

Going to Church

Transcript in Twi:

Baaba (on right) Pennante (on left)

Baaba: I see. Enti em woye nnipa a wokɔ asɔre anna wonhyɛdaa nkɔ asɔre?

Pennante: Em, mekɔ asore.

Baaba: Wohye a Ghanafo bebree no ara na ekɔ asɔre anaa dodɔ no ara ntaa nkɔ?

Pennante: Bebree kɔ asɔre Ghanafoɔ ɔmo ɔmo gyidi pa ara. Ɔmo gye Awurade di pa ara, ɔmo kɔ asɔre.

Baaba: Saa no ye anaa? Esan se baabi te se US sei bebree no ara nkɔ asɔre but eno nso wotumi ka se ebi a, that shows how genuine they are but mennim. Wode toto ho a, Ghana ha nkrɔfoɔ ka se obi ara rekɔ bi nti merekɔ anaa wohye a is it genuine anaa?

Pennante: Ghana ase you're being trained with it from your infancy so it becomes a part of you. You don't have much say in it nti wontumi nhu se people are really genuine when they go to church anaa se they're faking it or something. Wontumi nhu.

Baaba: Nti the youth of today ɔmo taa kɔ asɔre anaa wohye a ɔmoduru a certain age a...

Pennante: Ɔmo taa kɔ. Na ɔmo duru yeah, as they grow no, they change. They get more freedom...

Baaba: Nti wohye a... So they don't have to continue like...

Pennante: Yeah...

Baaba: But wo personally, do you think you will change a wobegyae koraa anaa?

Pennante: Kyere se me, menim die mepɛ wɔ me Nyame som mu nti I don't think se I'll let go. Megyae koraa a mebe, I'll get on track again.

Baaba: I see.

Pennante: Mmmm.

English Translation:

Baaba: I see. So, umm . . . do you go to church regularly?

Pennante: Umm, I do.

Baaba: Do you think most Ghanaians go to church regularly, too?

Pennante: Yeah, most Ghanaians go to church regularly. Most Ghanaians strongly believe in God.

Baaba: Do you think that's a good thing? I ask this because in places like the U.S., most people do not go to church regularly, but, then again, you could say that that shows how genuine those who go are. I don't really know, though. If you compare these two scenarios, do most Ghanaians go to church because everyone does it, or are they genuine Christians?

Pennante: Well, in Ghana, you're being trained with it from your infancy, so it becomes a part of you. You don't have much say about it, so you can't really tell whether people are really genuine when they go to church or if they're faking it or something. You can't really tell.

Baaba: So do most of the youth of today attend church regularly, too, or do they stop when they're a certain age . . . ?

Pennante: Yeah, they do attend regularly, but as they grow up, they change. They get more freedom . . .

Baaba: So . . . So they don't have to continue, like . . .

Pennante: Yeah . . .

Baaba: But personally, do you think you will change and stop going to church at some point?

Pennante: Well, I know what I want from being a Christian, so I don't think I'll let go. Even if I do, I'll get on track again.

Baaba: I see.

Pennante: Uh-huh.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated., or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2003-2008 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated