Constitutional Writes

Little Rock Nine Featured in Civil Rights Portfolio


If you missed it on the newstand, copies can be ordered from the magazine by calling 800-825-2510. A digital slideshow of the portfolio of Civil Rights legends with additional historical photographs and interviews may be viewed online at The New Yorker website: www.newyorker.com/online/multimedia/2010/02/15/100215_multimedia_platon.

Youth Leadership Academy Launches “The New Nine”

The Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site (NHS) has appointed nine high school students into the inaugural Youth Leadership Academy: The New Nine. The diverse group of dynamic students from the greater Little Rock area were introduced to the public on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, January 18 at the Historic Site Visitor Center.

The Youth Leadership Academy will engage nine emerging young leaders at this historic site in the promotion of volunteerism, nonviolence, youth empowerment and stewardship for the National Park Service.
From the Superintendent’s Desk
“Change Agents” Theme Chosen for 2010

By Superintendent Robin White

Last year, Central High School National Historic Site focused on Social Issues and Politics in the 21st Century as our annual theme. This year we are highlighting 21st century characters of change in social movements: leadership, nonviolence, and literary.

The wonders of this world seem to be exploring possibilities, when nine black students with the innocence of children chasing clouds, and a quiet desperation in pursuance of an excellent education enrolled in Central High in 1957. The nine black students stand as our beacon of hope for the next generation. They were not condemned to a life of poverty, violence and vice, nor did they perceive themselves as victims of oppression. They were just nine young students that had a healthy appreciation of life, self-development and self-sufficiency and community. The Nine relied upon unreserved power and previously untapped strength to face the multiple obstacles and challenges with unwavering dignity in return for self-respect and an education.

There was also a group of young change agents down the way from Little Rock, Arkansas in New Orleans, Louisiana. Leona Tate and Gail Etienne had not yet been born and Tessie Prevost was a mere infant when the United States Supreme Court made its 1954 landmark declaration in Brown v. Board of Education that separate schools for black and white children could never be equal and were therefore unconstitutional.

Six years later, these three girls entered first grade. They were chosen to be the first black children to desegregate the McDonogh No. 19 elementary school in New Orleans’ Ninth Ward. Another child, Ruby Bridges, was selected to desegregate the William Frantz Elementary School. In November 1960, these little girls were escorted by federal marshals into empty classrooms. White parents boycotted in protest, keeping their own children home. State legislators met in Baton Rouge and voted to fire the four members of the five-member school board who had voted for integration and they cut off state funds to integrated schools. The white students never returned to McDonogh No. 19. Tate and Etienne would continue desegregating schools as they progressed from elementary to senior high.

Our intentions can be seen in our results despite cultural aggression and degradation which constitutes your journey to be active, not passive, because the struggle for educational excellence and equity continues today. It did not end with Brown v. Board of Education, the Little Rock Nine, the McDonogh Three, or Milliken v. Bradley.

Our next social guards must be willing to use all of their abilities to create an informed, inspired, and action oriented citizenry that generates a social change for equity in education for all Americans.

From left: Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost-Williams, and Gail Etienne Netters, known collectively as The McDonogh Three for desegregating the all-white McDonogh No. 19 Elementary School in New Orleans, 1960, will be the featured guest speakers at the 53rd Anniversary Commemoration of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School on September 25, 2010.
The Death of a Seed is the Burial of A Dream

By Superintendent Robin White

When we do not value the contributions of others and fail to value their worth, we rob ourselves and future generations of empowering knowledge. America’s history began with struggle for self-liberation in a land of wealth, promise and democracy.

We honored L.C. and Daisy Bates with a tribute from civil rights icon Reverend C.T. Vivian, by remembering their lives and work and encouraging young people today to follow their examples. They afforded us the opportunity to sip from wells that we did not dig, and eat from fields not of our harvesting. We owe it to future generations to keep their work alive.

We were pleased that Reverend C.T. Vivian chose to share his life struggles with us and celebrate the lives of two of his legendary fellow soldiers, L.C. and Daisy Bates. It is a rare opportunity to see and hear a living legend in person – one who personally served in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and was actively involved in Freedom Rides and Sit-Ins.

