

Islam and MLK - MLK Speech given at First Congregation Church on Jan 18th, 2016

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. O Mankind! We created you from a single pair of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other. (Quran chapter 49: verse 13)

Turkish Muslim Scholar and civil rights leader Imam Said Nursi commented on this verse:

"That is, I created you as peoples, nations and tribes, so that you might know one another and the relations between you in social life, and assist one another; not so that you would regard each other as strangers, refuse to acknowledge one another, and nurture hostility and enmity."

Today Muslims alongside Jews, Blacks and other minorities are rising to become one of the most oppressed and abused groups of people in America from the rhetoric of fear and divisiveness by politicians and certain elements of American society and many more we have a systematic hate machine that wishes to see this land rid of all 10 million Muslims and 3000 Masjids. Samuel L Jackson recently said "Muslims Are the new black men"

16,000 homicides every year in America

40,000 suicides every year in America perpetrated by fellow Americans

40 years after MLK we would think his ideas which have been mentioned and celebrated by so many people in this country for so many years would now be ingrained into our society and yet we find often the opposite.

That being said I would like to say a few words, and make a proclamation, a challenge to us all, from a Muslim who is also a minority in both color and origin to my fellow Christians.

I am a Muslim and follow Islam which literally means I submit to God. The same God of Abraham, the same God of Moses, and the same God of Jesus Christ (*emphais in tone) son of Mary, the Virgin. Peace be upon them all.

My Christian neighbors (Smile big) we have so much in common with you.

Muslims believe in the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ and the return of Jesus Christ at which time we will unite with you behind Jesus to fight, evil, corruption, irreligion and the anti-Christ himself. We Muslims, are the only other major religion on this earth that recognizes Jesus Christ son of Mary.

I mention this because there is no reason to wait for the Anti-Christ to come or Jesus to return to unite us Christians and Muslims. They will come when God decides that, and that could be 100 years from now or 1000 years from now. God knows best his own decrees.

While we await eagerly let us unite now because surely we need tolerance, justice and unity now. We need to dispel the darkness of evil with the light of belief in God.

MLK says it best when he says

"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

Pause

He also said "Let no man pull you low enough to hate him."

In the Bloomfield Muslim Community Center we celebrate another non-violent civil rights leader Said Nursi who led a struggle for religious and civil rights in Turkey between 1920-1963.

And finally the final Prophet of Islam Muhammad pbuh said

I am most close to Jesus, son of Mary, among the whole of mankind in this worldly life and the next life. The companions said: how is it that you are so close? Thereupon the Prophet Muhammad replied: prophets are brothers in faith, having different mothers. Their religion is however one and there is no apostle between us (between I and Jesus Christ).

My very close Friends and neighbors let us use these positive statements of unity to as the Quran says come to a common ground between us, the Bloomfield Muslim Community Center is proud to call Bloomfield our home. We look forward to continuing the dialogue, creating peaceful interactions and helping this city becoming a model city for tolerance and justice for all people.

There is an article I have printed 50 copies titled: For Arabs and Muslims in America, MLKs Legacy Looms Larger After 9/11. Please pick up on your way out.

Finally, I would like to end by stating that the best way to dispel darkness, hatred, discrimination is to have dialogue. The best way to combat such hate is to communicate for ignorance breeds anger, hatred and leads to dehumanization which leads to genocide. I encourage you to visit the Bloomfield Muslim Community Center and to educate yourself on Islam. please take my card on the way out and feel free to contact me with any questions or curiosities you may have. The worse way to educate yourself on any group of people including Islam is the news.

God Bless You, God bless Bloomfield and God Bless America.