



We See

What We See
Changes
Who We Are

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Members of the WITNESS Family

Crossing Personal Boundaries

By WITNESS Youth Staff

It was a bright Friday morning. I woke up with joy and anticipation of this new day, mainly because I love learning and being with my friends at school.

So this day started normally like other days; I woke up and said a little prayer of thanks that I was alive. Then, I made my bed and prepared my school clothes by

ironing them. After that, I went to the bathroom to have a bath; I also brushed my teeth.

Afterwards, I went to get ready for school, then I joined my family for breakfast. I kissed my mom and dad shortly thereafter and left for school. On my way to school I was stopped by a man at the corner of a shoe repair shop. He called out,

“Hey girl! I have something to give you.” I ignored the rude man and started walking then he exclaimed, “Wait girl! I have something to give you.” I ignored him again and kept walking.

Then he called out, “You want me to take you to school girl?” At that point I started to walk very quickly because I felt insecure and scared.

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 primary school, and most of the older people are dropouts.

Yes! This ill has been a problem for me and everyone who lives in it. The streets have men and women sleeping on the paves. In the morning, our garbage is scattered, and the place smells awful because the street people urinate on the fence. Crime is on the rise because of the poverty, since people in need of money and resources find illegitimate ways to acquire them. For example, it's not safe to leave

your valuables in the yard at night; 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 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 had already concluded that God has forgotten them.

A major way to improve this issue would be to provide these people with training, to get jobs, and counsel them to change their mind-

set, so that they can start believing they can do something, regardless of their current situation.

But, this will take time and the people who really want to combat this issue.

As a people, 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 willing to aid these people in need.

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

Who Inspires Me

By WITNESS Youth Staff

As strange as it may seem, I am not easily impressed by people. The person who inspires me is my best friend and cousin, Mohamed. I've known him for quite some time. To be exact, it has been about a year since I was introduced to him as family. How does he impress me? Well for starters: during our introduction, we talked about our career choices. His is to become the world's best pilot, but what's interesting is how much he has achieved to reach this goal. Currently he is training at the second best piloting school in the world. He notes that he comes from nothing much, but his aim for his family is to move them to where he deems is best since they have sacrificed so much to place him where he currently is. Every individual speaks about their likes and dislikes, but when someone speaks with a passion to make you want to be a part of that dream, or

to make you look at where you're going and want to strive higher, that is an attribute to be proud of.

He mentioned to me that the person who inspired him was a pilot. This pilot was once a janitor for the airline company where he currently is employed as a pilot. Many people believe that we can just sit back and wait for something to happen, but Mohamed's mentor told him that nothing in life comes to you unless you get up and run towards it.

His major goal is to give back to those just like him, to aid in any way possible in making somebody's dream come true. I find this dream very interesting and at the same time it leaves me in awe. I am aware of very few people who have this passion. It is like a blue-lit flame that burns so very beautifully with inspiration.

What I'm Grateful For

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Many days I look around me and wonder, does my neighbour have any of what I have? The answer is, I don't know because I never bothered to find out. That's when I took stock of myself and internalized the things in my life that I'm grateful for. Every day, I have the opportunity to go to school and learn so much whereas many around my country can't. I have the chance to do so many things, one of which is volunteering to make a strong difference in another person's life. That opportunity is one I'm truly grateful for. I'm appreciative that I have so many family members alive who show me unconditional love. I'm grateful to my sisters for

teaching me how to love and what it's like to be truly loved and cared about. I'm thankful for my teacher at school who helps me get through what may seem like unbearable days at school. I'm grateful for the sustenance my mother works so hard to provide. I'm thankful that I have all my senses, especially my speech. This I can use to proclaim great things and support others. I'm thankful I have hands, hands that can be used to make a transformation in another's life. And finally, I'm deeply grateful for my life. Many did not get this chance, so to make mine worthwhile, I'll try my best to make a difference in the lives of others.



Ambassador Hardt and Mrs. Hardt interviewing WITNESS youth.

“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.