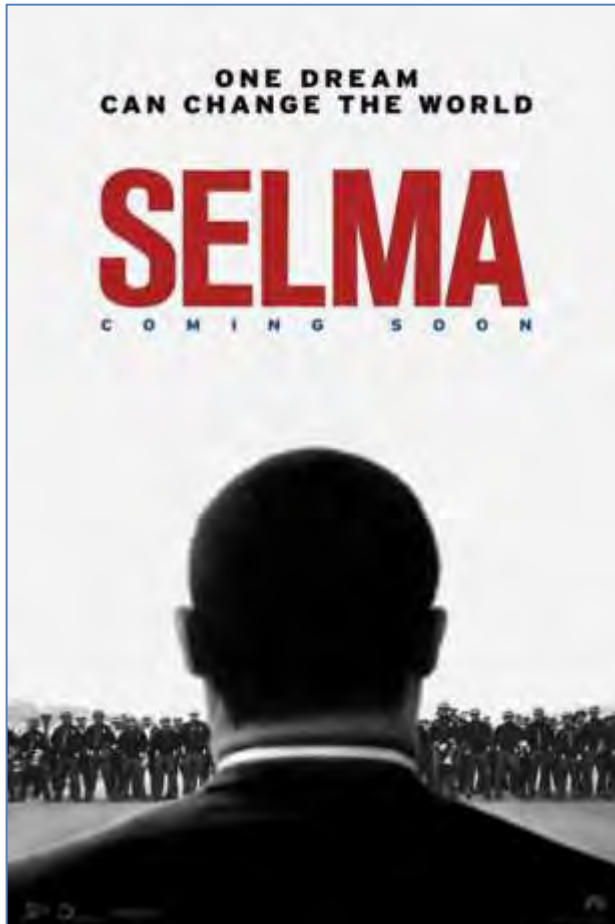


Selma - the movie

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I am in the midst of watching Selma for the second time and it's having a much more profound effect on me than the first viewing. I am doing this while in the midst of the presidential election where my European wife keeps asking, "with a country of 350 million people, why can't we come up with anyone better than Clinton or Trump (please see my article entitled, "Clinton, Trump or Moon?") ?

As I watch the action of Dr. King, I begin to spontaneously start clapping, even though I am watching the video all by myself. I haven't done that since Northwestern University kicked a 48-yard field goal to beat the Wolverines of Michigan, about 20 years ago!

Rev. Moon often referred to Dr. King as the most important providential American of the 20th century, right beside Abraham Lincoln and George Washington from the two previous centuries. I am only halfway through the film, but so many providentially important points are already coming evident to me. First of all, let me clarify that I have been blessed by being in Chicago, which was the final home for many of the Dr. King's Civil Rights lieutenants. Rev. Michael Jenkins and I worked hand in hand with Dr. James Bevel (portrayed by Common in the

film), Rev. A.I. Dunlap, Dr. King's point man in Danville, Virginia, and Rev. M.E. Sardon who was arrested with Dr. King in Albany, Georgia before Selma even occurred. I was also blessed with being chosen to take care of Mrs. King, when she spoke before our Women's Federation Bridge Crossing Ceremony in Chicago. I have also studied the life of Malcolm X and learned how he gave up his black radicalism after he experienced Muslims of all colors on his pilgrimage to the holy land.

The next emotional plateau for me is when I look at the commitment of the young people in Selma and compare it to the commitment of our young people today. I remember reading the testimonies of Northwestern University graduates a few years ago when they were asked if they had hope for the future. They said "no," that they fully expected the world to soon destroy itself and as a result they were most concerned with getting a high paying job, so at least they could indulge in and enjoy their final years. Likewise today, I see the brilliant creative young people seemingly 99% focused on their own lives; their education; their jobs; their careers; their families; and the fulfillment of their leisure time in sports, music, entertainment, drugs and alcohol.

Of course, many of our own children may be focused on doing good deeds in a crumbling world, but where, in general, is there youth commitment to give their "lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor"

like the Founding Fathers, or in this film, Jimmy Lee Jackson, who willingly gave his life for the civil rights movement?

I live in my hometown of Chicago. I taught school in the inner-city immediately after college, as did my best friend and my own daughter. After joining the Unification movement, I got totally involved in the American Clergy Leadership Conference (Aclc) and attended African-American churches, by choice, about 3 weeks out of every month.



In Chicago, there is now a new local Police Chief, who I really admire. However, every night he is on the 10 o'clock news standing by yet another shooting victim. No one has the foggiest idea about how to stop the black- on- black street violence. In Selma, it was white racist bigots representing the historical Confederate white segregationist political leaders like George Wallace, Bull Conner, Lester Maddux and Jim Clark beating the civil rights workers. In Chicago, it is almost always black-on-black gang banger killings. It seems that God anointed Dr. King to change America, but does anyone believe that either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump is going to bring our floundering country any closer to God?

Selma succeeded because white American clergy responded to Dr. King's call for help. Thus, the African American civil rights workers were joined by Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox priests and ministers, as well as Muslims and Jews. There was a unity with Dr. King; very similar to the unity with Rev. Moon by Dr. Joseph Lowery, the head of Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Senator Orrin Hatch and many Mormon leaders; and clergy representing every denominational, racial, and ethnic background. Attorneys general from both political parties wrote amicus briefs supporting Father Moon as well.

Near the middle of the film, I take a few moments to share with my wife how Dr. James Bevel, who was Dr. King's chief strategist, proposed that they perform a Children's Pilgrimage, much like the Children's Crusades of the Middle Ages. His theory was that having children in their faces, the Southern Troopers would either cease and desist, or if they did not, then the films and photos of turning the dogs and water hoses on the children would wind up on the front page and headlines of every newspaper and television news broadcast all across the free world. Dr. Bevel picked up his young daughter and threw her up on his shoulders and started marching. History tells us that his prophecy is exactly what happened.