Single submissions for the tool "Protest and Hope – Voices from the One World"

For implementing the Didactic Tool "Protest and Hope – Voices from the One World", a single submission should be selected. The following preselection has been made:

From Africa:

• from Ghana: Akropong Presbyterian Junior High School

• from Kamerun: Presbyterian High School Batibo

• from the DR Congo: Ecole Primaire Mabanga

• from Rwanda: Ecole Secondaire de Gikonko

From Asia:

Theses written by students from Hong Kong

• Theses written by students from the Philippines

From Europe:

• from Germany: Evangelisches Firstwald-Gymnasium Mössingen

from Switzerland: Freies Gymnasium Bernfrom Slovakia: Lutheran Academy Martin

From North America: Northwest Christian Schools

From South America: Theses written by students from the schools of the Rede

Sinodal

For more information, please refer to the information for teachers on the website.



Presbyterian High School Batibo/Cameroon

As young students of a protestant school we have noticed the critical problems that have affected the society. It is in that light that this essay has been written so that solutions can be given to our worldwide problems. These problems need great attention as our world is gradually getting destroyed as the days go by.

1. The first problem is on discipline.

Discipline defines a person. Indiscipline has become a problem world-wide. Disrespect of elders and older persons has also been a problem. Even in our schools students are very disrespectful to teachers. Some even go to the extent of comparing or fighting with their teachers.

Solution: Let the government encourage parents to teach morals and discipline to their children from childhood. Schools should also double their efforts in the moral lessons given to students.

2. The second group of problems includes discrimination, tribalism, racism and favoritism.

In the society of today many people discriminate and favor others. In schools some teachers falsely award marks to students from their tribe or village. Some teachers treat other students with love and care than others. In the case of appointments, state administrators appoint leaders in a discriminative manner, not considering skills. Merit is no longer considered in many cases today.

Solution: Let the government see into it that skilled people are appointed to duty posts. Let citizens know that we are one indiscriminate of birth place, race and color. Hence equal opportunities should be given to every citizen of the world.

3. Another group of problems are prostitution, stealing and pick-pocketing.

In our world of today most thieves, prostitutes and pick pockets are youths. Prostitution has become a normal phenomenon. Girls at all stages of life do prostitution and even boys do male prostitution and have sex with other boys for money. Stealing and pick pocketing has reached its apex as people do it with no fear. Girls go into sexual relationships with boys because of poverty and even with married men especially in the Universities. Sexual Relationships between students are not good worse of all when it exists between teachers and students of the opposite sex.

Solution: Free education should be instituted at Primary school level to all citizens of the world. Vocational education should be improved upon at the post primary level so

that many youths can be trained towards self-employment. This will be a big weapon towards fighting poverty. Let the governments help to give some allowances to these students so that their basic needs can be taken care of. With these allowances youths will not think of stealing, selling their bodies for money. Youths should be discouraged from browsing sex-related websites on the internet and these sex websites should not be put in the net. Youths should be discouraged from pre-marital sex.

4. Some other problems affecting the world today are the problems of wars, terrorism, kidnapping.

During wars and terrorist attacks innocent people are killed. Properties are destroyed and as a result causing tension and fear among the citizens. Kidnapping today is very rampant, especially children and making our society unsafe.

Solution: Let the U.N.O. try to solve problems in war countries by letting sign peacetreaties. Let the government do same to states which fight tribal wars. Let our armed forces be conscious of kidnappers and prevent kidnapping at all cost not to let any loss of life. Many persons should be educated or trained towards the easy identification of terrorists. The slogan 'terrorism never solves any problem but instead creates disorder' should be given the widest possible publicity.

5. Other problems include occultism and murder, also suicide bombers and suicide committers.

Occultism has grown rapidly especially in higher institutions. The occultists threaten, beat up and even kill citizens, students and lecturers. People prefer to kill hundreds and thousands of people including themselves for money or other reasons. Also people who think life is cruel and unfair to them decide to take their own life. It is wrong no matter the reason.

Solution: Let the government organize radio and television crusade programs informing people about the disadvantages of suicide bombing, occultism and murder. More psychologists should be taught on how to stop suicide bombing.

6. Embezzlement, misuse of state funds is also major societal problems.

Embezzlement as led to slow development in the churches, schools, other social institutions and the state as a whole. Some areas are fast developing than others because of misuse of available funds in some areas.

Solution: Let the state control the running of its budget with more strict control in order to avoid embezzlement or misuse of funds.

With all these problems the world is crumbling day after day and therefore needs effective attention. If the above proposed solutions are implemented, the world would probably be a better place for human existence and for the future generation. We all stand for a change.

Written by the Executive Members of the Reformation Club, P.H.S. Batibo. Nwanchan Lukita Abong (upper sixth Science, President), Tatamiyih Soumiatou (Lower Sixth Science, Vice President), Buma Bronhilda (Lower Sixth Arts, Secretary), Trevor Afanyu (Lower Sixth Science, Treasurer), Acha Pasky (Lower Sixth Science, Student Coordinator), Fongang Kenny Roy (Form Five, Press Editor), Tuijah Courage (Form Five, Public Relations Officer), Nyoung á Zock Vanina (Lower Sixth Arts, Logistics)

Ecole Primaire Mabanga, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- 1. We protest against corruption in school, in church and in our country.
- 2. Some teachers when angry hit children because of problems they faced at home; thus, children are those who are victims.
- 3. Some pastors sow hatred and tribalism among Christians whereas Jesus came for everyone.
- 4. Some Christians come to church to disturb instead of listening to the word of God.
- 5. Many teachers do not respect the rights of children. They punish children without a valid reason.
- 6. Some pastors and church leaders go to church just to look for offerings instead of preaching the word of God.
- 7. We protest against some teachers and principals who put out children because of school fees. Children are not working.
- 8. We say no to killings and insecurity in our country because of the selfish interests of some people.
- 9. Children are despised in churches. They are driven out to the benefit of old people who come to occupy their places. For God there is no children and no adults.
- 10. We protest against the misuse of offerings by some Pastors. The offerings should be used to preach the word of God.
- 11. We protest against the payment of teachers' salaries by parents. It is necessary that the state pays teachers as our parents pay various taxes to the government.
- 12. We are against some singers who sing in disorder in the church with disturbing sound. Our God loves order.
- 13. We protest against pastors who are jealous each other due to seeking of power in the church.

Written by Likogho Jemimah, Kavira Vahigene, Kambale Christian, Benjamin Kalumbi, Kambale Maghetse, Kavira Bwakayanakazi, Kavugho Muheruki, Kasereka,Joslin, Kambale Vino, Kahindo Shekinah, Kavugho Vitasimwam, Kavugho Vitasimwa, Katungu Kayno, Bhibuya Meru, Muhindo Binane

Akropong Presby JHS, Ghana

- 1. Why should people drink so much alcohol because they claim they are happy but afterwards end up bringing shame to themselves and their families, hurting themselves and can't even locate their way home? Is this happiness?
- 2. In some tribes in Ghana, widows are made to drink the water used to bath their dead spouse in the name of widowhood rites this is very cruel because we may not know the disease that killed the person. It looks as if culture has made us lose respect for human right.
- 3. Why should people be given awards for acting pornography, while we all know adultery and indiscriminate sex is a sin and the bible even speaks against it?
- 4. The youth of today are not interested in work but are interested in getting quick money. They want to get 4 cars and 4 houses at the age of 19, while their parents have worked hard for about 50 years without boasting of a single car. Some can wickedly go to the extent of using their parents for rituals just to get money.
- 5. Most Ghanaians make rubbish and throw them in gutters, when it rains and the place gets flooded, they call on the government to come and clear the gutters, while the government is not the cause of it. When it becomes a disaster, they associate it to some so called gods and some will foolishly quote the bible by saying 'in all things give thanks to God'.
- 6. It is difficult to understand why people know the right things to do but will not do it. Many girls in their youthful ages just jump from bed to bed and commit unscrupulous abortions when they get pregnant. When they grow old and are not able to give birth, they blame their innocent grandparents who death has failed to take them away.
- 7. Why should African leaders (politicians) drive in porch cars, give themselves huge salaries and yet claim Africa is poor.
- 8. Why should Muslims kill Christians and vice versa while we claim Allah and God are the same one and true God.
- 9. I don't understand why my mother finds it difficult to pay my school levies but is able to afford new and expensive clothes for each family member or friend's funeral.
- 10. Why do Christians fight Christians while we claim we are worshiping one God.
- 11. Why do we have morally bankrupt pupils who attend protestant schools and are taught by protestant teachers?

- 12. Why should there be a difference in Christian doctrine while we use the same bible?
- 13. I always thought being a virgin is pride and honorable .But now indiscriminate sex is the order of the day. When you are a virgin it is regarded as a lack of opportunity to have sex, but not an Honorable virtue. Why should it be so?
- 14. Many people misinterpret the bible to suit themselves, but when the law gets hold of them, they claim it is human right abuse.
- 15. In Africa, many young girls are forced to get married to people without their consent or approval. My little knowledge tells me marriage is based on love and understanding. But in some tribes in Ghana it is not like that.
- 16. My science teacher taught me that, 'H' in Chemistry refers to Hydrogen and 'N' also refers to Nitrogen. Some few years ago we heard of a disease called H1N1 which I believe was a laboratory manufactured disease meant to kill people, after infecting us with it they later on produced drugs to cure the same disease. Wickedness!

submitted by Kingsford Agyei, Abigail Nyarkoa, Kutufam Tetteh Philip, Owusu Quintin, Christiana Offei Akuffo, Mary Gyamfi, Derrick Offei Akuffo, Emmanuel Tetteh, Adu Larbi Ishmael, Kokor Sarah, Abugri Nathaniel, Prince Sakyi, Priscilla Appiah, Abeiku Kelvin, Clement Oduro Takyi, Abugri Mercy, Kutufam Tetteh Philip

Ecole Secondaire de Gikonko, Rwanda

1. The church must renew itself because church leaders, even though we had protested indulgencies, in today- churches are undergoing such things as we have to pay a lot of money for weeding ceremonies, confirmation and baptism.

A good church must give all those services for free as Jesus Christ, John Baptist, Elijah didn't ask any price for that.

2. **The church must renew itself because** Christians who believe that they are good at praying, are praying in caves, dark forest as if God is not near of every ones more than his or her clothes.

