

THE SAD EXPERIENCE OF A PARENT

There is a story told of a scene that took place in a school around the countryside in Ghana. There was a man walking around a school and he saw a teacher caning some students who happened to be late from break. He walked to the teacher and enquired:

Man: Sir, what is the matter with your children?

Teacher: They are late from break.

Man: Couldn't you have found any other punishment other than hitting them with that stick?

The teacher felt a little reluctant and embarrassed by the stranger's question. While he was still looking at the man, he realized that, he was the one who sat near him in Church the last Sunday.

The stranger took some steps backward while the teacher stood by and let the students filed past him into their various classes. The teacher saw the stranger write something on a piece of paper, which he handed over to him. While he was reading the man walked away.

This is what he wrote: "Last year around this time, my son went to school like all other days. While in the office, I had a call that he had been rushed to the hospital and I had to leave everything I was doing to rush to the place. To my surprise, I was told he had his eye injured through an accident that occurred in the school. The cane of a teacher accidentally landed on his eye while the teacher was caning another student.

I couldn't make it to the hospital in time to meet him. By the time I got there, he had already been rushed to the theatre. After the long hours that passed, the doctors came and gave me the unexpected news 'he couldn't make it, the pain was so much and he lost so much blood'.

He was my only son. Only God knows when I would meet him again. I would have no child to welcome me when I go home from work. The teacher would always have his children waiting to welcome him.

If you would care to listen to me, I would say, spare the rod and guide the children. That is what they need.

If it were you, what would you have done?"

I met a young lady who was a victim of a similar incident. Today she is having an artificial eye. Can anybody fancy the agony she is going through? She just completed the SHS. It is very difficult for her to explain over and over to her friends what happened to her just to stop them from teasing her. Any time she has to do this; the memories of those painful days come back. She had always wished it never happened, but it did. She had always wished nobody notices this, but they do. She had always wished she would not have to repeat this story over and over, but she has to.

Is there any law in this country protecting our innocent children against such injuries? When it happens, what are parents and their children have to do? How far does it go? What are always the outcomes?

These things are happening everyday in our schools. Innocent children are being hurt both physically, psychologically and emotionally. Not only are parents and children victims of the psychological effect of these attitudes of our teachers, but the teachers themselves too. No serious minded teacher would intentionally hurt a child, and when this happens, it becomes a traumatic experience for the teacher. He lives not to forget the incident. The child and the parents also live never to forget the name of that particular teacher. Wherever the story is told, the teacher's name is also mentioned.

This could be avoided if we could for once admit that children are human being and they could be educated without the use of violence as it is being done in the so called international schools in this country. unfortunately it is always the children of those who cannot afford to send their children to those schools who are being legally abused in the name of discipline.

IF IT WERE YOU WHAT WOULD YOU DO AS A PARENT