Emulate King and Gandhi

By Michael Parisi

In the world today, peace is a very important element.

Peace means living together in a beloved community. One way world citizens can work toward peace is to contribute by acting in a non-violent manner.

Three ways are: to show love for everything and everyone around you, to try and live together in brotherhood and sisterhood and to try and live in unity.

Two of the many major peace contributors were Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi. Both of these men were alike in two major ways — they both believed in non-violence and believed in passive resistance.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a famous Afro-American civil rights leader. He was the leader of the civil rights movement in the '60s, believing in non-violent actions to achieve racial harmony. Dr. King abided by Kingian Nonviolence, a consistency of thought and action that he wrote. It contains six steps: information gathering, education, personal commitment, negotiations, direct action and reconciliation. He believed that non-violence was a way for courageous people. King's ideas for the six principles came from Gandhi's philosophy. Dr. King had a dream that all creeds and race could live together in brotherhood and sisterhood. Unfortunately, Dr. King never got to see his dream fulfilled.

Mahatma Gandhi was one of the greatest men of our century. He wanted peace and believed that non-violence would achieve it. He spoke to audiences and demonstrated non-violence by conducting sit-ins and hunger strikes. He alone did not achieve total peace, but contributed his philosophy and wisdom. Gandhi believed he was at home with all religions. He fought for religious and racial peace. According to Men of Peace, Gandhi's message is simple: "Give what you have to the service of man, wealth, talents, energy, love and receive it back at God's hands. Let your faith be in the truth wherever it leads and may your armor be non-violence."

All in all, I believe that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi are two men who contributed to achieving world peace. They are also two good examples of non-violent men whom everyone should emulate.

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