



RELIGION

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Faith Leaders Suggest Actions to Make MLK's Dream a Reality

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

As the nation prepares to observe the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther Day on Jan. 15, people across the land will salute his tremendous achievements and dramatic effect on civil rights.

King's endurance as a history-maker is demonstrated by the ongoing efforts of faith leaders, legislators and laity to make his dream of a color-blind, equitable society a reality.

Seeking insight about King's legacy and its relevance in the 21st century, the L.A. Sentinel asked three L.A. pastors for their thoughts.

"Dr. King's life allows us to glean obvious lessons on leadership and courage; yet, his true legacy is that he was willing to be faithful to the call in Matthew 25:40 to sacrificially serve marginalized, underrepresented and poor people," shared the Rev. James K. McKnight, pastor of the Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship.

Alluding to the uncomfortable feelings King's messages often provoked, McKnight said, "Dr.

King also forced our nation to confront difficult issues. In 2018, those issues and others hinder the progress of the human family. God's call on us all is timeless. Our failure to respond would be tragic."

The Rev. Sonja R. Dawson, pastor of New Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, noted that King predicted the expansion of the campaign to encompass all humanity. "In 1967 during a staff retreat for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. King stated, 'I think it is necessary for us to realize that we have moved from the era of civil rights to the era of human rights.'"

"In 2018, we are at the height of

man rights issues in relation to social and economic disparities, urban sprawl, immigration, homelessness, and under-resourced communities," insisted Dawson. "The cry for better communities, better schools, better homes, and better education systems should echo even louder forty years later as we move further and further away from 'The Dream.' As the current generation of religious and social leaders, we must spring forth to bridge the gaps in the communities for which we live, work, and worship.

Reflecting on the relevancy of King's message, the Rev. Larry Dozier, pastor of St. John United Methodist Church, shared, "There are still individuals in the world who are not free because of their color or their political beliefs. There is still inequality in America such as that of equal pay for equal work between the sexes, and among the races. We yet live in an unjust world in which sentences for crimes are more severe on one race or class of individuals as opposed to another, i.e.,



Pastor James K. McKnight



Pastor Sonja R. Dawson



Pastor Larry Dozier

Black vs. White." Dozier continued, "There is still a lack of love as is taught in the Bible and quoted in St. Mark 12:30-31, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

To help King's dream move forward, the pastors offered actions that believers can employ to further his work in their lives.

Outlining a list of activities, Dozier started with "Trust in God and that He is still in control." Also, he suggested that believers devote time on the holiday to discussing King's impact, both in this country and around the world. Dozier further suggested that people become involved in the election process.

"Use non-violent actions to make changes such as voting, getting people registered to vote in the upcoming 2018 mid-

term elections. Be proactive about helping President Donald Trump find another, more suitable job," he said.

"Let Democrats and Republicans alike know that Mr. Trump is not acceptable as our president of these United States of America and that we are holding them accountable for doing their jobs: honoring their oath of office to protect America over any enemy, within or without and above political affiliations, America first. Work tirelessly to correct this mistake (DT), even as we did to get President Obama elected in 2008 and 2012," declared Dozier.

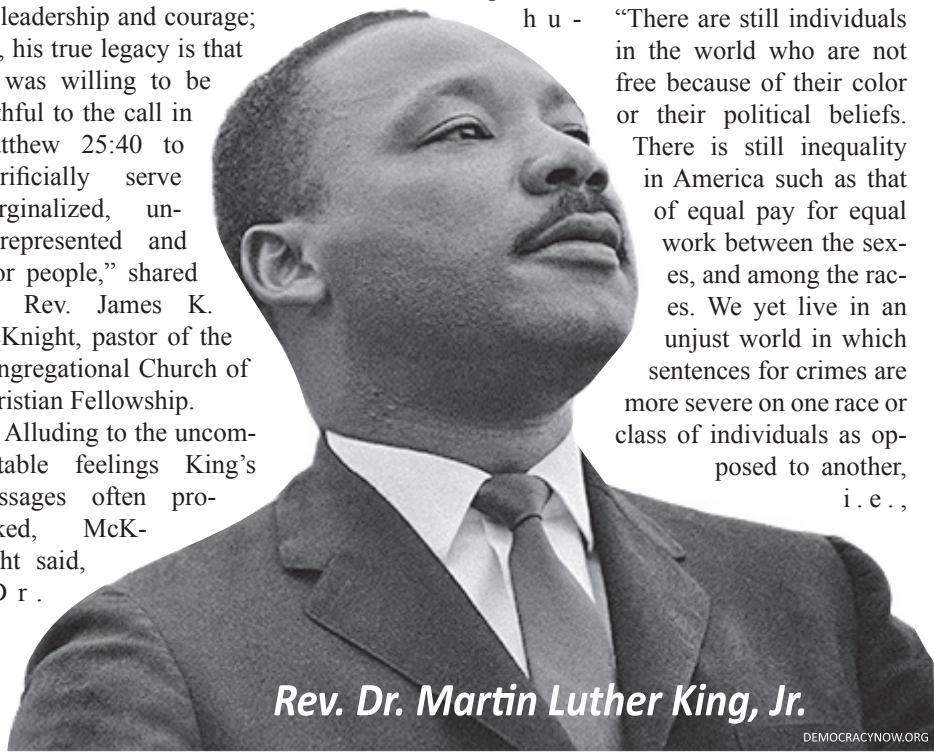
To churches and ministries, Dawson recommended adopting "King's organizational strategies" to focus on collaboration instead of competition because "there is strength in numbers."

