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## Jaiya John / Soul Water Rising Newsletter

*Revealing the Divine in Human Relations*

**January 2007**

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### **In this issue**

[Meditation on Life](#)

[Foster Youth Poetry Contest](#)

[What's Rising](#)

[Jaiya John Speaking Engagements](#)

[Have Jaiya Speak for Black History Month](#)

[Support Soul Water Rising](#)

[Get this Newsletter for Free!](#)

[Add Us to Your Address Book](#)

[Contact Information](#)

**Dear Jaiya,**

Welcome to our *Jaiya John / Soul Water Rising Newsletter*. Soul Water Rising is an educational mission devoted to improving human relations. Our founder and executive director, [Jaiya John](#), has addressed over 50,000 adults and youth nationwide. For our mission statement, products and services, and areas of focus, please visit our [Web site](#). Enjoy the Rising!

*I have nothing new to teach the world. Truth and nonviolence are as old as the hills.*  
~Mohandas K. Gandhi

## MEDITATION ON LIFE

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Truly civil rights are a water flowing within the wellspring of human rights. The two are so kindred they are one. For there can be no humanity without civility. Civil rights did not emerge in that fiery season of the 1950s and '60s but in fact is a wave of conscience extending out from the ripple of Steve Biko and other youth of South Africa's apartheid hinterland; extending out from Mohandas Gandhi and those courageous souls shedding the foul yoke of imperialism and colonialism on India's expanse. Civil rights rode out into the night fortified and unyielding, the north star of the Maori, the Aboriginal, the Seminole, the Tibetan. Civil rights stood with Shaka Zulu; trudged with Harriet; broke free with Moses; bled with Jesus; endured with César; howled with Sojourner. Civil rights began when injustice began. It taunts and harasses a fallow ground where conceit forever seeks to raise its bitter brood. The movement will never end because the pulse of human indignity will beat as long as blood flows through human hearts. This great civil wave rides the tides of generations and bellows strong in the forever chambers of our soul's exaltation.

~Jaiya John

## FOSTER YOUTH POETRY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED SOON

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Well over 100 youth nationally and internationally participated in our inaugural 2006 [Foster Youth Poetry Contest](#)! Winners will be announced in February via our Web site and e-newsletter, and by direct email to each winner. The contest asked poets to share their vision of what foster youth can teach the world. Grand Prize winners receive \$100 cash prizes, and all winners will have their poem published in an anthology book of foster youth poetry. In the spring we will announce our 2007 Foster Youth Poetry Contest. Please pass on the word to current and former foster youth, and those who work with or are raising these outstanding poets.

For contest guidelines please visit our [Young Life Drumbeat](#) Web page.

## WHAT'S RISING

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2007 promises to be full of new publications from Soul Water Rising. In addition to our usual slate of keynote speeches both nationally and internationally, here are some of the projects we plan to initiate in the coming months:

### NEW FULL-LENGTH BOOKS

- *Reflection Pond* (a meditation on culture, identity, healing, and growth in children separated from original family)
- Poetry books
- Children's books

### NEW SOCIAL ISSUES ESSAYS

- *Disproportionality and the Ailment of Denial*
- *Poverty is not a Reason*
- *Denying Culture*
- *Child Welfare: The Abyss in Civil Rights*
- *Dualism is the First Step Toward War*

### YOUNG LIFE DRUMBEAT

- Youth literacy, leadership, and mentoring projects and contests

## JAIYA JOHN 2007 SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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The humanistic message of Soul Water Rising continues to reach an ever-widening social circle. Here's a preview of a few of Jaiya John's 2007 speaking engagements:

March 10. ROCKVILLE, MD. Keynote. The Barker Foundation Annual Adoption Conference. *Honoring the Whole Child in Adoption*.

March 30. BLACKSBURG, VA. Keynote. NRV CARES and Multiple Community Partners. Spring Professional Forum. *Children are Born Resilient*.

March 31. ROANOKE, VA. Keynote. CRAFFT-Radford University/Area DSS Agencies. Foster Parent and Youth Conference.

