

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS PROJECT

POVERTY IN AFRICA

By Fiona S.

I am here today to tell you about poverty in Africa. I am very passionate about this subject because I am thinking of going to Africa for ministry work some day.

For most of human history Africa has been poor. Seventy-five percent of the third world countries are in Africa. Nine countries in Africa are in the top ten poorest countries in the world. The list in order from tenth poorest to poorest is as follows: Afghanistan, Madagascar, Malawi, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Liberia, Burundi, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The top nine poorest countries in the world are from Africa. As you can see, Africa has been in underdevelopment for many years.

Today, poverty in Africa is still going strong. For example, ninety percent of more than one million people die of malaria in Africa alone. Eighty percent of people are children under the age of five. Scientists calculated that a child in Africa dies from malaria about every thirty seconds. These people are dying because they do not have the money to buy proper medications. Other calculations show that one in three people in Africa don't get enough food. Today more than 218 million people in Africa live in hardship.

To fix the problems in Africa, we need missionaries to go to Africa and help these people. "For God so loved **the world** that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." God loves the whole world. That includes Africa. God can use us to supply need in Africa, so it is now my intention to do something!

Slavery

By: Dane Williams

Slavery started in the year 1619, and all the cruel things white men did to the colored are horrifically unbearable. Slaves were sold at what was called an auction. There they would strip down naked to show slave owners the size of the African Americans and if they wanted them on their plantation If they did want the slave, they bought the slave and took it back to the slave owner's plantation. If African Americans had the money, they could buy their freedom. But why don't whites have to buy their freedom?. Because African Americans were colored so they made the colored slaves.

Today there is very little form of slavery, something America will never have again. Yet white men seemed to have recovered from something that may not be as bad as slavery but yet as hurtful. It's called discrimination. The rude jokes people make up about people with different colored skin is the worst idea whites can make up about regular people with a darker shade of skin. Just look what all the African Americans have accomplished these past years. We have a colored president, one of the best of them-LeBron James and Michael Jordan are and were the best basketball players in the world. So many great things come from all people, black and whites, we just need to know how to work together.

These future years America must be strong. We must work together. Be proud of our skin color. *I have a dream that one day people won't be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream.*

Zachary C.

I am passionate about child abuse because it is a horrible thing to do.

Children have been abused presumably since the beginning of time. One-hundred forty-nine years ago in 1866, child abuse laws were made. In 1972 every state had mandatory reporting laws. In 1974 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was founded. CAPTA tried to eliminate child abuse by funding programs to help identify and report child abuse and to provide shelter and other services to the victims of child abuse. That is some of the history of child abuse.

Sadly, children are still being abused today. Five children die everyday due to child abuse. 68% of child abuse is from family members. 49% of boys and 51% of girls will be abused in their lifetime, and about 80% of 21 year olds that were abused as kids have at least one psychological (mental or mind) disorder.

We can stop child abuse in the future by being willing to get involved and tell someone you trust. Know that reporting cannot make matters worse.

Nelson Mandela stated "Our children are our greatest treasures. They are our future. Those who abuse them tear the fabric of our society" and "The true character of society is revealed on how it treats their children."

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 says, " Do you not know that you are God's temple and God's spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy them. For God's temple is holy and that temple is you."

Adults have been abusing children for a long time. If we work together we can stop child abuse. Thank you for your time.

Discrimination *Isn't* Over

By: Eian

Civil rights issues in just America have been occurring since before 1619, the first slave shipment into America. From slavery in Montgomery to voting discrimination towards women, America has seen an overwhelming amount of prejudice and discrimination. Women only earned the right to vote in 1920. Women only had the right to vote for 95 years before now, while men had the right to vote since the beginning of America. The civil war was fought to even the scales for whites and African Americans. Yet even after that, racial discrimination still occurred until the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Still, the Civil Rights Act didn't insure equality. Somehow, discrimination still exists today.

Today most civil rights issues are being fixed in America. But still, only 38 states in America allow gay marriage. Some immigrants can't even get into the United States because of certain immigration laws. Around the world, human beings are being punished for their religion. In 2013, Burma committed ethnic cleansing against thousands of Muslims. We must take future action.

We need to accept that people *should NOT be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.* We must change the world around us, not just within us. As a community, we must treat each other with equality. We must create a habitat that is not hostile to others based upon their race. You, yourself must *open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.* We all must *give justice to the weak and fatherless.* We must create this new world together. Surrounded by hope, we shall overcome.

