

## Pride & Industry – 100% Bajan

The older generation has often admonished some of us younger ones, that “the devil finds work for idle hands”. I believe that this piece of advice seeks to create a positive work ethic and sense of direction within those of us to whom it has been addressed.

Within the last five years the Barbados National Productivity Council (BarNaPCo) has undertaken a **Youth Education and Awareness Programme**, which seeks to prepare the youth to be more productive members of our society. The initiative targets youth-oriented entities such as schools and community groups. Recently, I spoke to a group of Fifth-Form students at the St. George Secondary School about the importance of good work ethics. That presentation and the advice of my fiancée inspired me to write about some factors necessary for adopting a productive approach to work and life.

- Focus on what you want to achieve in life.
- Believe in what you are (positively) trying to achieve and be the best that you can be in that area.
- Remember that everyone can make a meaningful contribution within our society. Within 1 Corinthians 12, 4-6 it is stated, *“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all”*. However, seek to have self-esteem without arrogance.
- Seek to develop your skills to the fullest, so that you are better prepared to make your dreams a reality.
- Nothing worthwhile comes without effort. Apart from persons who dig graves, wells etc, most of us do not start at the top.
- Treat others in the way that you would like to be treated, since manners and respect must work both ways to be truly effective. Good manners still make the ‘Man’ or ‘Woman’, so be courteous, enthusiastic and friendly.
- Honestly and wisely use the time and resources that you have at your disposal in your personal and work life.
- The saying ‘sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me’ was never true. Bad talking and gossip can hurt and destroy relationships – they discredit the speaker and hurt the subject – therefore no one benefits.
- Teamwork and cooperation are vital for success. You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours.

- Would you want your name associated with poor work? If not, put pride into your work and try to do your best at all times.
- We all have our daily battles to choose right from wrong. However, we should remember that short-term compromises might lead to long-term suffering.
- Be professional in terms of punctuality, attire and language because people will judge you accordingly.
- There are always rules and regulations that we must abide by. Every action has a commensurately positive or negative consequence.
- Develop maturity by:
  - a) trying to control your temper at all times;
  - b) communicating your feelings;
  - c) accepting constructive suggestions for self improvement;
  - d) giving constructive criticism rather than destructive criticism; and
  - e) seeking to find positive solutions to life's challenges.
- Be honest and take responsibility for your actions.

Remember that a positive attitude and self-image will make you a success, regardless of what position you hold in life.

I would like to sincerely wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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