

Remarks of

DR. JOSEPH E. LOWERY

President Emeritus
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference

To our distinguished Host Committee members and Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, for advancing peace through the Global Peace Festivals and the unifying message of “One Family Under God.” Please convey my warmest personal regards to your beloved Father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Fond are my memories of the time when, as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, I filed an amicus curia brief on religious freedom and innocence on his behalf. . I am pleased now to support his son in our mutual noble quest for peace in our time.

I bring you greetings today on behalf of ten of Dr. Martin Luther King’s fellow laborers in the nonviolent, direct action movement that has come to speak PEACE to power from our homes to our houses of worship to the nation and the world. The nonviolent movement that was launched 45 years ago in the spring of 1963. included the Honorable Reverend Walter Fauntroy, Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker and Dr. Fred L. Shuttlesworth and they are here with us today. We call ourselves the Martin Luther King, Jr. Council of Elders and we want the world to know that we support this movement for Global Peace.

We held a press conference on July 2, 2008 this year to remind the world that it has been 45 years since, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave the world his immortal “*I Have A Dream*” speech *he touched the hearts of the*

American people by rekindling the spirit of God and the founding principles of this nation.

It has also been 40 years since Martin told us a day before he was assassinated: *“I’ve been to the mountain top and I’ve seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you but we as a people will get to the Promised Land!”* When he said “we as a people,” he meant all people, all faiths all nations.

We declare, therefore, that forty years is long enough for humanity to wander in the wilderness of hate, terror and estrangement from one another. We now appeal to all people of courage and conscience that we become “the Joshua Generation” that Martin envisioned leading the world into a Promised Land where we as One Family Under God would work together to end the Barbarism of War, the Insanity of Racism and the Scourge of Poverty on our watch.

I have come here today to thank the Global Peace Festival and this unprecedented interfaith coalition for launching this movement for global peace right here in our nation’s capitol. Together, let us go forth from this place and this time as a “Joshua Generation” as One Family Under God to do for the entire world on our watch in the 21st Century, what the nonviolent warriors convened by Dr. King did for America and the world on their watch in the 20th Century. We pledge to stand with you and beside you as we, together, take this message to every corner of the earth in the months and years ahead and as we enlist in ever widening numbers people of faith and goodwill in our effort to demonstrate innovative models of cooperative action that concretely advances the work of reconciliation and peace.

God bless you. Peace, Shalom, A Salaam Alaikam.