

About the Study

One of the most frequently asked questions we receive at the Seed is how our students do when they leave the school. In response to this question, Mary Glover, Awakening Seed's co-founder and Director, and Penelope Denton, an emeritus Seed board member, embarked on an ethnographic study to find the answers from our students themselves. We interviewed over 40 former students, ranging in age from 11 to 28. We asked them all the following questions:



- What were your most important learnings at Awakening Seed?
- How have these learnings contributed to your life and how you are today?
- What significant element of the Seed environment stands out in your mind/memory?
- What was it about the Seed environment that made your important learnings possible?
- What makes a good teacher?
- How was your next school different and how has it been the same?

As we sorted through the data, allowing the categories to reveal themselves, five major themes emerged:

- community
- honoring the true learner in each student
- the school environment (both external and internal)
- physical and emotional dynamics of the school
- the teacher as mentor

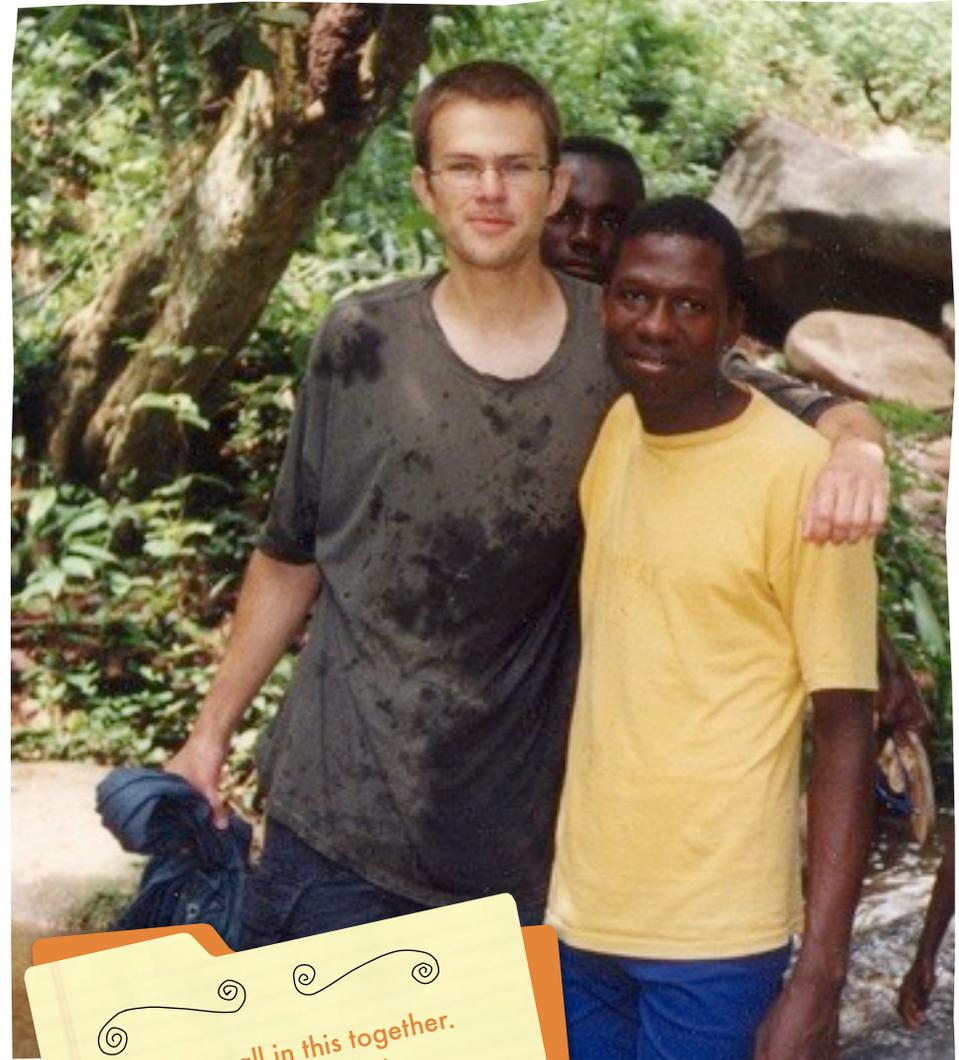
Former Seeds who are now coming into adulthood as college graduates, political activists, Peace Corps volunteers, assistants to children with autism, teachers, lawyers, mothers and fathers, offer a unique perspective of life at Awakening Seed. The complete document examines the themes and categories in detail, using the students' own words along with the researchers' reflections. To read the full document go to: www.awakeningseedsschool.org

In gratitude to all of our Seed students and their families, past, present, and future, we offer this work for you to experience. May it further efforts to make our world a more peaceful, happy place.

Mary and Penelope

an ethnographic study by Mary Glover and Penelope Denton

QUIETLY CHANGING THE PLANET



"We are all in this together.
The Seed instilled that
mentality." -Seed alumnus

What they said about:

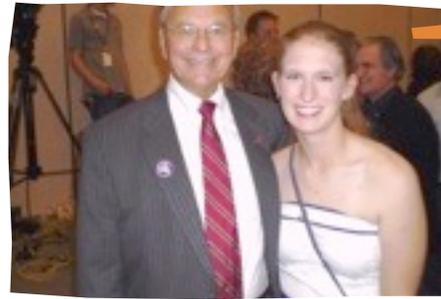
Community

“The most important thing I learned was actually something I didn’t learn until much later when I began reading philosophy, and that is the basic humanism we were taught. Everyone in a sense is connected. The most important thing in our lives is to make sure that we act responsibly and help others as much as possible while helping ourselves. We are all in this together. The Seed instilled that mentality.”



The School Environment (external and internal)

“This school is a wonderful place. If you send your kid here, they will grow so much from the time they step foot in here to the time they leave... academically and emotionally and mentally. I think this place lets you explore who you really are. You are allowed to sit on the floor and lie down when you read or go outside if you are writing. We were not judged by what we say. It’s just the family environment. Such a unique place.”



Honoring the True Learner In Each Student

“I feel that the experience I had here gave me a sense of focus when it came to learning. When I decided to sit and study something I had a stronger, more focused point from which to start because there was an aspect of curiosity and interest. I was more involved in my learning.”

Teacher As Mentor

“I have seen many people who are articulate and clear who can explain things very well but would not necessarily be considered great teachers. A great teacher is somebody who can not only get information across but who can help somebody else use that information to become more, to perceive their own goals and become more themselves.”



Physical and Emotional Dynamics of the School

In a more intimate setting, my son’s early education can be nurturing and consultative, which we hope will help him think on a broad spectrum and see greater possibilities in life. We want the world to be full of opportunity for him; we think that the Seed is the right way to cognitively support such a concept.”

