

Dear Friends,
(July 2020)

Hope you are enjoying your June afternoon!

Almost 65 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of a culture or spirit of oneness that he observed on a tiny island less than 2,000 miles away in the Caribbean Sea. That island's motto is: **out of many, one people**, and like most mottos, it is aspirational. As Jamaicans, we certainly have not yet arrived, but we do aspire to attain it as a people.

Oneness in no way means assimilation or diminishing oneself. It also does not mean simply tolerating each other in order to avoid conflict. Rather, oneness calls us to lean in, do the hard work, and 'sincerely appreciate' each other, and with the risk of self-exposure, and humility, see our differences with understanding.

None of us has the monopoly or has cornered the market on creation, only He has, for we are ALL image bearers of Christ. That was intentional. Seeking to FULLY know and love God while excluding others is sheer futility.

With a wink and a smile,
"Out of Many, One People"...Jamaica's motto comes close.