

Race riots and brotherly love

By [Beverly Goldsmith](#), Christian Science [practitioner](#) and [teacher](#) in Brisbane, Australia.
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Written after the race riots that took place in Cronulla, Australia, in December 2005.

Australia's Sydney Harbor is famous for sun, surf and suburban beaches.

I know because I once lived in an apartment right on the cliff overlooking beautiful Cronulla Beach.

It's an idyllic place.



Yet recently, this southern beach-suburb made headline news around the world because of an ugly race riot. As a result of text messages sent out to mobile phones, hundreds of young men and women came together in angry protest over intimidation on the beach and attacks on volunteer surf lifesavers by groups of young Lebanese men.

In praying for the peace of Sydney's beach suburbs, I've been thinking about universal brotherhood. Around the world, there are indications of religious intolerance, ethnic dissatisfaction, and belief in racial superiority. To me, such situations cry out for greater brotherly love. My prayer is that those who feel angry, hateful and vengeful can find God's peace and an answer to the situations they feel are distressing and unresolved.

God is Love and His offspring, made in His likeness as the Bible tells us, must therefore be loved and able to express love. And this is actually *our* nature because all of us—you, and me and everyone—is God's child.

The real nature of all peoples is not imbedded with criminality, hatred and revenge. Each person's true identity is spiritual—wholly good, unprejudiced, peace-loving. These attributes are permanently within everyone. They can never be obliterated, because they come from God—eternal good.

This concept of fellowship, based on the unity we all have with God, has helped me to resolve disputes with neighbors and to be a peacemaker. Rather than reacting or retaliating in kind, prayer has enabled me to go to my neighbor and find resolution. In each instance harmony and good relationships have been restored.

Such personal experiences give me hope that people in my local community, those in Southeast Sydney, as well as in countries around the world, can live together in concord and brotherly love.



Beverly Goldsmith is a Christian Science [practitioner](#) and [teacher](#) in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

[Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures](#) by Mary Baker Eddy, is her textbook on Christian Science healing practice and her class textbook in teaching Christian Science healing.

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