

**MILLENNIUM SUNDAY:  
A GATHERING OF SPIRITUAL AWARENESS  
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ATLANTA**

Those who have persevered in the face of hardship and suffering, and have struggled against oppression, will forever be showered in the triumphant and joyous light of the sunrise.” These are the words of SGI President Ikeda’s message that conveyed his respect for and solidarity with the participants of Millennium Sunday, A Gathering of Spiritual Awareness held April 2 at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College. (The full text of the message will appear in the April 28 *World Tribune*.)

Many people who have dedicated their lives to nonviolence and peace were on hand to mark the founding of the Gandhi Institute for Reconciliation at Morehouse College. Mrs. Coretta Scott King and Martin Luther King III were among the honored guests at this auspicious occasion. Other distinguished guests included Dr. Arun Gandhi, the fifth grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, representatives of the government of India, as well as local dignitaries.

The Institute, headed by Dr. Lawrence Carter, dean of the MLK Chapel, is being established to be a conduit for Gandhian thought. Some of its partners include the MK Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence in Memphis, UNESCO, the Peace Corps, the India Council of Cultural Relations (New Delhi) and the Association for Global New Thought.

Dr. Carter, in preparing for the event, of which the SGI-USA was among the sponsoring organizations explained that Martin Luther King Jr., as a student at Morehouse College, had learned about Mahatma Gandhi from (then) Morehouse College President Dr. Benjamin Mays, King’s mentor. Later, when Dr. King went to Boston University, he studied more about Gandhi and nonviolence. History has proven the greatness of Dr. King’s movement for civil rights in America based upon those studies.

President Ikeda states in his message given on April 2, exactly 42 years after the passing of his own mentor, Josei Toda: “The ultimate and most glorious of human relationships is the relationship of spiritual successors. Your courage has contributed to the groundswell of efforts for human rights around the world, and you have given courage to the SGI.”

SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima presented Dr. Carter with the SGI-USA Liberty Award; and the Gandhi Institute was presented a collection of SGI President Ikeda’s books in ceremonies following the opening, attended by nearly 250 dignitaries and supporters. The attendees also enjoyed a showing of the SGI-USA youth division’s Victory Over Violence video and a performance by Nestor Torres, jazz flautist.