



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

**J. Willard Marriott Library**

The following is a speech given by Advisory Board Member M. Donald Thomas, Ph.D., recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King Civil Rights Award given by the NAACP on January 21, 2013 at Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah.

***“On August 28, 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. stated this: “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”***

***The great poet Langston Hughes wrote: “What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?”***

***Each of us has an obligation not to let MLK’s dream “dry up like a raisin in the sun.” What Martin Luther King wanted for his little children has not yet been fully realized.***

***Today, the fight to preserve the gains made since 1963 is the imperative of our time. The forces of dogma, prejudice and personal irresponsibility are still among us; not only in race relations, but also in other areas of our democratic ideals.***

***Attacks on our schools, derision of certain religious beliefs and denial of basic rights to certain members of our nation; are the additional injustices we must continue to eradicate. Each of us must ask: What is my responsibility when an act of injustice stares me in the face? Each of us is diminished when anyone of us permits injustice to exist.***

***Let us on this day honor the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. by dedicating ourselves to protect the gains we have made and to insure that the dream will not “dry up like a raisin in the sun.”***

For more info on Donald Thomas, go to the Marriott Library Advisory Board page:  
<http://www.lib.utah.edu/info/advisory-board.php>

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