

THE TEENACHIEVER



A Quarterly Publication of Teens Going for Gold Network

INTEGRITY

A VALUE TO HAVE
AND TO HOLD

INSIDE

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FROM **MISS PEE'S** DESK

Hello guys!

It's another quarter and I am very excited to present to you another edition of the TeenAchiever Bulletin. This edition is about inculcating the right values and with particular focus on integrity. By way of definition, Integrity is the quality of being consistently honest and without corruption even in the face of unfavourable consequences. It could also mean consistency in speech and action. Little wonder someone once said, "what you do speaks so loudly that I can hardly hear a word of what you say" and that's so true! If you consistently say one thing and do another, or you incessantly fabricate lies, then your integrity level can be said to be very low and that is not a good thing because you will never be trusted by others to deliver on your promises. Integrity is a value that you should not only have but also guard jealously. Truth is integrity is in short supply in the world today and that is why I am encouraging you to be a person of Integrity. Mirabelle Morah, the Editor-in-Chief of BlankPaperz is our Transpiration feature for this quarter, you can't afford to miss her interview. You should also look out for Toyosi's Tales, a short story cum article written by me. Enjoy Your Read!

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TEENSPARATION OF THE QUARTER

THE DYNAMITE CALLED MIRABELLE MORAH

Mirabelle Morah

I met Mirabelle Morah who recently turned 19 at Young African Leaders Initiative, RLC, N2 and she was the only teenage participant. Her creativity and ingenuity are one of the first things you will notice about her. So, ladies and gentlemen, let's meet Mirabelle

Can we meet you ? (name, family background)

Absolutely! I'm Mirabelle Morah and I enjoy stories. I love being observant, listening to people and using writing as a medium to share stories that matter across a wide audience

You are quite young yet very active in many projects. Can you tell us about what you do ?

Basically I am a creative writer with a flare for entrepreneurial action.

I write for blogs and magazines, I volunteer with youth based organizations, and I give out books as often as I can in the Blankpaperz Monthly Book Giveaway contest.

As the editor-in-chief of blankpaperz.com, a literary platform for young African writers, I scout for young talented writers and ask them to use Blankpaperz as a means to let the world see the creative things they've written. I believe that one's story or poem can change someone else's mind and it's really a sad thing if we let our words hide between the pages of our books.

What inspired you to start blankpaperz?

I just really wanted a place to put up my stories and also feature some of my friends' write-ups too. I was really scared about starting it and I kept doubting if I'd be able to maintain it for up to a year but like they say: feel the fear, have the doubts but go for it anyway. And so I started Blankpaperz. God has used it to teach me many things in life and I've met amazing people through this seemingly 'tiny and doubtful' idea called Blankpaperz.com. I've been graced by God to have featured people from over 6 African countries, telling their stories & receiving submission.

Have you always been upbeat about life?

If not, what event influenced you to start seeing life in a new light Not at all. I felt I wasn't smart enough when I was in high school. I had low self esteem. I had pimples. My friends told me I had a big nose. In fact I didn't always know what I wanted to be in life. Everything changed when I gave my life to Christ. Really! I was scared to lose my friends but at the end it didn't matter. I got a new circle of friends, I started seeing myself the way Jesus saw me, I started working hard, I prayed more, I connected with people I wanted to be like, I started searching for mentors, I asked people for help, I failed to be awesome at things but I learned to always stand up again.

How do you successfully juggle academics and every other thing you are involved in

(Laughs) When I say it's God you just have to believe me. First, wisdom is profitable to direct so I make sure I manage my time very well by learning how to say no to great but irrelevant things. I make daily check lists, I try to read months before my exam starts by getting materials from senior colleagues. I try to make my reading fun, and because I love my course, assimilation is almost easy. I pray to God all the time because I believe he's the giver of knowledge and understanding, all I have to do is ask and believe and study. School doesn't teach me everything I want to know so I learn outside of school, but this doesn't mean I have to disregard my studies.

A close look at your life will reveal that you have a relationship with Jesus. Can you tell us about that and how it has impacted what you do?

As I mentioned earlier, I received Jesus after secondary school. Jesus has been my source of confidence and everything. If I can't do it, I don't need to be afraid because I know He can do it, so he helps me do many things. When I have Jesus, there's no how He wouldn't affect all I do. My business is God's business too.

What do you aspire to become in the nearest future?

By God's grace, a much more improved, excellent and refined version of myself. And a better compassionate human being too.

What will you consider your greatest achievement?

Accepting Jesus as my Jesus. My Lord.

-If there was a decision or a move you wish you had taken earlier, what would that be?

To not have been scared to meet people I wanted to talk to and to not have wasted time thinking and doubting too much.

Have you ever failed to achieve a goal, if yes, how did you manage it ?

Yes! Yes! Well I still had 100 more trials and if it didn't work, try again a different way, and I tried to talk to more experienced people to help me out. Truth is, I can't even remember many of my failed goals because I put them off my mind.

What is your advise to readers of the TeenAchiever bulletin?

