

NATIONAL RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE



JUSTICE SUNDAY

A Charge To Keep We Have: Service Before and Beyond

2005 Campaign to Serve The Present Age



The prevalence of violence, crime and incarceration has tremendous consequences that weigh most heavily on communities of color. As one of the more severe consequences, populations of children grow up in an atmosphere where a safe and stable family do not exist. We must reduce the potential for these variables to continue to hold our communities captive and launch a national movement, led by faith, in the quest for true and lasting freedom. This will require the collective efforts of many as well as a personal and individual commitment from those we desire to help. **It can begin with a mentor.**

Through this initiative, the National Religious Affairs Association of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice promotes the value of the inclusion of faith in addressing consequences and resolutions of crime. To support demographic research, emphasis is placed upon crime's impact on African Americans and other people of color in society.

Over three decades after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the struggle to be and remain free is complicated by the temptation to use and sell illegal substances for overnight success. Weapons of mass destruction in this country, drugs, alcohol, violence, produce the backdrop for many other crimes. They are among the threats which capture and enslave the minds of vulnerable adults and youth. The compelling need "to have" coupled with addiction is overwhelming. The temporary need to escape reality through the effects of drugs is an expense met by violence and senseless deaths. As opposed to "How long? Not long . . .," the call and response of impatience bellows ". . .How long? too long!" These variables undermine and depreciate the value of freedom purchased by the blood of many.

Quoted in thousands of documents, websites, programs, and displays, we know by his infamous speech, "*Have A Dream*," that Dr. King envisioned a time when his four little children would one day live in a nation where they would not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. . . ." For as long as a disproportionate number of youth enter the endless cycle of crime and violence, the skin color of Yolanda, Martin III, Dexter, and Bernice will forevermore remain in the forefront of statistics and erode the development of strong character. Racial disparity will continue to influence judgments, and the "beloved community" for which Dr. King sacrificed his life will be threatened.



Each year, on the Sunday prior to the federal holiday honoring Dr. King, NRAA leads the charge to call to action the nation around the issue of mentoring special needs populations. We call this day, **Justice Sunday** in honor of Dr. King's vocation as a Baptist preacher. This year, over 1000 volunteers were recruited to serve this cause. The theme, however, and the hymn from which it evolved suggests **a charge to keep we have**, a responsibility, not only before and on the holiday, but beyond the holiday, **to serve this present age**. The charge we must keep was not exclusive to the years before his death, but the greatest tribute we can pay to him and all those who fought so diligently for our civil rights is to continue service with all our might beyond his death.

A Charge To Keep We Have 50 Years Later

December 1, 2005 will mark the 50th anniversary of one of the most significant events in modern day civil rights history, the refusal to relinquish her seat on a public bus by Mrs. Rosa L. Parks. This single event changed the course of segregation in America and prompted the rise of Dr. King to local then national leadership of a new and aggressive campaign of service. On December 5, 1955, Dr. King accepted the charge to lead the movement.



To continue in our 2005 Justice Sunday and lead into our 2006 commemorative series, between January 17, the holiday honoring the late Dr. King, through December 5, 2005, we have earmarked a dates, each of which will represent a call to service to reduce violence and crime by mentoring a young man, a child or adult who will make a commitment to rise above their circumstances, despite the current impact of criminal justice system on their lives.

