

If you think about the characteristics of this time, people care more about their racial and their ethnic identities. If that builds pride and self-esteem and gets people back to good values that we all share, it is a good thing. If it leads people to the Bosnian war or killing in Northern Ireland or a lack of resolution in South Africa or continued carnage in the Middle East or on our own streets, it is a bad thing.

If you look at this global marketplace, if it means that a poor child in inner city Atlanta or in rural Arkansas in the hills of the Ozarks can hook into a computer and get himself or herself into a research library in Australia and learn what's going on in the world, if people in the inner cities can use technology to learn things that they couldn't learn and to build businesses and hope and opportunity, that is a very good thing. But if the global economy means that everywhere we have to have more inequality, more people thrown out of work, more people living without hope because those of us who are doing well won't set up the conditions in which everyone can win, it is not a good thing.

So the challenge of this time is to go forward together—to go forward together. And every single one of us has a role to play.

Let me remind you that in 1994 I signed legislation which transformed Martin Luther King's birthday into a national day of service to reflect the life and legacy of Dr. King. I recently appointed a friend of Dr. King's and an adviser, former Senator Harris Wofford, to head our Corporation for National Service. He said the King holiday should be a day on, not a day off; a day of action, not a day of apathy; a day of responding to the community, not a day of rest and recreation. That's what we have tried to do.

Today, all across America, members of AmeriCorps, our national service organization, are working with grassroots community volunteers to pull this country together, not to let it be divided. In Philadelphia, as we meet here, thousands of young people and their teachers are renovating homes for Habitat for Humanity,

a project that started here in Georgia and has swept the whole world. In California, 2,300 young people are going to clean parks, remove graffiti, collect food and clothing for people who need it. And as we stand here and sit here, right here in Atlanta, members of the national service corps are joining forces with a coalition of citizens to honor the memory of Martin Luther King by painting classrooms, working at their food bank, renovating a homeless shelter.

Every American can be a drum major for peace. Every American can be a voice for justice. Every American can be a servant in the never-ending work of building our American community and building a stronger and more united and more decent world.

As he said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." Because of all of you today, I leave with a heart more full of grace, a soul more generated by love. I thank you for that and hope you feel the same way.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church. In his remarks, he referred to Dexter King, president and CEO, and Coretta Scott King, founder, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc.; Gov. Zell Miller of Georgia; Mayor William Campbell of Atlanta; former Representative Kweisi Mfume, president, NAACP; Dr. Joseph L. Roberts, Jr., pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church; Ernest Green, managing director, Lehman Brothers; Robert Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer, Black Entertainment Television; Weldon Latham, senior partner, Shaw, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge; human rights activist Dick Gregory; former Olympic athlete Edwin Moses; William (Sonny) Walker, former executive director, Martin Luther King, Jr., Center; vocalists David Arnold and Wintley Phipps; actor Lawrence Fishburne; Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel; and President Nelson Mandela of South Africa.