

## Teach Someone To Read



We at Touched By The Light Publishing thank you for reading one of our publications. We pray that it was an enjoyable experience. We now ask that you join us in our literacy campaign by pledging to teach a person to read. Help open the doorway to the world by teaching a person to read. If you visit our website at [www.touchedbythelightliteracyprogram.com](http://www.touchedbythelightliteracyprogram.com) you will learn how important reading is to our country.

We can reduce teenage pregnancy by teaching a person to read. We can reduce the number of violent incidents in our country by teaching someone to read. We can reduce our prison population by teaching someone to read. We can

improve our employment rate by teaching a person to read. Reading is an essential past time. It is one of the most important activities a person can perform. Reading opens doors to knowledge and knowledge opens doors to personal management and self-employment. We would like for you agree to teach one person to read. If 1 million Americans agree to teach 1 million people in this country to read we will be 1 million stronger and so on. Each year focus on teaching someone to read.

Call your local library or get on the Internet and find an organization dedicated to teaching people to read and volunteer at that organization. Make it your business to spend a year teaching an adult to read. Those of you with more money and time please advertise for people with low reading skills to join you for a reading class at your local church or the YWCA. Reading is an accrued skill. The more you read, the better you get at it. It does not take a lot of money to teach a person to read. Remember, slaves learned to read by candlelight. Those of you earning more than \$200,000 a year please find a school and make certain that every child in that school knows how to read. Donate money to a company that specializes in teaching children to read and have that company invite children from the designated school to participate in their reading program. You want to make certain every child in that school can read. According to a recent U.S. government report, 'The State of Literacy in America, nearly one out of two adults are functionally illiterate, without the minimum skills required in today's society. Many adults in the USA cannot read a newspaper or fill out a job application. The prison population has the single highest concentration of illiterate US adults. 42 million Americans can't read at all, 50 million **cannot read** above a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade level

We are an industrious nation and we are a giving nation so we can solve the problem of literacy in our nation if we make it our business to teach a person to read. If you can read you can teach someone else how to read. If you cannot read ask a librarian to tell you of a reading program in your area. Make it a point of pride and teach someone to read. Do not leave this problem for someone else to solve. Make it a point of pride, teach someone to read.

## **A BETTER LIFE AWAITS YOU WHEN YOU READ!**

### **"He Who Reads, Sees"**

Literacy is defined as "using printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one's goals, and to develop one's knowledge and potential."

National Assessment of Adult Literacy

Touched By The Light Publishing just finished a twelve year study in which we learned that the nation's ill are founded on violence and poverty and violence and poverty is founded on the inability of people to read. So we propose to treat the disease. We recognize that literacy is the power that changes lives and improves communities. Literacy is critical to personal freedom. We envisions a world in which everyone can read, write, compute, and where adults can use technology to lead healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives. Statistics have proven that literacy unlocks doors, enhances creativity and people learn what is going on, on the other side of the world. Literacy impacts lives. Adultery literacy prepares people for better jobs. Better jobs lead to increased productivity, safer streets, and happier families. On the other hand:

**"Emotional Literacy"** is the ability to recognize, understand and appropriately express our emotions and it is an essential ingredient for life success, happiness, and peace. Those men and women who do not possess this quality end up in prison or in the grave. The lack of emotional literacy is in part why many men are in prison today. Our prison population is 65 – 70% illiterate. Lives are being lost through illiteracy. If we are to increase employment opportunities for men returning to the community from prison we must initiate a reading program in prisons throughout the country. We can treat illiteracy ourselves. No one has to help us. If you teach a man to read you will not have to teach him to fish.

Did you know Low health literacy cost Americans 238 billion dollars per year?

Did you know that two-thirds of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of the 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare?

Here are some Literacy statistics with respect to America

### **LITERACY STATISTICS AND JUVENILE COURT**

- 85 percent of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate.
- More than 60 percent of all prison inmates are functionally illiterate.
- Penal institution records show that inmates have a 16% chance of returning to prison if they receive literacy help, as opposed to 70% who receive no help. This equates to taxpayer costs of \$25,000 per year per inmate and nearly double that amount for juvenile offenders.
- Illiteracy and crime are closely related. The Department of Justice states, "The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is *welded to reading failure*." Over 70% of inmates in America's prisons cannot read above a fourth grade level.

### **MANY OF THE USA ILLS ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO ILLITERACY FEW STATISTICS:**

- Literacy is learned. Illiteracy is passed along by parents who cannot read or write.
- One child in four grows up not knowing how to read.
- 43% of adults at *Level 1* literacy skills live in poverty compared to only 4% of those at *Level 5*
- 3 out of 4 food stamp recipients perform in the lowest 2 literacy levels
- 90% of welfare recipients are high school dropouts
- 16 to 19 year old girls at the poverty level and below, with below average skills, are 6 times more likely to have out-of-wedlock children than their reading counterparts.
- Low literacy costs \$73 million per year in terms of direct health care costs. A recent study by Pfizer put the cost much higher.

