

Occupy

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from all walks of life are included.

Chavis has received the endorsements of civil rights icons the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. Other clerical representatives involved are the pioneering African Methodist Episcopal Bishop Vashti McKinzie; Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore, Sr., president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention; and Bishop John Bryant, senior Bishop and presiding prelate of the Fourth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Chavis says he is also working with student leaders on campuses of historically Black colleges and universities around the nation, an effort led by Morehouse College student President Steven Green. "We couldn't afford to have a generation gap or a culture gap between older Blacks and

tion was overturned in 1980. Amnesty International called the group "American political prisoners".

After 50 years of involvement in the civil rights movement, Chavis says the key battle ground of the Occupy the Dream movement will be the mindset of African-Americans.

"There comes a time and place when all of us have to do

something in terms of being active. And January 16 is an opportunity. It's a national holiday for Dr. King. Everybody's off work that day. What are we going to do?" he says. "One way to recognize and be grateful for the legacy of Dr. King is move from the monument to the movement. ...Now that we have the monument, it's time to rekindle the movement that the monument represents."

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— Benjamin Chavis

younger Blacks," he said.

The new movement was announced Dec. 14 at a press conference held at the National Press Club. Independent journalist David DeGraw, largely credited with leading the Occupy Wall Street Movement was at the conference welcoming the ministers, noting that Chavis' life has been "a battle".

He is correct that Chavis is no stranger to struggle. He was a member of the group known as the Wilmington Ten, arrested during school desegregation protests in Wilmington, N.C. in 1971 and charged with firebombing, conspiracy and arson. The group got international attention as they served nearly 10 years in prison until their convic-

There is deep down within us an instinct. It's a kind of drum major instinct - a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade, a desire to be first...we all have the drum major instinct...

There comes a time that the drum major instinct can become destructive. And that's where I want to move now. I want to move to the point of saying that if this instinct is not harnessed, it becomes a very dangerous pernicious instinct...

(Jesus) said in substance... "Oh I see you want to be great. You want to be important. You want to be significant. Well, you ought to be. If you are going to be my disciple, you must be." But he reordered priorities. And he said, "Yes, don't give up this instinct. It's a good instinct if you use it right... Don't give it up. Keep feeling the need for being important. Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be first in love. I want you to be first in moral excellence. I want you to be first in generosity."

Martin Luther King Jr. The Drum Major Instinct. 1968




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**We salute Dr. King
and his leadership in furthering Civil Rights.**

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