A good church must teach the main concepts of Bible to everyone, we have the Bible as our constitution, but we do not agree to the concepts and fundamental principles of Bible.

3. The church must renew itself because the terminology of church, whereby church become monument, great house built by human being whereas the church is our body, our heart, therefore when you miss to attend that house, they are not hesitating to say that you didn't pray God because you were not present.

A good church must know that the house we are used to attend is not a church; it is a house where Believers meet. Even when they will destroy the building, church will remain.

4. The church must renew itself because the idea of so many church leaders about work. Works are visible to them but faith is invisible. Church leaders ask Christians to work before they believe. We protested last time saying that we are not saved by work but faith.

A good church must know that Christians are not for pastors, priests or Apostles. Christians are for Jesus Christ. He wants us to believe in him only. Priests have to preach the Gospel.

5. The church must renew itself because the misuse of terminology called Church and denomination .Church leaders they are used to say my church, whereas is it for them! They even say my Christians as if we are for them. No! We are here for Jesus Christ.

A good church must know we are here for Jesus Christ our Savior.

6. **The church must renew itself because** people who believe that they can change the will of our almighty God .As if it does things we want.

A good church must know that the will of God is best in our whole life; they have to know how Jesus taught us to pray. He had said Our Almighty God, everything you want be done on earth as in heaven. Let's all do as the will of God.

7. **The church must renew itself because** church leaders who are transforming the church into a market. They pass more than hours selling what they have offered. Every Christian forgets immediately the gospel and good news of Jesus Christ that they learnt during church.

A good church must know a good way of collecting gifts. They can do it after the prayer or they choose another day.

8. The church must renew itself because of the concept: "To go in the Church" even though we have to pray together with other believers as God said, it is not a mistake to pray outside. I am a church, our God will never fit in the house built by people but it can fit in my body.

A good church must learn that we are the body of Jesus Christ. Church leaders fear that if Christians will know their Christians will not attend what they call a church (meeting house).

9. The church must renew itself because the of the misuse of God's gift of tongues and prophesy: So many Christian in Rwanda come in our church to see the miracles only, others to hear what God wants, therefore this pushed them in heresy .It seems to be now witchcraft activities in the church, Christians pay money for receiving message from God. They don't do like Elisha who refused to receive the gifts of Naaman (2 Kings 5:16).

A good church must know that it is prohibited to sell or to buy a gift of God, or to use it for your own benefit. The gifts of God are equal and belong to all believers, they are given to believers for helping them to live in this Earth, it is not our home.

10. **The church must renew itself because** the recruitment done in the church in the form of evangelism is looking like competitors. Sadly we are not preaching to unbelievers, Muslims, Magician, Buddhism, Hinduism, Brahmanism and others.

A good church must know that the ideal behind this competition is MONEY (THEIR BENEFITS). Let's join hand all as Christians for preaching good news of the Gospel.

11. The church must renew itself because the idea that there is a special Area, God wants, nowadays People are mounting high hills and mountains to meet Jesus Christ, other ones are used to pass whole nights in the swamps, rivers ,lakes as special area that God Prefer to meet with his people.

A good church must know that our God is omnipresent. He is closer than our clothes.

12. **The church must renew itself because** the concept of nowadays Christians that the sins are not equal, therefore faith and grace to save us lose their values.

A good church must come back on its ideas of Reformation that we have been saved grace and faith.

13. **The church must renew itself because** church leaders always preach laws of Moses as if we are in Judaism or as if we have been saved by laws.

A good church must know that we are enjoying time of grace and faith.

14. **The church must renew itself because** praying is not a gift. Christians are saying that they are gifted because they pray regularly.

A good church must know that a prayer is an obligation in our kingdom of Jesus Christ.

15. **The world must renew itself** because of wars, and mushrooming of terrorist groups. They use the church of Jesus Christ to seed anger, wars, and fight among population across the world, mainly in Africa and Asia.

A good world must know that politicians are using different religions to separate people/countries/states/ who are unified.

16. **The schools must renew itself because** so many Christian schools are being headed by unbelievers. Therefore there is no change because the Gospel has no way to work.

A good Christian school must be headed by our fellow believers in Jesus Christ.
A good chilistian school mast be headed by our rettow bettevers in Jesus Chilist.
Olive Nyiransengimana, Ndizeye Philbert, Gerardine Umuhoza, Bizimana, Adrien.
Olive Nylransengimana, Ndizeye Philbert, Gerardine Omunoza, Bizimana, Adrien.

