

It is really interesting to see the racial situation in North Africa

From our Unification Church Missionary in North Africa

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It is really interesting to see the racial situation from this side.... One can see many of the roots of the blacks in America. I am learning the feeling of what it is like to be separated from the crowd and looked at a, different. It is strange. Whenever I ride the bicycle through town there are always long looks and sometimes jeers and catcalls.

The people here feel somehow inferior to the whites. The whites live in big villas with cars and don't have the time of day for most blacks except for officials. So the blacks rebound in the attempt to exert their authority whenever possible.

I am experiencing something that most Americans don't get the chance to -- white Americans, at least. Even though there is no open persecution against whites, there is an underlying feeling. But even that underlying feeling cuts into a person. It either makes you defensive so your pride swells up and fights back or it makes you feel alone and hurt.

The racial struggle in America becomes so pitifully sad when seen from this point of view of being set apart and regarded as different. Then I think of how long this has been going on in America.

If each American could just feel what it is like for a short time, how his heart would change! There are definite differences in races. But those differences are not of quality. We must overcome within ourselves and show others how to overcome. One thing that I always feel is the sadness of the separation.

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We had been searching for a bigger house in a better location. The result is a big house surrounded by a lush garden. The house is painted a pale blue with orange and green trimmings.

Our garden has all kinds of flowers and fruits; soon we'll have bananas, mangoes, lemons and tomatoes. Our friends compete for the chance to water the plants. We were afraid that we would be placed at a distance from Africans by living more like white folks. "Anasara" (white people) are looked at disdainfully by most Africans (no matter what the level of education). We had thought that it was a plus to be willing to live as close to their way of life as possible. Now we find out that Africans who are open and friendly will be no matter where or how you live. Africans expect us to live better than they do. We are still uncommon in our life-style and people can see that. Rarely do you see white people walking along the street or just chatting with all kinds of people in their own native language. Africans are impressed that we reach out to them, instead of holding ourselves apart as do all the white people.

The behavior and attitude of white people in Africa (including Christian missionaries) makes me ashamed to be white. If I went into detail about the white folks here you'd never believe it. They live from air-conditioned house to air-conditioned car to air-conditioned office to air-conditioned store. They're as pale as death. The most telling is the lack of smiles. I've never seen a French person smile.