

DESTINY NEWSLETTER



Buju Banton Foundation provides skills training and educational opportunities for youth. With immense emphasis on at risk males, ages 8-18. Its aim and objectives are to provide mentoring and training for young men in depressed communities and childcare facilities. Encouraging them to put down all negative influences and take up skills and tools that enable them to attain personal, academic and professional growth. So they could become positive contributors to society. Learn more about our works in Destiny Newsletter. We invite you to become a Friend of Buju Banton Foundation to help achieve our Destiny.

'We Ago Mek It, Mek it,' Wards of State Write About Defying The Odds Despite Your Circumstances



Sunbeam Children's Home boys participate in Defying The Odds Despite Your Circumstances

'Defying The Odds Despite Your Circumstances,' is a weekly motivational programme conceptualized by the Buju Banton Foundation, to empower at risk youths to dream big. Knowing that regardless of trials and tribulations, they too can triumph and achieve greatness. Public figures once labeled at risk youths and others who overcame huge hurdles to succeed, have come on board as presenters. The weekly empowering series can be viewed [@bujubantonfoundation](#), [Buju Banton Foundation - Home](#) | Facebook, [Buju Banton Foundation Youtube](#) and [Buju Banton Foundation's website](#).

We are extremely pleased with the level of support and interest generated. Presenters share their personal experiences and strategies for overcoming adversity and building resilience to achieve their destiny."

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Editor: Mark Myrie-Buju Banton

Writer: Rosemary Duncan

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It's so good
To praise the most high Jah everyday
With your whole heart desire
Lift him higher, lift him higher
Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, yeah



Wards at Mount Olivet Boys Home

Wards of state at Sunbeam Children's Home, Mount Olivet Boys Home, students at Denham Town High School viewed each episode since the premiere on Thursday, August 5 through the close of season 2, on Thursday, November 11.

The boys submitted their reviews of the empowerment program.

Read their write-ups here:

Name: **Dontae, Ward of State**

Title: Review of Defying The Odds Despite Your Circumstances

Institution: **Sunbeam Children's Home**

Holy Mount Zion I
Buju, let's sing it...
The Lord's my shepherd,
I'll not want
He make me down to lie



Review of Defying The Odds Despite Your Circumstances

In the future, I would like to become a professional footballer and a businessman. Defying The Odds Despite Your Circumstances helps me to find my purpose in life and respect older persons whom God has placed in my life to mentor me and prepare me for the world.

Throughout my life, I have always been neglected by people, but because of this motivational programme, I now understand why I'm at Sunbeam. To let me know that there is still hope. You are a lifesaver 'Buju Banton.'

The motivational presentation in episode 4 of season 2, Gloves over Guns-Defying the Odds Despite Your Circumstances, speaks to a person who has defied the odds despite his circumstances. He became a boxing coach and through hard work, focus and determination manage to overcome the odds that were against him.

In pastures green Jah leadeth me
 The quiet waters by
 My soul thou hath restored again
 And me to walk dost make
 Within the path of righteousness



Sunbeam Children's Home boys participate in Defying The Odds Despite Your Circumstances

This programme taught me to dream big, go towards my goal, and stay disciplined at all times. The motivational speaker, who is a coach, got abused by his mother and he still decides to be something in life. In fact, he pushed hard and remained focused on his goal, with the intention of being somebody greater than what society expected him to be. He proved society wrong.

The coach had jobs, he played other sports and it didn't work so he found boxing and it helped to get him off the streets. He fought well, became a champion and was successful. He later went back to his community and began to help other boys who are likely in the same, assumed hopeless position that he was in. Boxing is a very good sport and it was his source of strength because it can give you a way to channel your negative feelings into something positive.

Review by Ami, ward of state at Mount Olivet Boys Home, “ Defying The Odds Despite Your Circumstances showed me that I still can reach my goals. No Matter what is in my way. It inspires me to go further in life. And to have respect for people. Think twice and always be confident.”

Name: **Kamali, Ward of State**

Title : Review of Defying The Odds Despite Your Circumstances

Name of Institution: **Sunbeam Children's Home**

The motivational presentation about a man that chose Gloves Over Guns-Defying The Odds Despite of his Circumstances completely changing himself.

Even for his name's sake
Yeah, though I walk in death's dark vale
Yet will I fear no ill
Thy rod and staff, they are with me
They surely comfort still

Firstly, Darwin believed in himself. He has the heart of a lion. Mr. Darwin grew up in a community where people fought to survive, sadly some did using guns and lost their lives. Austin was angry at his life, so he transitioned his anger into something that will make him better.

Secondly, Darwin did not give up. He became enamored with the sport a few times, he received many beat-downs, he lost many matches but he got up and kept fighting. I remembered clearly something Darwin said that will stay with me for life, "There is more to life, besides sticking around the streets, not doing the right things." Austin also said, "if I did 10 years incorrectly why not attempt 10 years the correct way."

Thirdly, Darwin surrounded himself with positive people. One of his mentor's Mr. Scott, is an extremely decent individual that consistently pays special attention to Darwin's wellbeing. Mentor Scott saved him from the awful impact of the streets and the many potential risks such as gangs, prison, being molested, being abused, becoming a drug or alcohol addict.

What do I want to be?

