

Former "Primo" Dr. Gbaba Calls on Zwedru Multilateral High School Alumni, Grand Gedeans, and Liberians to Support the Railey-Collins Administration to Revive the Spirit of ZMHS and Support Education in Post War Liberia



Rabbi Prince Joseph Tomoonh-Garlodeyh Gbaba, Sr., Ed. D.
Former Principal of Zwedru Multilateral High School addressing Alumni over the weekend in Winsormill, Maryland. (Photo: courtesy of Emmanuel Taryee)

The former Principal of the Zwedru Multilateral High School, Dr. Joseph Tomoonh-Garlodeyh Gbaba, Sr. has called on all Grand Gedeans, Liberians, former students and alumni of the Zwedru Multilateral High School to join rank and file with the officers and members of the ZMHS Alumni Association to support the Railey-Collins Administration and revive the spirit of ZMHS commonly known as the "Eastern Lions"! The renowned scholar and artist made the call when he and Mrs. Gbaba attended the annual cookout held by the ZMHS Alumni Association in the home of Mrs. Maconee Logan-Weah in Winsormill, Maryland over the weekend.

In his welcome remarks, the outgoing President of the ZMHS Alumni Association Mr. P. Alphonso Bargblor outlined some of the contributions the ZMHS Alumni Association made during the course of his leadership as President of the Association. Key among some of the projects undertaken by the Association was the installation of two hand pumps on the ZMHS campus to provide safe drinking water for students. They also provided 165 graduation gowns for the school, two sets of sporting jerseys for the ZMHS football, basketball, and kickball teams! The Association also raised funds to provide scholarships for three deserving students. Further, Mr. Bargblor informed that the alumni are gearing up to undertake more projects to assist the administration of ZMHS to purchase much needed instructional materials such as textbooks and laboratory equipment to ensure the present students receive quality education.



Mr. P. Alphonso Bargblor, outgoing Prexy of ZMHS Alumni Association making welcome remarks during the visit of Dr. Gbaba. In the background are Mrs. Naomi Logan-Glay, Co-chair of the Alumni Board of Directors and Mr. Anthony Urey, Secretary of the Alumni Planning Committee.

However, Mr. Bargblor lamented that despite the Association's efforts to reach out to alumni and Grand Gedeans across the United States and elsewhere, many of them have been very slow in responding to the Association's clarion call. Against this backdrop, he urged the former head of the school to do all within his purview to encourage ZMHS members, Grand Gedeans in particular and Liberians in general, to get actively involved in giving back to their Alma Mater in order to support the improvement of education through their financial and material supports. Mr. Bargblor was one of the alumni who helped to organize the ZMHS Alumni Association. He served as President for the past four years and was recently succeeded by Mrs. Carolyn Railey at this year's convention in Maryland.



(L-R) Mrs. Maconee Logan-Weah, hostess of the 2016 ZMHS Reunion and Mrs. Esi Collins, V.P. attentively listening to the counsel of Dr. Gbaba during the cookout event.

Mrs. Carolyn Railey, the incoming President, lauded Dr. Gbaba and his wife for attending the cookout. She assured the alumni present that she and her able lieutenant Mrs. Esi Collins and

newly elected corps of officers will do all they can to revive the spirit of ZMHS as it was in normal times. In closing she requested that Dr. Gbaba continue to lend support to the programs of the Association and promised to keep the former Principal updated on the affairs of the Association. Next year's convention is slated to be held in August, 2017 in Worcester, Massachusetts.

In response to the updates provided by the outgoing President, Mr. P. Alphonso Bargblor and the present President, the former "Primo" (as Dr. Gbaba was affectionately called by ZMHS students during his days as Principal) commended the alumni of ZMHS for their "patriotic deeds in promoting a worthwhile national cause." He added:

"While many Liberians in the diaspora are caught up in the pleasures and convenience of the western world, you are focused on giving back to your Alma Mater and are determined that young post war Liberians receive quality education in the wake of untold sufferings they have undergone and the aftermaths of a devastating civil war. I applaud you and thank God we have such wonderful group of men and women who value education which is the bedrock of national development and reconciliation."

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Gbaba invoked the blessings of our forefathers on members of the Alumni Association in general and Mr. Bargblor in particular who he referred to as a "chip of the old block". Mr. P. Alphonso Bargblor is the grandson of a renowned traditional Krahn royalty named Bargblor who lived in the late 19th to the mid-20th century. Also, Zwedru Multilateral High School is named in honor of Zwedru, the Capital City of Grand Gedeh County in Liberia. Zwedru was founded by Dr. Gbaba's great ancestor named Yarlee-Gbanh more than two centuries ago.



Dr. and Mrs. Gbaba posing with some ZMHS Alumni (R-L) Esi Collins, Ben Collins, Anthony Urey, Maconee Weah, Mrs. Ariminta Gbaba, and Dr. Gbaba



Enjoying some assorted fruits during the cookout.

The Zwedru Multilateral High School is one of three World Bank secondary multilateral educational institutions constructed in the 70s during the administration of President Tolbert to provide middle level manpower on the job markets in Liberia. During normal days ZMHS provided three major educational streams: vocational, technical, and academics. Students had the options to major in Auto Mechanics, Electricity, Agriculture, Secretarial Science, Home Economics, and took basic courses to earn a high school diploma. Next year's convention will be held in August, 2017 in Worcester, Massachusetts. All alumni members, former students, Grand Gedeans, and Liberians are cordially invited to attend.

Note: All photos in this article are by the courtesy of Photographer Emmanuel Taryee. He can be contacted at: emmanueltaryee@gmail.com.