

Viewpoint on Race Relations

Our Unification Church Missionary in South Africa

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I feel that no matter how open any South African white may be, they have grown up in this situation and the blacks here are definitely on a completely different level than the whites, merely because they have only begun to be civilized. With time and education, they can develop to be even better people than the whites. We know this because we live in a country where the black man is developed and we can see with our eyes that they are quite capable of equaling and surpassing us whites in education, talents and every facet of society.

But I feel that unless one is able to actually see the latent potential of the blacks (all South Africans should go to America!) it is difficult to not think that the white race is superior. When I first came to Africa I was resentful of the attitude of the whites and I still am now, but in a different way. But as I could learn more about the black people here and see how they do not even begin to compare to our black people at home, my opinion changed.

When I worked in a restaurant all the cooks were black and as a waitress I had much give and take with them in the kitchen. One time one African man had an argument with one of the women in the kitchen, and he threw her on the ground and jumped on her. She was pregnant at the time and had a miscarriage as a result. The manager told me that last year in the kitchen one of the Africans cut off the hand of the other (both women) as they were chopping onions, for some reason which wasn't very important.

These are horrifying things. But one must understand that no more than 66 years ago the Africans were living in their huts. So outwardly they may seem civilized but there is still much growing to be done.

Another example is that at the big football games in America, you seldom hear of anyone getting trampled in the crowd, but while I was in one country here at our independence celebrations there were about 15,000 people attending and seven people were trampled to death by the crowd. The terrorist activities also show some of the qualities of the people we are dealing with. In the terrorist activities in other countries there are people killed ruthlessly; there are some factual reports I have read in books from the last ten years of the cannibalism of the terrorists. And just after I arrived there was one incident which I can't even tell to you it was so horrible. So my point is that don't for a moment begin to think that the black of America is anything like the black of Africa.

Today in town some Christian businessmen started to sing hymns in the middle of town during lunch. Hundreds of people gathered around joining in. Today was a day of prayer here. There were blacks, whites, young and old, businessmen, army men, secretaries and housewives all singing -- not embarrassed as you see in America but just a spontaneous gathering. It really moved me. God loves this country so much and I am very happy to be here.