

Assembly

Secret Millionaire

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It was a cold, dark Wednesday evening when I got home, pretty exhausted after another days hard work at the mighty RGS. As usual I fed my two cats; William Wallace and Maverick Wallace. I then knuckled down to a bit of marking before preparing a delicious Spaghetti Bolognese for my lovely wife, Mrs Wallace! After dinner we had a series of high fives to celebrate the wonderful meal and I returned to a bit of work. At 9pm one of my favourite shows was on, "The secret Millionaire!"

This week a 35 year old man went to live in Peckham. He made his money in telecoms and had already amassed over 10 million pounds. He set off for his week away to live in a small bedsit only 3 miles away from his luxury London apartment which he shared with his model girlfriend.

He had never been to Peckham before, he had no real idea this environment was on his doorstep. During the week he met some brilliant guys and girls. Naturally at first he was very intimidated, people on the streets were aggressive towards him and the camera crew, perhaps afraid. Wondering what this posh white man thought he was doing in their neighbourhood.

During the week he met various people. One group were young lads your age, who had dropped out of school for various reasons. They now worked in a mechanics work shop helping to fix and learn about cars.

The second person he met was a lad who had to leave school to care for his mother who had a terminal illness.

The final person he met was a man called Andre who ran the youth club for the local community.

Andre was a 20 year old who had been on the wrong side of the law previously. He had been through some tough times and managed to turn things around and now dedicated his time to trying to get other youngsters to have a better life.

Anyhow, the millionaire gave various sums of money to the three groups which will hopefully make a real difference. It was wonderful to see people who had given so much up to finally be given something back. Why am I telling you this:

- 1) Firstly, for you to realise that there are some very tough places out there. That said, everyone here has their own challenges. Some people may feel incredibly stressed, sad and lonely about an issue which other people would perhaps be able to brush off. Does that make it less of an issue- Not at all!
- 2) Secondly, we all have stereotypes, when the millionaire went into Peckham he was afraid and intimidated. It actually turns out he met some fantastic people. Similarly, the Peckham residents did not warm to the millionaire. By the they were gobsmacked that anyone outside Peckham actually cared about them. Give people a chance, want to like people. The World is never against you.
- 3) Thirdly, we can all make a difference, we don't have to be millionaires. Andre, the youth centre worker is far from a millionaire. However, he has a different kind of wealth. He has

patience, he makes time and he cares. Our lives are so busy, you have deadlines, homeworks, commitments sometimes it is difficult to find time for people. Everyone here has the ability to make people feel better. Whether it is paying someone a sincere compliment, supporting someone with work, just having a chat with a mate who needs it, helping around the house. These things don't require money, they require heart and kindness. These attributes are free and everyone here possesses them, the difference is that some people decide to use these gifts while others keep them hidden away.

Life is tough, it's not easy. Let's try to make it easier by offering a helping hand. Not only are you then helping someone but you might also experience a bit of well being yourself.

I want you to take 30 seconds now to think of one thing you can do today to make someone feel a bit better about themselves.

Thanks for listening.