

OMOLUABI

“A Child of Character”

A Violence Prevention Campaign Initiative

Point Pelee National Park Trip

By: Tatyana Roberts

On Saturday, September 1st, families from across the African/Black community gathered together and went on a trip to Point Pelee for Labour Day weekend, a wonderful way to end the summer before school started. There were plenty of things to see and plenty of things to learn. The kids learned about different types of birds and the different manners in which they fly. There was an Owl and a Falcon, which were very calm, but no one could touch them because the birds do not like to be touched.

Point Pelee was filled with a variety of trees, which added to the beautiful scenery. There were two shuttle buses that took people to the other side of the park where there was a beach that included ‘the point’ of Point Pelee. There were also trails on whcih people could either walk or ride their bikes to different parts of the park.

After a tour around the park, Mrs.



Afolabi and the families drove to Westwood beach on Point Pelee and had a cookout. This included delicious foods, snacks, fruits, drinks and even a cake to celebrate Mama Alice’s birthday. Music was playing and kids were having fun, blowing bubbles and playing soccer. Parents took the opportunity to relax, listen to music and enjoy the long weekend before school.

Overall, everyone was having fun enjoying the sun. Even though not everyone necessarily knew each other, everyone came together and was one big happy family. The love was evident through all the fun and laughter that could be heard throughout the beach. Love, family, and unity; these are the words I would use to describe this Labour Day weekend’s events.

Truth and the Law

By: Lakin Afolabi



“Otito” is a Yoruba word meaning truth. It is also an Omoluabi principal. Truth is a universal virtue that has been sought and pursued throughout all cultures at all times. There is no one who values lies over truth.

You will never find a cul-

ture that prefers deception over honesty. Among certain groups however, there is a growing movement away from truth. It is being argued that truth is not universal and absolute. Some put forth the idea that truth cannot be known by anyone, while not questioning whether or not that statement itself can be true.

Truthfulness is a character trait that is universally respected in individuals. It is sought in ideas and philosophies and it is an integral ingredient in the make-up of an Omoluabi. Just as truth is essential to an

Omoluabi, it is equally vital in the profession of law.

The court system is tasked with being the main vehicle of truth finding. This is most commonly accomplished through the adversarial trial process. Various parties present their witnesses and the witnesses are then subject to cross-examination from opposing lawyers. The theory is that upon being questioned vigorously, lies and deception will be exposed and the truth will prevail. As John Henry Wigmore opined “cross examination is the greatest legal engine ever invented

for the discovery of truth”.

Not only does the court system have an obligation to truth, lawyers, despite how they are portrayed, also have an obligation to pursue and uphold the truth. Lawyers have the highest ethical standard and responsibilities with regard to presenting evidence in this mission.

Lawyers are not to present evidence known to be false or permitted to deceive or mislead the courts. When all participants work together in this task, the court system functions exceptionally well; truth is separated from lies, and justice is carried out.

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The Truth and Mental Helath

By: Pastor Joseph Sabageh

We live in a sinful world where deception abounds and truth is a rarity. Lies, innuendoes, exaggerations and errors of all kinds flourish in every land. Indeed corruption, falsehood and greed are at the hearts of almost every enterprise. Even more, human society is also being inundated with new ideas on how to live, how to dress, how to behave and even how to think. Religious, political and economic ‘break-throughs’ are on the increase; but no sooner has one new idea been tried and discredited before an even more spectacular claim is made for another. Believe it or not, an age-old question is being asked today? At the trial of Jesus, Christ was questioned by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate who was no stranger to deception. He had grave doubts that anyone could speak the truth, so he too asked the question: “What is Truth?” (John 18:38). According to the dictionary, truth is something

that is ‘in accordance with the facts, something genuine, correct and accurate, something that lives up to its claims.’ Do we find truth in our society? Not much, you will agree. But back to our question. What is truth? Truth is different from beliefs and hope. Absolute truth is not dependent upon public opinion or popularity. Polls cannot sway it. Not even the inexhaustible authority of celebrity endorsement can change it. So how can we find truth? Truth can only be found in Jesus Christ, who says, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” It is very important that we build our character around the truth. As we all know, it is difficult enough to sort out the truth from our own experience. Jesus said, “You shall know the Truth and the truth shall set you free” (John 8:32). Jesus is the foundation of truth and he Himself is the truth that makes us free. He is the source of truth, the perfect standard of what is right. He frees us from the consequences of sin, self-deception and from deception of Satan. In a world of error, deception and confusion, it is reassuring to find such positive and true state-

ments. Jesus is the embodiment of truth, the living truth. Truth is vital to human society. Its absence causes mistrust which often leads to hatred and even to war. The absence of truth is the main cause of humanity’s sin and resulting woes. The presence of truth uplifts. The absence of truth degrades. The Bible puts it thus: Proverbs 14:34 “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Error corrupts and enslaves. Truth brings freedom – freedom from fear, freedom from hate. Truth replaces fear with faith and confidence. People who hold and live the truth are not afraid of privation, persecution or even death. They have the truth about life and death, the present and the hereafter, and fear has no hold on them. Truth opens people’s eyes to the corruption and utter worthlessness of Satan’s lifestyle. Truth brings God’s law into focus. Truth, for all its value, is not popular. Multiplied millions of people reject truth simply because they love sin, even though they know it’s wrong. Truth is as powerful over falsehood as light is over

darkness. Nothing can destroy truth. Sinners may hate truth, reject truth and fight it with all their might, but truth is unaffected, it cannot be destroyed. Truth is invincible. Truth can penetrate even the darkest recesses of the human mind. Truth is eternal; as eternal as God Himself. Truth is the best insurance policy an individual or community can invest in. Good character is built on truth. Truth can make us uncomfortable at times, and it can sometimes be bitter, because it is the truth. Denying the truth doesn’t change the truth. Truth is unchangeable. Instead of hearing the truthing and believing in it, many people run away from it and build their character on falsehood. Truthfulness seems so rare that we feel we must end our statement with “I promise.” If we tell the truth all the time, we will have less pressure to back up our words with an oath or promise. Some people do not understand God’s truth because they are not ready for it. God reveals truth to people who will act on it, who will make it evident in their lives. We must speak and live by God’s truth regardless of the consequences.



Community Snapshots



Point Pelee National Park Trip



Children’s Articles on Respect

Truth vs Lies

By: Francine Babo, age 11

Good morning/afternoon ladies and gentlemen, family and children. Today we are going to talk about truth, what truth means to me and what would happen if you didn’t tell the truth. We will now start.

To me, telling the truth means you don’t lie and if you know someone is lying you tell the truth. That’s what we’re going to talk about in this article.

The first one is telling the truth. When you tell the truth you lift a weight

you were carrying on your shoulders. The truth is always the best way to go if you want to stay away from having more trouble than you are already in. That’s what telling the truth means to me.

The second one is telling the truth for someone else who is lying. Most children don’t want to tell on other people if the problem is really grave, like having broken something or having hurt someone. That is the time when you can’t act like nothing happened and you weren’t there. You should go see an adult and

tell them what happened. That is what it means to me to tell the truth for someone who is lying.

The last one is what happens when you lie. When you lie the problem gets worse. For example, you ate something and lie about not having touched it. When you say that, your parents or whoever might stop trusting you.

Once you start lying it’s really hard to stop. Then your friends and family can’t trust you even when you are telling the truth. That is what it means to me when you lie.

This concludes my article about telling the truth. All of this could really happen and you could get in really big trouble with your family. This is what it means to me to tell the truth and what happens when you lie.

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Honesty

By Christopher , age 17

When I think about honesty, the word “trust” comes to mind. When you show people you are trustworthy they give you more responsibility. They feel that they can count on you. People respect you. They also tell other people what a good, nice and kind person you are and that you can be trusted. Then others trust you. You feel proud of yourself. As life goes on, that builds your character and shapes who you are and how others treat you.

