



We See

What We See
Changes
Who We Are

WITNESS Project Youth Page is made possible by the Margaret Clemons Foundation and The Ministry of Education

Capoey

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Capoey was a land that was unknown to me. I had never heard of such a place in any of my journeys.

I thought Capoey was a native village deep in the Essequibo River, accessible only by boat: a village located on the river banks spreading through the calm, cool and majestic rainforest, opened to wild animals.

Our journey to Capoey began early in the day when I joined the bus with my fellow WITNESS Project colleagues. We took a boat across the main river, a bus once more, then finally a boat again. My idea of Capoey wasn't spot on, but close, very close. Capoey was indeed accessible only by boat, since it is an island. The village did spread through the forest and was open to wild animals.

The villagers greeted us with open arms and warm comforting smiles, welcoming us into their

"Georgetown." The beauty of the island was breathtaking and I was beyond excited about diving into the Capoey Lake. This lake has a history dating back to when the Europeans had first settled in Guyana, a lake where the natives used to carry out everyday activities. Although Capoey is an Amerindian village deep in the Essequibo, it is modern: from the buildings to the type of music. Even the latest dancing styles and fashions were known.

Besides the lake, the rain forest, and the modernization of the village, one thing has remained the same and has ceased to change: the traditional pepper pot and cassava bread.

Like the saying goes, all good things come to an end; our time in Capoey was up, and the WITNESS Project team had to bid farewell until another time.



Capoey Lake, Essequibo Region

Being Flogged

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I was flogged in Secondary School because I was always quiet, soft spoken and an easy-going child. My classmates would trouble me and call me names and tell me bad things for a long time.

I would never take the time to address the matter; thinking and hoping it would stop, but it never did. One day I got to school late and was punished; I had to pick up five pieces of garbage. I was angry and mad the whole time until I got to class. Then this tall muscular young woman started to call me names like, "Buck girl, how was the work?" and made comments like, "You couldn't catch the bus because you only catch boat, ha hahahaha." This annoyed me.

Due to the fact that she was big, I jumped on her and started to clap her. She then gave me a big push and I attacked her again, with clapping and kicking. The other classmates tried to part us but I held onto her hair and didn't let go for about twenty seconds.

Both of us were taken to the Head Master's office and the matter was dealt with. We were both punished by having a timeout. After that I realised how foolish I acted. I should have just dealt with it in another way. We could have talked to each other about the issue and deal with it ourselves. After our punishment, we talked to each other and became friends and we are still friends today.



Violence and Troubles - My Big Brother

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I live with my mother and big brother in a village called Crane. My brother is eighteen years old but he never listens to my mother. He always wants his own way. He hangs out on the streets late at night and gets into trouble with other people. One night we left to go to a friend's party and he saw a boy that he had a problem with. Just like that, the boy walked up to my brother and pushed him. My

brother slipped and fell. The boy then stabbed him with a Rambo knife. My brother didn't realize he was stabbed but as he stood up, there was blood, so we rushed him to the hospital. It was so serious that they transferred him to another hospital and admitted him. When he was out of the hospital and healed he started to hang out with the same friends who got him into trouble. This time he and

his friends threw bricks at a man because he was chasing them with a cutlass. In their efforts to defend themselves they injured the man. He was hospitalized while they were put in prison for a month. At the court hearing he was bailed and came home. Such behaviour is not cool!

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"What we see changes who we are." – JR

Are you a witness or victim of violence? You are not alone. Make your anonymous call to Help & Shelter today and speak with a live counselor on 227-3454 or 225-4731.