African American Rights

By: Olivia J

In the past, African Americans had little rights. Most African Americans who came to the United States had to be a slave. Being a slave meant that the people were taken away from their families to go work for white people with little to no pay. Slaves had to do things such as harvest sugar, rice, corn, and cotton. Schooling was also a problem for African Americans. They were not allowed, to learn how to read or write. One of the first African American children that went to an all white school was Ruby Bridges in 1960. Body guards had to go to and from school. On the more positive side of things, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963. The speech helped launch the Civil Rights Movement. This event led to President Johnson signing the Civil Rights Act.

African American's have more rights today than they did back in the 1900's. Today you rarely witness people being criticized because of their skin color. Today there is no more African American slavery occurring in the United States. The Government has improved by including 46 African Americans seated Congressmen and currently we are led by an African American president. Also things changed, because now there are no more segregated busses, bathrooms, or schools.

I think the future for African Americans seems like everything will turn out very positive because now nothing is segregated. There are equal rights for everyone, and when the Civil Rights Act was signed in 1964 by President Johnson everything since has turned out okay for African Americans.

Gettysburg Address Project

BULLYING

By: Jillian N.

Today I am here to talk to you about bullying. I am telling you about this because it is a problem that hasn't been solved for a long time. Many people have talked about this so my presentation will be short and simple. Many novels have been written about people being bullied. Such as, Charles Dicken's *Oliver Twist* and William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. These are old books, but they are still relevant.

Therefore, Bullying isn't a new issue, but people are becoming more aware of its negative effects on kids. The meaning of bullying has drastically changed over the years. In 18th and 19th centuries, bullying seemed to be a harmless, normal, unavoidable part of life. In fact, the act of bullying was considered misadventure or misbehavior among school children. Historically the first act to prevent bullying was in 1972 by a man named Dan Olweus. He created the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP). Obviously this didn't help much.

Today, bullying is still a problem. People are taunted, teased, physically hurt and other very serious things also. Thanks to the OBPP we can now have a greater understanding of what bullying is, but this doesn't prevent bullying. **One hundred and sixty thousand kids**, stay home every day because of bullying. Everyone has the right to equality. "You should love your neighbor as you love yourself, there is no greater commandment than this." If we claim to be in the light but we hate someone we are still in the dark. Just by being nice and not judging people are ways you can assist the resolution of bullying.

The Bullying Statement

By: Conner

I'm here on this day to explain why bullying needs to come to an end.

Proverbs 17:22 "A joyful heart is a good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." "Jessica Logan, was a petite, blond-haired, blue-eyed Ohio high school senior who committed suicide after sexting a nude photo of herself to her boyfriend. When they broke up, he sent the photo to everyone else at her school. Jesse was cruelly harassed for months by the other girls at her school, who called her some mean names."

There was a kid named Matthew Hills in 4th grade that came to our school in 5th grade. No one liked him. He was always picked upon. One day we were taking attendance and Mrs. Thomas always reminded us that the Promethean stylists were very expensive. We both reached for it one day and pulled it clean in half. Everyone told me to blame it on Mathew. I didn't but I waited until everyone was quiet and told the class that he wasn't the only one who broke it. Mrs. Thomas called me courageous and I was very proud of myself.

There are three ways to stand up to bullying, or help you out if you're a victim. I will list them now.

1. Use iMessage (no not Apple's texting app) say I don't like what you're doing to me. Use your words because that's why we have mouths.
2. Stay close to teachers and peers.
3. Make a joke out of it.

Remember, when bullied do not let it hurt you, or at least try not to show it, the bully will continue.

Civil Rights

A civil right is an enforceable right or privilege that all human beings should have no matter what the color of their skin. From then and today we have come far from segregation and discrimination, but there is still some of it going on today.

Even after 150 years of the Emancipation Proclamation was written, not everyone is equal in all the states as they should be and how they rightfully deserve to be.

In, 1954 the Supreme Court struck down these words " Separate but Equal." Those words change today and should never be changed again. We are not separate but equal, but we are "Together and equal." Like Martin Luther King, JR. once said "You gain freedom and equality by saying what is right not by saying nothing at all."

What we need to do in the future is make everyone person as equal as the other, And not judge people by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. I hope that one day that altogether that we can come together and not be divided units and separated, but be one unit and be together. I hope that one day that there will be no discrimination nor segregation among all people. From now until these years forward there shall be no discrimination or segregation between us all, and have no separation between us because of the color of our skin. And my last hope is that one day, we can live a life of equality and have the same freedoms and we have nothing that prevents us from being equal if we do that.