**UNICEF says that nearly a billion people will enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century unable to read a book or sign their name and two thirds of them are women.**

### **THE COMMUNITY AND LITERACY - BECOME A PART OF OUR EFFORT**

Touched By The Light want to impact these lives. We want to change these statistics by 2021. In ten years we want to go from a society that has over 2 million men in prison to a society that has less than 10% of this total. Touched By The Light Publishing believes this goal can be reach if we teach people to read. We can stop the flow of men into prison.

Because of the above statistics Touched by The Light Publishing is asking 1 million Americans to teach one person to read. Think of the improvement in our literacy rate if one million Americans teach one person to read. Commit yourself to teaching one adult to read. You can teach the adult to read at your local library. You must always stay

conscious of your safety. You can conduct the reading sessions on a Saturday early in the day always in a public place. You must know something about that person you are teaching to read. You must be cognizant of the fact that people who cannot read or have difficulty reading will have emotional problems. They can suffer periods of depression or be extremely unhappy because they do not see a future for themselves. They may abuse alcohol or drugs. You will provide the person with a dictionary, a thesaurus, a writing pad and 3 by 5 cards. You are to encourage the person to use these implements and to build his or her vocabulary. You are to continue to teach that person to read until that individual can read competently.

If you earn more than \$250,000 per year you agree to find a school and ensure that every child in that school learns to read above a 4<sup>th</sup> grade level. You are to contract with a reading agency or company and pay for the students at that school who are having problems reading. You must understand a person who cannot read or has a reading deficiency cannot get a driver's license, he cannot get a legal job as a taxicab driver because he cannot read the street signs, he cannot read to pass the state driving test; he cannot get a job as a waiter because he cannot read the menu. This is why the elimination of the jobs at gas stations had such a devastating effect on the population. Serving up gas provided employment. Go in and get your car washed every week. You must support men working low paying jobs.

### **MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN IN PRISON AND LITERACY** Support our Adult Literacy Program

Do you have a son or daughter in prison? Are you quietly waiting for his or her release? If so you should watch our literacy video at [www.touchedbythelightliteracyprogram.com](http://www.touchedbythelightliteracyprogram.com) and volunteer to help Touched By The Light Literacy Program by directly friends and family to our website to make a book purchase. The proceeds from these purchases will help us improve the lives of countless prisoners who cannot read. You can also help by asking us to speak throughout the state to raise enough money to send our books to prisoners. You can form a group and find speaking engagement for Touched By The Light speakers. You will be helping your child and someone else's child. Individually we cannot do much but together we can prevail. You should email us for ideas on how to prepare for their release. Literate parolees can readily seek employment or higher education rather than steal.

### **MOTHERS WHO DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN IN PRISON:**

We want you to purchase two books "If You Believe In God You Do Not Belong In Prison" and "You Are The Prophet of your Life." Have everyone in your family read these books then invite our speaker to conduct a Violence Seminar at your local church or youth center. These are hard hitting take no prisoners books. These books have turned prisoners around. We have letters from prisoners thanking us for providing these books to them.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Experts say the best ways to save an aging brain is to volunteer in a community activity. If you can read and write and can spare a few hours a week, you can volunteer to teach a person to read or tutor in math or other life skills. You can get together a group of interest people and begin a reading program for children or adults in your local library or community center. **Add your voice** to the problem. Make a significant difference in a person's life volunteer to teach a person to read. Share a story on line about an experience you had in reading. Do a blog. Pass our message along.

## **FAMILY READING CAMPAIGN**

If a slave can learn to read by moonlight your son can learn to read by neon light.

As a child learns to read, self-esteem and confidence increase and grades improve-- even in other subjects such as math and science. We must foster the success of children and adolescents, both at home and in the community; Your life **Starts Now** as soon as you pick up that book and read it. **Why Learn To Read Early?**

Two-thirds of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of the 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare. The fourth grade is the watershed year

If you want your child to read you must have books all over your home. The books must be in the breakfast nook, in the basemen in your bedroom on the coffee table and in the closet. You child must see you read. He or she should see your face reading the evening paper. There should be books in the car. Young children should be given a book regardless of their age even if he or she cannot read. Give them the book and tell them to read it. What they will do is look at the pictures and describe what they think is happening in the story. Your interaction with their story telling is critical because you are confirming their ability to read. As the young child continues to story tell he or she will learn the appreciation of reading. While you are driving your child to and from day care of school give them a book to read in the car. Tell them your job is to go to work to earn money to provide for the family and their job is to go to school and learn. Tell them they are going to school so they can learn to read so they can make money where they will have a good future.

You must make certain your child can read competently by the fourth grade. If your child is struggling cut out the cigarettes, donuts at work or getting your nails done save this money and enroll your child in a reading class. If your child does not know how to read by age 10 he is well on his way to prison. Ask any counselor at a state youth facility. They will tell you boys enter their facilities at the age 11 for robbery, breaking and entering, purse snatching etc. Once the violent pattern has been establish it is hard to break, therefore it is worth the effort to have a violence prevention program for your son, which means teaching him to read. Male children have a much harder time learning to read without the proper encouragement because their attention is directed elsewhere. Sports are a high priority; social competition and male dominance enters

into the picture. Consequently, great emphasis must be placed on setting aside time for males to learn to read and to continue to read throughout adolescence.

Control what your child watches on television. Playing video games should be a reward after the school work is done and a book is read. Proper sleep and nutrition are important in learning. No late night television during school nights. Do not forget **You** are the example.

## PLEASE HELP

We would like for you to do two things to support our efforts toward total literacy for the country. One please asks your friends, family and coworkers to read our message to teach someone to read. Secondly, we would like for you to purchase our publication "If You Believe In God You Do Not Belong In Prison" for every male in your family. This book was written to **stop the flow of men** into prisons leaving their children behind. **No child** should have to visit his or her father in prison. We thank you in advance for your participation. **When you read for knowledge everyday you can look forward to a better life.** Reading magazines and newspapers "are the best way not to not remain speechless."

If you cannot read this essay

"Reading is no longer a pleasure. Reading has become a necessity. Your success and the success of your family all depend on how well you read and how often you read. Do not find yourself locked out of a job because you did not take the time to read."

Jonathan L. A. Hop M.A., author

If you cannot read this essay nor spot the errors within then this means, you have an overall education level below the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and your life is a mess. There is absolutely no way that your life could not be a mess if you are living today with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade education.

A fifth grade education means you cannot read a contract and know exactly what that contract is telling you. It means you can not read a purchases agreement and know exactly what your rights are and the rights of the seller are. Having a 5<sup>th</sup> grade education also means that you have problems in your interpersonal relationships. You do not get along with people well. You fight with your coworkers. You gossip at home and work. You are fued with your neighbors. When you go to a restaurant you are always ill at ease because you do not know exactly what you should and should not do. You are embarrsed because you children act out and you cannot control them. Lately the best job you can find is waiting on tables. You had a better job but they let you go explaining that they wer downsizing. Actually, you could not understand that they were downsizing when you were the only person that they let go. Could it be that you were so disruptive they spent months devising a plan to get rid of you, avoiding the possibility of your susing them.

Your husband has probably taken flight, your children are using drugs and you are anethizing yourself with TV. The absence of knowledge is not knowing. The closet word to not knowing in the dictionery is the word ignorant. It is a known fact that ignorance breeds suspicion, suspicion breeds violence and violence breeds murder and murder brings destruction in its wake.

So if you find yourself alone in your home stuffing potatoes chips in your mouth, drinking beer and watch television you need to consider reading to change your position in life. Thousands and thousands of people everyday have to make the same decision as you. The decision to change. They ask themselves should I continue to live this way or should I change. And if I change what should I change. How can I change is there some one out ther that can help me change.

In order to change you must do two things you must make a commitment to change and you must get rid of your fear that triggers embarassment. Once you have solidfiye your attitude then you can begin your journey toward change. Make immediate changes first, small changes such as you attitude toward people. Your attitude toward yourself.

Then pick up a book and away you will go. Begin your change by takeing a reading class. Incaaze your vocabulary. Over and over and over again learn 5 new words per month. Write the words down. Learn how to spell these words correctly. Learn the perceive usage. Begin writing sentences using these words and incorporate these words in your every day conversation. Find new people to talk to. For a group of other people who are also in the same situation you are in, people who are trying to make a change.

You are probably over weight, have diabetes, cartherisc cant speal or pronounce half the medicine your doctor gives you. You take the medicine obiediently you cant think of one auetion to ask hiom.

You make faces at peoplew hnee they look at you.  
You frown because

Errors in essay

Word choice

Comma unsuage

Misspelled words,

Incomplete sentences

Word usage

Transition

preposition

Misspelled words due to inability to pronounce word correctly



The above essay was written by Jonathan Lee Ames Hop who attended the University of Michigan for seven years earning a Masters Degree in Japanese. He was an America Read volunteer while attending college. He used his skills to inspire young children to learn and to enjoy reading. He washed dishes in the cafeterias on campus and waited tables at a local restaurant on the week end. Lack of money was not going to stop him from getting an education. By reading he taught himself to speak German, Chinese and Russian. Mr. Hop read books every morning and every evening while his mother drove him to and from school. He read the Meridian Dictionary from beginning to end entirely in the car. He has written six books and coauthored two books. He taught English as a second language in Korea. He boarded a plane for Korea not knowing one word of Korean. He worked to master the language so he could speak to his students. He now teaches children who speak German, Korean and English at the International Academy. All his life reading has been his passion. A man who can read competently can always be retrained and does not have to worry about the future. Pick up a book and start a new future for yourself and your family.