Understanding people is one of the greatest challenges in leadership; it not only requires social skills and universal knowledge, but the ability to mobilize communities for a just cause, because change agents must construct the ability to manage the balance between mission and passion.

So, please lend me your ears to witness the milestones of a struggle as Reverend C.T. Vivian, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and thousands of others stood on the open battleground. Their crusade summoned multiple silent sufferers from near and far, who against all odds, stood tall and firm to create a human wall of protest against the ongoing assault of deprivation. They Kept Coming!

Our mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers stood cocked with an unbending strength of rooted courage, pursuing equality. They arrived armed with a sense of worth, courage and moral fiber, physically defenseless before malicious mobs.

People of all races and ethnicities were beaten and trampled as they exited buses, were dragged through the streets, and were inundated with stiff jail sentences. They went to jail with dignity, daily risking their lives. Some lost their jobs and homes, but were not deterred even as they personally witnessed those in the struggle die in epidemic numbers. They Kept Coming!

Our beautiful innocent children redefined the word strength as they marched forward to confront violent adults who voiced hatred; while they endured blasts from water hoses and were attacked by police dogs. They Kept Coming!

Reverend C.T. Vivian is the cornerstone of a social conscience movement that altered the lives of generations both nationally and internationally. His pioneering and legendary actions opened doors for all Americans. His tireless efforts defied racism, sexism, and ageism, and educational, physical, and religious barriers. He represents a continuum of hopefulness to anyone who faces immeasurable obstacles.

We are stewards of our own values and beliefs, and servants in building capacity for the greater good of all. Our cemeteries are full of lost potential. My goal is to ensure that we have potential graduating from high school, then college, working in public service, private and not-for-profit organizations, serving as emergency responders to crises such as Katrina, Haiti, and Chile, making conscious decisions in the boardroom and providing services in the fields of law, education, community economic development, politics and health and wellness.
Once all of us were up we walked into the living area and awaited the arrival of Becca and Liz who had an activity prepared to highlight the eight principles of Heifer. The adults enjoyed the game of charades, but the kids were suspicious of the day’s events.

Afterwards, we took a not-so-smooth ride on the tractor that zipped us around the ranch. When I stepped foot into the large steel building I didn’t know what to expect, but Riva quickly filled us in. We would build a puzzle, using the pieces in the back of the room. Each group started placing their pieces, unsuccessfully, together until a few bright minds started thinking outside of the box. Breezy started the mixing of different groups’ pieces and I started the trend of flipping the pieces and using the non-colored side. I estimate about 20-30 minutes later we’d pieced together 3 puzzles. 

By Samuel Hoskins

When you hear impoverished parts of the world being discussed on the news you might think you understand their situation. That could not be further from the truth once you’ve lived in the Global Village at the Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas.

When I boarded the bus with the other New Nine members I was somewhat prepared by Park Rangers Spirit Trickey, Crystal Mercer and Christian Davis. Nights of anticipation had caused me to do extensive research concerning the Ranch and the village. En route to our destination Crystal explained to us Heifer’s mission, which could more or less be summed up: “...people need a cow, not a cup!”

This was the first official trip away from Little Rock and we were all excited. Breezy, Malachi, and I all proceeded to do the “flex” – a dance associated with a rap song which provided us all with a good laugh. Clayton, our “encyclopedia,” taught us new and interesting things: explaining Kurt Vonnegut’s literary language and technique. Ashley (Situation), beat us all in calling out “Slug bug,” every time a Volkswagen bug zoomed by. Aya and Ronald sang along to a favorite song of theirs to our great amusement.

When we least expected it, the large off-green Heifer sign approached our van. Our driver turned in slowly. Grass, gravel, and dirt were all I could see below barbed-wire fences that enclosed a myriad of animals. Camels drooled as our caravan passed and curious water buffalos turned to watch, too.

We met Becca and Liz, who would be our guides throughout our stay. Dinner was served and we weren’t too sure what to expect since everything was grown on the farm – including the meat. To our amazement, the organic food was delicious and the sweet tea and guava juice topped it off. Later that evening we lay on the street in the dark and gazed up at the stars. All eight of us were amazed at the view, except for Fabian who found humor in watching us lay on the street. All of us ended our night by playing cards and Monopoly before heading to bed around 10:30 p.m.

I woke up about 30 minutes before 6, which was our wake-up time, judging by the light outside the window. It was a foreign world in that lodge, nothing like my own bedroom. The bed creaked with the slightest movement so I didn’t move too much for fear of waking Zach, who didn’t seem to be in as deep of a sleep as snoring Malachi.

Once all of us were up we walked into the living area and awaited the arrival of Becca and Liz who had an activity prepared to highlight the eight principles of Heifer. The adults enjoyed the game of charades, but the kids were suspicious of the day’s events. Afterwards, we took a not-so-smooth ride on the tractor that zipped us around the ranch.

When I stepped foot into the large steel building I didn’t know what to expect, but Riva quickly filled us in. We would build a puzzle, using the pieces in the back of the room. Each group started placing their pieces, unsuccessfully, together until a few bright minds started thinking outside of the box. Breezy started the mixing of different groups’ pieces and I started the trend of flipping the pieces and using the non-colored side. I estimate about 20-30 minutes later we’d pieced together 3 puzzles. Our adults had cleverly backed out of
the action leaving only the kids to do the work, but they participated in the next 3 activities.

All of the games were aimed at teaching us how we would survive that night in the global village by cooperating. The most enjoyable game in my opinion was the platform game. We had to utilize two pieces of lumber to get across two platforms and end on a third. Even though I got a deep and painful splinter I still enjoyed the activity. Park Ranger Spirit used her “farm” talents and recently acquired first-aid tactics to get the splinter out.

We left for lunch and enjoyed, again, the organic meal, stuffing ourselves with seconds and thirds in preparation for the tough night ahead. I packed my things and made sure I had the essentials: toothbrush, deodorant, water bottle, flashlight, bug spray, sleeping bag, my medication, and a lot of enthusiasm. Sooner than I thought we were off to the European-style classroom to learn more about the world and its resources.

Did you know Asia holds most of the world’s population? Most of our shoes and other products are made there? European countries and the U.S. are among the richest on the globe? If there was anything concerning resources and distribution of wealth that I didn’t already know, I certainly knew then.

After that, our headaches seemed to disappear and our water bottles were filled freely for the last time and we set out for the tour of all the global villages. We would only occupy three out of six that night: Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Guatemala. I learned that people in Thailand use the gas from their pigs’ waste to power a stovetop. People in Zambia utilize a round house because it cuts down on wasted living space, people in the urban slums face constant threat from the government because they are usually located in dumps, people in Guatemala face the problem of growing families, but have more money than the other countries, as evidenced by the exterior decorations of the home.

When I was called out in a group with Breezy, Christian, Crystal, Spirit, and Aya I was extremely happy because I knew we’d have a lot of laughs during our experience… in the slums. I can recall groaning internally at the unfortunate placement in a village that had neither wood rights or water rights, and the duty to cook breakfast for everyone without metal utensils. We gave up our cookin utensils so that Aya would get the “medical treatment” she needed to avoid being bedridden all night. We only had cups, bowls, a small box of rice, and a crisis card to decide on before going to sleep. I was immediately approached by “Zambia’s” Malachi who held a dead piece of bamboo and asked for the tribe leader. Malachi, the now “pregnant” Breezy, Aya, and I traveled up the hill to Guatemala where we began our discussion on the night’s dinner arrangements and distribution of resources. One bag of wood for cooking and the other for a campfire were given by Zambia. Guatemala supplied water for our water bottles and cooking. Zimbabwe provided a space for the campfire gathering.

We sat gazing into Malachi’s work of art in the fire ring and listening to the scary stories people had to offer. That was the first night I’d ever sat around a campfire with friends and camped outside with them. Soon we retired to our villages. I tried to find a comfortable place to sleep, which I failed at doing even when two new Guatemalan refugees joined us, Ronald and Ashley. Mallory, Breezy, Ashley, Aya, Ronald, Christian, Crystal, Spirit, and I all lay in the uncomfortable crowded slum with a sheep dog barking in the distance. I remember waking up incredibly early and moving my numb feet.
and legs, being careful not to wake anyone despite my discomfort. Although it wasn’t necessary, that pain taught me how uncomfortable the living conditions can be for those residents who really live in the slums.

