



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

Trip to Kaiteur

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Early that morning, I woke up full of anxiety and excitement. It started off like this: I woke up, did my chores, packed my bag and took a bath. After doing everything, I stood impatiently awaiting my taxi. I stood there watching the clock tick-tock angrily, saying in my thoughts, "I'm going to miss the bus and the airplane!" When the taxi arrived, the words "Oh god, I'm still going," jumped into my mind. When I arrived at the bus, I was again happy that I made it in time. We were off to the airport.

From the airport, it took approximately forty minutes to reach Kaiteur National Park. When everyone landed, we spent a few minutes taking in the fresh, unpolluted air. Upon arriving at our destination, we were greeted by the tour guides. We then had a snack and headed for our destination, the majestic Kaiteur Falls. On our way to the Falls, our tour guide, a very respectable guy, supervised us. There were also rules that had to be followed.

There are many plants in the park. Most of these plants, when prepared in different ways, can be used for different purposes. In the Kaiteur National Park there are leaves that are used by the natives instead of tablets.

When we arrived at the Falls, I took a deep breath and released all my anxiety and made myself at home. The water was so beautiful, flowing over the rocks in the river and over the edge. As the water flowed over the Falls, mist was created and rainbows were formed; the mist also created a moist cool environment that is inhabited by small golden frogs. At first I didn't think I would actually get to see a frog, but I was awestruck when I did.

Kaiteur is a blessed place that we all should appreciate. Millions of people may die without seeing Kaiteur, so I made use of my time to take in all that I could. I am proud to say that I will never give anyone false impressions about the Falls because they are too beautiful to gossip about.



Teen's Life in a Nut Shell

By WITNESS Youth Staff

A child cries in the night to avoid sleep, while a teenager pretends to sleep to avoid showing their tears. Most people have a lot of things to say about teenagers. Many have harsh things to say about teenagers. Though your words are neither indecent nor offensive they are still very painful. I have witnessed and experienced some of the most painful things a teenager can endure.

Most teenagers go to school and work their brains out trying to do good to make parents proud. They say yes, they are proud but later say, "You could still have done better." How is a child supposed to feel when they hear this? Of course it rips the child apart to know that they tried and tried and yet they are expected to perform above their limits.

Some parents may want to argue and say that the child has the ability to do better. But STOP RIGHT THERE! Yes, the child does, but did you stop to consider the position teens are placed in? Parents tend to forget

that changes are taking place during this transitional time in our lives. A child's mind is being tattered and torn everyday trying to be the perfect individual. We are forced to merge being a child, maturing, and also our conscience. Doesn't that sound technical? It isn't much use comparing the roles of adults to the roles of adolescents since they are both on different levels, but equally complicated.

My point to parents about what teens want is not a lot: it's more emotional than it is physical. We want praises, thanks, appreciation, compliments or anything that would "swell our heads." For those of you reading this article, just know that you are not the only one out there and just remember to be strong for those who can't be strong for themselves. Love yourself; open your mind to the positive possibilities; don't worry about getting satisfaction from others - self-satisfaction is all that is needed; and always be true to who you are.

A Day Well Spent

Inspired by WITNESS Project Guyana

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Up! Out of my sleep I jumped, anxiety and excitement flooding my soul. Friday was finally here. My friends from Capoey were visiting. I thought to myself, "Today must be the best for them." Hustling and bustling through the house, I fought to gear myself up for a sardine-packed day. With a well-oiled plan, I made my way to NCERD.

Reaching NCERD a whole hour early stretched my anxiety to the limit. Using the extra time wisely, I reflected on the wonderful way Capoey was presented to me when I had visited. The youths' well-executed display of Capoey motivated me to be even a better ambassador of Georgetown. Giving my plan a test run with a friend highlighted a few minor flaws; otherwise, it was perfect.

A single phone call changed everything. All my anxiety turned into frustration. Our visitors were stranded. Instead of two big buses as planned, only one small bus showed up. Hopping off the walls with fury, our country coordinator instantly made alternate arrangements. Señorita Rosheni was our hero.

Upon arrival of the Capoey youth, the tension was lifted and our anxiety doused with snacks and juices. We then set off. Every youth was partnered with a WITNESS member and equipped with a camera. The Georgetown tour had officially been placed in the hands of the WITNESS Team.

Our first stop was the parliament building. As we sat in the seats of our ministers, we were educated a little about parliament and our eyes were opened to a world which was new for even some of us who live right in town.

Although the parliament building was an awesome site to visit, I am absolutely certain our visitors enjoyed the National Museum much more. The glow and surprise in their

eyes was proof, but the tugging and pulling of their friends to see the various artifacts and other interesting pieces was the sprinkles on the ice creams.

Our next stop was one of the tallest wooden cathedrals in the world. Can you believe that? Right here in Guyana? It's amazing! The St. George's Cathedral was within walking distance so we headed over there by foot. In the cathedral we were greeted by a reverend who gave us a brief history and fun facts about the Cathedral.

After pausing our trip only to fuel our stomachs, we then made our way to the prime minister's office, where he explained his role and interacted with our group. One of the braver and older youth from Capoey presented a wonderful poem in Arawak, displaying talents we are not often exposed to.

After being entertained by the Prime Minister, our group headed south. Our final touring site, the National Stadium of Guyana, lay all the way on the East Bank of the Demerara River. In the stadium we were fortunate to observe the Guyana All-star Cricket team practice. Besides watching the match, the group interacted and took as many photos as they wanted.

Our tour then came to an end. Although our trip encompassed very few sites, it was fun. For me, the best part was that I was able to gain a really close friend. In my opinion, a cultural bridge has definitely been built and the gap lessened between us (the WITNESS youth) and the youth of Capoey. It's now up to you the readers to help maintain this bridge and share cultures rather than change cultures, since if we change all cultures then we will only have one main culture prevailing and we will lose our diversity.

WITNESS Project Youth Reporters

- Kwesi Archer
- Haresh Bhagwan
- Judith Cameron
- Mark Davidson
- Reanna Douglas
- Daisha Henry
- Verney Henry
- Shakera Hoosain
- Danita Jaundoo
- Kevon Jones
- Linda-Deyi Lin
- Chantel Lewis
- Fiona Maughn
- Teriq Mohammad
- Krissy Morgan
- Kimberly Morgan
- Kaesia Munroe
- Nakasi Noel
- Marcel Persaud
- Rajendra Ramesh
- Devi Sankar
- Anthony Vishnu

"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.