BY AUSTIN ADKINS

The Animal Abuse Address

By:Aubrey C

They fight us, they beat us, they kill us. When will they love us? This is what some animals might ask about animal cruelty and abuse. Over one thousand years ago animal abuse began. Cruel discipline is one of the causes of animal abuse. Animals need to be disciplined, but not in a cruel way. Hoarding is another cause of animal abuse. People think that taking in a lot of animals into their home is going to help, but it is not going to help because if they have too many animals to take care of, then they might not be able to provide for all of their needs.

Today, over fifty-six billion types of animals die each year, and about 1,000,000 die due to animal abuse and neglect. Also, 100,000 different animals die from humans testing chemicals on them. More than 200,000 animals are living on chains outdoors, being left to freeze in the cold. This is bad because if it is freezing outside, they can freeze to death.

To stand up to animal cruelty, we as a team will fight. We will not neglect our furry friends. We are going to stand up for our animals, stand up for what is right. We will not discipline our animals in a cruel way. We will not hoard our animals, as this leads to neglect. We will never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of an animal is at stake. Speak for those who can't speak for themselves! Feel their hearts breaking into pieces, and do something to stop animal cruelty and abuse!

Bullying

By LeeAnn S.

We must take a stand against bullying for everyones sake. People commit suicide all the time because of bullying. Wouldn't you like to be the person who kept them here on Earth with their families and friends. All it takes is a few kind words.

There is **NO** reason in the world to bully or pick on someone. And maybe they're going through enough at home already. You don't know if they're getting abused, maybe their parents are getting divorced, or maybe someone in their family is dying.

My younger sister Gabriella is bullied every day by 15 to 20 girls. She came home crying a few times. She doesn't want to be here anymore. She wants to switch schools. As her older sister I try to help but she doesn't want my help. And me and my other sister Lindsie are the main reasons shes still here. I'm glad she's still here but I want the bullies to stop picking on her. She did nothing wrong. But she does nothing to stick up for herself.

Don't be a bystander. Being a bystander is just as bad as bullying someone. It's just as bad because you didn't help them when you could have. Instead you just stood by and watched.

I'm against bullying, are you? I'm against bullying because I believe everyone is created equal. Not everyone believes that everyone is created equal but they are. Some people just act like they're above everyone else, when really they're not. Sure someone might do better at something than you but they're still not better than you. You're equal and always will be.

Animal Abuse

Isaak.C.

This speech is to fight against animal abuse. People with emotional problems might beat, shoot or stab animals or set them on fire. Those people who abuse animals are very likely to be violent to other people, even their own family too.

Neglect is not giving an animal the right food, water, or vet care. Because their misery goes on for so long animals who die of neglect can suffer just as much as animals who are harmed on purpose.

Animals are the same as we are, so we should treat them just like we would treat anyone else that we may know. Animal cruelty can be either purpose abuse or simply the failure to take care of an animal. Either way, and whether the animal is a pet, farm animal, or wildlife, the victim can suffer terribly. Don't have hopelessness though anyone can take steps against cruelty.

Although there is no national reporting system for animal abuse, media suggest that it is common in rural and urban areas. Most cases are never reported and most animal suffering goes unrecognized and abandoned. Cruelty and neglect can also go to get people in prison

In media-reported animal cruelty cases, dogs, and pit bull type dogs, in particular are the most common victim of animal cruelty. Of 1,880 cruelty cases reported in media 2007, 1,212 dogs involved, 337 involved cats, 470 other involved animals. Reported abuse of pit bull-type dogs appear to be on the rise: In 2000-2001 pit bull dogs were involved 13% of reported dog-abuse cases: In 2007, they were involved in 25% of the reported dog-abuse cases.

The Women's Rights Address

By Olivia

Ladies and gentlemen, we have gathered here to discuss the rights of women in the country Saudi Arabia. These feminine citizens are suffering from abuse, neglect, and mistreatment. They have no power and no voice. No one stands up for them.

For hundreds of years men have ruled Saudi Arabia. They were of a higher class than women. There weren't even laws against the cruelty and brutal abuse of a women. No one important cared, and the female race could do nothing about it. They were treated as if they were "lower" than men.

