



We See

What We See
Changes
Who We Are

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An Interview with Psychologist, Dr. Brian O'Toole

By WITNESS Youth Staff

We all anticipated interviewing Dr. O'Toole. We felt honored to be in the presence of a man of his caliber. During the interview many questions were asked pertaining to his life as the director of Nations University, and as an activist for a better society. It was truly inspiring to listen to someone simple, but yet so filled with wisdom and passion to improve society.

Dr. O'Toole is originally from Britain. He stated that the reason he came to Guyana was because of the Baha'i Faith. The Baha'i faith believes work is worship and whatever the members do in their work or spare time is to enhance the unity of mankind. We remember him smiling as he said, "I'm glad I came to Guyana."

We learnt that Dr. O'Toole is a psychologist by profession, but Artistic Painter by talent. He stated that when he was younger he once listened to a man who was a psychologist and he believed that the individual seemed well grounded and knowledgeable; this sparked his interest in psychology. Further conversation with him gave us great insight into his mind, he stated, "a lot of psychology is written that doesn't understand man. When people start to understand the true

purpose of man and the spiritual nature of man then they would be able to find all other insights about how to help people who are depressed or people who are disabled but if they just see man in a purely animalistic way then they can begin to make an impact on the suffering that mankind has." As the interview continued, Dr. O'Toole mentioned being in agreement with Carl Rogers, a famous American psychologist.

As the Director of Nations University, the only school in Guyana, which offers substantial British Examinations, which are recognized worldwide, not just in the Caribbean, Dr. O'Toole, stated that Britain is noted for being one of the world leaders in education, and the qualifications obtained at Nations University are up to international standards.

After teaching in the Teachers Training College and being a Psychology Lecturer at the University of Guyana, Dr. O'Toole started a "People with Disabilities" project then moved up into starting his own school, Nations University.

Dr. O'Toole enlightened us on his thoughts about the school system throughout the world, by stating how it lacks the nature of



Interview with Dr. Brian O'Toole

molding the average person, but instead, mainly focuses on the brilliant people. Due to these flaws in the system, he was motivated to produce an event in order for people to express themselves through the arts.

Starting this July, Dr. O'Toole will be presenting an event for youths of all ages to use all manner of art, to show the expressions of children ranging from ages 8 to 18 to let the world know how they feel. To make it interesting, and spice the

fun up, he mentioned that FOUR DRAMA Professionals from the United States will be hosting the Drama Work Shop.

When asked about his aim in doing the work shop, he stated "it's basically to use arts to create our expression of the world and this is how 'We' want it." At the end of this work shop a production of "This Is Our World and This Is How WE Want It." will be presented to Guyana as a production of our own. This workshop will be from July

8 to July 28. He urges youths to contact him if interested, and also would be grateful for the public's support.

As we concluded our interview one thing stood out above the rest, a quote from his religion about man: "Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom."

My WITNESS Experience as a New Member

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I joined the WITNESS Project just a few months ago. As soon as I joined the group, I fell in love with it.

I don't really have time to do activities with the group members, but I do try my best on every article. I went to the Sea Wall with the WITNESS team members at the International Day for The Elimination of Violence against Women. We were putting up the WITNESS Project posters. That was my first activity with the WITNESS Team.

Hanging posters on Sea Wall was fun, although it was kind of tiring, but I am glad that I had a chance to hang out with my favourite people-- The WITNESS team members -- and do useful things instead of being lazy at home on a Sunday.

I helped to put glue on the walls and I helped to lift up posters and paste them on the walls. I experienced the power of a group from this activity. We are a group, not a single person. We are helpful teens, not teens that smoke or

are addicted to alcohol. We have the right attitudes. We are in our right minds and we help others. Everybody was helping each other; nobody was being selfish or lazy.

The power of one single person might be weak, but when you gather a group of people with the right mindset to do right things, their power will obviously be stronger than with one single person. I am so glad that I joined the WITNESS Project; this team has taught me a lot.

The Person Who Inspires Me

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Growing up as a child, my mom was never really around much. She was always away dealing with everything but me, so my big sister played that role in my life, since she is nine years older than me. Even though she went to school and had school work to do, she never complained. I know I was bad as hell. With all this responsibility in her life, she always worked for something when she really wanted it. She would always say to me, "Dreams are for sleeping, so if you need

something, work hard for it!" Today, she's married and has her own family, but still finds time to go through the things in life she missed; for example she didn't get the chance to finish secondary school, but now nothing stops her. She completed her education with amazing grades and now runs a very successful business with her husband. She still says to me, "Little sis, work hard. Success comes to those who work hard for it!"

Who Inspires Me

By WITNESS Youth Staff

A person who inspires you should be the one who is your role model, someone who encourages you to do the right thing and gives you good advice. The person who inspires me would be Ms. Rosheni, who is the leader of the Witness Project I am in. She always has something loving to say to everyone, she has a good

sense of humour and would always have good advice to give when needed. She is very patient and kind hearted and well educated. When she is asked to do something, she does it willingly and with dedication. I hope I could be like her when I get older.

"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.