

# Good News

*From Getwell*

Published by  
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Publishers of  
**THE SPIRITUAL SWORD**

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Radio Program

***The Truth in Love***

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The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN  
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN  
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY  
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

##### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.

Worship.....10:20 a.m.

Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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## ON THE HOME FRONT

Please be mindful that we are just a few short weeks away from the start of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Spiritual Sword Lectureship. I hope that all of you are as excited as I am. We have 40 great speakers coming from all over the country to speak to us on these great topics. Many of these speakers have never spoken on our lectureship before, so we should all look forward to seeing them. Also, we have a few speakers who are returning who have not been here in quite some time. It will be good to see some familiar faces that we have not seen in a while. Please pick up a brochure or several brochures and give them out to those who need to hear these lessons. We are now in the process of sending out thousands (yes, thousands) of brochures to individuals and congregations all over the country.

Some do not like to study evangelism because they feel that it is just the same thing over and over. There are a couple of things that should be considered. First, should we not be excited to study God's Word, regardless of the subject? Absolutely! We should cherish every opportunity to study the Bible. Second, some of the subjects that will be discussed, you may have never heard anything like it before. For instance, we have several individuals who have conducted mission work in foreign countries, including Tanzania, Singapore, Latvia, India, and others. These are just a few of the interesting topics that are lined up for us to study.

Bradley Smith



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## From The Desk Of Bradley Smith

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Here is another Spiritual Sword letter I would like to share with you that show the lives it touches:

Beloved, greetings in Jesus name.

I pray for strength to abide in His words always. Thank you for continuing to send me the Spiritual Sword magazine..

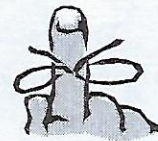
It is very important to me and my work in the kingdom.

My kind regards to brother Highers and all the writers for the excellent work.

Your fellow labourer,  
**INIOBONG B. JOSIAH**



# RON'S REMINDERS



ALL SOULS MATTER by Brad Harrub, PH.D.

## A little history....

I grew up in middle Tennessee with parents who did a good job teaching me not to see color, but rather, to see the individual. As a young boy, growing up we were fairly poor, and I had friends of every skin color. But the truth is, growing up in the south, it did not take long for me to start noticing skin color. Maybe it began about the age of eight or nine, around Christmas, when a relative used the "n" word at a family gathering. Or maybe it was in elementary school when I started picking up on the fact that my friends from our neighborhood were not bused in to school like others were. Or maybe it was when I was in Jr. High and kept hearing people identify people of color as, "My black friend ..." or "The black girl that works there ..."

If we are being bluntly honest, by high school I perceived a difference. I did not consider myself racist by any means and certainly did not use the "n" word. But by high school I started associating people with darker skin with things like crime and bad neighborhoods. All it took was one decade of listening to the main-stream media about crime and violence and watching television shows where people of color were usually cast as the bad guys (By the way, this is the same media and Hollywood that today is hollering out of the other side of their mouths). Thanks to this indoctrination, if something was stolen from a locker at school, my mind would immediately lean toward someone with darker skin. I'm not proud of that-but I am being bluntly honest with you.

Yes, I am familiar with the term systemic racism and all that it entails. I am also familiar with the concept of "white privilege" (even though my brothers and I qualified for free meals in elementary school and even though there were MANY black people who made more money and lived in nicer homes than my family did.). I am well aware that when I was growing up many textbooks overlooked contributions made by black people. Also, I see the ongoing cycle of dependency that welfare and public housing have created. Sadly, I am familiar with the stereotypes of fried chicken and watermelon as well as the stereotype that white people can't dance. Yes, I am aware all of this is going on. But I don't think rioting and looting are the answer. Keep reading.

Enter reverse discrimination and Jesus ...

At about the same time I was learning about Jesus Christ and His love, I was being introduced to reverse discrimination. I applied to several private colleges and realized that the standards for a white male were set higher than females or people with darker skin. I can still remember the frustration I felt as I racked up thousands in student loans because I didn't qualify for all of the minority scholarships. People whose grades were lower than mine were getting free rides, while every semester I found myself figuring out how much was left to pay after student loans, Pell grants, and working on campus. The reverse discrimination became even more apparent for medical school. I use the term reverse discrimination here as it

is commonly defined-giving favor to groups that have been discriminated against previously. (A black friend pointed out that discrimination is about power-something I was not as familiar with.)

Had I not found Jesus Christ, I suspect the frustration would have grown. Watching young men with sagging pants, rap music, and listening to news reports about gangs and violence could have easily fueled that irritation. But I began to see people as souls and not color. God's Word helped me see that there is only one race-the human race-and that we are all created in His image (Genesis 1:26-27).

You know what helped me come full circle into seeing people as humans and not as skin color? It was Jesus Christ and the Word of God. That is it. It wasn't a law made by man. It wasn't protesting in the streets. It wasn't rioting or looting. (And it most certainly was not the main stream media.) A huge black man (and I can use that phrase because he occasionally identifies himself as such!) named Bill Davis helped teach me the Truth and baptized me into Christ. Oh how I love that big black man! He helped me realize there is only one race-the human race.

Today, I have friends literally all over the world. I have Christian brothers and sisters who I love like family from dozens of different nations. These are men and women who I do not view in terms of their outward skin color, but rather, I see their warm loving Christian spirit. These are individuals who are welcome in my home anytime. If I happen to be on the road and they need a place to stay, I will happily give them a code to get into our home.

I shared all of that to say this: Christians we are allowing Satan to distract us from what is truly important. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). What should Christians be talking about and preaching about as we watch rioting and buildings burn? Simply put: the Gospel of Jesus Christ.