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Personal Essay

Addiction to alcohol spreading across the world

I travel to many new places and meet new people everywhere during my travels. Throughout my journey, I learn and experience things that feel about the world we live on today. Through my view of this world is that there are good things; charity, creativity, and enthusiasm, and there are bad things; bullying, disastrous fires, and shooting. But the worst thing that ever existed in our world is alcohol. Alcohol has been a dangerous thing because it causes strange and very awkward behavior to anyone who drinks it. Not only that, when drinking too much alcohol people can get sick and vomit in that process. I have been traveling to various places and came across a variety of stores such as Target, Walmart, Food Lion, and Harris Teeters. In those stores, I have seen beverage such as beer and wine being sold in stores. In some restaurant like Texas Roadhouse and Chili's, I dined in those restaurants and found servicers giving alcohol beverage such as a margarita or liquor to customers. That makes me curious about why people are enjoying alcohol despite how dangerous alcohol to people. What made people so addicted to alcohol without realizing the consequences of drinking alcoholic beverages?

When I was a child, I lived in a Christian house that believes in the words of the lord and a future savior to this world. In my bible study class, I learned and concluded that the creation of alcohol is from the devil, Satan. At first, I had no idea at all about drinking and that they represent the devil. What I learned from my bible study mentor is that God's displeased alcohol

that causes adverse effects to a person's life. According to the Old Testament; *Corinthians 1 6:10*, "those who are drunk are unrighteous and will not inherit in the Kingdom of God." I think it means that anyone who drinks alcohol is not welcome to the Kingdom of God. In society, I see people having fun drinking. People think its good for our health. However, according to the *Proverbs 20: 1*, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; whosoever deceive thereby is not wise." It means that the devil deceived people by drinking alcohol. In *Isaiah 5: 11-22*, "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continues until night." I believe that a person drinks strong wine; they continue to get a drink of wine every night. After hearing about this, I asked my Bible study mentor why does God believe Satan created alcohol? My Bible study mentor told me that Satan loved people when they were drinking and getting high. Satan wants people to let their off guard and hallucinate making alcohol to become a stronghold in your life. My mentor mention in the Bible that in *Ephesians 6:11-12*, "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." What it meant for me is as long as I have God's protection, I can stand against the wickedness of this world. At the end of the Bible study, I swore in the name of the Lord of God, that I would become clean and fresh within my flesh and bone from any influence on the devil's work or I shall become a fool of myself as a drinker and my faith to the devil. That oath does not matter to me because I'm a good child that does not get involved in these types of things that are extremely bad and wrong. Also, I lived my childhood life without any worries about the influence of alcohol.

After a few years, I was in high school at Albemarle High School in Charlottesville Virginia. During my freshman year in high school, I was planning on going to my first homecoming dance at my school, but to go, I needed to fill out a permission form to get in with my mom's permission. To me, it was kind of strange why would we need to get permission from our parents to get into the homecoming dance. Back in my middle school year, we paid for the tickets to the dance instead of a permission form to get in. Moreover, so I took one of the permission forms and read through it, then I found something about probation of alcohol in presents on the school's ground or inside the school will be sentenced to the school's office. That got me thinking a lot more about drinking alcohol than I heard from my time in Bible study. After a few weeks, on the night right before my first homecoming dance, I was ready to go for the homecoming dance until my mom and grandma trying to tell me something. They told me never to join a group gang to drink with them outside of school grounds. I said a thousand times I'm okay and I will not do these things at the homecoming dance. At the dance, I was having the best time of my life and safely went home without any worries. I still think that this whole alcohol is a bit too much for me to understand why people so concerned about alcohol.

In my junior year at my high school, I was doing what I do best, learning in my classes until an announcement saying that all junior and senior students must report to the auditorium at lunchtime. I did not know what was this about, but I had a feeling it was something with prom coming next week. In the auditorium hall, I took my seat and waited until something happened with a big crowd of students talking. Then the lights turned off, everyone became silent and then a female came up to the stage and spoke about our time here at Albemarle High School. She explained why she came here to Albemarle to talk about prom. She told all of us that we needed

to be very cautious in the upcoming prom next week. The women told us about her son; he once was Albemarle High School in 2006 and was a gifted lacrosse athlete. Her son had loads of friends, a girlfriend, and a sister who looked after him. The women told us a true story about his son, and I was starting to get more interested in hearing the story. In the upcoming week before prom, the women and her daughter purchased everything her son needed for the night of the prom such as a tux, tie, and professional shoe all ready to go. Then on the night before prom weekend, her son was hanging around with his friend, and she made sure that he got his cellphone with him if he needed anything. So he left on his own with his friends, and then after a few hours, she said that there was breaking news reporting that a car crashes into the road. She called his cell phone but he didn't respond to her calls. She asked her daughter to call his cell phone over and yet he did not return to his cell phone. She started to believe that something happened to her son that she doubted that it had something to do with the car crash on the news. Then, a group of police cars and her sons came in front of their house, and the police officer asked her, "Are you his mother?" She replied, "Yes..." The police said, "Mamm, I am sorry." After hearing him saying sorry to her, she kept denying something terrible happening to her son, and she said, "No, no, that impossible we got him a tuxedo and everything for prom, he about graduated high school with his diploma." The police kept saying to her, "Mamm, I am sorry." The woman son's friend came to the house and put his hand into her with both knees on the ground and say, "I am sorry, I am truly, truly sorry." After hearing his voice, she could not deny it anymore with her and her daughter bursting to tears; her son died during the car crash reporting on the news. She told us that instead of her and her daughter buying to get ready him for prom, they are buying flowers for his funeral. She said that her son will never have a chance

