



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

Being Abused By Words

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Most people are abused in many ways and it hurts! But I am writing about myself, and being abused by words.

Being a sixteen year-old, soft spoken girl, it is hard to voice my problems. My father is an alcoholic - well, that's how I see it.

When he's not drinking, I have a happy family for a week or more. However, when he drinks and comes home, it's the worst you can expect. He wouldn't hit my mom or my brother or sisters, but the things he says to us is like being abused!

Once he saw me speaking to a boy and his remarks were, "Why are you behaving like a bitch, you have no respect being a young girl!" And another time he came home drunk and said to my mom, "I will leave you and these children and go get another woman!" He uses some of the most outrageous words. It's so hard to cope with everything, but I got so accustomed to it that it's like listening to

music.

I don't give up on him and I will NEVER give up on him because he is my father, and maybe he will change.

But words hurt more than being abused physically or in any other way. They have a great impact on anyone's life and so far I have been able to personally deal with this way of life, but it's not the way I would prefer it to be.

I would surely prefer to have a happy family, a father who is sober, a family who communicates more often, and one filled with love.

If you are a parent and reading my article, I encourage you to try to communicate as often as possible with your children, especially teenagers. Show them love and affection, and teach them what's right from wrong so that they will grow to love, admire and respect you.



WITNESS members Davi Sankar and Radiante Frank with film maker Morgan Riles prepare camera during summer film camp.



WITNESS member Kwesi Archer looks over script with film maker Gindger Theisen during summer film camp.

Society As It Revolves Around Me

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Society. Society as I see it is like a bucket. Its purpose is to be filled by everyone around it. Every little contribution is what makes this bucket so special. But our bucket is divided into three different parts: those who wish to make it better, those bent on wanting to control the bucket and those who are just going with the flow.

I am a believer in leadership and not dictatorship. The difference is that leaders give positive orders that will help society, while dictators just give orders. How does leadership connect to society? Pretty simple, with leadership we work together and help to make our bucket better.

For me, my purpose with my generation is to inspire my comrades and help them to

understand exactly how substantial our impact is upon the bucket. One person cannot fill the bucket in his lifetime; it takes everyone.

I have a gift. My gift is patience and being sociable. I use these gifts to my fullest advantage. With my patience I listen a lot to learn and with my sociable skills I become closer with friends. Although I am one individual, if I can positively impact one person out of ten that would be ten out of a hundred, and occasionally it will grow and spread. I will do my part and inspire as I lead. I urge you, my comrades of my generation: **BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD.** As proven by JR, "WHAT WE SEE, CHANGES WHO WE ARE."

For My Mom I Guess

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I can't remember when the last time was
my mom felt safe, but that's because

She cries again, she hurts again
Sometimes I can't stand to listen

It was long ago when that time passed
I'm sure she's thankful it didn't last

But still it barely leaves her mind
when she was a kid, she couldn't find

A person to love, except her mother
she can't forget, she has no other

My daddy comforts now and then
He's still not home, I don't know when

But still Mom cooks, and cleans, and shares
Now she has kids for whom to care

So when my Grandpa comes to town
We'll crush his bones and take him down.

“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.