

Love and Hate

by Corlun Ceraban (6th grade)

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his book “Strength to Love” of 1963.

Dr. King risked his life to express his belief that compassion and love would lead to peace and equality, which is why I think he is such an inspiring figure today. I chose this quote because I think it really sums up what he thought about nonviolent solutions to racism. I think it means that if he and his supporters fought violently against racist people, it only would end up with more violence and hate, the exact thing King was trying to stop. I think he was very strong to be able to resist the urge to hate people who are doing horrific things to others.

We can be inspired by Dr. King’s life and work and his belief that just because people are different does not mean they are any less human than the rest of us. Dr. King saw horrible, cruel things done to black people in the south, like African-American women and children peacefully protesting were sprayed by high power hoses and mauled by dogs and sometimes shot by white people, just for saying what they thought. It is amazing he never became violent toward the racist people who hated him and his cause. He was convinced that more violence would only lead to fighting and hate, even when he constantly got death threats and was always in danger.

I think it is our job to make sure these terrible things never happen in Tuolumne County or the United States ever again. We can apply what Dr. King taught us in Sonora and Tuolumne by accepting others into our community that may be different from us. And we must always remember Dr. King for his courage and persistence. We can make Tuolumne County a better

place like Martin Luther King, Jr. made America a better place, with less racism and more love and acceptance.