April 19. SACRAMENTO, CA. Keynote. California Dept. of Social Services. Annual Statewide Independent Living Program Conference.

June 6. KEYSTONE, CO. Keynote. Colorado Dept. of Human Services and National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement. Annual Child Welfare Conference.

July 23. SCOTTS VALLEY, CA. Keynote. African Cradle, Inc. Ethiopian Heritage Camp.

July 26. TAMPA, FL. Keynote and Youth Seminar. North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC). Annual National Adoption Conference.

August 1. ORLANDO, FL. Keynote. Foster Family-Based Treatment Association (FFTA). Annual National Treatment Foster Care Conference.

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**INTERESTED IN HAVING JAIYA SPEAK?**

Do you want to bring Jaiya John to your organization, group, or community to share an inspired message on some aspect of human relations? If so, reach out to us and let's make it happen! Simply email or call using the contact information listed at the end of this newsletter. Please visit our Web site to see a list of Jaiya's speaking clients, his speaking topics, and for more [SERVICE DETAILS](#).

**HAVE JAIYA SPEAK FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH!**

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Are you looking for a truly original and productive social message during February for your community, school system, group, or organization? Have Jaiya John deliver a powerful message in your community during this February's Black History Month! [Click here](#) for a sample description of the type of message that Jaiya John can deliver for you; a message that re-envision the concepts of history and heritage and ties them to our contemporary life realities. Email us at [info@soulwater.org](mailto:info@soulwater.org) for more information or download, complete, and email us our Speaker Request Form, available at the SPEAKING page on our Web site.

**SUPPORT SOUL WATER RISING**

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Pass on the word to support our mission!

We achieve our goals of personal and social change through a national and international network of people like you. Relationships and word of mouth are our greatest strengths. One of the most helpful ways that you can contribute to our work is simply by letting others know about us. PLEASE RECOMMEND THIS NEWSLETTER to your family, friends, colleagues, and clients. Just click on the 'FORWARD' link at the bottom of this newsletter. Also, please invite others to visit our Web site ([www.soulwater.org](http://www.soulwater.org)). Thanks!

## GET THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FREE!

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TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER for FREE, sign up at [www.soulwater.org](http://www.soulwater.org) or click on the 'SUBSCRIBE ME!' link at the bottom of this newsletter. If you are already subscribed, no worries. You will automatically receive this newsletter.

PRIVACY STATEMENT: We will not distribute your email address to anyone. Not ever.

## ADD US TO YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

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TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS, please add [info@soulwater.org](mailto:info@soulwater.org) and [jaiya@soulwater.org](mailto:jaiya@soulwater.org) to your address book. Thanks!

## HELPFUL LINKS

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**INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY AND CHILD WELL-BEING.** African American child educational and resource organization.

**WORLD TRUST.** A nonprofit educational organization whose vision is a vibrant, equitable, sustainable world that honors and embraces all people. Offers Dr. Shakti Butler's new video *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*.

**FOSTER CLUB.** The national network for youth in foster care. Advocacy, resources, mentoring, speaking, contests, and much more!

**TAPESTRY BOOKS.** Mail order service for adoption books.

**EVAN B. DONALDSON ADOPTION INSTITUTE.** Adoption education and advocacy.

**PROJECT BUTTERFLY.** Workbook and other resources for girls and young women of African descent.

**ORPHAN FOUNDATION OF AMERICA.** Foster youth scholarships, internships, mentoring, and more.

**ROOM TO READ.** Serves literacy needs of children in Nepal, India, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and Sri Lanka. Partners with local communities to establish schools, libraries, and computer & language labs. Donates English language books, publishes local language books, and funds scholarships.

DANIEL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE. Resources for independent living and foster care. Assessment tools, videos, software, DVDs, books, games, starter kits, curriculum.

More useful links. . . .

**Contact Information**

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email: [info@soulwater.org](mailto:info@soulwater.org)  
phone: 301.221.7116  
web: [www.soulwater.org](http://www.soulwater.org)  
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