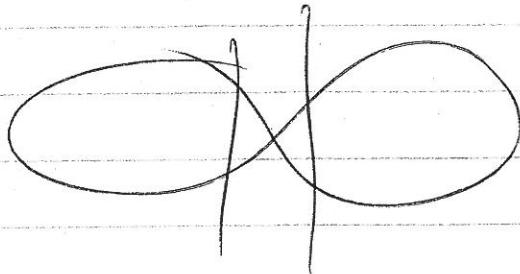


To all whom shall inherit the future.

The world is a huge place. Let your minds become one with understanding. Many things can occur; and time is bound by no structure. The days upon this planet, has caused the growth of a useful resource called "knowledge". To seek such knowledge comes with a great cost. Many have failed in the attempt to obtain true knowledge. The true accomplishments of life requires the true knowledge contained within this planet. My objective to you, is the comfort of success. If any shall seek to correspond or further their enlightenment, Send me a message. Please beware of misinterpretation along the path of success. This letter has been caused by the "Almighty", this is also fashioned for the heart. Do not give more than desired from within the heart. And always let righteousness be your guide.



No Three Strikes For Our Children

Our children are in the midst of being mislead, misunderstood, mistreated, and uneducated. With that said, I will address issues that concern children all across the world, but most in my great state of Mississippi. As a daughter, mother and grandmother, its time I take a stand and address issues that we believe in: (1) Injustice (2) Education (3) Obesity (4) Economy.

We as parents must get involved in our children's lives daily by communicating with them. Asking the important questions such as: How's your day? Who are your friends? Do they go to school? Who are their parent? Are you in a gang? Are you or your friend doing drugs? Are you or your friend bullying anyone or being bullied? Where's your homework?

Ask the questions and demand a straight answer. Showing your involvement will let your child know that "I'm here if you need me and I care." Give them hugs, kisses, and words of encouragement to do their very best at all they do.

I was once told by a vocational teacher, Ms. Jackie Smith, that we as black women in prison, already have three strikes against us. She looked around the classroom filled with twenty black convicted women studying for their GED and she said "you ladies already have three strikes against you: (1) you're black (2) you're in prison (3) you're uneducated."

~~The next part~~ ~~These words~~ changed my life forever and for

No one said it would be easy. That's why we must apply ourselves or even ask for a helping hand. 'A closed mouth doesn't get fed.'

If a friend ask you to participate in any of the above; perhaps you need new friends or just say, "if you're really my friend you wouldn't be asking me to do wrong or offer harmful things to me that could take my life or jeopardize my future."

It's important to stay focused on school and surround yourself with positive people whose dream are similar to yours. You can join extracurricular is filled with productive thoughts less time for you to be idle with useless matters.

Never allow anyone to tell you that doing what's "right" is wrong. Never feel bad or ashamed about doing what's "right." Always remember doing right, you will never strike-out.

Become a positive part of your community by getting involved and giving back. You can do it. We can do it, one child at a time.

We are screaming all across the world
‘No Three Strikes For Our Children’

By Jerri Lynn Coleman
Native of Columbia, Mississippi

Our Time is Now by Jerri Lynn Coleman

29.2011

To our black youth and men of essence, who call themselves men with character and integrity. I am calling you out to stand-out to take a stand; to stand for something. What will you 'something' be? Whatever it may be allow yourself to empower, enhance and impact someone's life for the better-good. You can start with your own children.

Your influence could cause a young man to want a better life for himself; to feel like he can achieve and succeed his dreams and goals. Your time could show that they are worthy to be with and around. Your presence alone could speak volumes to a child who feels unloved, unworthy or misunderstood.

Your words could make a difference between life or death for someone who is on the verge of suicide. You may even impact some young person, who is looking for a better way out of their current situation, and is thinking about quitting school to sell drugs or live a life of criminal activities.

Star Jones once said something that we all could use when we are feeling down and out or are simply ready to give-up. This is what she said, "If you can look up. You can ~~get~~ get up and if you can get up. You can learn to walk again." That is so true.

It is time for us as a nation of strong men and women to stand up and take a stand for what is right. Do not be afraid of responsibility and challenge. Trouble does not last always. If you dare to be different you can make a difference.

I still believe it takes a village to help raise, teach, encourage, inspire~~s~~ and build our children up - Their future outcome is in our hands. This generation as well as the next generation to come is counting and depending on us. Your children will hold you accountable. If you do not take the time to show your children what is right from wrong or how to carry themselves like young men and women. There are people in this world, who will be willing to show them all the negative things this world has to offer. Therefore take a stand in your child's life.

Our youth ages fifteen ~~to~~ ^{and} thirty has poured into ~~the~~ prison system; flooding its compounds like it's a college campus. Something is wrong with this picture. Black men, it's your time to change these prison population percentages by being in your child's life. The time is now to get involved in your children's lives. Get connected and watch your child grow into healthy and productive young men and women. Give them a positive lifestyle and behavior to pass down to their own generations to come.

Our Time Is Now . . .

- To start spending quality time with your children
- Respect your child's mother (for your child's sake)
- Be your own child's hero and role model
- Know where your child whereabouts
- Know who they are spending time with
- Do not just send your child to church (go with them)
- Have that man to man talk (keep it real)
- Go to Parent - Teacher meetings
- Ask how things is going at school, at home and with their friends.

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