## THE ALBANY NONVIOLENT MOVEMENT MEETS

## THURSDAY 7 pm NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH CORNER JEFFERSON & CHERRY REV. L.W. WHITE

To those who love the Lord and Freedom:

COME; LISTEN; LEARN; LOVE!

"We believe, in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. We believe that God made of one blood all nations for to dwell on all the face of the earth".

Our beliefs have consequences.

If we are of one blood, children of one common Father, brothers in the household of God, then we must be of equal worth in His family, entitled to equal opportunity in the society of men. That "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness", we hold to be self evident.

Moreover, if there is the seed of God in every man, then every man has, by reason of that fact alone, worth and dignity. It follows that no man may, with impunity, discriminate against or exploit another. And if the nature of man is such as we affirmed, then nothing less than its full recognition, nothing less than the dignity and respect due him simply because he is a man, can ever satisfy him.

Our faith leads us one step further. Like responds to like for the most part. If there is in every man a measure of goodness and truth, this quality will respond when it meets its kind and truth and goodness have no color. We are called upon, therefore, to love our fellow men, all of them, with all the risks that that implies and all the privileges that it promises.

Our faith is incurably optimistic and unyieldingly realistic. It teaches us that we live in an ordered universe in which the moral law of cause and effect, of means and ends, is as unchangeable as any physical law. Violence corrupts and destroys both the user and the victim; the power of Love and Nonviolence is creative and redeems both.

In such a faith we look forward with confidence to a new day when man will be measured by what he is and not by his race, creed, color, or nationality. That day can be near if we go forward with energy, faith, and knowledge. It can be very far away if we respond with fear and ignorance. In that day each man will be free to contribute to his fullest capacity for the good of all men; his opportunity to develop will not be curtailed. Segregation and second-class citizenship will take their places with slavery as evils of the past. No two men will be alike; but no two will be different in value to society because of race, color, religion, or nationality. Just as we now know that all are hurt by injury to any one, so in that tomorrow all will benefit by the achievement of each. As prejudice feeds on prejudice, so brotherhood will feed on brotherhood.

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MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
"We Shall Overcome"

Albany (Georgia) Nonviolent Movement, mimeographed handbill, 9 November 1961