

THE LAST BREATH

The sound of a roaring engine draws you to your window. You see a car shoving cars into their final resting places. The beastly car suddenly halts, as if it never had the menacing motor roaring beneath the hood. Dark colored lines appear on the road, foreshadowing the occasion. An ear shattering sound rampages through the streets, rumbling the windows that lie in its path. Smoking shells plunge simultaneously with the corpse of a teenage male onto the unforgiving cement. The car races toward the horizon. Revealing a hysterical mother behind a dim white smoke screen; waiting to see if he takes his last breath. Now it's relevant to you that violence is all around you.

What have we done to cause the citizens of the United States to act so senseless toward their fellow man? Man has become desensitized. Now we think that right is wrong and wrong is right. This mind set all started in the home. All throughout their days as a child, their parents may have been physically or verbally abusive, someone murdered a very close person in their lives, or their parents made them feel invisible. These discouraging thoughts caused rage in their soul, but with no outlet. How can they release their feelings, without hurting anyone? They can't. Day after day passes. The kid starts to get in trouble for doing little things. As they age, these little mishaps turn into misdemeanors. They become more defiant, and at a drop of a hat they're ready to fight. Once the parents try to discipline them, their anger level escalates. They start doing erratic actions. They get kicked out of their house. Nowhere to go, homeless, and without money, what happens now? People want to help them, but they refuse their help. Family try to take them in, but they end up getting kicked out for doing the same thing over. Now the child's anger level is off the charts. They need to take a breath.

The psychological definition of habit is an automatic reaction to a specific situation. Anger can develop into a bad habit, that's hard to give up. The feeling of rage is an action or pattern of behavior that is repeated so often that it becomes typical of somebody, although he or she may be unaware of it. The rage continues to intensify. They try to release it by causing harm to someone or something. One way is causing fear in others. Another way is by robbery of corner stores, homes, and even people walking the street. The petty robberies here and there, turn into a regular occasion, During a robbery, a bystander catches a glimpse of their face. The bystander turns them in to the police, placing their life in grave danger. The name of the witness gets back to the offender. Unfortunately, the witness, possibly a young man, lives down the block from the offender. Just as the rage level in the offender starts to deflate, it tops out again. The offender buys a weapon that can turn any peaceful day into a catastrophic downfall. A life has now been taken by a person that could have been turned around. All because of someone who didn't care for themselves and no one else cared.

People can change. A person can keep someone from jumping off the Empire State building. We can all take that Saturday, which we devote to rest and relaxation, and focus on a person with an unstable mind. Not everyone can help themselves. Let's go to a mental health facility, and put that person in God's hands, because he is the person that is all powerful. We can join in with that program at church, that you've been meaning to join, such as "Project Turn Around" at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. Join in with the schools and get the at-risk children feeling better about them self. Take the time to talk to that child that sits by them self at lunch. It all starts with us. You could be that one person that makes a difference.

What can be done to prevent the 22,219,754 crimes in the United States (according to 2008 statistics)? People are carelessly doing things out of stupidity. At least one crime can be avoided by the parents being involved while the child is growing up. Use positive words such as, “great job,” or “its okay, you’ll get it next time.” If they won’t do it, you can. All it takes is one word, Jesus. A life can be changed in an instant. Once you get trapped in violence, it's hard to break free. But, the temptation is all around. It's sad that one in every 2,000 person’s last breath will be taken by a murder. Will that person be you? Think about it.

Jeremy Taulton