Today a large portion of women are allowed to say what they desire, think as they wish, and do as they want. But, there's still a portion of the feminine population that can't do these things. Many women citizens can't vote, can't drive legally, and have to have a chaperone of the male gender with them every time they travel. Why not let them fend for themselves? They're not juveniles. Women are kidnapped and misused. They are beaten, neglected, and taken for granted. They've no justice! No freedom! And for what? Because that's the way things have always been? So I say we need to do something about it, not just sit back and watch it happen! You could donate just the smallest amount of change, or get some friends together, and make a petition. We also need to tell other people about the problem. Make them aware that it exists. These women can't fight with no help, so we need to help them! If you're just going to observe, then you might as well be against them.

Bullying

By: Addillay

In this world we have a terrible dilemma and it's called bullying. There are three types of bullying. First is cyber or electronically, second is verbal or words, and third is physical or touch and hit. All three ways of bullying can happen in a public or private place, school, and even at your house. Bullying has been a critical issue in schools for decades. Looking back in the eighteenth century, peer-on-peer harassment was just as commonly seen as it is seen today. Of course during that time bullying was newly recognized and little understood. What might seem like violent behavior these days, may not have been violent back then.

Bullying happens a lot more nowadays. It happens during school, at home, and even in public areas. The problem today is that cyber bullying is happening more because there are so many different social medias and a lot more electronic devices. The sad part to this is all the people that bully only do it for popularity, or they have personal problems they don't like about themselves. They pick on others to make them feel bad instead of themselves. Bullies could do this because they judge people too quickly before getting to know them.

In the future, I hope all humans that have seen people getting bullied stop the bully because if they don't, that is just as bad as being the bully. So in the meantime remember this, "The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing"(Albert Einstein). In conclusion stand up for what is right.

Slavery

By: Matthew 1.

Ephesians 6:2 states slaves: *obey their masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ.*

Slavery in America began when African slaves were brought from Africa to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619 to do jobs that white people didn't want to do such as picking tobacco and being personal servants. Slavery happened in 17 different states in the U.S. There were about six to seven million slaves moved from Africa to America in just the 18th century alone. White people didn't treat slaves like they were regular people; they treated the slaves like they were their own property. If they didn't want the slave, they just sold them at what was called an auction.

Today in 2015 there is very little to no slavery because it is illegal in America. Look how many achievements African Americans have accomplished. We have an African American president, African American athletes playing in all different kinds of sports like football, basketball, soccer, and baseball. African Americans can accomplish the same as white people.

However, in other countries, like Iraq a terrorist group called Isis is doing horrible things. For example, kidnapping young girls and women for forced marriage and killing men and women if they are not Muslim.

In the future we all must work together. People should NOT be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. "Where slavery is, liberty is not; where liberty is, slavery is not." We should not treat regular people like they are your own property. This is some logic about what we should do in the future.

Child Abuse!

By Sydney

I'm passionate about preventing **Child Abuse** because a girl that I used to know, used to get abused by her legal guardians. Child abuse all started like this. For many centuries, laws failed to protect children from abuse, so children under the English Common Law were considered the property of their fathers. American colonists in the 16th and 17th centuries carried the tradition of children being property of their fathers to the early years of The United States. In the early 1870s, child abuse captured the nation's attention with news that an eight year old orphan named Mary Ellen Wilson was suffering daily whippings and beatings at her foster home. With no organization in existence to protect abused children, the orphan's plight fell to attorneys for the ASPCA. (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.)

Today, over 25% of abused children are under the age of 3, while over 45% of abused children are under the age of 5. The number of children who died in 2012 because of child abuse is 1,593. That is horrible! The number of reports about child abuse every year in the United States is about 2.9 million. There are four main types of child abuse, and they are...

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Child Neglect

If some people who are real believers in the government would stand up and stop this from happening, the effect on the world would be tremendous! There would be a bigger population, and there would be more happy families. It is my goal to stop child abuse and have happier lives of families.

Bullying

By: Ema

Bullying-the use of force, or threat, to abuse, intimidate, or dominate others; unwanted aggressive behavior.

Bullying has been around for centuries. Even though in the past bullying wasn't as common as it is today, it still occurred. In the past bullying was more physical where today it's more verbal.

Bullying today is worse than it was in the past for quite a few reasons. One reason is that modern technology allows people to cyberbully, a type of bullying that occurs through the internet.

20% of students in grades 9-12 are bullied. 28% of students in grades 6-8 are bullied. Over 3.2 million students are bullied each year. Yet, 64% of kids that are bullied don't report it.

