

**Mayor Van W. Johnson, Sr.
Dr. King Day Welcome Speech
Love & Worship Center
January 19, 2009**

On behalf of the General Overseer Apostle Shirley C. White and Senior Pastor's Leonard D. and Shelia W. Martin and the entire Love Center ministry.

I welcome each of you.

We are gathered here on this preordain occasion to celebrate the birth of one of our nation's most important figures. More importantly, we do so on the eve of an historic moment, which began more than forty years ago.

Where a young Black preacher from Atlanta, Georgia named Martin, started a nonviolent movement toward equality, and dared to dream the American dream.

He dreamed that someday men would judge each other by the content of their character, rather than by the color of their skin. He dreamed his dream, during a time when our country failed to live up to the corner stone of its democracy.

That decreed all men are created equal.

Forty years later, we stand on the eve of history, as we prepare to witness King's dream come to fruition. As the first African-American President, takes the oath of office to lead the most powerful nation on the face of the earth.

As a people of color, we must seize upon this opportunity to fulfill our obligation, to repay the outstanding debt we owe our ancestors for paving the way with their lives and dignity.

We repay our ancestors by getting involved in the process to ensure even greater opportunities for the next generation.

King's dream did not begin nor will it end with the election of Barack Obama, we still have a lot of work to do.

Thank you, welcome and enjoy the celebration.