

# THE TEENACHIEVER

A Quarterly Publication of

Teens Going for Gold Network.  
2018 First Quarter

Iwalewa

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Who Are Your  
Friends?

Interview With  
Sophie Obomighie

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Dream & Be!

## FROM MISS PEE'S DESK



Hello sweethearts and welcome to 2018! I hope you it has been a great year so far.

I present to you the the First Quarter Edition of 2018 tagged Dream and Be! This edition is laced with so much inspiration and fun to help you make this year all you were hoping it would be when you screamed "Happy New Year".

This Quarter's Teenspiration is Sophie Obomighie, a teenage computer programmer and bio-medical student in the University of Benin, Nigeria. Sophie's interview will take you on her journey to seeking relevance

beyond the classroom and I am certain you will learn a couple of things that can be of help to you too. Iwalewa, a letter to a teenage girl, and other articles will make this a great read.

As the year unfolds, remember that every greatness you see or encounter today started with a dream. Yes! A dream. So, do not be afraid to dream big. Dream, take daily steps (no matter how little or seemingly insignificant) towards achieving your dreams and then watch your greatness unfold!

Dream and Be! Enjoy your reading!

# TEENSPARATION

Interview with Sophie Obomighie - A Software Developer and Biomedical Student

### Can we meet Sophie Obomighie?

I am Sophie Obomighie the first child of three children, an 18 years old biomedical science student majoring in human anatomy and in my 3rd year now. I am also a software developer.

### What inspired you to explore opportunities beyond the traditional classroom education?

I attended Trinity Foundation primary school where we went on excursions at least once in a term and where there was an abundant availability of extra-curriculars to engage in like ballet dancing, swimming classes, Taekwondo etc. We were also taught using the Montessori method. So I'll say that was my first exposure to non-traditional classroom education. I've also come to realise that the more exposure you get; the more sense your course of study will make. I have a passion for anything that has to do with technology but I didn't want to study computer science because I didn't think I could have a career with that so I opted for the medical line. After such little time, I've realised I could actually integrate these 2 disparate fields. So traditional classroom education is important but more relevant when there is more insight into it which can best be gotten by exploring opportunities and engaging in extracurricular activities especially that which you have passion in. You actually can't find your passion if you don't explore things you find yourself loving.

### And has it been worth it so far?

More than you can imagine. I have been able to discover my passion even at this young age and confidently pursue a long

term plan with laser focus.

### While preparing for this interview, you were described by a website as a "tech enthusiast", how did your journey into the world of technology begin?

While growing up, my dad always rewarded our academic excellence, In primary 2 I came 1st in Class and my dad came home the next day with an overly big laptop and said it was my gift for coming first. I was so excited I couldn't wait to put it on. I slept very early so I could wake up by 4am which was the time light was usually restored then. I put it on and I was just



getting some funny error messages. I later realised it had no Operating System (LOL). That was the first sign that I would be a technology enthusiast. He got another for himself and sometimes I played with it and my mum would tell my sister and I to type stuffs for her. Even when I got into secondary school, I was the computer girl (there wasn't any limitation there as it was an only girls school) and I was on the editorial team for the school magazine and did some basic typing and design. So many

other things have influenced my journey but that's basically how it all started.

### If there is one thing you wish you had started doing earlier what is it?

If wishes were horses man would ride time unending. Majorly, I wish I started programming earlier. I still don't regret not starting then as I didn't really know about it as I do now.

### What are your hobbies and favourite pass times?

My hobbies are meeting new people, brain storming awesome ideas, learning new things(I always get that

adrenaline rush), Spending time with family and really close friends. I also enjoy talking but when the topic doesn't interest me, I get mentally fatigued and begin to feel I'm expending too much mental strength for nothing. I've had so many favourite past times. Due to the fact that I've recently been making intentional effort to be optimistic and excited in all my doings, everyday always has an element of "favourite past time".

### **How do you successfully juggle academics with everything you are involved in?**

Even though it hasn't been easy especially due to the disparity between my course of study and passion, I'll say God has been more than awesome. He always has a way of putting me in situations where when I lose hope, I find someone to encourage and assist me. Having friends who have goals and who have so much passion for their studies puts me in check. They are always there to remind me of my most important duty in school and I also have to intentionally make extra efforts. Having a clear long term goal has also recently given me a lot of motivation to excel.