Students from Hong Kong (grades 9-12), 43 boys, 27 girls

- 1. I believe money is everything.
- 2. We should not be selfish.
- 3. To behave nicely to everyone perpetuates injustice in society.
- 4. I will not discriminate against people who are different from me. Everyone has his own religion. Be nice to everyone and help each other is the best way for humanity!
- 5. For a better tomorrow, be yourself.
- 6. We need to address the contrast between the rich and the poor. I'm not sure that if we act now in fighting injustice, we can have a better future.
- 7. Justice can be defined as lack of fairness. People living in modern society have ubiquitous proclivity to bequeath their entire estate to their children. This makes the salient gap between rich and poor, which is injustice. Spiritual texts teach people the right actions to take as human being to share what we've got to people who need help. There are a prodigious number of campaigns held to aid the helpless people in the world. Increasing number of people joining these campaigns and being more alerted to these problems in the world will definitely help the world to become a better place to live than how it is now.
- 8. If people aren't too selfish, it will be better.
- 9. What you do today will affect what happens tomorrow and what you think today but if you have a different feeling on that day that might change your ideas. Everyone is equal. No matter what culture or who they are, we should be helping them because each person is equal. It's not good just by looking at someone and we think who they are. We need to know truly what attitude they have.
- 10. Discrimination is something that happens each day. It is disgusting and immoral. I believe that the world can be different and better, if people have empathy.
- 11. Giving girls the choice to either wear skirts or pants. Forcing girls to wear skirts is sexist, first of all, and secondly it's not practical, especially in the winter time when it is cold and our legs freeze.
- 12. The laws. We should follow the laws. We can provide more ideas and scientific truth.
- 13. There are rich and poor people in society and it is not fair, but I think that is a normal thing to happen, because if there were no poor people who would clean the street? If everyone were rich no one would do anything like cleaning the street outside. So I think the thing we could change is to be more respectful to everyone around you no matter whether they are higher class or lower class, rich or poor.
- 14. Poor people become more poor. Government should give them better welfare.

- 15. I think our pride as citizens of the country is the traditions we live out each day in our contexts. When I try to give up, I take a look around. If I look around, I can find the way to solve my problem. That means I can change tomorrow better than to day.
- 16. We have a tradition of democracy here. Tomorrow we can set the rules to judge which is justice and which is injustice.
- 17. Some holidays have history that is very meaningful to society.
- 18. There is a tradition in HK students which they think is "democracy". That is, they are against the things with which the government agrees. The young students believe that being against the government is the best way to show they are ascending and smart. It's dangerous for students to be involved in politics. They are too blundering. My idea is that education should guide them to pay more attention in checking themselves.
- 19. These days, no one follows tradition. In my opinion, up to 50% believe tradition and 50% don't. Traditional is something like the information passing from generation to generation. It is something like customs, beliefs, historical and cultural stuff. We shouldn't trust all spiritual texts. Only follow the one who leads you from the beginning and you know by heart as a follower. Tomorrow's world will be different by moving together and walking hand in hand. There is of course a better place to live in. Just heal the world together. There is a place to be together and together will be a better world. Firstly, try to be good and believe everything, everyone. Then we can change the world. If we are right there will be no one stuck in a corner and slowly all laws will be changed to good ones.
- 20. In my opinion, people become selfish and greedy. For example, ten years ago, people had Alumni Associations, they were being respectful and truthful of each other, but now, people are all comparing their clothes and bags. However, we should have more activities or advertising about how did human nature change in these several years. Secondly, we just focus on our cell phone, human cannot live without a cell phone, Why? Ten years ago, people only had those phone which only can texting and calling. I wish we could go back to that time. People face to face, on the other hand, human nature changes a lot. We need to put down our cell phone and talk with those people who are around you.
- 21. The world has no absolute fairness, this world does not treat everyone very well, but it is hard to see how to solve this problem. In our world, many are poor because they don't work hard. Some people do work hard but don't have a good life. It is not possible to have a world where all the people are rich.
- 22. We live in a world with A LOT of injustice, it comes in many forms such as corruption; (drugs (illegal), politicians, Law Society/enforcement, hackers and the rich). This affects many and lowers the overall standard of society. But still it doesn't affect people who are rich most of the time. This will only affect those who are poor. Many spiritual texts guide us to help the poor/ follow the Lord

(Jesus) because his task on coming to earth was "to help the poor". The Bible even said that everywhere we go there will be corruption but the way is to believe in God. But when all sin is gone, that day will be judgement day. For I believe in God (Christian) as well, I would say, "Try and believe in God and God will give you peace and save you from your sins." But as a normal person, I would just tell you to live decently, don't take anything for granted. Try to act good and be to other people the best person you can be.

- 23. Sometimes people are biased towards people of different orientations, judging by their race, their family, their wealth or sexual orientations. Although they do not admit it, discriminations exist all over the world. This is very unfair as most of the discriminants cannot be changed by the person himself, like race or sexuality. Therefore, it introduces injustice in society. Spiritual texts can reinforce this thinking. The Bible said that Israelites (Jewish) people are chosen by God, hence this makes them different. Other depictions of Egyptians make them look really bad and awful, hence this is also unfair. I feel that this is going to continue until someone can make everyone accept that there some people are simply different from us.
- 24. Some people are kind toward my religion while some discriminate. They should try and not discriminate against me or make me feel sad. I will definitely stick to my religion and complain about them if they keep on not respecting my religion.
- 25. SOME people think just because of our religion we are heartless and don't have feeling. Talk with them and understand them. Try not to discriminate against anyone with religious belief. They should respect my religion because I will stick to it, no matter what.
- 26. Bullying someone should not exist in the world, we can tell everyone in the world.
- 27. I think the level of their family class is unfair.
- 28. I think everybody should respect people with disabilities and people with congenital disease. The world should have equality. We have to take care of those people and respect them. We can make a team and teach people in the city to let more people realize about it.
- 29. The gap between rich and poor is not good.
- 30. I don't think there is any injustice existing in our society since injustice is likely to be punished or changed in the world.
- 31. We usually consider homosexual people as abnormal. Maybe yes, I'm not sure. It is quite hard to remove such unfair prejudices from everybody, but we could think about what it is like if we were the same as them, what it would feel like.
- 32. Some of the traditions that I think perpetuate injustice in society include the fact that there are many people in need of help whether they are in need of money or in need of help. I tend to ignore them because they have no benefits for me if I help them. I think that tomorrow would be better if more people did not ignore