When we all got up, we brushed our teeth and took care of business. Then it was off with all our stuff for the barn so we could cook everyone breakfast. Tasteless oatmeal was on the menu with powdered milk, that wasn’t even touched. Our chores were done: washing dishes (Zimbabwe), cleaning out the pens and feeding the animals (Guatemala), and repairing trails and feeding the chickens and pigs (Zambia.) We all saw the three newborn goats and then headed into the building where our reflection would begin.

We were then given the question: “If there is enough for all, why don’t all have enough?” We brought up some very good answers: greed, laziness, war, geography, ignorance, and more.

I was extremely happy when it was time for lunch in the cafeteria and our pace was probably faster than it had ever been at Heifer before. Chocolate chip cookies were decimated after we continued to go back for fourths and fifths.

Next we prepared for the high challenge: climbing the wall. It was nerve-wracking, trying to climb the wall that the others didn’t have much difficulty climbing.

I tried twice to go up the wall, but didn’t make it to the top. I don’t consider it a failure because I never thought I’d climb as high as I did.

My gloomy day, despite the sunshine, was brightened when Breezy and the others all agreed that I should be commended for my efforts that day. Although, I wanted to climb to the top and zip down on the line I did feel I pushed myself out of my comfort zone which is what the Heifer staff wanted us to do. When we filled out that questionnaire I felt very sad that we were at the end of our Heifer Ranch experience. On the way home though I was anxious to get back to my bed and family, but I was determined to cut back on my wasteful ways.

Overall, this wonderful experience has changed me. It’s made me a more compassionate person who now knows he must help those in need. My closet is full of old clothes that I don’t wear anymore and instead of keeping my hangers warm they should be comforting a human body. My family certainly uses more electricity than necessary and I try to cut back on that when I get the chance. Lastly, it’s brought me closer to the Youth Leadership Academy. I’m not afraid to say I love these people!

So, if you really want to know more about the impoverished places of the world visit the Heifer Ranch where I learned that some are truly less fortunate than others in lifestyle and happiness.
July 18-23, 2010, the national historic’s first Summer Teachers’ Institute will bring teachers together in Little Rock, Arkansas, for a comprehensive study of the Civil Rights Movement with an emphasis on school desegregation.

Teachers will examine the Civil Rights Movement in Arkansas using primary and secondary sources; examine components of the Civil Rights Movement; analyze fundamental rights of individuals such as civil liberties, due process, and equal protection; and examine Supreme Court cases which have altered the interpretation of the United States Constitution: Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education, in a student-centered approach by using best practices. Teachers will receive an honorarium in return for creating curricula that can be posted on the park’s website.

The 2010 Summers Teachers’ Institute is funded by a grant from The National Park Foundation.
To celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Park hosted a children’s event titled “Characters of Change” on Monday, January 18, 2010.

Park Ranger Christian Davis read the book “Dear Dr. King: Letters from Today’s Children to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” and visitors were asked to write letters to the Little Rock Nine describing how they can be “characters of change” in today’s world. The letters were then posted in the visitor center lobby through the end of February, Black History Month.

“Our Friend, Martin: A Magical Movie Adventure” (60-minute children’s animated film) directed by Rob Smiley was also shown. Coloring pages and activities to learn more about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Little Rock Nine and civil rights also were available.

Programs with these themes were also presented at off site locations as part of the Interpretation and Education Division’s outreach program. If you would like to learn more about the “Characters of Change” program, or other Ranger programs on-site or off, the Interpretation and Education staff can be reached at 501-374-1957, or chsc_visitor_center@nps.gov.
Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 15
On Deck with Baseball Legend Carl “The Kid” Long
10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Jr. Deputy Ball Field
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm at New Africa Market
Let’s talk baseball. Carl “The Kid” Long, former player for the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Baseball League will speak and sign autographs. Long was the first African American to play for the Carolina League’s Kinston Eagles and he holds the RBI record for the team. He has been honored with an annual “Carl Long Day” in Kinston, North Carolina. He also will be speaking to students at Little Rock Central High School on Friday, May 14, 2010. For more information call 501-374-1957.

