

“In the Words of Martin is there a Ghandi here today?”

An acceptance speech for a Freedom Center King Legacy Award for Darfur Project – Christ Church Cathedral
written on the occasion of the Cincinnati Underground Railroad and Freedom Center’s observance of the birthday of
The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Breakfast Celebration; 8:00 a.m. Monday, 18 January 2010

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In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“If there had not been a Gandhi in India, then India would never have been free.

“If there had not been an Nkrumah in Ghana, then Ghana would still be a British colony.

“If there had not been abolitionists in America, both Negro and white, we might still stand today
in the dungeons of slavery.

But then, because there have been, in every period, you may expect that such heroic titans will
appear “in every period of human history---persecuted, discriminated---because they know that
freedom is not free; freedom is never given out freely...”

So I know and you know and people of every period of history and on into future generations
know that freedom comes through persistence, the will to not give up---to see what the end will
be.

Is there here present, in Nkrumah moral voice, anyone who will join us in speaking out for
Darfur, calling for an end to genocide, child starvation, and 3 million in displacements?

Who are the abolitionists here present, persistent and insistent in pursuit against child labor in the
silver mines of Peru: children captured into 21st century slavery!

Who will advocate for human rights for children? Who will be the Martin Luther King, Jr.
peacemaker warrior of this 21st century? Is it you?

Among us here today, is there a Ghandi for Haiti, advocating for restorative justice for a people,
an island nation who, in ostensible freedom, yet remain enslaved in poverty inescapable,
unforgiven by powerful nations for Toussaint L’Ouverture’s yearning for freedom.

“Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of thy love.

And wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.” -unknown

I am grateful for this award and humbly accept it on behalf of Christ Church Cathedral’s
Christian Formation, Mission and Outreach, the Reconciliation Ministry, the Darfur Committee,
the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Reverend James A. Diamond and the Vestry, and
all the faithful supporters of Darfur effort---especially those who are here with me today.

I am the grandmother of 9 and accept this award in their honor, particularly for the two
newborns, Solana and Richard, and for the yet-to-be-born great-grandchild in May.

Good morning! And thank you all.