- the people who are in need of help. This can be a very hard accomplishment to achieve, but I hope someday we reach this stage.
- 33. If you make a mistake or do something bad today, you cannot go back and change it, but you can reflect and make sure you do not make the same mistake tomorrow.
- 34. The greatest injustice, one that prevents us from a better tomorrow, is religion. The world would be a much better and more peaceful place without religious groups trying to press their beliefs upon others. Specifically, righteous Christians believing they need to bring their religion into every possible circumstance, and Christians that attempt to spread the word of God, which in itself, is incredibly irritating. Many injustices exist in this world because of religion and it's best not to preach about religion to the public. Therefore, without religion, or perhaps with silent Christians, tomorrow would be a much better day than today.
- 35. Racism, gender inequality, war, abuse, and poverty are some of the things that are injustices in society. Tomorrow can be different by stopping war, and people being abused. By helping people in poverty a lot more than we do would be different.
- 36. The quality of life of the rich and the poor in society is one thing that concerns me the most. However, we just don't really care about it. People just go on living their lives and only see the benefits of their own. In fact, poor people do the same; they pray to have a better life and hope to get assistance from the government or the people empowered so that they can have a better future for themselves but not others.
- 37. I believe traditions are that which is left to us, and we think it's correct till now. But there is no theory to prove whether it is correct or not, so the tradition of wrong might seem to become wrong now, therefore injustice in society might happen frequently to some people with traditional minds. As we all advocate justice, I think we should not only use spiritual text but instead scientific evidence to allocate the true meaning of justice and injustice.
- 38. My tradition of living is that I do not develop sexual interest or develop any relationship with the opposite gender until I have completely finished college or university. Because we now encourage extroverts and communication between individuals has become a lot easier than in the past, people have developed relationships between both male and female at a younger age, but the development of this relationship to eventually become husband and wife has decreased. I strongly wish for the tradition in which I practise to be fully aware. I am an unfaithful Christian but I still follow the Bible because showing compassion helps isolated people make connections and because society appears to be getting callous. Such actions can hopefully provide hope and the strength for heart-broken people to move on and continue their lives. My idea to make tomorrow a better place is to encourage people into performing basic acts of kindness and to eradicate hurtful comments. Also, I believe our society should be

- more open and less private, like using the principles of a Hivemind so that our leaders can benefit people more efficiently and we can reach technological advancement quicker.
- 39. Many times students are forced to join clubs or undertake tests that we do not need.
- 40. Visiting the church helps us to produce no stress in our daily lives and focus on our beliefs of what we want to accomplish for the coming week. This depends on which belief you believe in. Everybody has different beliefs and their beliefs can come true. The negative effects from yesterday can affect today when a person remembered the same process that happened and create the same effect for the future. Whenever a job comes up, get the job done and submit it earlier or on time throughout the same routine. Focus on one task that is happening right now and then focus on the other task later on. Visiting churches can be a good effect to society so that the world can be peaceful.
- 41. The word 'injustice' is such a broad term which can reflect on almost every part of our society. I think humanity's universal nature is hypocrisy; it does not matter whether you are ignorant or not, empathetic or not, or anything. We lie to ourselves in order to lie to others. And I think it is this disease that turns people into mere bromides, and there is no cure for it unless we truly understand each other.
- 42. Religion creates a lot of war and stereotypes such as the Paris terrorist attack from ISIS. Religion has created a world in which there is more tension. To make tomorrow different from today, we can start by convincing representatives from each individual country to start taking action and seek a conclusion on how to maintain religious freedom in the world right now.
- 43. We pray to God to wish for good life and good health. We should stand out and fight for justice instead of waiting for people to give us justice. Every day live happily. Wealth is not important.
- 44. Tomorrow can be better if we all be just, be honest to each other and be equal.
- 45. Different religion and culture among different ethnic groups provide traditions that we all live out each day in our own context, but they perpetuate injustice in society. Dissimilarity between religions could cause a conflict, or more serious happening, like a war. I think tomorrow can be different better than today by refreshing our brains and having fewer worries than today
- 46. Nowadays people are just following in the footsteps of the development of society. As society becomes more and more advanced, all human beings rely on the inventions of technology. We almost forget what we are as our minds became increasingly sophisticated and we lose sight of our unjust world. Human beings almost forget the spiritual world and compassion. What we need to do is consider how to contribute to society to make life wonderful. We should always reflect on what we do. We can always live our life brilliant and be a wise person.