Saturdays, May 22 and July 3
Central High Crisis Bicycle Tours
10:00 am Start at Visitor Center
Ranger led bicycle tours of downtown Little Rock highlight people and places associated with the Little Rock desegregation crisis. Reservations are needed and can be made by calling 501-374-1957 or by email sent to: chsc_visitor_center@nps.gov. Participants must bring their own bikes, helmets, and plenty of water for either tour. Riders must be 12 years of age or older, and riders under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Each tour will begin with a bike safety message. Additional tours may be scheduled for summer and fall. Check our website for calendar updates at: www.nps.gov/chsc

Friday - Saturday, June 4-5
National Park Service
Camp Out at Central High School
5:30 pm, Friday, to 9 am, Saturday
Camp out with National Park staff, Arkansas State Parks “Traveling Educational Nature Trailer” (TENT) and Venture Crew 27/198 on the practice field where the 101st Airborne Division pitched their tents. Learn stargazing skills as well as the importance of preserving dark skies with the Central Arkansas Astronomical Association. Tents provided by Arkansas State Parks and Joseph Pfeifer Kiwani’s Camp. Advanced reservations are required. Call 501-374-1957 or email chsc_visitor_center@nps.gov.

Saturdays, June 5 and June 19
Trail of Tears Bicycle Tours
10:00 am, North Little Rock
Ranger led bicycle tours along the Arkansas River Trail highlight the Little Rock portions of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Reservations are needed and can be made by calling 501-374-1957 or by email sent to: chsc_visitor_center@nps.gov. Participants must bring their own bikes, helmets, and plenty of water for either tour. Riders must be 12 years of age or older, and riders under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Each tour will begin with a bike safety message. Additional tours may be scheduled for summer and fall.

Saturday, June 5
Picture This: Framing the “Reel” Civil Rights Movement
2:00 pm, Visitor Center
Pedro (93 minutes) Oscar winning Milk screenwriter Dustin Lance Black brings to life the story of an HIV-positive man, Pedro Zamora, who captured the hearts of millions on the San Francisco edition of MTV’s The Real World back 1994.

Saturday, July 3
Picture This: Framing the “Reel” Civil Rights Movement
2:00 pm at Visitor Center
Dreamland 3 (54 Minutes) examines the stories contemporary music videos tell about girls and women, and by extension boys and men, providing meticulous analysis of how these narratives both reflect and shape individual and cultural attitudes toward femininity, masculinity, sexuality, and race.

Saturday, July 10
Fabulous Fifties Family Day
11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in partnership with Little Rock Central High School, and Coleman Ice Cream will host a Fabulous Fifties Family Day on the grounds of Little Rock Central High School. Participate in games from the fifties including Jacks, baseball, and hula hooping. Painting your own saddle shoes and rock out to the top tunes of 1957. Refreshments are FREE courtesy of the event partners.

Saturday, August 7
Picture This: Framing the “Reel” Civil Rights Movement
2:00 pm at Visitor Center
Unnatural Causes in Sickness and In Wealth (56 Minutes) What connections exist between healthy bodies, healthy bank accounts, and skin color?

Saturday, September 4
Picture This: Framing the “Reel” Civil Rights Movement
2:00 pm at Visitor Center
The Complete Blue Eyed (60 minutes) Defines record of Joyce Elliott’s technique, proved so powerful, that it has been made into three separate versions so it could be conveniently used in any setting. No one who sees it will ever turn a blind eye to racism.

Thursday-Saturday, September 23-25
53rd Anniversary of the Desegregation of Little Rock Central High School
By reservation, at Visitor Center
The McDonogh 3 - Leona Tate, Tessie Provost Williams, and Gail Etienne Netters - who desegregated McDonogh #19 Elementary School in New Orleans, 1960, as 1st graders, will be the featured guests at the 53 anniversary commemoration of the the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School. Additional speakers and events will be announced this summer.
Partnerships
NPS Supports Neighborhoods, USA

by Elton Gatewood, President
Neighborhoods, USA

Neighborhoods, USA and the City of Little Rock invite you to attend NUSA’s 35th Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns on May 26-29, 2010.