In the future I want to become a Staff Sergeant in the US Marine. This is often seen as a goal impossible to reach. But by the help of God I know that all things are possible. Sometimes being in a home can cause one to feel as though they do not have relatives to rely on. This video inspires me that great things do happen when you make up your mind and push beyond the brick walls. It also tells me that whatever I do, I should do good and I will see the never-ending possibilities that I can achieve. With that said, I will chase my goal no matter what: Thank you for believing in me Mr. Mark Myrie (Buju Banton).

Review by Oshane, ward of state at Mount Olivet Boys Home, "I learned that the word "Poor" does not actually mean that you are poor; but that you have passed over opportunities repeatedly. It means that you don't grab a hold of any opportunity. You let opportunities pass you not once, not twice, but several times. We should not pass over every opportunity we get. The more we try to make use of opportunities, there will be more gates opened to us."

The Buju Banton Foundation is extremely thankful to our presenters who shared their personal testimonies and that of others to help inspire the youths to persevere despite challenges, remain focused and achieve positive goals.

Ooh, my table thou hast furnished
In the presence of my foes
My head thou hath anoint with oil
My cup it overflow

Youths Learn The Importance of Mathematics for Life



Facilitator Kamau Mahakoe

During the first week of November, Donovan Hunter, principal at Denham Town High School held discussion with Rosemary Duncan, director at Buju Banton Foundation, requesting the Foundation present a workshop focusing on the “Importance of Mathematics for Life.” He lamented unsatisfactory CSEC results and students general lack of interest in the subject. That same week the Foundation secured Kamau Mahakoe, award winning educator and mathematics specialist, as facilitator for a workshop titled “ Importance of Mathematics for Life.” Slated for Friday, November 12. Kamau is founder of Kemet Maasai Academy. And author of Caribbean Mathematics for Secondary Schools Graphs text books.

The school selected twenty students from grades 6, 10 and 11; however, thirty students showed up for the workshop. Participants learned about the relevance of Mathematics for Daily Life and Career Enhancement. Students’ general attitude to math is that it is boring, hard, only nerds love math, we can get by without math and we don’t need math for everyday life; however, they were amazed to learn that every career field requires some knowledge of math. Whether simple or complicated. Farmers to weigh products, crops, livestock and fertilizers. Too much or too little could affect crops.

Chefs to maintain consistent flavour of meals. They must be able to calculate measurements and know how to cost meals to make a profit. Architects to plan blue prints and initial sketch designs. Civil Engineers need knowledge of math to build functional bridges and other structures. Carpenters and joiners need knowledge of math to build furniture. In today’s world builders use math daily; for example, to determine how much material is required for a job. Quantity of steel or number of tiles. Pharmacists need sound knowledge of math. As one extra pill issued could kill someone. Meteorologists use math to forecast weather.

Reggae and dancehall icon, Buju Banton, who is an alumnus of Denham Town High School, participated virtually and imparted this message, “Mathematics is one of the most important subjects. Applicable in every career; including, music and entertainment. Rhythm, harmonies, tone, pitch etcetera, all involve math. Determining venue capacity, ticket prices, performance fees certainly involves knowledge of mathematics. Therefore, take math seriously. Take education seriously. As it is your ticket to a better life.”



Focused on lessons at workshop

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me (follow me)
And in Jah's house forever more
My dwelling place must be



From left-Paul Williamson(sudent), Kamau Mahakoe(facilitator), Rosemary Duncan(director Buju Banton Foundation), Tajay Bailey(student)

Mahakoe emphasized, “Math is a study of numbers. It helps us understand our world. It builds special thinking, effective communication, problem solving and critical thinking skills. We must learn to understand the language of Math. When you understand the language of math, you will better understand the concept”. She further reiterated, “Math and language skills compliment each other. Whenever in math class, have a dictionary near you”.

“Just as in language class. As the names given to mathematical things, give clues as to what the student should do to calculate the answer. Therefore, be sure to have a dictionary near you when doing math.” She urged participants to “Make use of whatever space you’re in to learn. Be it face to face or online.Math is a basic requirement for secondary/tertiary matriculation and job entry.”

Before completing the session, students were given real world examples of math application. They enthusiastically participated in solving problems. The Buju Banton Foundation awarded prizes for correct answers.



Denham Town Student at math workshop

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me
And in Jah house forever more
My dwelling place shall be



Students

Suzzette Baker, Assistant Vice Principal at Denham Town High School stated, “The Buju Banton Foundation’s work, though a mammoth task, was able to deliver the importance of Mathematics in all current and future endeavors. Kamau was quite helpful in changing the way students view and approach the subject of Mathematics.

The delivery of information was on point and to the level of the students to understand. Their participation showed they are interested in mathematics; but need motivation to pursue the subject at a higher level. Hearing our students say “mi ago try harder wid maths.” Gave the feeling of satisfaction.

After having heard them complain after having complained about teachers’ delivery of the subject, this workshop has now allowed us to look at new ways of presenting this wonderful subject to students. It was indeed a pleasure to have had the Buju Banton Foundation present this mathematics workshop to students at Denham Town High School.”

The Buju Banton Foundation is especially thankful to Kremi Caribbean Cream, Susie Bakery & Coffee Bar, Wisynco (WATA, FRESHHH) for providing beverages and eats for the workshop.

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To Improve the lives of vulnerable boys

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Superb Thanks! We Salute you!

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Kamau Mahakoe

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Tracy-Ann Hall

We look forward to more mighty works in 2022

Join us in

Giving Help & Hope!

Donate / Volunteer / Contact us: info@bujubantonfoundation.org

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My table thou hath furnished
In the presence of my foes
My head thou hath anoint with oil
My cup it overflow