

## **My Secondary School experiences in Zaria**

I would like to start by showing my gratitude to the Swiss sponsors who made my scholarship possible. Though it is not easy but you people did not count it as anything difficult. So I am using this opportunity to show my gratitude for your efforts. I don't even know how to express my gratitude with appropriate words, but I pray that may our Almighty God reward you because I cannot reward you enough and may God give us a long life so that we will enjoy each other.

When I entered my new school I found it difficult to cooperate with my fellow students and the teachers, because it was my first time of being in a boarding school and all of them were speaking English. I understand English very well but by then, I couldn't speak it boldly because I was afraid to make mistakes and that the others would laugh at me. But as time went on, I started speaking English and I even made new friends. They explained everything about boarding life and city life to me. In the city, nobody cares to speak Hausa though some times we do, but not very often. I will also tell you about my experience in the hostel. A students' hostel, as we all know, is made up of different people from different backgrounds and their characters also differ: Some of them are thieves, and some of them are not. As far as somebody saw you with fine clothes, the person will not ask you to give them to her, she will just go and steal them and you will never see it. They can also break a persons locker if they want to carry everything the person has. I once fell a victim myself, because they broke my locker and carried away all my provisions for the term.

Regarding the classes, the teachers are trying their best to cover all their topics during the term. Only few of them that are not making that effort, for example in the case of the biology practical. Since I had entered secondary school, it's only twice that we did such a practical: one in SS 1 and the other in SS 2, and the teacher is not even serious about it. But in other subjects, they are really trying. Furthermore, concerning our responsibilities as students, I noticed something different. Throughout my primary school and junior secondary school at Najude Pioneer School, I had never seen a student marking tests for his fellow students. But here in St. Bartholomew's school, it's just a normal thing, and many students are using that opportunity to add marks on their results so as to prevent them from getting lower marks, which is cheating. They also engage in exam malpractice because many of them don't read at night. Instead, they spend their time playing „Togo“ and other games because they know that even if the teacher will give a test, they can simply open their books and copy from there, and the teacher will not even see them. In my case, because at NPS, exam malpractice was not tolerated at all, I keep on telling myself „Better to fail honourably than to pass with cheating.“ This issue of exam malpractice is really disturbing me because I seriously read my books. The whole thing is making me angry and sometimes I will even cry, because I will read almost throughout the night and the people that spent their night doing „Togo“ will even score higher marks than I do. This keeps disturbing me, and sometimes when my Mummy comes to visit me she will ask me why I look so worried and I will just tell her there's nothing, because the thing is always making me to cry even more if I tell somebody.

After my school, I want to go for computer training before our results will be out, because these days we need to have computer knowledge, but we are not taught about it here. After my university I want to be a nurse, because I want to help and save lives. Since when I was in primary school, I have been telling myself that by God's grace I will be a nurse. As an alternative, I could also go for agriculture, because I want to improve the productivity of the animals and the quantity of crops, so that the poor farmers can have something they can be proud of.

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