Get involved: youth are encouraged to write or draw articles for publication in the next issue. The theme is ‘Character’. For more information, call 519 966-2767 or email us at info@omoluabi.ca

Telling the Truth is not Always Easy

By: Abel Powo, age 13

I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Dear readers, does this sentence remind you of a specific profession or social background? If your answer is no, let me give you a hint, in such a place, we find judges, guilty parties and at times a small group of people. GREAT JOB!! Your Guess was right, THE TRIBUNAL. It is in such places that judges judge different types of people and try to prove their guilt or innocence. The reason I say judges should prove guilt while we already know they are guilty is that some may be afraid, lie or they just don’t want to tell the truth-even if these people know that this may be their last chance to be free. Others, however, may perhaps be afraid and just want to be freed, then end up telling the truth. In the words of Grégoire Lacroix “truth, is a lie deflated at the last moment”

It is not always easy to tell the truth, but we feel relieved after doing so. For instance, when your friend tells you about their dream to become a great singer, you share their



Picture by Michelle Age 6

joy, then you ask them to sing a sample song with their beautiful voice. But when they start to sing, you feel so disappointed (as their voice is so bad). Since you don’t want to hurt their feelings you tell them that it is good. A few weeks later, they comes to see you, sad, as they were dismissed from a singing competition because their voice was so bad. How are you going to feel? Sad or happy ? Me, I would feel extremely sad for having failed to tell the truth about their voice when I was asked. Of course I didnt want to hurt their feelings, but the fact that as a friend I failed to tell the truth would make them more hurt and betrayed..

Truth may hurt ones feelings

but far more better than a lie from a friend. Which means it is better to tell a friend the truth, they may feel hurt, but not for long. Notwithstaning, you would feel much better for having been sincere with your friend than being hypocritical. Furthermore, if you had hidden the truth, you would have that burden in your mind, your conscience would not let it go and that feeling would stay longer than if you had told the truth. Sometimes telling the truth is very difficult, but after telling it we are overcome with relief. John 8 :32: “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!”

Black History: Otito -Truth

By: Irene Moore Davis

“Honour belongs to those who never forsake the truth, even when things seem dark and grim, who try over and over again, who are never discouraged by insults, humiliation and even defeat.”
– Nelson Mandela

“The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.” – Ida B. Wells

“One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to be compromised.”
– Chinua Achebe

Not only in Yoruba culture but in many cultures, honesty is viewed as an important trait. Truthfulness is one of the purest expressions of character. In life, we tend to respect individuals who demonstrate integrity-people with whom we feel capable of establishing trust. In the workplace, the average employer would agree that honesty, plus closely related attributes such as accountability and reliability, should be ranked among the most highly valued employability skills.

However, it is also true that it takes courage to tell the truth when society demands your silence. It takes conviction to say the things that nobody wants to hear, despite pressure to remain quiet.

Throughout the African Diaspora, generations of freedom fighters have relied on the truth as their weapon of choice, whether speaking about the greed and brutality of colonial powers, the cruelty of slavery, the epidemic of lynching, or conditions of inequality in the modern era.

In our time, how many of us possess the determination of Colin Kaepernick, for whom standing up for the truth has meant kneeling down on the football field to bring attention to systemic injustice against people of African descent? How many of us would willingly sacrifice our careers and incomes to take such a stand?

How many of us are as determined as Marielle Franco, the Afro-Brazilian politician who risked (and ultimately lost) her life by speaking candidly about police brutality and poverty?

How many of us are as committed as the dissidents around the world, not only in the past but today, who have refused to remain silent about environmental injustice, political corruption, or the oppression faced by minority groups, despite the threat of

imprisonment or worse?

