

Monday, August 28

Are We Living Dr. King's Dream?

One reader wonders if Dr. King's dream of equality has come true.

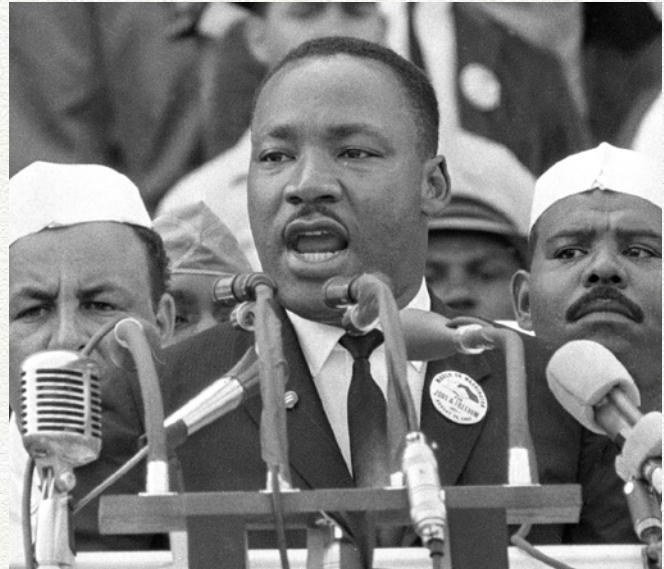


BY ANNIE BERTKE
Guest columnist for
Learning A-Z

I am a second grader at Dewey Elementary School. Our class is learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Our teacher, Mr. Jones, explained that in 1963, Dr. King gave a speech in Washington, D.C. It became a very famous speech. People still talk about it today.

Many people listened to Dr. King's speech. They were in Washington, D.C., to show that African Americans should be treated equally as all other people. At the time, African Americans in some parts of the United States did not have equal rights as white people. In some places African-American children had to go to different schools. They had to sit at the back of buses. In public, they had to eat at separate tables and drink from separate water fountains.

Today many people cannot believe this



Martin Luther King Jr. shares his dream in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963.

ever happened. They say this would never happen today. Some say there is more equality for all Americans than ever before. Do we treat others more equally than we did fifty years ago?

I say yes and no. Yes, today African Americans have more rights than they did in 1963. It is now against the law to make people go to different schools and sit in different sections on buses and in restaurants. People can no longer refuse a person a job just because of his or her skin color.

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However, has Dr. King's dream come true? I say no.

Dr. King wanted America to be one country of one people. He did not want people to be judged by the color of their skin. He did not want people to be judged by their religion. He wanted all people to be treated in the same way, no matter what they looked like or where they came from. I do not think this part of Dr. King's dream has come true yet.

Some people still treat people differently for one reason or another. For example, some people treat others differently because of how much money they have. Others treat people differently because of where they come from.

Until people can look past what they see on the outside of a person, I do not think Dr. King's dream has come true. Fortunately, I do believe that one day it will.



The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C., is a reminder of Dr. King's message of love and tolerance.