Designed to provide networking and information sharing for neighborhood activists, elected officials, practitioners and everyone interested in improving the quality of their neighborhoods, the 2010 NUSA conference is expected to attract 1300-1500 people from across the country.

This year, NUSA and the City of Little Rock have established a brand new Federal Partners Program. The 2010 Federal Partners are: HUD, City Year, FEMA, National Park Service and the Clinton Presidential Center. This program is a further effort for NUSA to be more inclusive and establish collaborative partnerships with other organizations that share common goals. NUSA hopes to expand this program to other federal partners in the future.

More than 60 workshops are planned and designed to meet the needs of beginners, intermediate and advanced neighborhood activists. Twenty Neighborhood Pride Tours will also be offered to showcase the historic and diverse makeup of Little Rock and its neighborhoods. A special Youth Track will also be provided to include workshops and tours for ages 16-19.

Join us and be a part of the nation’s best gathering of neighborhoods. For more information or to register, please visit www.NUSA.org.

Serving Our Wounded Service Members

Initiated to commemorate “A Day of Service” on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the NHS, with volunteers from Target Stores, began collecting supplies in support of the Balad Wounded Warriors program.

Balad Wounded Warriors* was created to collect donations for wounded U.S. soldiers in Iraq so they could have clean comfortable clothing, toiletries and provisions while they recover. Any excess donations are sent to Germany where wounded soldiers arrive from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The collection drive is being continued. In addition to donations from visitors, Arkansas Delta Region Living Academy in Pine Bluff, AR, donated a delivery truck full of items and is working on filling another.

Items needed are: new clothing for both men and women: sweat pants, sweat shirts, pajamas, t-shirts, socks, underwear, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Pine Bluff Donations may be delivered to the NHS Visitor Center.

*The 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron is a part of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing (332 AEW). The 332 AEW is the legacy of the 332nd Fighter Group (the famed Tuskegee Airmen) from World War II, and is currently stationed at Joint Base Balad in Iraq.
Making Rain the Hollywood Way  photo by Rob McKelvey, Facility Manager

The historic Mobil gas station got a soaking Hollywood style with assistance from the Little Rock Fire Department during a scene filmed on location at the site for an upcoming movie about country singer Hank Williams, Sr. The “Magnolia” service station served as the site’s original Visitor Center and now awaits interior renovations to provide classroom space for visiting school groups with funding from the sale of the 50th anniversary commemorative coin.

Greening an Urban Park Unit

Many visitors are surprised to discover that this historic site is actually a unit of the National Park Service. National parks are wild places in their minds. However, NPS strives to make all its units beautiful sites that are environmentally friendly. Facility Management staff Tom Crenshaw and Rodger Rusher install new plants in front of the Visitor Center to green up the exterior while inside staff work to recycle as much as possible and to buy products made from recycled materials.

Generational Differences Show in Exhibit Damage

Vinyl albums, 8-track cartridges, VHS tapes. Sometimes generational differences show up in surprising - and sometimes costly - ways. Fifties style telephone receivers are alien objects to the cellular & texting generations. Youthful visitors (and some not so young) swing our listening handsets by the cord and slam the receivers back into the cradle. This millenial generation also has grown up in a world where they are rewarded for pushing video game buttons multiple times as fast as they can.

What earns players the next level on their gaming consoles often jams museum audio and video exhibits, whose buttons are intended to be pushed one time, gently.

Next time you are taking the next generation to a museum, keep these generational differences in mind as you monitor the younger members of your group. Help museums and education centers keep their interactive exhibits running smoothly for everyone’s enjoyment.
The Choice Between Nonviolence or Nonexistence

To be selected, applicants for the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) submitted eloquent essays and creative artistic expressions answering the following question:

In 1967 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., proclaimed, "Today there is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence." What did Dr. King’s words “nonviolence or nonexistence” mean? Why is this important in your life and to society?

At right is the artistic answer submitted by YLA student, Malachai Lockwood, Jr., North Little Rock (West) High School, entitled, Embracing to Embody.