

I won't lie to you.

A conversation between **A.D. Wright**, MBB Mediator Member
& **Abraham**, S.M.A. Graduate, Masonry

Abraham is one of the few students who did not want to take part in the graduation, because they either did not have the money to pay for their class T-shirts or were not happy, because they did not have special shoes for the occasion. I went around that night and succeeded in winning them over to attend, which they did.

I spoke with one of the students, **Abraham**, Masonry, today at length to find out what exactly to him as a person the Psycho-Social Training (PST) meant and what he thought about it in regard to the entire scholarship batch as a group. I saw him sitting all by himself right after he had had his turn done with his clinician, which was few minutes following his meal.

I sat down and began like this:

"Abraham, why alone, would you like me to sit with you and ask you a few questions?"

He smiled and answered:

"Yes, you know, you're my prof."

I continued:

"Please tell me what you think and how you feel about this Psycho-Social Training, is it making any sense to you? Is there any specific benefit or something that you are experiencing from the training? What's about the whole too to you?"

Abraham:

"Mr. Wright, I had no interest for this whole thing when it all started. I thought the people came here to just know about us and go make money out of us. But you see me sitting here so, it is not that something is wrong or that I am worrying. It is because I have just started getting the picture that the people want for us to be able to control our own minds, know how to talk with others and, I think, make us civilized people.

Every time I sit in front of the woman (his clinician), she asks me all sorts of questions

like how I used to feel whenever I shot a gun or shot somebody and the person died or was crying from pains, or what do I tell my girlfriend to make her happy when she feels that I have offended her and how do I feel later seeing that I have made her happy through my own sense?

I tell the woman that I can tell my girl that I'm very sorry and that I promise not to offend her any more. Right there after I have answered her question, Prof., then something can just click to my mind, then I begin to understand that she's drawing my attention to identify my ability to reconcile my own bad behavior. The woman has not actually asked me about what I intend to do to people who I one way or the other offended or hurt during the war, but my imagination is making me to see the relationship between the feelings of those people who we killed from people in Liberia and that of my offence to my girl.

So the fact is that if I am able to identify my potential in dealing with specific cases like the one I just explained to you, then I have the sense that my friends are doing likewise. But if I had my own will, Prof., I would tell our sponsors to carry this kind of training to Liberia. It is too important to our lives. I think all of us Liberian youth need the PST and I believe everybody here feels that way too.

We can be talking about it when we sit in our caucus. Don't mind the guys who can come here and be shouting, they can plan to come and do so, it can't really come from their hearts, they just want to draw attention. All of us are enjoying the training. I won't lie to you, Prof."

Giving A Chance at Life



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Shouting out Cheers of Joy

The 7th Society Mission Africa (S.M.A.) Graduation Report



From **A.D. Wright**
MBB Mediator Member
Accra, Ghana

July 16, 2008

At 10 a.m., seats in the CHRIDA church auditorium were already filled with family members, friends and well wishers, beautifully dressed in various costumes. They could be seen either standing or hauling chairs and benches, all just to catch a glimpse of S.M.A.'s 7th and final graduation ceremonies in Ghana.

Seventy-five CSRF/MBB sponsored students were not only just in the graduating batch, but had seven honor rolls, two of whom topped the entire school with 97 percent and 95.3 percent. Congratulations to **J. Emmanuel Diahn**, Masonry and **Franklin K. Wesseh**, Plumbing.

Diahn is wearing a blue helmet, reading his poetic valedictory address, as the first wave of gratitude and appreciation for CSRF/MBB was heard. As he put it, CSRF/MBB has given him the fishing line and not the fish to use to earn a livelihood for himself and his fellow human beings.

The Liberian Initiative is a multi-pronged project comprised of several key elements relative to the rehabilitation of former child soldiers and their reintegration into Liberian society.

As if this was not enough, **Naomi Jones**, Tailoring, made it to the highly respected credit sheet as the only female. She is wearing a brilliant red evening dress.

Bartuah (Ninwillay, MBB Founding Member) read a special and highly motivating letter from The Liberian Initiative team to the students, causing them to shout out cheers of joy in the hall. Most of them went as far as shedding tears of joy and some of sorry.

From the call of the first person for his certificate to the time I left to come and anxiously send this report, the sound of the letters "MBB" became a national anthem or, if you like, a new hit song on the lips of everybody.

The photos will help explain the level of excitement that perhaps I have not been able to properly do through writing.

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