How many of us are as courageous as the truth-tellers and whistle-blowers of the #metoo movement—women and sometimes men who have come forward to share their painful stories of abuse and harassment in order to prevent others from having to experience the same things? Frequently, after years of silence, the victims have been re-victimized by the public. In reality, many people who claim to value honesty only value honesty when it does not disturb the status quo.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter”, said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—a great man whose relentless truth-telling ultimately cost him his life. Fortunately, most of us will never face that kind of pressure. When you see something happening in your school or your workplace that doesn’t seem right, state your concerns. If you witness someone being bullied, say something. If you are aware of injustice, you have the right (and the responsibility) not to remain silent.

Honesty is a highly valued trait, but even when society demands your silence, don’t give in. If you want to make the world better, find the courage to “speak the truth, even if your voice shakes” (author unknown.)



Ida B. Wells



Colin Kaepernick



Chinua Achebe

Ask the Elders



1. What message do you want to pass on to your children and grandchildren?

That they should have a close relationship with God. Put God first in your life and everything else will come after. Always help people and God will bless you.

2. Who is the person who influenced your life the most?

God, first, always. Other than God, I have a very close friend from church

who always gives me advice and helps me to be a better person. She always does good and teaches me how not to be angry. She has positively influenced me and taught me to be good no matter what.

*Questions by Laabo Afolabi and answers by Mrs. Elizabeth Achirimbi

Why People Lie

By: Bernice Babo age 13

Telling the truth is a crucial essential in creating or keeping healthy relationships. It can help with unsettled issues-finding forgiveness in our hearts, and sometimes creating new or deepening and discovering new friendships.

Why do some people choose to lie? Well, it's clear that to be able to tell the truth to others, you must first be able to tell yourself the truth. If you can't do that, then you can't trust anyone, so you are going to tell lies all

the time. Once you are not able to tell yourself the truth, how will you be able to look and communicate positively and in a productive manner? Well, let me take you on an adventure on how lying begins, and how and why you will be able to overcome it, whether you are big or small!

First things first, why do people lie? Well, lies comes from fear and that fear develops over the years, especially if you have nobody to be there and guide you in the right direction. Mostly it starts from little problems. Usually, the first lie starts when we lie to ourselves. We avoid the

truth because we are terrified of how it will make us feel around others. We decide to do this instead because we think that we would rather live with that lie than the truth. We try so hard to suppress it until someone finds out.

People think they lie to avoid hurting people's feelings, but it leads us to lie to protect ourselves instead. Think this through, who are we really helping here with our selfish actions, them or you?

Did you know that it takes more energy and will power to lie than to tell the truth? Considering this information, why waste your

energy on lying instead of quickly telling the truth and getting over it? Sadly this is what some people find the hardest to do.

I'm telling you first hand I know what that's like, but trust me if you listen and try your hardest you can and will accomplish things and that is how everyone should live. My dear friends let me assure you that this indeed is the "TRUTH".

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Festival

Caribbean Community Centre

NOVEMBER 3rd

11am – 2pm

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Truth Word Search

L	F	V	Z	V	B	Q	M	J	Q	T	A	G	Y	N
E	K	Q	R	N	H	V	S	D	V	V	J	I	P	D
P	C	I	N	Y	T	I	R	E	C	N	I	S	F	M
S	P	D	G	G	Z	D	K	I	J	Y	L	K	G	V
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R	B	Y	L	X	E	R	D	O	X	S	I	H	Q	A
H	E	F	D	H	B	E	E	J	C	Y	C	O	V	B
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B	U	U	R	R	K	L	O	H	P	Y	N	E	F	T
G	A	R	F	D	I	I	T	D	N	M	D	S	W	S
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P	T	M	U	K	O	C	N	X	D	G	Y	R	I	F
E	X	N	E	A	L	O	Y	A	L	T	Y	W	J	M