to play lacrosse again, no chance to go to college, and zero chances of walking across the stage with his high school diploma in his hand. She told us the shocking truth of why her son was in a car crash, is because her son and his friends were drunk. That story was one of the most tragic accident stories that I ever heard especially for a high schooler that is too young to drink alcohol and died because of it. After hearing this story again in my senior year at high school, now I know that alcohol is too dangerous to anyone who plans on driving. It was so sad that she did so much for her son, all that stuff they expect to get him ready for prom, he then died in an unexpected accident.

At the end of my senior year in high school, was doing news articles research in my U.S Government class. In our class, we search for criminal justice cases that happened in the past to study the Supreme Court of the Judicial Branch. I was searching for criminal investigation cases online and founded an interesting criminal story about a 42-year-old women name Karen Walsh who murders an innocent 81-year-old women name Maire Rankin [1]. I look up looked up the background information about Karen Walsh and finding out why she kills a senior woman, Maire Rankin. According to the *BCC news article*, in Northern Ireland 2008, Karen Walsh ran a great pharmaceutical business and lives with her lovely husband and a two-year-old son [2]. However, Karen doesn't seem satisfied as wife and mother and becoming more distant as being a parent. During her times outside of her home, she visits her neighbor, Maire Rankin. Karen came to her and gave her a present is a 32-ounce alcohol bottle that comes straight out of Karen's purse. That shocks me the most about Karen is that why in the world was she thinking of taking out a sizeable alcoholic bottle and give it to an innocent elder woman as a present, that insane. Maire was very suspicious about Karen's behavior like somethings drawing into her giving

Maire a large bottle of alcohol. According to *Irish news*, Karen had recently visited Maire's house several times and bringing a bottle of alcohol with her for a drink [2]. I asked myself about Karen situation, does she want to have a drink with that senior woman or she doesn't want anyone she knows that she's a drinker? It said in the article, Karen conceal her addiction to alcohol for the past few years and becoming more stressed as she keeps drinking alcohol [3]. Not only that, Karen uses Maire's home as a safe place for her to drink. It almost like she was just using Maire for granted and using her own home as drinking paradise is unthinkable. If I was a drinker, I instead go to a real bar and talk to people who drink alcohol because drinking with a non-drinker makes them weird and disturbing at the same time. In Christmas Eve evening, Karen wasn't ready for Christmas and realizes that she hasn't bought a single present for her child [2]. During the night of Christmas Eve, Karen revisits her neighbor Maire with her bottle of alcohol. At Maire's home, Karen wakes up Maire when she was sleeping and ask Karen why she here in her home [2]. Maire asks Karen to leave out of her own home and tells Karen that she should be home with her family. However, Karen ignores her and continues drinking in her bed [2]. Marie politely kept telling her to leave. Anger and highly intoxicated, Karen grabs the crucifix that was on Marie's house wall and beats Maire with the crucifix in her hand, cracks 15 of Marie's ribs, and kills her [3]. In the morning of Christmas morning, Karen woke up in Maire's home, out of her drunken mishap, and found her brutally dead on the floor [3]. Overly panicking, Karen tries to contact her husband but could not reach him due to her stress, so she rushes back to her home and pretends nothing happens [3]. As time passed, the police investigated Maire's house and found her phone near her bedroom [3]. The police found her phone record at the time of Christmas morning when Karen tries to call her husband's phone [3]. The police also found a

bottle of alcohol that was in Maire's home, making Karen a suspect of the murder [3]. In 2011, Karen Walsh was found guilty and sentenced 20 years in prison [3]. Hearing the rest of her criminal story, I think in my mind about why I am not too fond of alcohol so very much. Alcohol can change a person's normal life into a life of crime.

After hearing things from people and local news reports, I realize why people are so addicted to alcohol. Either they want to have some laugh with other people or to get rid of their bad mood such as sad or angry. Still, I think that alcohol is a dangerous bad influence on people, especially in society. Alcohol should never exist and should never be allowed into stores if people drink too much alcohol, who knows what kinds of consequences that can happen to you and the people around you.

Sources

1. "Marie Rankin." *Murder in the UK*. 1994-2016
2. "Karen Walsh - Entrepreneur, Socialite, Mother, Murderer." *The Irish News*, 25 June 2015.
3. "Convicted Killer Karen Walsh Appeals Pensioner Murder." *BBC News*, BBC, 25 Feb. 2015.