Love your errors, love your laziness (for real, appreciate those moments when you are doing nothing for often, being alone helps you reflect on your life and actions), love those little talents of yours. It's okay if you can't figure everything out right now, sometimes we could get too sad and negative when we can't figure it right. Just love what you've got, start where you can, ask God for direction, ask people for advise, learn to take corrections. Work hard, because life will only give you what you demand from her.

TOYOSI'S TALES

"My dad owns about three houses in Banana Island" Toyosi told her friends with pride. Her friends were already used to her penchant to display daddy's wealth. Little did they know that Toyosi's daddy stories were all fiction. However, her bubble burst when she resumed school after the 3rd term break and as usual, she was spinning stories about how exciting her holiday in the United States was. A classmate then asked without any intention to burst her bubble though "During your stay, was America in summer or winter?" "Hmmm", Toyosi replied with hesitation because she had not fully understood the weather variations in Africa talk more of far away America.

Still feeling like the cynosure of all eyes, she said, "Well the weather was unbearably hot. I needed no one to tell me it was winter." Haaaaa!!! the entire class chorused, "Heat in winter? Na wa o" someone said. Everyone burst into laughter at her obvious lies and stupidity. She even got a new alias (nick name) -Hot Winter. Even teachers sometimes called her by the name. You need no Prophet Ezekiel to tell you that the rest of her stay in that school was very miserable.

Like Toyosi, many teenagers live phony lives in school because they want it to boost their self esteem and "respect" among friends, some do it to gain more friends. The truth my dear friend is that your life is not defined by the vastnesses of your possession. Speaking to his disciples in the Bible, Jesus said:

"... a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Luke 12:15(KJV)

You are more than whatever you can call your own. Your self esteem should not be based on the quantity of the money in your pocket rather by the quality of person that you are. The Bible says in Psalms that "you are wonderfully and fearfully made". Its high time you believed that. I know the pressure generated by your peer's own display of wealth, is enough to make you want to lie about certain things but pal it will not get you

anywhere. Apart from the fact that you are willingly adopting the devil as your father by lying, don't forget the Bible says:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44(KJV)

You will also be loved for what you are not. I once read it on a wallpaper that it is better to be hated for who you are than to be loved for what you are not" and I believe it makes sense. When you pretend to be what you are not, you are doing yourself more harm than good because you will not have true friends; you will only have those who pretend to like you because of what they stand to gain from you. You will also have to live beyond your means to validate your phony character. Trust me, stealing from mum and dad is just an act away because the supposedly enough they give you will certainly not be enough to keep up the image you have cut out for yourself.

You certainly will be able to call yourself all things but happy and content. So, my dear friend put the tales away and tell your story like it is. You might not have too many friends but you certainly will have good ones. And most importantly, God will be happy with you...



4 PRODUCTIVITY TIPS FOR THE REST OF 2017

“Don’t be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of.”
Charles Richards

It's no news that we are now more than half way into the year 2017. For some persons, this could be real good news but for some others, it could just be a reminder of set goals that were not achieved or abandoned projects

Whichever category you fall into, the good news is the year is not over yet and it is not too late to start working towards making 2017 the year you envisaged and because it is my desire to see you make progress, I put together some tips that can help you make that happen:

Value Time

An object is treated based on the perception of its value; if you value time, you will make proper use of it. I don't mean to sound like a motivational speaker but the reality is that the perception and use of time is what differentiates between high achievers and those on the other face of the coin. The premium you place on time is the value that life gives back to you. If you do not value time, you cannot make good use of it. Understand its irreversible nature and ensure not to waste it.

The number one time waster today is social media. Many of us spend our productive hours shuffling between social media sites to get wind of the latest gossips and trending hashtags. The unfortunate thing however is that there is nothing that will change your life by staring at social media even when it is past bedtime. It is advisable to take a break from social media every once in a while.

Have A Plan

I believe everyone has grand dreams but not all of those grand dreams find a place in reality because most of the time, there is no plan to back them up. If you have great dreams for yourself but you never get to see them in reality, the problem here could be that you are too vague with your dreams.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

At a job interview, the interviewer asked the job speaker to spell the following words: Schweinsteiger, Blaszczykowski and Schneiderlin. Looking so confused and frustrated, the job seeker said, "why don't you just say there is no vacancy?"

So, If you have the long-term vision of becoming anything, I mean anything at an accomplished writer, a footballer, an actor. Have a plan! Prayerfully prepare your plan and know that plan like the back of your hand. Don't Have a Plan? It's not too late to create one

Do Something That Takes You Close to Your Goal Everyday

Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the pleasant sand

The nursery school rhyme above conveys profound truth. Little consistent efforts made everyday eventually become great success stories. If you are willing to start small and be consistent while at it, it is only a matter of time before your success becomes visible to the eyes everyone. So, everyday for the rest of the year, do something that takes you closer to your goal.

Take A Break When You Need One

In the words of a respected mentor, "he that fails to rest will soon be laid to rest". I know it is cool these days to brag about sleeping for less than three hours everyday but apart from the health hazards that may cause you, it also reduces your productivity level. When you need rest, please do not hesitate to take one! After taking a break, your levels of productivity are heightened.

Extra Tip Be Prayerful!

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

"Real Integrity is doing the right thing. Knowing that nobody is going to know whether you did it or not."
Oprah Winfrey





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