

**MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVENT
WITH
CORETTA SCOTT KING**

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 7:45 PM

MECCA, Milwaukee

THANK YOU, BILL (SCHUETT).

AND WELCOME, MRS. KING, TO WISCONSIN.

WHEN YOU DRAW A CROWD LIKE THIS ON FRIDAY THE 13TH ... THERE MUST BE SOMEONE PRETTY SPECIAL WHO EVERYONE IS COMING TO SEE.

THAT IS CERTAINLY THE CASE THIS EVENING.

CORETTA SCOTT KING HAS CONTINUED HER HUSBAND'S STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE. HER WORK HAS TAKEN HER ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY ... AND ALL OVER THE WORLD.

TONIGHT, WE ARE PROUD TO WELCOME HER TO MILWAUKEE.

DR. KING MADE MANY VISITS TO THIS CITY ... HIS FIRST IN AUGUST OF 1956 ... WHEN HE DECLARED FROM THE PULPIT OF THE GRAND AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: "IF DEMOCRACY IS TO LIVE, SEGREGATION MUST DIE."

HE WAS 28 AT THE TIME ... AND ALREADY A RECOGNIZED LEADER IN THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS.

IN THAT SAME SPEECH -- REMEMBER, THIS IS 1956 -- HE SAID, "WE HAVE COME A LONG, LONG WAY ... BUT WE HAVE A LONG, LONG WAY TO GO."

HE WOULD PROBABLY SAY THE SAME THING TODAY.

WHEN YOU THINK HOW MUCH THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE 1956, YES WE HAVE COME A LONG, LONG WAY.

AND WHEN YOU LOOK AT SOME OF THE CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING TODAY, IT SEEMS LIKE WE STILL HAVE A LONG, LONG WAY TO GO.

LET ME FOCUS FOR A MINUTE ON HOW FAR WE HAVE COME ... AND I AM GOING TO USE AS AN EXAMPLE ANOTHER ONE OF DR. KING'S VISIT TO THIS CITY, IN JANUARY OF 1964.

HE DREW A STANDING ROOM ONLY CROWD OF 6,000 AT THE AUDITORIUM ... RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW.

THAT NIGHT, WHEN MAYOR HENRY MAIER CAME TO THE PODIUM, ABOUT TWENTY MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY STOOD AND TURNED THEIR BACKS TO THE STAGE WHILE THE MAYOR SPOKE.

C-O-R-E ALSO DRAPED A BANNER OVER A BALCONY RAIL THAT SAID "OUR MAYOR CAN'T BE A ROADBLOCK OF CIVIL RIGHTS."

CORE'S CHAIRMAN AT THAT TIME -- AND THE LEADER OF THE PROTEST -- WAS JOHN H. GIVENS JR. (IS JOHN HERE TONIGHT?)

JOHN WENT ON TO WORK AS AN AIDE TO MAYOR MAIER. TODAY, HE SERVES AS AN ADVISOR TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE TOM AMENT.

THAT'S PROGRESS.

AT THAT SAME EVENT AT THE AUDITORIUM, A YOUNG MILWAUKEE ALDERWOMAN SPOKE TO THE CROWD, AT DR. KING'S REQUEST.

VEL PHILLIPS DREW APPLAUSE AS SHE OFFERED A SKETCH OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS SITUATION IN MILWAUKEE.

"TO SOLVE A PROBLEM," SHE SAID, "ONE MUST FIRST RECOGNIZE THAT IT EXISTS."

VEL PHILLIPS WENT ON TO BECOME THE FIRST WOMAN AND ONLY MINORITY TO HOLD STATEWIDE OFFICE ... SERVING AS SECRETARY OF STATE FROM 1979 TO 1983.

THAT'S PROGRESS.

AND THE WORLD WITNESSED A SIGNIFICANT SIGN OF PROGRESS THIS WEEK.

IF RIP VAN WINKLE HAD FALLEN ASLEEP A MERE FIVE YEARS AGO ... AND WOKE UP TODAY ... THINK ABOUT WHAT HE WOULD HEAR:

- GERMANY IS UNITED.
- EASTERN EUROPE IS FREE.
- AND NELSON MANDELA IS PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA.

HE WOULD PROBABLY LOOK AT YOU AS THOUGH YOU WERE CRAZY.

(I KNOW MRS. KING JUST RETURNED FROM PRESIDENT MANDELA'S INAUGURATION ... AND I HOPE SHE WILL SHARE HER THOUGHTS WITH US ON THAT.)

THAT IS THE KIND OF PROGRESS THE WORLD HAS SEEN.

BUT, AS DR. KING SAID 38 YEARS AGO AT THE GRAND AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ... WE STILL HAVE A WAY TO GO.

AND THE ONLY WAY WE ARE GOING TO KEEP MAKING PROGRESS IS BY WORKING TOGETHER.

I WANT TO SHARE A STORY WITH YOU THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING USED TO TELL ABOUT THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

MOST OF US ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN: THE MAN WHO STOPPED -- AFTER OTHERS HAD PASSED BY -- TO HELP ANOTHER MAN WHO HAD BEEN BEATEN AND ROBBED ON THE ROAD FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICHO.

MOST OF US, WHEN WE HEAR THAT STORY, QUICKLY CONDEMN THOSE PEOPLE WHO PASSED THE POOR MAN BY.

BUT MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS NOT CONTENT OT DO THAT. HE WANTED TO UNDERSTAND. HE CONTINUALLY ASKED HIMSELF "WHY?" WHY DID THOSE OTHER PEOPLE PASS BY WHEN THIS MAN SO OBVIOUSLY NEEDED HELP?

LATE IN HIS LIFE, DR. KING WENT TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND HE TRAVELED DOWN THE VERY SAME ROAD TRAVELED BY THE GOOD SAMARITAN. AND AS HE WENT DOWN THAT ROAD FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICHO ... HE STARTED TO UNDERSTAND.

THE ROAD IS VERY SECLUDED. IT IS ROCKY AND MOUNTAINOUS. IT IS THE PERFECT

PLACE FOR AN AMBUSH.

AND AS HE DROVE DOWN THAT ROAD, HE STARTED TO UNDERSTAND: THOSE OTHER PEOPLE DID NOT STOP BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID.

DR. KING POINTED OUT THAT THESE PEOPLE ASKED THEMSELVES THE QUESTION: "IF I STOP TO HELP THIS MAN, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?"

THE GOOD SAMARITAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, ASKED HIMSELF "IF I DON'T STOP TO HELP THIS MAN, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM?"

MARTIN LUTHER KING AND HIS WIFE CORETTA WERE AND ARE VERY BRAVE PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND FEAR.

THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EXTREME HATRED THAT CONFRONTED THEM ON A DAILY BASIS HAD A LOT TO DO WITH FEAR.

BUT DR. KING ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT FEAR CAN BE OVERCOME BY STRENGTH. NOT THE STRENGTH OF VIOLENCE ... BUT THE STRENGTH OF CHARACTER ... AND THE STRENGTH OF IDEAS.

MRS. KING CONTINUES TO FIGHT FOR THOSE IDEAS TODAY.

THERE IS STILL A LOT OF HATRED AND FEAR OUT THERE. THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE.

BUT WHAT MRS. KING AND HER WORK REMINDS US OF IS THIS: ONE MAN AND HIS DREAM CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. AND WITH FAITH AND HARD WORK, EACH ONE OF US CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS WELL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS MY HONOR TO INTRODUCE MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING.