

The Wind is Changing

5th April 2010

Although the website has not been updated for a while things have been happening, a dedicated group of citizens have banded together to begin the second part of our journey, making bdatbs a reality by 2012.

Bermuda is really reaping what she has sown in the past thirty eight years, gang violence and gun violence is out of control, our youth are deteriorating faster than ever before, law and order on the roads is non-existent, and the citizens of Bermuda feel helpless to bring about any sense of reason. The future to most people looks grim, no tourism, and International business are being treated so badly they are questioning why they are here.

There is one group working and organizing to make a difference, to give our young people a future that will enable them to prosper, the journey will be fraught with unknowns, pitfalls and difficulties, but with a positive attitude and an end result in sight they will soldier on to victory.

The future can change if we want it to, our young people can look forward to a brighter future if we make it happen, but it must be realised that we must never neglect our youth again because the consequences are devastating, let us make no mistake we are reaping the fruits of our neglect of our youth, and we must turn things around if this small country is to prosper once more.

The laws of this land must be enforced, and consequences for our actions must again mean something, punctuality, dress code, integrity, work ethic these are the things we need to instill in our young people, we need to take back the jobs presently held by our guest workers because we could no longer “hack it” and we must show we are worthy, capable and willing to turn things around.

Our management from the top need to manage by example, and if they are unwilling to straighten up and “set the example” they need to be replaced by someone who will lead.

Bermuda is in trouble, our economy is a mess, our communities are a mess, our education is a mess, and our businesses are a mess, if allowed to continue the country will be a mess on par with third world countries, our brains are leaving by the scores, that is called the brain drain, no-one wants to support a sinking ship when they cannot plug the holes.

Re-inventing the “values” once held so highly will take time, but we must be willing and everyone must do their part, get rid of these gangs and drug crimes, and do a deal with a country to take our prisoners for certain crimes and ensure they understand certain crimes are not to be tolerated, we are not willing to spend \$83,000 per criminal to house them on

the Island.

Education done poorly costs \$18,000 - \$23,000 per student, because the lack of law and order is creeping into even the best schools in Bermuda, it is not sufficient to comment on the rest of the world, they may or may not be killing each other in public, they may or may not be sinking in debt, we must ask ourselves “Is this what we want?” Is this the lifestyle to which I want to bring my children up? Is this the image we wish to portray to the world?

Enough of the present reality and now what are we doing to make a better Bermuda, this is the most important initiative brought to the people of Bermuda in 40 years, it will touch every segment, of life it will impact on every sector of business and it will change the lives of so many people.

The proposal and business plan for Bermuda Technical High School addresses the lack of “soft skills”, the punctuality, dress code, responsibility, integrity and manners, it addresses the interests of our young men, it addresses the learning methods and needs of our young men, and they have been the first of the youth to be left out, neglected and forgotten until they are behaving antisocial in public. Let us not forget the girls who are quickly following suit, they are becoming as disrespectful as the boys, so we need to address their needs too.

This proposal will enable industry to follow the progress of our students and witness the transformation, they will be able to employ graduates of this school knowing they have a working knowledge of the basics of technical education a foundation for them to build upon.

Leaving high school with a two year internationally recognised qualification, students will be able to gain entrance in to university, they will be able to commence an apprenticeship learning the skills in slightly shorter period than usual, or they will be able to join any business more aware of the way things happen and how they are done.

In a few short years all technical businesses will benefit by employing trained workers turning up on time, having a sense of purpose and striving to the next level, because their school will hold evening classes for their graduates to reach the next level until they really are qualified at the end of level 5.

We may even encourage the National Training board to train our students on the Island, and raise the standards of five students instead of one, to enable Bermudians to reach higher than the lowest rung of the ladder so that they cannot reach the top levels.

The businesses and particularly international businesses will notice the improvement in standards of the work performed in their workplace and let us not forget the Bermudian public, they will be able to ask for some work to be done and it will be done to a standard, with professionalism, and pride.

We will notice our infrastructure gradually being improved so that the machinery used for road making will be serviceable for longer periods and the maintenance done on our industrial machinery costing less in repairs, not to mention the servicing of our private vehicles carried out by competent and qualified technicians worthy of the accolades normally reserved for the Japanese or German technicians.

In the Office we will notice qualified Bermudian technicians repairing our office machines and computers, no longer will the “expert from afar” have to be called to give us the “real story”, less downtime of equipment more efficiency in our workplaces.

In the hospital, the facility will last a little longer because the maintenance will be carried out by well qualified technicians, trained to the highest of standards, and the equipment will last longer using the latest technology to detect defects before they break down. That will ensure costs are kept in check and Health care costs kept reasonable.

Our water supply depends on the equipment to process it and the better the maintenance the better it works, so that will also be more reliable and better quality. Lest we forget we rely on electricity for modern life to exist, better trained technicians and operators make for better efficiency and reliability.

These benefits and many many more can be realised in just 10 years, four years of high school and six years experience, gaining higher qualifications on the way, this is the way forward, sounds easy but the hard work required to get there will be well worth the effort.

The economy relies upon having “X” number of guest workers to replace our forgotten young people, by using that forgotten resource we require less of those guest workers.

Now we presently need a larger jail, we are not incarcerating our criminals for the full term because we need the space, well if we reduce the numbers of criminals we need less space; for it is a well known saying “*better build the schoolhouses for the boys or the cells for the man*” said so many years ago by Eliza Cook, and it is so true. We are building the school house, and we are asking for your help your assistance to make this happen.

Nelson Mandela said best: ***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”***

We are moving ahead and we are asking for your help no matter how small your donation will be appreciated- we intend to raise \$20m in less than two years. The sooner we are able to raise the finances the sooner our school will be up and running.

Incidentally \$20million is about 5% of the total given to charity each year, with the far reaching results and the importance it brings is it not worth say, 10%?

Please give generously

BDATHS a reality by 2012

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“Our” meaning Bermuda’s because the school will be in trust for future generations