Dawson added, "Religious and social justice leaders must also engage in

more action-based strategic planning. Every dialogue and town hall meeting should end with tangible action plans that can be implemented to address discussed areas of need.

"In addition, we must be willing to overcome our personal biases, obstacles, and challenges to engage in multiethnic, multicultural, and multilingual partnerships. Moreover, we must address the issues of human rights with love and compassion like Jesus — our ultimate example," she said.

McKnight advised, "Let's keep Dr. King's dream alive with four S's. Survey the history. The rich history will inspire and instruct. Support organizations and/or individuals who are fighting against racial and economic injustice and the senseless killing of members of the human family. Seek the Lord in prayer. Start now doing something that you know God is calling you to do."



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Steib Headlines African American Catholic Center's King Breakfast

STAFF REPORT

Bishop J. Terry Steib, the retired bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis, Tennessee, will be the featured speaker at the Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr., Prayer Breakfast.

The event, sponsored by the African American Catholic Center for Evangelization (AACCE), will be held on Saturday, January 13, at 8 a.m., at the Proud Bird Restaurant, 11022 Aviation

Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Steib, who served as bishop from 1993 to 2016, is noted for establishing Jubilee Schools, which serves 1,600 students. In recognition of his contributions, the Memphis City Council

named a street in his honor.

Ordained a priest in the Society of the Divine Word (SDW) in 1967, Steib previously served as provincial superior to SDW's Southern Province, vice president of the Conference

of Major Superiors of Men and auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

The ticket donation is \$50 and available by calling (323) 777-2106.

(Andrew Knox contributed to this report.)



Bishop J. Terry Steib

Warren Chapel CME Marks 72nd Anniversary

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Warren Chapel CME Church will celebrate its 72nd anniversary on Sunday, January 21, at 3:30 p.m., at in the edifice located at 1039 Elberon Ave., in San Pedro.

According to Pastor Adam D. Stevenson, the theme is "Saved to Serve" based on Ephesians 4:11-13. The guest preacher is the Rev. Travis Morris, pastor of Lewis Metropolitan CME Church and presiding elder of the Los Angeles-San Diego District.



Rev. Travis Morris

"We invite the public to attend and be prepared for a good time in the Lord," said Stevenson, who added that a luncheon will precede the service.

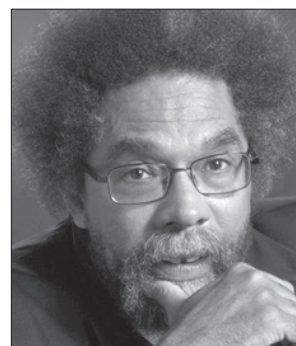
Dr. Vanilla Brooks is the program chair. To learn more, call (310) 308-4754.

Ephesians New Testament Co-Hosts MLK Event

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Ephesians New Testament Church and the City of Fontana will host the 30th celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

The event is set for January 13, at 4 p.m., at Mountain View Church, 8833 Palmetto Avenue, in Fontana, said Bishop Emory B. James, pastor of Ephesians New Testament.



Dr. Cornel West

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Cornel West,



Vanessa Bell

a prolific philosopher, author, scholar and activist.

Also, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, a 7-time Grammy nominee and Grammy Award winner, will perform.

The free celebration will be open to the public. Also, a meet-and-greet reception is scheduled for 3 p.m., at the Fontana Lewis Library and Technology Center.

For more information, visit ephesianschurch.com or call (909) 823-2310.

Young, Kirkland to Preach at City of David

STAFF REPORT

Church of God Pentecostal Bishop Johnny Young and Retired AME Bishop Theodore Larry Kirkland will preach at the City of David Community Church 1st year anniversary services on Jan. 14, said Pastor Demiko Fitzgerald.

Young will speak at the 8 a.m. at St. James AME Church, 655 W. 70th St., in L.A. At 3 p.m., Kirkland preaches at Miracle Temple Church of God Pente-



Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, Sr.

costal, 733 S. Grevillea in Inglewood. GMWA Adult Choir and Psalmist Felicia Nicole will also perform.

SOUTHERN SAINT PAUL CHURCH

FRESH START Revival 2018

Worship Service
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH @ 5PM

WEDNESDAY JAN. 17-
FRIDAY, JAN. 19 @ 7PM NIGHTLY

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HOST PASTOR

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FRIENDSHIP WEST BAPTIST CHURCH
DALLAS, TX
NIGHTLY SPEAKER

DR. JAMAL H. BRYANT
EMPOWERMENT TEMPLE CHURCH
BALTIMORE, MD
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