



bloodline network newsletter

Mark Hanby Ministries P.O. Box 8093 Chattanooga, TN 37414
(423) 510-8383

“I’VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAINTOP”

“Then Moses went up from the plains ... to the mountaintop ... which is across from Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land ... and said, “This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” So Moses the servant of the LORD died there. And the children of Israel wept for Moses.” (Deut 34—truncated version)

America has great heroes who advanced freedom. We have our Founding Fathers; George Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson who paid a price for not only securing our freedom but establishing our government. Later Abraham Lincoln carried on the “battle cry for freedom” with his Emancipation Proclamation—costing him his life. In the middle of the last century Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream that inspired another generation to further expand that freedom in God saying, “with this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood ... to sing together ... Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. picked up the chords of “a battle cry for freedom” ... and while advocating nonviolence, he courageously sang, “We shall overcome.” Through his unwavering efforts our nation passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964. Coretta Scott King wrote that her husband had as an “ultimate goal of healing and regenerating an entire population ... to eliminate injustice within ourselves.” Dr. King believed that this was just the beginning of a greater spiritual freedom as well “by reaching into and beyond ourselves and tapping the transcendent moral ethic of love, we shall overcome these evils. Love, truth, and the courage to do what is right should be our own guideposts on this lifelong journey.”

It’s been almost forty years since Dr. King’s cry for freedom was abruptly cut short ... his sentence left dangling ... a fate he eloquently alluded to in a eulogy given at the funeral of four young girls killed in a church bombing; “Death is not a period that ends the great sentence of life, but a comma that punctuates it to more lofty significance. Death is not a blind alley that leads the human race into a state of nothingness, but an open door which leads man into life eternal.”

Although Dr. King ‘worked for’ freedom ... he died with some of his words unsung. We look at his life and weep for the hope that was not finished. His life was ‘punctuated’... and we still are in a pause before freedom’s triumphant conclusion. He was determined to ‘be’ all that our nation’s freedom proclaimed—totally free! He is free at last, but we continue in pursuit of God’s love that releases a greater spiritual freedom in our minds and hearts to fulfill our purpose and ultimately our destiny in Him.

If Dr. King could have lived to see the fruit of his labors, if he could have brought the freedom he ‘worked for’ to the next level of manifestation, we would know how to transcend into the next phase of spiritual freedom with a changed mental attitude—the mind totally set free. He perceived the restoration of every man’s rights as only the initial step towards freedom. Every man should have the freedom to fulfill his responsibility. If the mind is set free then man would be free to pursue what is best ... being the best and giving his best. Race may have been an issue in the quest for freedom but now we take it to another level and regenerate our shackled minds—and the heart of our nation discovers ‘a new birth of freedom.’

Freedom was never about getting something for nothing—it’s the liberty of getting what we want out of life through use of the God given abilities in us. Freedom is not remaining victims of poverty, hate, discrimination, injustice, dysfunction, etc.—but the liberty to express His love and fulfill our God given responsibilities. Dr. King advocated a shift to a higher spiritual perception that activates a godly change in thinking—setting the mind free. It was similar to the thoughts of the writer of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson; “Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.”

At the time America was fighting to be a nation, William Wilberforce was pursuing the abolition of slavery in the England. Wilberforce’s fight began soon after embracing Evangelical Christianity in 1784. He became relentless in his pursuit and secured enactment of legislation prohibiting the trade in 1807. But ill-health forced his early retirement from Parliament in 1825. It was not until just four days before his death that a young Member of Parliament, William Gladstone called on Wilberforce to tell him he pledged to pick up his mantle. The next day (July 25, 1833) Gladstone brought the bill abolishing slavery to the floor for the third time and it was passed into law. Although Wilberforce desperately wanted to abolish slavery, he knew that even when this battle was finally won on paper—it would really not be over until the grace of Jesus Christ freed every heart and mind of all mankind as well.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Slavery has existed since the dawn of creation; Babylon, Greece, Rome, Ammonites—all practiced slavery. Even the Athenian democracy had a free male population of less than two percent—that meant almost everyone was a slave! Until Jesus—slavery was practiced in every level of civilization. Jesus broke through the slavery issue by setting man free in their hearts and minds. The spread of Christianity brought with it a practice of liberty, bringing an end to slavery as well as other pagan practices such as infanticide and abortion.

As the heart is regenerated mankind learns how to live in the spiritual kingdom—we lose

all our distinctions and become one in purpose. Just like Wilberforce a century earlier, Dr. King recognized the greatness of mankind was not subject to the distinction of male or female, Greek or Jew, Protestant or Catholic and heralded a right cause—that every man was created equal. What the political system failed to finish in earlier centuries fell as a mantle on the man of God, the Apostle of the Lord, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In Dr. King's speech the night before his assassination, he summed up the purpose of his life in a poetic journey through time. Already he had survived a near fatal stabbing and endured constant death threats—yet he knew his life purpose and determined to fearlessly fulfill his destiny. Like Moses, he also had stood on the mountain overlooking the promise land. He was thoroughly convinced he had come *“to the kingdom for such a time as this.”*

As wrong as it is to withhold equal rights—Dr. King knew it was also wrong to give freedom in material possessions and not learn how to ‘work for’ and maintain the principles of freedom. In other words, mankind has a right to be responsible to God and our families—or we likewise may sell ourselves to the government similar to the Egyptians during the famine in the days of Pharaoh and Joseph.