- 47. All groups of people have their own beliefs which provide the way that people think about the world. However different religions cause issues like war and massive attacks and also tensions over a religion's home land. One of the biggest problems is the spiritual text that "believers" might not even understand what is in their Muslim text, for example. They may not understand and they would just listen to whatever the headmaster said. Another example is the Bible, we don't know if there are changes when they translate text did the translator eliminate any points that the church doesn't want. So I would say it is cannot be trusted 100%. The world wouldn't just turn into exactly what you wanted it to be, life is still hard.
- 48. People are just concerned about technology for more and more inventions, so they completely ignore our spiritual world.
- 49. Wealth inequality and the Social class injustice.
- 50. Women and Men work in the same jobs but Women get less money and Men get more. Give the poor people money so they can eat and have a good health and life.
- 51. Some people have money and riches but some people are homeless. I think rich people should donate a bit of their money and give it to homeless people.
- 52. I think having strong people and weak people is unfair. The Bodsham lets me know why we need to work hard. I should work hard then tomorrow will be better
- 53. Women can't do some jobs but men can do any jobs they want so this is unfair. We should accept all people as equals and make the world free.

Students from the Philippines (Primary and grade 6-8)

Primary Schoolchildren (through grade 5), 9 boys, 18 girls

- 1. Go to church every day with my family and pray in the church. My family loves me always.
- 2. Pray in the church and listen to the pastor to learn a mass.
- 3. Always pray to God, listen to mummy, daddy and teacher and do fun activities that are not bad, not too far and not offensive to other people.
- 4. My idea is to pray and make my morning happy and better. I will do different things that I can't do. I will be brave on what things I am going to do. I will think before I do my choices I am going to do.
- 5. Tomorrow can be better if we do the right thing for our country and do our best for our country to be better. We should pick the right person to handle our country for a better future with our family and friends. Think about the better things life would give, we should think about the positive side more than the negative one. Then we will have a better tomorrow and a better future.
- 6. All of us should be more responsible and make everything possible and positive, rather than doing some actions that aren't nice or making something bad. We can share each other's opinions and understand each other and make everything possible. And also we can help to make our country better, and also our whole world, that we can be a better person and improve our community that we live in.
- 7. My ideas are: I wish that tomorrow I will have a room full of things that I didn't have before. I wish that my parents and my brother will never shout. I wish that I will never be hungry. I wish that everyday God will always guide me everywhere I go.
- 8. Each day has many different happenings; in each day, sometimes you get lucky but sometimes not. Many people commit sins but some do not. When some people go to church, they pray and get blessed. People get luck when they have faith in God and praise Him. When children are born, they are supposed to get baptized in holy water to get away on sins. Some people get baptized when they get older.
- 9. My ideas for tomorrow will be different because God will guide every day. He also knows what will happen tomorrow.

Grades 6-8 Students, 10 boys, 9 girls

- 1. I am a child with a heart to help some people that I have to. God please protect us from dangerous things and persons and please always keep us safe going home from work.
- 2. For me, living in the ways of the past may affect the future. It's better to reach the future having the same traditions than reaching the future without the history of its own. Honestly, in the Philippines having justice is slightly slow because of many cases that have not yet been investigated. Just a unity from each other can help us to be better than today.
- 3. My ideas for how tomorrow can be better than today is to start opening up, not judging people by how they look, or not judge at all but start helping out the poor side by side, listening to the laws that you know that can help you through life, starting to take care of our surroundings including animals, trying to lessen crime in the world, trying to lessen pollution and respect, understand and help each other in different ways and have peace.
- 4. I'm going to be better behaved than today and I will give my teachers a perfect score.
- 5. My ideas for how tomorrow can be different, if people believe in themselves they can do things better and they can encourage each other to help the country and solve their problems clearly so our tomorrow can be better.
- 6. Tomorrow is better than today because you don't know what's coming for you. Maybe some blessing will come to you and you'll never know what can happen to you.
- 7. I will try my best to encourage our citizens to think before we act. We must think fast and wisely if the action or the act that we are going to do will help other people or will make it bad for them. If a person will ask me why is this my idea? It's because my mother used to tell me that you must think about ten times to know if are you doing it for a good or bad purpose.
- 8. Some people may help to find justice while some do not. Of course yes because they can provide us with information regarding those justice.
- 9. People still kill each other even though there are laws that prohibit hurting other people. There are even people killing many people, even 20. They get killed or persecuted and even humiliated in front of a bunch of people. They kill because they have problems, they steal to eat. If no one were hungry, then no one would do bad things to harm people.
- 10. Many people feel that their grandmothers and grandfathers lived with superstition and many corrupt governments. In the villages, many individuals, such as the poor, are in need of assistance, so people turn to politicians to help,