### **Do your parents play any role in your extracurricular activities? If yes, what roles?**

My parents and sisters have been a very strong pillar of support to me. They are always there to correct me when I go wrong, lend a listening ear when I need it and a shoulder to cry on when I have to. They all have also been a source of inspiration by how they always stand out in where they find themselves. My mum and dad are the literal definition of leaders within their individual circles and any other place they find themselves. My sisters are more than awesome too.

### **What do you wish parents in Nigeria should start doing to encourage the creativity and entrepreneurial tendencies of their children?**

From a very young age, parents should take subtle steps to expose their children to opportunities beyond the classroom.

TO BE CONTINUED ON PG. 4

# Iwalewa

## (A Letter To Teenage Girls)

Dear Iwalewa,

How are you doing dearie?

Beautiful daughter of zion in whom God delights.

The beautiful muse to whom Bashorun pens down these words.

I see the struggles you go through.

The desire to be accepted among the 'cool cliques' in your school.

I see how desperately you want to shrug off the 'mummy's girl' tag

And make that boy to call you beautiful and treat you specially.

Iwalewa,

I see you searching;

To know what true love feels like,

To discover the rhythm of a heart stricken by love

But listen to the love words I choose to coo into your ears today.

A graceful character will make you more beautiful than Helen of Troy

Keeping your worth remains the ultimate good.

And the Jesus girl clique remains the best clique you could ever chose to be.

Build your intellect my dear Iwalewa

For beauty without brains will usher you into nothingness.

Awaken not love before its time

Else you might never find that which you are frantically searching for; true love

Again, I tell you: build your intellect !

With it, you can make God and your family proud.

With it, you can become unstoppable !

And not confined to someone's kitchen and the 'other room'.

Don't be afraid to dream

For whatever you dream of, you can become ;

A worthy queen like Esther,

A brilliant economist like Okonjo Iwela,

A world leader like Angela Merkel,

And like Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

You will live a purposeful life that will cause the whole world to continually remember and celebrate you .

With love,  
BASHORUN

## Teenspiration Contd.

They should use summer break as an opportunity for the child to learn a trade, learn programming (Applications like scratch and Alice are very helpful, I learnt them this summer) or a sporting activity or even dance class. Expose them, put them out there but never forget to still have them close to your heart so that they are free to ask questions and communicate with you when need be. Programming is the language of the century, a child can learn at least a programming language, just understanding the syntax is a good step. All these are not foreign to Nigerians as there are numerous organisations that foster these things. I know of one that teaches primary school children financial education.

### What are your plans for the future? What are things you would do if you had no limitations whatsoever?

I am taking life a step at a time but with a long term goal in mind. I love integrating tech with different disciplines

especially biomedical science so I'm presently exploring opportunities that have to do with my passion for software development and my background in human anatomy. If I had no limitation whatsoever I would be efficient in more programming languages sooner and start my research work involving solving biomedical problems with computer programming.

### What is your advice to readers of the TeenAchiever and other teenagers like you?

I'll say just go for it don't limit yourself by yourself. A very good friend of mine once told me "Give yourself permission to be awesome" Don't wait for anyone just give yourself permission and go on and surpass your own expectation. Never believe that you have to be old enough before your impact can be felt, mine is already being felt so many other youngsters have embraced their awesomeness too. What are you waiting for?

## ON A LIGHTER NOTE...

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."



# You are Your Own Responsibility

His credentials were neatly folded into a brown envelope that was beginning to wear out due to constant handling. He was almost sure he had trekked the length and breadth of Ikeja in search of a job. As he sat in front of his house that afternoon watching other neighbours return from work, he shook his head pitying his sorry state. "I blame my father. The father of my friends left them valuable possessions that they could rely on but he just died and left me with nothing" Chuks lamented to himself angrily.

It's usual to always want parents to dot on you and show you all the care you will ever need. Your parents have a natural

responsibility towards you to ensure you become a child they can be proud to call their own.

Though it's your parents duty to care for you, they do not owe you a life. If mummy however decides to give the life you desire to you, then you are fortunate. Don't blame them if they also fail to because your life is not theirs but yours.

Jack Welch rightly said: "Take responsibility for your life or someone else will"

Your life is your responsibility; take up that responsibility and make it worth the while!

— **Quarter Quote** —  
The future belongs to those who believe in the future of their dreams.



For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. — John 3:17 kjv