Back in the day of Joseph the famine in the world had become so severe that the Egyptians sold themselves to Pharaoh—they were living in government housing and eating government food. If not for the wisdom of Joseph they would have devoured their seed to feed themselves in their devastating crisis, but in the last year of the blight he had them plant a portion for the following season so that they could once again provide for themselves. Joseph renewed their expectations by not only giving seed to eat—but also seed to plant. Their prosperity was in their seed potential, much like Dr. King portrayed in his dream of a free people—not devouring our future potential by feuding over issues but investing our freedom for our future so that we prosper ... not just today—but our generations prosper forever. God's wants us to prosper and provide for our families—this is our right as citizens in America and in His Kingdom.

We all share the same freedom. We have the option of using this freedom to fulfill our personal ambitions or we can plant our seed of purpose into another generation and eternally increase its productivity and measure. We actually take our knowledge of the kingdom of God to a new level as freedom regenerates 'Who He is' in the risen Body of Christ.

Joseph had a plan for Egypt's prosperity. His plan for Egypt's success is similar to Dr. King's dream for America because their ultimate objective was the well being of the people. Religious systems and welfare agencies minimize the potential of people because they target the symptoms and not the cause. They lost sight of the true objective and settled on a goal of financially aiding our present problems, not promoting the freedom of self-sufficiency but rather instituting total dependency—this is the ‘slave mentality’ that shackles the mind of our nation.

Joseph was a compassionate leader who considered the poor and planned for their success. Dr. King likewise had compassion for the well being of the people—and his ultimate purpose was to be about kingdom business. He was consumed with the desire to do His Father's work. *"Zeal for my Father's House has eaten me up!"* Dr. King was determined to help all of us achieve our prophetic destiny as God's children and in so doing we become one mighty nation under God.

The last speech that Dr. King ever gave included a history of the painful journey of a man determined to reach his destiny. He went through the ages and what he wanted to see, saying, “But I wouldn’t stop there. I would go on ...” and concluding his courageous life with, “Strangely enough, I would turn to the Almighty, and say, ‘If you allow me to live just a few years in the second half of the twentieth century, I will be happy.’” When he came to his eloquent conclusion he said, “We’ve got to give ourselves to this struggle until the end. Nothing would be more tragic than to stop at this point ...”

It seems Dr. King sensed an urgency to speak a word of future direction ... that if something should happen to him, that we not pause halfway but go on to the end of the sentence to finish his ultimate dream for America. He recites a discourse Jesus had with some of his followers about what is man’s duty. The man answers, “*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.*” The man wanting to justify his position asks “*who is my neighbor*” to which Jesus then directed the parable of the Good Samaritan. Following the example of Jesus, Dr. King started with the same premise Jesus referred to in the parable, that a good neighbor is “*he who showed mercy*” and concluded with a proceeding word as a guidepost for all of us to live “a kind of dangerous unselfishness.”

Dr. King paused in his message with two direct questions to us about loving our neighbor: “‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’ or ‘If I do not stop to help, what will happen to them?’ That’s the question before you tonight ... let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation.” He was determined that the freedom would be spiritual too and that it would continue in the hearts and minds of all Americans.

In retrospect at this point Dr. King starts to pause more in the delivery of each sentence, dangling very close to life’s edge, saying, “Well, I don’t know what will happen now ... We’ve got some difficult days ahead ... But it doesn’t matter with me now because I’ve been to the mountaintop ... And I don’t mind ... Like anybody ... I would like to live a long life ... Longevity has its place ... But I’m not concerned about that now ... I just want to do God’s will ... And He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain ... And I’ve looked over ... And I’ve seen the promise land ... I may not get there with you ... but I want you to know tonight ... that we, as a people ... will get to the promise land ... And I’m happy tonight ... I’m not worried about anything ... I’m not fearing any man ... Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!” Dr. King ended his life saying that it didn’t make a difference what happened to him now—if he perishes, he perishes—but it mattered so much to us!

America still mourns for him ... he paid the ultimate price for freedom—what he stood for is still making a vital difference in our America! He knew that the gospel tears down the walls that divide male and female; dissolving the discord between Jew and Greek; and builds up the rights of all mankind to freely choose to live responsibly in Him. His Love sets us free so we can soar to new heights in Him.

Have we taken our liberty to the highest level of spirituality that Dr. King dreamed? Do we dare to believe that we can live by the Spirit ... no longer ruled by the past but ruled only by

His love? There were spiritual forces at work through out history trying to deprive us of God given rights—but the natural outgrowth in the spiritual is the liberation of the mind. Let us live like brothers singing “with new meaning, ‘My country, ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim’s pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.’ And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring ...when we let freedom ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual song, “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

Roger and Karen Roth are the set ministry of a local church in Northeastern Wisconsin. They are a ministry son of Dr. Hanby, and along with writing the Bloodline articles each month, they are directors of a portion of Dr. Hanby's ministry called THE FATHER'S HEART.

Any questions or comments please contact us at rk-roth@juno.com