



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

Societal Challenges

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I am a fourteen-year-old youth, and as a youth I sometimes feel lost in the world. This society that I am living in seems so messed up. People bully each other, some people are weak, they cannot afford the hate other people give them, some of them commit suicide, some of them commit self harms and when all of this happens we blame it on this society. But the funny thing is, we are what the society is.

Elder people view us youths as people who just want to have fun, people who are emotional, people who sit in front of the computer the whole day. They think we are not responsible, they think that we are useless.

I think teenagers should have fun but in a

positive manner. Meaning we shouldn't do drugs and smoke, etc. There are only 6 years in teenhood, which I believe should be enjoyed by all individuals, enjoying the passions and never stopping to challenge ourselves.

Although I am just an ordinary girl who is shy and I also have my personal issues with controlling my emotions, I too love watching television and being on the computer. I do enjoy being a teenager because I have the privilege to do the things I want to do.

If I get the chance to make a difference I surely will because I know I'll try to build a positive society and I hope that you will too.



WITNESS members Teriq Mohammed, Haresh Bhagwan, and Kwesi Archer celebrate the end of final film shooting during summer film camp.



WITNESS members Kelly Brassington and Verney Henry prepare camera during summer film camp.

Redefining the Role of a Teacher

By WITNESS Youth Staff

It started as a really nice day. I got dressed for school and got into a bus. When I arrived at my class, our English Teacher told us to take out our books and prepare for the subject. Usually, everyone knows that this Teacher can be a "pain in the ass" so they quickly adhere.

We all tried to get along with her but for some reason, she told us all to stand up. Seriously, I was confused. I was confused, I was like "what the hell she wants now?" Then she started to hit one of my friends for no good reason. When someone else said something at the other end of the class room, she told him to stand in front of the class room and stared at him for a minute, and then started to beat him too.

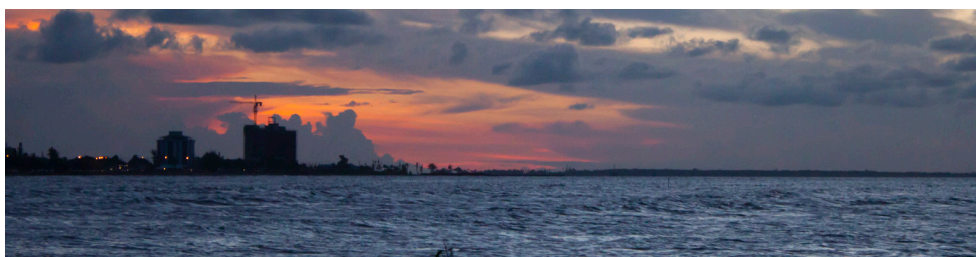
I got really angry. I felt the humiliation for

my best friend and I know she wanted to cry but not in front of all of us...

I think it is horrible to hit a student or anyone, especially without a reason. What reason could justify hitting someone or abusing someone?

If the Teacher had spoken to us or even verbally chastise us that would have been better. Sometimes it makes me think that these teachers have problems at home and they take it out on the children at school!

I just wish there was more communication between Teachers and students. I think that would work better rather than hitting children. Teachers should be the first to set the example since they are highly respected by students. They can greatly contribute to a better society. They educate us!



Race Against Time

By WITNESS Youth Staff

The minutes in a day come and go

Consuming once and once only

They come in little spurts

Never getting the chance to really know me

You see, me and time have history

Our constant collisions barely a mystery

Clearly evident

Fighting for glory but neither rendered eminent

It's an ongoing, full out war

My heart and my will against destiny

A contest of survival, not a prize guaranteed

Yet we're clashing and destroying with no regard

Pulling and tugging that's why we've never gotten far

Inch by inch we go

Falling into an unknown

That I eagerly embrace

Death is a promise and so with life I never hesitate

Because time can conquer at any moment she wishes

My persistence is the only thing that resists

Mercy is no power and by force is how I've over come

Time is a menace and I can never win if I run

And that's why I fight

Because the essence of living is defiance

I defy logic and recreate my own science

Of living a philosophy of lesser value

And refusing to conform and just break through

Into a revolution of life's intricate wonders

Instead of time's hands subduing our lives with her numbers

“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.