

December 2013

## Strides towards Acceptance

Peggy Hogan-Rao

Follow this and additional works at: <https://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/verbum>



Part of the Religion Commons

## [How has open access to Fisher Digital Publications benefited you?](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Hogan-Rao, Peggy (2013) "Strides towards Acceptance," *Verbum*: Vol. 11 : Iss. 1 , Article 11.  
Available at: <https://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/verbum/vol11/iss1/11>

This document is posted at <https://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/verbum/vol11/iss1/11> and is brought to you for free and open access by Fisher Digital Publications at St. John Fisher College. For more information, please contact [fisherpub@sjfc.edu](mailto:fisherpub@sjfc.edu).

---

## Strides towards Acceptance

### Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was an advocate for change. He believed that he could change not only the minds of American citizens, but also their hearts. He first tried to change the way Americans viewed the African American people and then he tried to change how they acted toward the African American people. He was the voice for the black community in the 1960s. Through his words, his legacy still lives on today, fifty years later. Martin Luther King Jr. had a goal: to have the whole world living together in peace, in a time when we can all be united in a brotherhood."



*Peggy Hogan-Rao*

### **Strides towards Acceptance**

Martin Luther King Jr. was an advocate for change. He believed that he could change not only the minds of American citizens, but also their hearts. He first tried to change the way Americans viewed the African American people and then he tried to change how they acted toward the African American people. He was the voice for the black community in the 1960s. Through his words, his legacy still lives on today, fifty years later. Martin Luther King Jr. had a goal: to have the whole world living together in peace, in a time when we can all be united in a brotherhood.

This goal was partially achieved after the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights Movement allowed African Americans to be able to vote and schools around the country were desegregated. In the year 2013, there is still much racism in the United States. In the South, there are still some states that wave the Confederate flag, which may anger African Americans. Certain areas of Southern states may still have prejudiced feelings against African Americans. Caucasian white Americans who are trying to get into a good college may not be able to because an African American is going to the college. This is called Affirmative Action when colleges give a preference to accept a student based on their minority race. Caucasians may have a hard time coming together to be in peace with their fellow African American citizens when they see themselves at a disadvantage. These are various examples of racism and prejudice that are still in the air today.

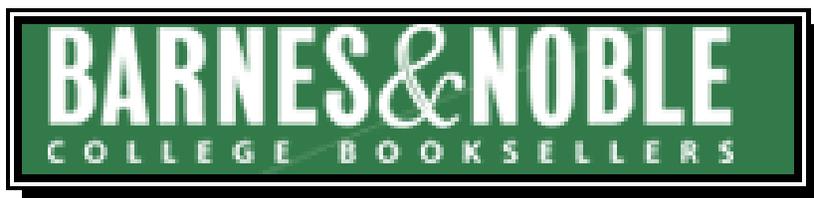
If all the people of the world come together to live in peace, we need to be accepting of everyone, even those who have no one to love them. If we want to be part of a “creative psalm of brotherhood” then we must help

those who most need our help. As we get caught up in our busy lives, we often forget about those we see on the city streets holding up signs saying, “Help me” or “I am hungry”. Those who may not be on the city streets may still need help, such as those on welfare. We can take some time from our busy lives to volunteer at a soup kitchen, donate old clothes to Salvation Army, or visit a nearby nursing home. By making those in the lower class feel like they are included in society, we can be one step closer to creating a “psalm of brotherhood”.

The world is trying to preach what Martin Luther King Jr. says in a couple of ways. One way is the Olympics, both summer and winter. Every two years there are the Olympic Games. This is a time when the whole world comes together, with representatives from almost every country. For a two-week time span, the world unites together to cheer on their respective country’s team. Another example of this is the World Cup. In almost every country in the world, soccer is a very popular sport. The World Cup is a worldwide soccer tournament, similar to the Olympic Games. In both the Olympics and the World Cup, the world comes together for a short period of time to unite in a brotherhood.

We can all live together in peace if we set aside our differences and see that we are all equal. We are all brothers and sisters of one God. By helping others and looking past the differences in each of us, we can become better people. Slowly, day-by-day, racism will become nonexistent. To rid the country of racism will take time, but we need to listen to Martin Luther King Jr.’s words and come together to live in peace with each other.

Prize for this second ‘Diversity Vision’ essay provided by:



St. John Fisher College – Dan Edes, PhD manager