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## Writing Contest (Runner-up Piece)

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## The Thoughts We Convey

They say it in our pledge: “one nation under God,” and we rise to our feet and applaud, hiding behind a façade and in this aspect everything is okay. That’s how it’s always been. Yet so often we neglect our tendency to reflect upon who we are in Christ, and who we have been called to be. Why is it that we can ace our tests but disgrace our friends in the same setting? Why is it that

we can break ground with candor but slander our neighbors all in one breath? How can we advance as a nation when the chance to be good is consumed by the trance of our circumstance? We pretend to be friends and we make our amends but are we being real? And are we being true?

After all, isn’t that what we’re all called here to do? We forget that the word unity is still in community, and opportunity, and even immunity. We can rehearse a verse and sing along to a song but do we stop and think about the words that we drink? We can play by the rules and fit the cliché but still not ponder the thoughts we convey.

Logic can get you far but realizing who you are and who God called you to be can get you so much further. And are we really making progress when we understand less of how we’ve been blessed? And when will we see that these thoughts that persist are often the ones that we don’t resist? MLK was right to say that we don’t understand the thoughts we convey. Because it’s easy

to believe we’re only called to love the one we think fun and then we can be done. But rather we’re called to stand as one, to love everyone, to end the internal fight that’s already begun. So, I say this to you, as one in the crowd: can you stick to the promise you’ve already vowed?