

**Chancellor's Address on the Occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Matriculation  
Ceremony of Covenant University, Ota on Friday, January 12, 2007**

Distinguished members of Board of Regents,  
Our Royal Fathers here present,  
The Vice Chancellor,  
All Principal Officers of Covenant University,  
Members of Senate of the University,  
Faculty and Staff of Covenant University,  
Kings and Queens of Hebron, our own dear Students,  
Special and Invited Guests,  
All our very distinguished and responsible Parents here present,  
Members of the Press,  
The Matriculants – our Undergraduates and Post-graduate students, the  
reason for this gathering,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is again my privilege to welcome everyone of you to the 5<sup>th</sup> Matriculation Ceremony. On occasion like this, we must re-appraise our objective of involvement as presented to us as a vision and which was broken down for us into our mission and for which we made a vow of commitment. It is an occasion for us to recall the reason for the sacrifices and reassure ourselves and the world that is watching us concerning the depth and value of our involvement and purpose.

**Our Vision and Our Vow**

Our vision in Covenant University is to raise a new generation of leaders who will restore the dignity of our great nation and the dignity of the black race. Covenant University is therefore, a royal academy as it were a birthplace of God-fearing and people-based leadership. A Covenant Hebron where young men and women are prepared to ascend the throne.

John Maxwell said, “everything rises and falls on leadership”, how true? The ancient wisdom in the Bible established the same truth. Isa. 9:16. (*“For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed”*) It is passion for people that makes a leader and it is godly compassion for the need of others that generates a true passion.

At Covenant University we are committed to the four-dimensional leadership concept as contained in Ex.18:21. (*Moreover thou shall provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens*) This four-dimensional concept as stated above centres around leadership skill capacity development, godliness, training in integrity and visionary leadership.

We believe there is a dearth of leadership in our nation today. We have quite an army of able men but mostly godless individuals. They have every kind of academic degree but lack of integrity has become the norm rather than the exception among the vast majority of them. Covetousness has also become the cancer of our leadership structure across the length and breath of our great continent. Our vast natural resources as a people have become the private estate of our self-centred leaders in most cases. The conscience of many has been “seared with hot iron”. This is our awful situation today. Africa today is at the precipice of total collapse except a new generation of leaders takes the stage.

We at Covenant University are like the 4 biblical lepers who had to flee for their dear lives into the camp of the enemy in search of solution to national crises. And they found it. We at CU can say with all sense of humility that we have found where the problem lies. Our predicament is largely a leadership question. This is why we have joined the 4 lepers in their commitment even as they said to themselves, “*If we sit hear sudden mischief will come upon us*”.

We are determined to avoid the sudden mischief that is certain to happen if nothing is done. Consequently, we have embarked on this awesome task of raising a new generation of leaders in various fields of human endeavours by a training methodology that emphasizes skill and character.

We have a strong passion to see this change take place in our land with the desire of God in creating them. This therefore became the basis of our educational philosophy, which we have espoused at every public occasion.

It is essentially a philosophy of departure:

A departure from form to skill

A departure from knowledge to empowerment

A departure from figures to future-building

A departure from legalism to realism

A departure from points to facts

A departure from „m athe-m atics to „life-m atics .

This is w hat in fo rm s ou r m ot to , “P rom oting M en tal P roductiv ity” .

We desire not just a diagnosis; we thirst for an action plan that turns rhetoric into positive experience in canvassed values. We are committed to giving life applicable education to a new generation of leaders by planting their skills on the elevated platform of godly integrity

### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to develop models that will help fulfill the vision, i.e. to design a production line that will guarantee our desired end product. We believe that until something changes within us nothing changes around us. Until the mind is renewed lives are not transformed. Every “rebuildings begins with a rethinking” It is positive thinkers that become great builders. Destiny is a non-transferable responsibility. You either face it or you are phased out. Responsibility is the price for every great destiny.

Someone has said you are not a failure until you look for who to blame for it. I believe sound education is the sure foundation for every great nation. This is why we believe that it is high time we reviewed our educational system and reconstruct our educational programme to meet our obvious need as a people. As often said, to be informed is to be transformed and to be uninformed is to be deformed. Self-determination is the core requirement for self-actualization. You don't have to be in politics to be a reformer. Meeting needs is what makes a leader and taking the lead in meeting needs is what makes a great leader. Every great leader usually end up a reformer.

Covenant University is committed to raising the Josephs, the Moses, the Nehemiahs, the Deborahs of our great continent. Our mission is to empower students towards national reconstruction, reconciliation, socio-economic

development and restoration of human dignity resulting in transformation of our society

### **Our Commitment**

This is why we have remained resolute in our training process. This clear vision and this compelling mission have been the fuel for our commitment to develop the wit of our students through a dogged focus on their triune potentials i.e. the spirit, the mind and the body which forms the basis for the TMC which is our custom-built university programme.

Our disciplinary approach is the only guarantee of the intended end. The requirement of character and learning in preparing solution-providing leadership for our continent and our nation is a task. This has implied that we tend, water and fertilize the gentle plant but also to weed the suffocating tares.

We are committed to raising an army of reformers and according to George Washington, “discipline is the soul of an army, making small number formidable procure success to the weak and esteem to all”. We vow to maintain discipline as our watchword. We want to assure all matriculating students and indeed all students of Covenant University and our beloved parents that we are in a covenant with you regarding this end.

We like to assure you of our commitment to shielding the students from the social and environmental pollution that had corrupted our polity. We are committed as a covenant to giving you all that is required to guarantee your enthronement. We have covenanted to see that the sacrifice and painful investment of parents will never end up as a waste

Now to our matriculating students, may I admonish you that to make the most of your stay at Covenant University, engage in strategic planning and this will enable you accomplish your mission here. As I have always said, planning is winning just as breathing is living. It is obvious that failure in any aspect of life is largely a result of lack of planning as it is commonly said that failing to plan is planning to fail.

But planning on the other hand is a product of reasoning and effective reasoning has been defined as an act of logical, rational and analytical thinking or simply put an act of strategic thinking.

As an ancient wisdom asserts in the words of King Solomon, “*every enterprise is built by wise planning, it becomes strong through common sense and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts*” (Prov . 24 :3-5) – Living Bible. Therefore, to put a great plan, we need facts. In your case, you need to know that it takes a commitment to functional library to make the most of an academic career. Only studious students usually end up with glorious result. The fact, is it takes seriousness to accomplish excellence in any pursuit.

This is why I believe only committed planners make the most of their calling, careers and vocation. Just as the physical building of any real worth cannot get built without an architectural plan, no great destiny is attainable without an effective plan. Nothing great ever gets built without a great plan.

No matter how clear your purpose, it is planning that gives value to purpose. Whatever is not planned stands the risk of being wasted. Any destiny without a plan is heading for a doom. Time that is not planned stands to be wasted. Energy that is not planned stands to be abused. Therefore, I admonish that you know why you are here, plan to make it a reality and remain committed to work the plan.

Once again, I welcome you all to an exciting adventure at Covenant University – the birthplace of Kings and Queens of our new generation Royal Academy. It is my prayer that your great dreams find absolute fulfillment as you go through our unique production line in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you and God bless.

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