

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.



—2 Timothy 2:15

After three years of study and commitment, the young women gathered for graduation and stood behind their new sewing machines. I expected to see all smiles and happy faces.

The celebration was in a village outside of Bolgatanga, Ghana, and all the families, teachers, children and elders were there. And these young women, each dressed in dresses made from batik cloth they had dyed themselves and designs they had created, that they had sewn themselves as they acted as models and forms for one another—on what must have been the proudest day of their lives, not one of the nine looked happy. Their faces carried in them the look that I imagine Jesus had when he surveyed the hungry five thousand, or that Gandhi had as he encountered the crowds joining the Salt March. Their faces were serious, and resolute, and faithful, and carried a great deal of responsibility, all at once.

Their faces carried messages to those gathered: messages of gratitude, of assurance that they would use their hard-earned knowledge for the betterment of those around them: teachers, families, communities. In their faces they showed that they were ready to go out and make the world a better place. And somehow, I believe they will.

—Sean McConnell