



SELL CONNECT

Sharing Education & Learning for Life

A Peacebuilding Programme for Young Adults.

A Collaboration with Presentation Brothers' Youth Ministry



Fr. Leo's Christmas Greeting

We all seem to like Christmas. It evokes something in us that touches on hope and love. These are all virtues that in our deep-down truest selves we know we need and when we encounter them, experience them, we are filled with a peace that literally the world cannot give. We also know that sane persons will pursue and build up these virtues and all the other values that flow from them in our communities. We know all this, but seldom do we express it together.

Then comes Christmas and we receive the opportunity to let our guard down a little, to switch on colourful lights, to become vulnerable (like the baby in the crib) to offer smiles and gifts and greetings of happy Christmas and peace for the New Year. I think this is why we all seem to like Christmas.

I guess this work that Fr. Tommy, myself and the SELL teams in Nigeria and Ghana are involved in is encouraging us to take Christmas into our everyday lives and to deepen the experience, to have it fanned into flame by the Holy Spirit, this spirit of God that lives in us all the time.

We don't want to relegate Christmas to a sentimental experience - that would be a tragic loss. To keep Jesus as an infant robs us of the richness of his life and message. Christmas is just the appetiser. We need to move on to the baptism and the challenge "this is my beloved son, listen to him". His message is critical if we are to be fully alive. To never let go of the belief that a radically different world is possible. The signs of hope are there, most personified this year in a fifteen-year-old girl Greta Thunberg and her call to protect the gift of life that God has given us.

So be of good heart, join in the signs of hope and act in alliance with them when you can. Thank you as you support our efforts for transformation. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers most especially during your Christmas times of reflection and prayer. Christmas peace and joy.

Fr Leo Traynor



Gladys Alaale

**Accountant on the SELL
Resource Team**

Before I joined The SELL Resource Team I was one of the many young adults who benefited from the programme and was selected for Volunteer Facilitator training. As a volunteer, I run the workshops in my local community for the youth and I know the benefits it has brought to the people in my community. The SELL Programme has improved my confidence and has equipped me with the skills to confront issues. I have also acquired skills around anger management and how to contribute to building and sustaining a healthy community - living, promoting and advocating for justice and peaceful coexistence.

John Inalegwu Mark

**(FPM), a member
of the Presentation
Brothers Congregation,
West Africa Province,
Ghana.**



After my First Profession of Vows, I was appointed by the Provincial Leadership Team to work with the SELL Programme. Before my appointment, I had heard so much about the impact of the programme on the lives of young adults. Working with SELL I have experienced first-hand the richness and impact the programme makes, individually and collectively, to the lives of young people. The integrated nature of the programme, and its invitation to all people from different backgrounds to actively and fully participate, makes it even more wonderful.

SELL Ghana 2018-2019

Hagar Bebuur (SELL Ghana)

3 years ago, we started this Programme in support of young adults in Northern Ghana, engaging them in life shaping issues.

We reflect and celebrate the past 3 years because this year we had our final round of trainings for our 1st batch of volunteers – 39 enthusiastic and committed young adults in the Upper East and Northern Region. The volunteers have grown in their skills and they are doing great. This year, volunteers were able to reach a total of 1,757 young adult; 703 females and 1,054 males across the regions. We hope that in the 1st quarter of 2020, they will be commissioned as trained facilitators and encouraged to go forth and continue the good work. There are still a total 60 volunteers in training from the Savannah and Upper West Regions.

Our profound gratitude to you, our wonderful and selfless benefactors. Your love and support have helped us yield more fruits with the passing of each year. We cannot thank you enough. You are a blessing to us and the young people your support is reaching. Thank you for sharing in our vision and we pray that you will continue to journey with us in our mission of: "Reaching out to young adults as agents of change, inviting them to share their experiences towards making life giving choices, deepening their respect for the earth and building families and communities of Justice, Freedom and Peace".



Will you too look away?

Fr Tomas O'Connor SPS

You have stolen my childhood and my dreams!"

These are probably the most powerful words spoken during 2019. The words of Greta Thunberg as she addressed the United Nations on the 23rd of September. The image of the sixteen year old Norwegian girl addressing one of the most powerful bodies in the world with calm, courage, dignity and without fear will live long in the memory. Some of my colleagues tell me that Greta's words reduced them to tears and were the catalyst for them to make life-changing decisions.

Greta Thunberg emphasises the urgency with which we must act. We have no time for idling about. "For more than 30 years the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away, and come here saying that you are doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight?" Very strong words and an urgent call to action.

Each one of us has to play our part. We cannot look away and pretend it is not our problem. We have to stop imagining that the economies of the world can continue to grow exponentially. Unlimited economic growth is not sustainable so we have to change our expectations and be content with less. Small decisions can make a difference.

I congratulate the SELL Team on the great work they have done in 2019. They are bringing a message of hope and empowerment to many people on the margins of society. They are opening people's eyes and pointing out how each one of us can make a difference, no matter what our circumstances may be.



Towards lasting peace, change and sustainable development: 'be the change'.

For the past year I have been studying a Master of Arts in Peace and Development Studies at the University of Limerick, Ireland. I undertook research with a special focus on the trends in the historic levels of conflict in the Northern part of Ghana. My study examines increases in the levels of conflict especially during periods of elections. A surprising finding is that a significant increase in the number of ethnic conflicts occurs in periods after the establishment of institutions that are supposed to ensure sustainable peace. While trying to find a rationalisation for this finding, it became obvious that the focus on building institutions diverts attention away from people who are at the centre of the struggle for peace and development.

Our work as Sharing Education and Learning for Life (SELL) is centred on bringing life shaping issues to young people who are the change makers. We focus on integrated human development and peace building approach to bring about change. We build people who become 'their voice and the voice of their communities' to be peace makers, animate and advocate for change and above all "be the change they want to see". It is possible to attain peace, change and sustainable development if we put people at the centre of our efforts.

Sincere thanks to all our benefactors and everyone journeying with us on this worthy course.
Vincent Agyei, SELL Ghana

How you can support SELL

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