Honesty

Gospel

Sincerity

Authentic

Reality

Loyalty

Candor

Devotion

Transparent

Pure



Detecting Truth

By: Steve Fotso, age 16

In our daily life, seeking and telling the truth is paramount, however, everyday practice tends to show the opposite. These days, it becomes more and more difficult to know if the news that we listen to on television, on the radio or on our smartphones is telling the truth. This is particularly due to the media and social networks that often give so much wrong information, that we do not know what to believe. Therefore, it's our responsibility to make use of tools that are within our



reach such as the internet or books to detect the truth. By trusting information obtained from a source whose reliability has not been verified, we risk sharing false information with those around us. This will only help spread the misinformation. However, many people

prefer beautiful lies to ugly truth, especially in this world in which new problems and conflicts emerge each day. That means they prefer to believe the lies they hear on the news instead of seeking the truth. These people must realize that they will face the truth one day and that expanding the lie will only make the shock of the truth even stronger. The truth is not only exaggerated in social media, it is also in families and communities where people lie more often. It is important, however, to always tell the truth to our loved ones and those around us. Lying never leads to anything

good because the truth always ends up surfacing and there will be consequences. These consequences are that upon learning one has been deceived, the person to whom the lie has been said will lose all confidence in that loved one whom they thought they knew and trusted the most. Lying can destroy an established relationship with a loved one or co-worker. To tell the truth is proof of honesty in a person. Honesty is a virtue found in a sincere and trustworthy person. By telling the truth we set an example that others can follow while presenting themselves as a reliable person.

Otito (Truth)

By: Terrance Travis

Let us be truth
As we thread our lives
through the eye of reality
May we be wise and open
minded
Mindfully reminded
That our time is short
And our battle is long
Our faith is resilient, but
temptation is strong
May we speak with a kind
and honest tongue
Shine our truth like the light

from a fiery sun
Be more mighty than the
sword
Allow our peace to release
the divinity of our core
Be more than an underesti-
mation
Climb to the summit of a
moral mountain top
Be amazing
Put out age old fires with a
new cool perspective
Inject truth and love into the
eye of a spreading infection
That feeds on hate and lies
Truth is the fruit

Given to you
To feed the stillness in all
that you do
Your wildest dreams are
searching for you
But your truth is the key to
set yourself free
A path forged in your bones
since Adam and Eve
Godliness is your destiny
It is the promise that's been
scripted within your eyes
The path that will lead you
throughout our life
In the darkest corner of your
traying times


Truth will lead you to the
light
So, let us be truth
As we thread our lives
through the eye of reality
May we be wise and open
minded
Mindfully reminded
That our time is short
And our battle is long
Our faith is resilient but
temptation is strong
May we speak with a kind
and honest tongue
Shine our truth like the light
from a fiery sun

African Proverb

By: Pastor O. Afolabi

The naked truth is always better than a best-dressed lie



**Omoluabi Quiz**
Be the first person to email info@omoluabi.ca with the right answer to win a gift certificate!
Question: Which Afro-Brazilian politician sacrificed her life speaking the truth against police brutality and poverty?
***You can find the answer in one of this issue's articles!**

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- Clancy's Variety Store
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Featuring American Gospel Artist, songwriter & Worship leader, Pastor William McDowell.

November 9th, 2018

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Throwback

Volume 1, Issue 5
Spring/Summer 2005

How Much I Love Computers
BY LAABO AFOLABI, 8
I like computers because you can play cool games on them. I mostly play games on the coffee break and play snowball fight and roller boy and sometimes I play skateboarding.
At school I play made up games at story book weaver and I also play Chessmaster 4000.
It is not good to stay home and play on your computer all day because it has radiation, which is not good for your eyes.
Sometimes I go on Paint. Paint isn't a game but it is a program that you could draw and right at. Another game is Minesweeper. Minesweeper is not a game that you have a broom and you have to sweep mines but what you have to do is to click the square with out a mine under it.
Lots of computers are different so you can play different games. When I was in grade two we got to play when we were done our work. When we got to play, one of the things we got to play with were two computers. The game we usually play is called Mud Man and what you have to do is since you are the sun you have to dry out the mud by bouncing on him.
There are lots of more games that you can play on a computer and if you want to play then play and now I got to go.