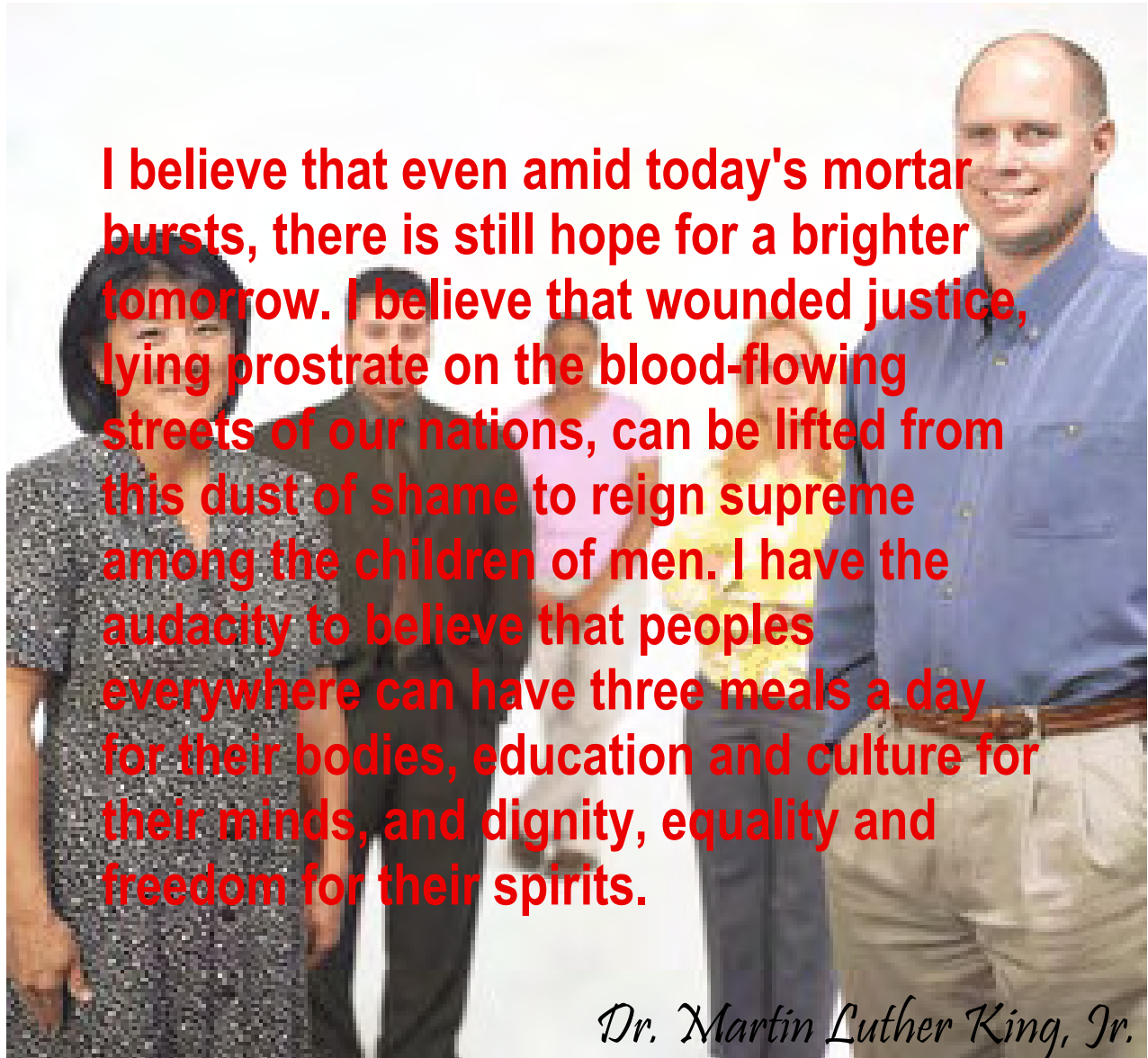
Justice Sunday National Recruitment Initiative

During our **National Engagement Month**, we will:

- Identify the 50 cities which will participate in the initiative to include: Entering into agreement with each city to conduct specialized training, recruitment drives, and media distribution in each, issue proclamations of this national mobilization effort
- Identify up to 50 religious institutions or organizations in each state that will host a recruitment drives to recruit a minimum of 50 mentor candidates of children whose parents are incarcerated
- Announce the corporations, agencies, and organizations who will partner with us in this initiative

National Recruitment and Dates of Service

March 1-28	NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT MONTH -	
April 17-23	NATIONAL MENTOR RECRUITMENT WEEK - schedule one or more recruitment drives at religious institutions or other locations with generous visibility	
May 7	Official release to begin of "To Serve the Present Age: Reentering Through Faith" national media distribution in 50 cities <i>(Over 5,000 copies to be distributed nationwide - visit our website for scheduling in your city)</i>	
June 19-25	FACILITATING ASSISTANCE IN TRANSITION AND HEALING NATIONAL MOBILIZATION WEEK	
July 17-21	Criminal Justice Recruitment Week - NABCJ 32 nd Annual Conference and Training Institute - Dallas, TX	
August 27	NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE DAY OF RECRUITMENT in honor of the anniversary of legislation by President Ronald Reagan to create the King Holiday Commission	
September	Schedule recruitment drives for specialized mentors for persons who are addicted to alcohol and drug usage	
October 22	<i>Make A Difference</i> by hosting another NATIONAL DAY OF RECRUITMENT for mentors	
November 19	Honor a couple married for 50 years on National Family Volunteer Day	
December 1	Stir people to action on this NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE DAY OF RECRUITMENT in honor of the 50th Anniversary on which Mrs. Rosa L. Parks refused to relinquish her seat on a Montgomery bus	
December 2-5	Issue a city-wide challenge to gangs and the community to engage in non-violence	



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

To participate in the initiative,
visit our website at <http://www.nraa-nabcj.org/>



National Religious Affairs Association
P.O. Box 77075
Washington, DC 20013
(703) 765-4459 Phone
(703) 765-9761 Fax