- but over time I have seen villages without justice. If I have the idea of changing the world I would focus on trust and cooperation with each other for modern life.
- 11. A number of people in this world are confused because of our beliefs and all the laws we must obey so some people will not obey other laws. We choose the president to stop corruption but also there are many corrupt presidents.
- 12. Our life nowadays is quite better than before, we can change our nation if we like, we can make it even better if we like to improve ourselves.
- 13. Each day, people face a different kind of sin, like killing and commonly stealing. Some people don't get justice for the sin they experienced. Saying the truth is a guide. We always hear the saying, "Honesty is the best Policy," which is true. In everything we do, we must always remember to be honest not just to other people but also to ourselves. I have no idea if tomorrow will change, if the people that God created will change and realize everything. People are so blinded by some things that they never realize what is really not important in this world I'm talking about money. Tomorrow will change IF the people will change.
- 14. We live in this world for decades. Not just cultures are passed on, even history and social life are passed on. We humans have different types of manners and conduct. We are now living on an unjust planet. The best example is the rich people and the poor people. While the rich are spending their money for nonsense, the same time the poor people are suffering. Religion is one of the things that separates us humans from each other. Injustice has taken place because of religion. For example, the Christians are destroying Syria. Pride was lifted and humanity was gone. Have faith and remember we are all serving just one God. Justice will take place.
- 15. We have traditions that we follow as Filipinos, similar to rituals. There are laws. We must obey the law, but what if it is contrary to our people? Do we need to follow it?
- 16. To have a tomorrow that is different from today, we should be doing the specific thing we do in our everyday lives now, but doing it more right than we did it in the past.
- 17. There are many traditions we live out each day in our contexts. They are like printing, writing and many more. Spiritual texts can guide us in understanding how these injustices can exist in the world.
- 18. Upon reflection, things we live out each day may perpetuate injustice in our society. Maybe we should provide advocates for justice. I just do what I can to change my world to be happy every day and make my beautiful day every day and always.

Evangelisches Firstwald-Gymnasium Mössingen, Germany – Grade 10

Church:

- 1. We welcome the fact that in Germany no one will be judged or valued on the basis of religion and everyone is free to represent and to live his or her faith.
- 2. We welcome that the church keeps its doors open, even if somebody is not a church member.
- 3. We protest against the marriage-restrictions for homosexuals and Catholic priests as this interdiction deprives the lovers of the blessing.
- 4. Church can give support but also lead into the absolutely wrong direction. For example, sects convince emotionally weak poeple by manipulated means and cast their spell over them.
- 5. We demand more current references in the sermons.
- 6. We call for more modern elements of worship including for example more modern songs.
- 7. Each community should have a youth worker as they can better empathize with young people. They can accompany and support children and young people in difficult situations.

School:

- 1. We criticize the school that we learn a lot of challenging and demanding items, but that we can use only a little for our later working life. It would be more practical to learn how to complete a tax declaration or to what you have to pay attention regarding contracts.
- 2. We would like to annul the conversion from nine to eight years of Secondary school, as learning has become much more stressful because we have to learn the same or even more content in less time. We have to work a lot for the school in our free time and do not have time for social aspects.
- 3. As the working and professional world is demanding more and more skills in media and technology, it would be practical to learn how to correctly deal with useful computer programs, because we can use this very well, also privately.
- 4. Due to the globalized world there are also here in Germany more and more people of other religions. It would be good if either the appropriate religious education would be offered for these students or ethics lessons for all. People would become more open minded and would understand other cultures in a better way.

World:

- 1. We protest against the exploitation of developing countries and demand justice. It is not right that countries benefit from the poverty of other countries.
- 2. We call for world peace and active cooperation of all countries. All countries should resolve their problems by political means, without war.
- 3. We demand that all countries should receive war refugees and that the responsibility can not only be loaden on few countries.
- 4. We are also concerned that the reporting of the media might not always be done in a truthful and objective way and that we could get a false or distorted image of other countries and cultures.
- 5. We protest against all forms of cruelty to animals and demand that animals get more rights worldwide, especially regarding factory farming and animal testing.
- 6. We demand that all countries do participate in the World Climate Summit, that they make meaningful agreements and also comply with them.
- 7. We call for responsible use of groundwater.
- 8. We call for universal human rights worldwide.
- 9. We demand better and more just social and health systems as well as, finally, complete equality between men and women in all sectors of society.
- 10. We protest against genetic engineering and deforestation in developing countries.

Lutheran Academy in Martin/Slovakia

Civil society

We wish...

- 1. That our country would rid itself from all forms of discrimination.
- 2. That our country would be more tolerating and open toward foreigners, including legal and illegal refugees from other countries.
- 3. That our country would care more extensively about its natural beauty and cultural heritage.
- 4. That people in our country would be in general nicer and more positive toward each other; as for example by greeting each other more openly and heartily.

School system

We wish...

- 5. That that the school system would not focus on memorization and sheer facts, rather that all study materials would be practically applied and collectively discussed.
- 6. That the students are allowed the freedom to freely express their opinions and attitudes; without being judged or discriminated by their teacher. Also that the students will have the freedom to express themselves without limitations and consequences in the way they dress and have their appearance.
- 7. That the teachers in our schools would be granted the opportunity and also that it would be mandatory for them to continually upgrade their professional education.
- 8. That the teachers of our schools would get more decent salaries in order for them to be more professional and offer the students more quality teaching time and focus solely on their academic profession.
- 9. That the educational process would be more interactive, fun and enjoyable.

Church and Christianity

We wish...

10. That certain individuals would not intrude the privacy of others by trying to talk them into switching other person's beliefs.

