

### **“My Experience of Overcoming Conflict”**

There was once a time when a high school prefect summoned me for wearing slippers during prep time, a breach of school rules and regulations. Usually when I found myself in a conflicted situation, I would either not return to that place or gunner up some might and turn to face the situation at hand and in this particular situation, I found myself acting on the latter. I never really had any decent sandals all through my boarding school so with that, the straps would either break or the sandals be misplaced and this was one of those occasions where I didn't have anything to resort to so I opted for the slippers / flipflops that were readily available in the dormitory, not even belonging to me. That was the kind of background I had where I couldn't afford much and had to carry on with school with what I had been accorded from home yet instead of trying to explain to the prefect, I suspected he would not understand me so I lost my cool and told him to leave me alone. In avoiding shame by narrating my story for sympathy from the prefect perhaps, I instead chose to tell him off to which he felt ashamed because it took place in our classroom during prep time while they were inspecting from one class to the other. He took matters further and reported to the teacher on duty. The school was situated on a hill and our classroom block was at the summit of that hill so I could see the two of them coming from a distance. I hurriedly moved out of the classroom and went to hide so by the time they got there. I could see them from my hiding place so I didn't return to class till after preps. They continued to pursue me for about a week during prep time but I kept evading them till one day when I crossed paths with the teacher and he asked me to go to the staffroom for punishment but I still took the same path and refused, out of too much frustration and somehow he gave up on pursuing me. Despite successfully evading punishment at the time, a couple of months later, I had a dream where I confronted that same teacher at the science lab and despite the voice of counsel telling me repeatedly not to act that way, I still did even in the dream – telling off the teacher. When I awoke from the dream however, I realized the folly in my actions and repented, went to the teacher and asked to speak to him. I reminded him of the story which he brushed off saying he had long forgotten, I asked for his forgiveness to his amazement in my approach and from then on, we became close friends. He was an O-level teacher and at that time, those in A-level had a way of looking down on such teachers so I want to admit that, it must have affected my behavior but I'm forever grateful for the counsel that came to me in that dream and how it changed my whole perspective about never choosing personal might over counsel because much as it may seem hard to yield to counsel, it always fosters better solutions than any personal might could ever fix and that's my advise to all the youth following in our footsteps; to always treat those in authority with respect and the honor that is due them and choose peace rather than exercising might. My performance even got better after the change in attitude and behavior to the Glory of God.