

SCRIPTURE UNION, FREETOWN 18TH JANUARY, 2014

Scripture Union is one of the oldest Christian organisations in Sierra Leone and it operates mainly in schools and institutions. It was established in 1884 and has been very active in Sierra Leone for about 130 years. Its objectives are; to see children and youth follow Jesus, filled with hope and transforming families in Sierra Leone and beyond. It operates through small groups established in schools and institutions all over the country. Leadership being a key component of its objectives, Mr Augustine Turay the Training Secretary sent a letter to Leaders of Godly Character, Sierra Leone office requesting leadership training for all its members in schools within Freetown. The request was granted and a seminar was conducted on 18 January, 2014 for students of Scripture Union in Freetown. 115 students from 21 schools attended the seminar. The main presenters were Mr. Modupe Taylor Pearce and Mr. George Bindi, Counselling Coordinator for DISCET.

The training session began with an opening prayer lead by Vincent Hope of Sierra Leone Gramma School. In his opening statements, Mr. Augustine Turay training secretary for Scripture Union Freetown, expressed profound joy and gratitude to LGCSL for consenting to organizing training for them and urged the students present to take full advantage of the lessons they would learn. He welcomed the team on behalf of the National Director Mr. Kpandei Tucker whose dream is to see young Christians grow into better citizens. He requested that the organizers replicate the training for more Scripture Union groups in Freetown so that many young people can benefit from it.

Mr. George Bindi introduced the Leaders of Godly Character team present and informed the students about the great wealth deposited by God in Sierra Leone that has not been managed well because of bad leadership. He explained that the future of Sierra Leone is in their hands and if the political, social and economic scenario is to change, it will depend whole and solely on them. He expressed hope that by the end of the seminar their actions, thoughts and decisions would have been positively influenced.

Mr Modupe Taylor Pearce facilitated the first session of the seminar; in the first hour participants were made to realise that each of them are leaders and that the first person they lead is themselves, therefore whatever becomes of them in the future is as a result of some form of decision they made at some point in their lives and that being a good or bad leaders is their choice to make.





MrAugustine Turay training Secretary(S.U), opens the seminar

Mr. Modupeh Taylor Pearce facilitates the seminar

The concept of whether Sierra Leone really needs a good leader ensued and the consequences of a "yes" or "no" answers debated. Detailed discussion of Integrity, Vision, Courage and Passion being the four minimum requirements of good leadership followed the debate. The advantages and disadvantages of positively or negatively practicing each of the four minimum requirements were discussed. Participants were given opportunity to participate in practical leadership exercises with the help of leadership scenarios that were put together to give a clear picture of the benefits and cost of demonstrating each of the minimum leadership characteristics. This exercise made the participant very excited as most of them were able to easily identify with the scenarios.





The seminar featured interactive participation from students

The second half of the seminar was dedicated to a discussion on servant leadership. The students were taught that a leader who considers the needs of those he/she serves as more important than his/her own needs is a servant leader. They were taught that two basic yardsticks used to identify whom someone serves are; one's action and whose needs he/she makes a priority. They were also made to understand that; **knowing who you are, your assignment** and **your resources** are three major facts all servant leaders must know. At the close of the seminar, John H. Macarthy and Grace Bellah Kamara of Providence International High and Methodist Girls High school respectively gave the vote of thanks. Mr. George Bindi led the students in taking a personal pledge of love and loyalty to Sierra Leone. They pledged to put the interests of their nation first above their own personal interests. It is our fervent prayer that this pledge will manifest itself into the creation of true servant leaders in Sierra Leone.

Some feedback from the seminar:

- Mr Augustine Turay. (S.U. Training Secretary) "This training is very rich, I wish LGC-SL will give Scripture Union the opportunity to have three leadership trainings each year"
- 2. **Daniel M. Majagbe.** "From this training, I have discovered that my role in the transformation of this Nation is vital and I am going to make the best out of all I have learnt so that I can make an impact on my generation and be a part of the generation that is going to change this country for the best."

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Thank you for your support. Remember - everything rises and falls on leadership.

Thank you and God bless you, Modupe Taylor-Pearce Jr. President, LGCI