Freies Gymnasium Bern, Switzerland

- 1. In our school system it should be required that every student should be confronted with foreign cultures and religions which are strange to her or him.
- 2. The exchange with other religious groups is necessary to form a better world with less misunderstanding.
- 3. Despite its Christian roots a good school has to be open to other religious world-views.
- 4. A better world is based on acceptance, tolerance and respect.
- 5. A good school should invest into the discussion of religion and how to apply its values in everyday life.
- 6. A good school provides an insight into different religions, so that students and teachers can become aware of the diversity of cultures and learn to respect them.
- 7. If the individual person would know more about any religion, one could better empathize with people who think differently and disputes could be avoided.
- 8. It is important that you know your own religion and that you integrate religion into life. But you should still be open for other cultures.

Northwest Christian Schools, USA - grade 5

WE PROTEST...

- 1. That some Christians are put in prison for their faith.
- 2. The terrorist group ISIS.
- 3. That people are destroying the world that God made by being careless.
- 4. That people are destroying themselves (drugs & alcohol) and each other (war and murder).
- 5. That there would be less shooting in America, especially school shootings.
- 6. That innocent civilians are killed sometimes.
- 7. The killing of unborn babies who have the right to live, even though they are made in God's image.
- 8. That there are orphans in the world who are not adopted.
- 9. How many children in America are getting spoiled.
- 10. That there are not enough foster parents for children who need a home.
- 11. People who are boastful and full of themselves.
- 12. Our American worship of immoral celebrities.
- 13. Inappropriate language and actions.
- 14. Inappropriate clothing.
- 15. Too many bad words in Hollywood movies and TV.
- 16. That people do not go to church very often.
- 17. How many churches don't teach the truth of God's Word.
- 18. That some people around the world do not have clean water close to home.
- 19. How many people are homeless.
- 20. When people who are not poor act as if they are poor to get money.
- 21. How hard it is to find honesty, because of "fakers" or hypocrites.
- 22. That there is still racism against non-white people.
- 23. Communism, which takes away freedom of religion.
- 24. Government when it promotes separation from God.
- 25. Politicians who run for president who are not a good example for us.
- 26. Stealing from others.
- 27. The belief in atheistic evolutionism to explain how the world began.

- 28. The belief that there are many gods.
- 29. The poaching of animals on public or private land.
- 30. That our city is not very clean.
- 31. That we don't have enough organic farms.
- 32. Bad sportsmanship in sport competitions.

Students from the schools of the "Rede Sinodal", Brazil (grade 6-9)

- 1. We protest against child labor, inequality, corruption and inhumanity. We want a better world!
- 2. I hope for a better future that people will see what's happening around them, that they will keep their eyes wide open, that they will watch and think about politics, that they will think about poverty and about those suffering and that they will always have faith and hope. We should all be aware that without our own contribution the world will not change.
- 3. Nowadays, money has a great impact. Some people believe that it is more important than one's own family and that generates corruption. So we protest against greed.
- 4. AN IDEAL WORLD IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE ANY PREJUDICE. IT IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LIVE IN HARMONY AND RESPECT ONE ANOTHER.
- 5. The world would be a better place if people learned how to appreciate those simple things that can turn an awful day into a wonderful one.
- 6. We protest against the fact that there are in society a lot of social inequality, discrimination against women and others. To improve the situation we believe that there must be a greater awareness of this which schould start with the education at home and at school.
- 7. We are protesting not only against the great current issues such as war, corruption and environmental problems but also against the small problems, because we need to improve concerning the little things in everyday life.
- 8. We stand for a world where the norm "to be born, to learn, to work, to retire and to die" does not exist. We need openness and new ideas for our lifestyles and occupations, new thoughts. We can experience the unbelievable.
- 9. As long as the greed speaks louder, our planet will continue to die until there is nothing left; then they will discover that they can not eat money.
- 10. When we look around, no matter where we are, we can see that there are noticeable differences. Physical qualities can differ drastically from one to another; they may vary or may be almost the same. People are like that. When I walk through the streets or even in the corridor of the school, I can see that people have different personalities, different tastes, different feelings, even if they are twins. These differences can sometimes lead to the fact that people join or against each other. As society we have to fight against this. No matter what differences there are, whether social, ethnic, racial or cultural if it is our desire to live for others with respect and if harmony and peace are greater than these differences, then it is possible to get a better world: a world where everyone can

live well for him/herself and with other people without having to worry to be well accepted. It is our duty that everyone exerts him/herself to respect the opinions and differences of colleagues, friends or even people we do not know. We value respect, education and ethics in our relationships.

Bernardo, Augusto (Colégio Evangélico Augusto Pestana), Djussy (Colégio Gaspar Silveira Martins), Laura Weber, Gabryele Gerhardt (Colégio Martin Luther), Ana Carolina Steyer, Caroline Scherer Thiessen, Tainara Pedroso Campos (Colégio Sinodal da Paz), Sabrina Marschalek Nascimento (Escola Barão do Rio Branco), Júlia Blume, Ana Júlia Cassol, Ana Luísa Dal Forno, Brenda Luisa Buttinger Rodrigues e Moors Júlia flower (SETREM), Rafael Klaus Pilz, Arthur Tonial, Carlos Westermann, Ana Bagatini, GabrielaDias, Ingrid Knewitz, Isabella da Rosa (Colégio Sinodal), Juliano Graeff (Instituto de Educação Ivoti), Eloísa Della Senta Pinzon (Colégio Sinodal Rui Barbosa)