



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

Popularity Bites

By WITNESS Youth Staff

My high school days were really tough since I attended a new school, was in a new environment, new everything. I was the new kid. How I hated being the new kid; I was picked on, laughed at, and thrown every day into garbage cans. I would have given anything to be popular. The popular kids ruled the school. They were like the untouchables; everyone feared them.

In history class our history teacher, Ms. Higgins, would normally bring a big red juicy apple every day and she would place it on her desk. One day, she got an important call from the principal's office and left in a hurry. Some students decided to pull a prank on her by rubbing her apple with poison ivy, a very deadly plant. They all began to stare at me. They asked me to do it. They said that if I did it, I would become one of them. I smiled. I couldn't help myself, I had to do it; popularity was all I ever wanted.

Ms. Higgins returned, and we all watched as she took a big, huge bite out of the apple. As the apple was being consumed, something happened, something that scared me. She began to cough very loudly. Red spots were visible on her skin. She became weak and then she hit the ground. I began to cry and scream at the sight; it gave me such a fright. I have regretted it all my life. Why did I do it? Why was she in the hospital because of me? If I had only known she was allergic to poison ivy.

We all got punished that day: suspended and placed on clean-up duty. I learned a valuable lesson. I don't need to be popular to fit in, I just have to be myself and be true to who I am. So don't be like me and do crazy things just to fit in. Be true to yourself, make the right decisions, and choose the right friends.



Marketing the WITNESS Youth Page at the City Mall

Poverty

By WITNESS Youth Staff

In my area poverty is seen as a major problem. You can find many instances where little children walk on the roads with little or no clothes on, and you also find that people sleep on the floors, and use the sidewalk and drains as a washroom. My area is filled predominantly with carpenters and fishermen. Their education ended after the primary stage, since most of the older people are school dropouts.

Yes! This ill is a problem for me and anyone who lives in it. The streets have men and women sleeping on the pavement. In the morning our garbage is scattered, and the place smells awful because the street people urinated on the fence. Crime is on the rise; since many persons are in need of money and resources, they find illegitimate means to acquire them. It's hard

to leave your valuables in the yard at night since the chances of them being stolen are very high.

There isn't much that I can do to help, though, since these people need real time aid. Perhaps they need proper homes, food and training. All I can do is give them some money and clothing, and hope for the best. I don't think my actions would help, since these people can't be helped if they don't want to be.

I don't know of a lot of people who visit this area to help out, but a few times Church people have visited the area. All they did was spread the word of the Lord. I think that many of these people have already concluded that God has forgotten them.

A major solution to improve this issue would be to provide these people with training to get jobs, and

counsel them to change their mindset so that they can start believing they can do something, regardless of their current situation. But, this will take time and people who really want to combat this issue.

As a people, as a group, we can seek donations from institutions and businesses - things like kitchen utensils, or anything that can help improve their standard of living in any way possible. The communities can try to assist these people living in poverty by showing them places where they can find help of some sort. There are many Non-Governmental Organisations in Guyana and I know that they would be grateful to aid these persons in need.

Poverty is everyone's problem; we have to act now!

My Inspiration

By WITNESS Youth Staff

He is my great-aunt's husband. I met him at a wedding meeting at my aunt's house. He is incredible and knows about life. I feel like I can tell him anything. He is very straightforward and well-educated. We talk about life experiences and what goes on in our country. He is my type of person since we share many common views and his personality matches mine. I am so glad that he is a part of my family as my uncle-in-law. His name is Orin.

What Qualities I Look for in My Male Friends

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I am a girl and my male friends should not be bullies. They should not take advantage of other people. I am looking for Love, Kindness, Respect, Patience, Sharing, Courage and Honesty in my male friends.

I like "Boys with Brains" because a good education is very important and without it you can't do lots of things. I would like them to be there for me, and to help me with all my hardships.

I think having good qualities means you are a real man, and people will trust and believe in you. Boys should have good qualities so that when they grow up they can be great men; they can have long lasting relationships with their wife, family, friends, cousins, brothers, sisters and children. These qualities would reduce the possibility of males committing acts of domestic violence.

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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.