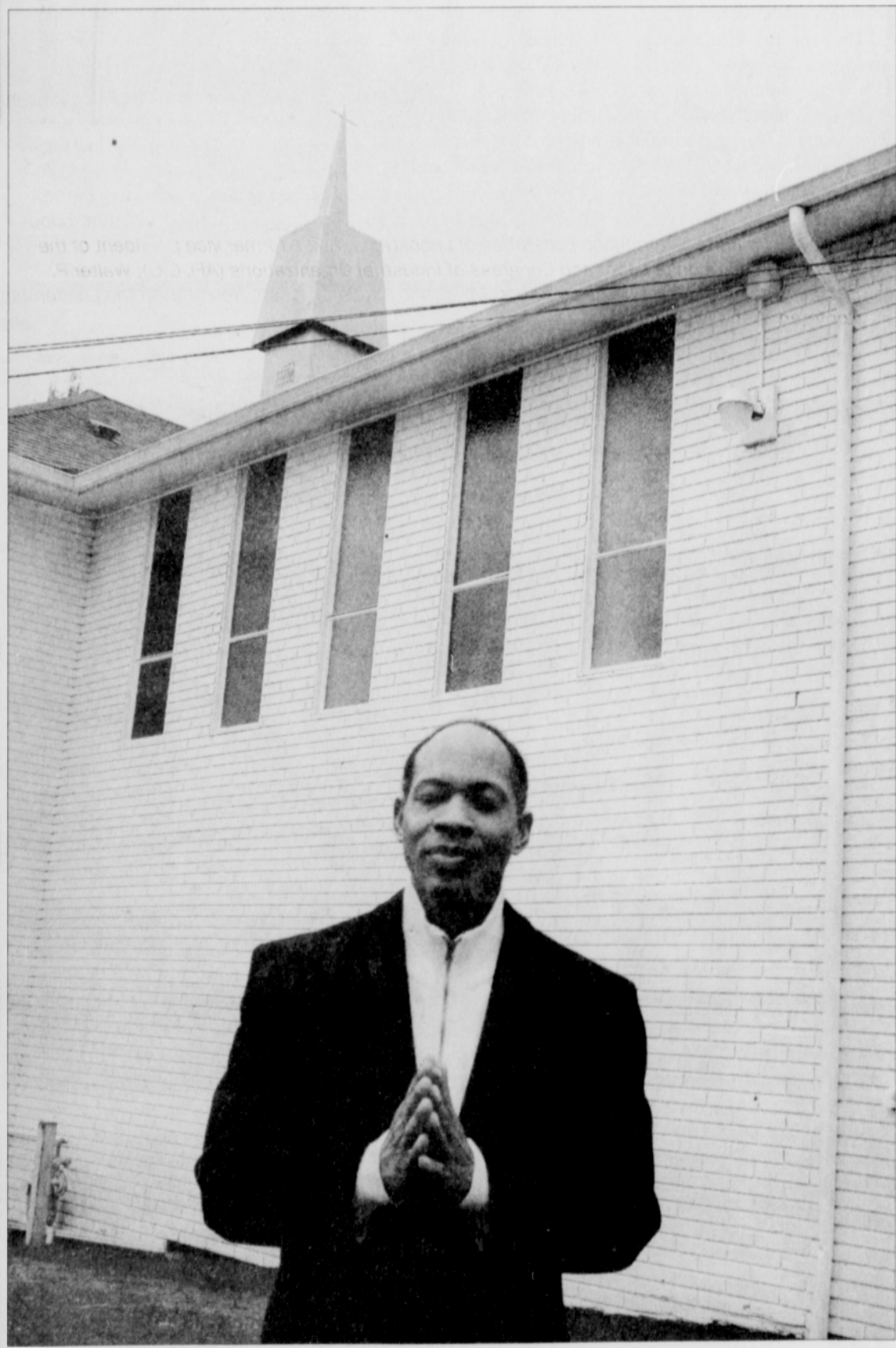


PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Pastor Lamar Hardy sees Martin Luther King as an inspiration not only to himself, but also to many fellow preachers.

Living a Renewed Dream

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lenges, however. "If I go out here and start telling the truth, people don't like that," Hardy says. "Martin Luther King knew they were going to come after him for the

truth."

Hardy references some of King's final words that have been subject to much speculation.

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life—longevity has its place," King said in his I've Been

to the Mountaintop speech, the last before he was assassinated. "But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will."

Hardy says, "When God gives you a work to do, one must do it."

His voice has not faded.
His light has not dimmed.

Martin Luther King, Jr. stood up for the dignity of each individual and demonstrated the power of many individuals working together.

He spoke to our better selves with words of hope and encouragement.

When the journey was hard, he led us further down the road and invited all to join in.

Many years ago, this one man brightened the future for generations to come. His message still calls out to us, and his actions live on.

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