There are ways to stop bullying. One way is to tell the bully to stop in a calm voice. Another way is to make a joke of it. A third way is to walk away and stay away from the bully. Another way is to stay away from the place where bullying often happens. A fifth way is to stay near adults and friends.

There are also ways to prevent bullying. One way to prevent bullying is to tell an adult that you trust, so that they can help. Another way to prevent bullying is to be nice to the person being bullied.

There are three types of bullying.

- The first kind is verbal-teasing and name-calling are examples of verbal bullying.
- The second kind is social bullying-spreading rumors is a type of social bullying.
- The third kind of bullying is physical bullying-tripping are pushing someone is considered physical bullying.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. - Proverbs 15:1

Animal Abuse Address

By: Aubrie L.

Animal abuse is when a human causes harm to an animal. Animal abuse was very uncommon in the past. Now, animal abuse occurs very frequently. In the future I hope that the number of animals abused each year will decrease.

Animal Abuse in the past was never too out of hand, but on August 24, 1966 The Animal Welfare Act was signed to ensure that animal abuse wouldn't get too bad. The Animal Welfare Act states that animals may be used for human purposes, such as, food, entertainment, and research, but that had to be done in a way that minimizes unnecessary pain, and suffering sometimes referred to as "humane" treatment.

Animal abuse in the present is very common. An animal gets abused about every 60 seconds. Last year, about 7.6 million companion animals entered an animal shelter. Of those, about 3.9 million were dogs, and the rest were cats. Of the 7.6 million animals about 2.7 million get adopted.

In the future, I think that there should be a group or company that randomly checks houses with animals, so that they can see what the animals are in their daily lives. If they can tell that the animal is being abused, they can take them away-so it won't be abused anymore. Also, if someone has abused an animal-I think that they should have to take a "test" to make sure they have stopped abusing animals. That is what I think people should do in the future to stop animal abuse.

In conclusion, animals have always been abused, and always will be unless we do something about it.

Animal Cruelty

by Henry

Animal cruelty is becoming a major issue, and I hope to put an end to it. Animal cruelty is any act of violence or neglect on an animal. The effects of this can be physical and/or emotional for the animal that is being mistreated. There are also different types of animal cruelty one is *intentional abuse* This happens when a person intentionally harms an animal.

Another form of cruelty is known as *neglect* This happens when a person doesn't provide the necessary things the animal needs to live such as food, water, and shelter. The third and final form of cruelty is done by organizations, and that is things like dog-fighting along with other things.

Animal cruelty has been a problem for ages because of things like dog-fighting which has been traced back all the way to the 12th century. The dogs of these fights would be forced to fight wild boars and bulls. Later on dog-fighting became dog-vs-dog.

Along with dogfighting, during the 19th Century, animals on factory farms were forced to endure physical and psychological abuse for months if not years on end. The animals here were also given insufficient amounts of food, water, and natural light, and were not able to perform their natural behaviors. Finally the animals here were kept in cramped and unsanitary conditions and were given steroids and antibiotics to improve growth and maintain good health. Their slaughter is often performed in an inhumane manner. These animals are forced to live in these poor conditions until they are slaughtered for human consumption.

What needs to be done to save these and all animals and free them from cruelty and abuse is people need to simply understand that animals are living things like them, and as the golden rule states, " One should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself." This does not just apply to human beings; it also applies to animals as well. So if you see or take part in animal cruelty, I ask you to take a stand and help defend those animals.

ANIMAL ABUSE

By: Sydney J.

“People speak sometimes about the "bestial" cruelty of man, but that is terribly unjust and offensive to beasts, no animal could ever be so cruel as a man, so artfully, so artistically cruel.” In Ohio the act of violence or neglect perpetrated against animals is considered animal abuse. The Ohio Revised Code 959 states the laws about animal abuse. The code 959.13 makes it illegal to torture, deprive, beat, impound, and needlessly kill an animal. The penalty for the first time violation of this code is a jail sentence of up to 90 days and to pay a fine up to 750 dollars.

Today the laws about animal abuse are not that strict. Based on this law, someone could come into your house and kill your dog and only have to go to jail for 90 days and pay 750 dollar fine. Many people consider their pets to be members of their families. “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” I don’t think that ninety days in jail and a fine is a strong enough penalty for someone for killing a member of your family. “Compassion for animals is intimately associated with goodness of character, and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man.”

The laws in Ohio about animal abuse should be more strict. I feel there should be more jail time, larger fines and mental help for people who abuse animals. In the future we can prevent more animal abuse and make the laws more strict.