

One Person can Make a Difference

By Sheila Smith

If you live in Colorado, you have seen her face on television. She has been in the forefront hosting award ceremonies and programs in Denver. She has done talk shows. She has been seen nationally from the documentaries she has reported on and produced.

That is Tamara Banks.

An Emmy-award winning icon journalist and documentary filmmaker who continues doing her own thing and being out in the trenches bringing stories to the people.

“I know what I am called to do. I know what needs to be done,” Banks says as you hear her passion and calling in being a journalist of integrity.

Banks graced the television network stage as an anchor/reporter for almost 13 years for WB2 News Channel 2 News back in the day.

She then went to work for former Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper as one of his policy advisors and “neighborhood liaison.”

“I connected him with neighborhoods and communities in the City and County of Denver,” says Banks while still using her communications talents to engage with people throughout the city.

Later, Banks left Denver to expand her career to work on a national and international level, researching and reporting on genocides and crimes against humanity.

She quickly became widely known and recognized for her work producing documentaries and long format pieces, reporting on what was going on in Sudan back in 2008.

“I realized our people, Black people, are still being enslaved in different parts of the world. And I specifically started focusing on the southern part of Sudan and Darfur,” she explains. Slavery was being used as a tool of genocide.

“It was not until July 2011, South Sudan seceded from Sudan, becoming the world’s newest country.”

However, today, South Sudan has been battling severe droughts, flooding, and internal conflict. It has become a battleground of religious spiritual and warfare as the enemy of Jesus leads powerful military factions in the fight to take control of the country.

And despite hundreds of people killed, thousands wounded, and diplomats from different countries, including those from the United States, scrambling to evacuate the unrest in the city of Khartoum, in neighboring country, Sudan, South Sudan continues to strive to stand strong and independent.

The power struggle is real.

“It’s about religion, race, and resources that started the Civil War. There is a lot of oil in South Sudan and Sudan.”

Banks has not been back to South Sudan since the COVID-pandemic hit and restricted travel. But she plans to go back this year as well as to the Tigray Region in northern Ethiopia to continue reporting on genocide and crimes against humanity. Banks is also working on an

assignment in Uganda and Rwanda.

She says before traveling to conflict zones she makes sure she is “prayed up,” done her homework, and connects with people in the area who know the language and culture, as well as notifying the state department and the Committee to Project Journalists.

Meanwhile, Banks is enjoying married life in Atlanta and still working on different projects – from a film on excessive police brutality across the U.S. to her talk show, “From Moment to Movement with Tamara Banks.”

While she may love Denver, Atlanta is the place to be now.

“Atlanta is the birthplace of Civil Rights. Black Lives Matter has really taken a foothold in front of a global audience. It’s a place where Civil Rights was born and has evolved with a different generation taking up the mantle.”

An admirable superstar journalist like Banks sets the bar high for others in the field. She has faith in God leading her to continue utilizing her gifts.

So, whatever you do in life to help to support, inform or even pray for others, remember: I Corinthians 12:4-6 “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” ✚

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