

CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

35TH GRADUATION CEREMONY – 2011

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

Trustees and Council Members
Representative of the Asantehene
Guest Speaker – Dr. Michael Adjekum CEO of Kama Industries
Representatives from University of Ghana
Representatives from Sister Private Universities
President and Staff of Christian Service University College
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press
Parents, Loved Ones & Family Members
Graduands and Students
Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Trustees and Council, and indeed the entire University community and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to the 35th congregation of the Christian Service University College.

Congregations are not mere annual events when we meet to confer degrees on our deserving students, but they are also times of stock-taking where we keep our stakeholders and the general public abreast with developments in our University College.

One of such new developments, you would notice is that there has been a change of leadership at the University Council. I would like to place on record, the very good work done by Prof. Samuel Afrane, our immediate past council chairman and his team for the good transformational leadership that they provided for the University. Under his leadership, the University saw phenomenal growth especially in the areas of course or programme development and infrastructural development.

The President's report will give an account of the progress that continues to be made in these areas and the challenges we still face.

- I think one of the greatest challenges a Christian University such as ours faces is the danger of secularization. During the Senavoe Memorial Lectures of 2010, which I was privileged to deliver, I drew attention to this reality. Incidentally, at the time of the lectures, Prof. Afrane and the College President had travelled to the USA to study how some Christian Universities have been able to stay afloat and not sink in the storm of secularism which seems now to engulf every aspect of our human existence. I have always maintained that; "Christianity is not an intellectual suicide"; therefore our greatest challenge is to develop a Faculty and students who do not only learn the theories of Economics and Business, etc, as academic exercises, but who when they are in the market place, approach issues from a Christian mindset and therefore bring about the moral and social transformation which we need as the bedrock to any meaningful national development.

Our challenge, Ladies and Gentlemen, is encapsulated in the words of the Apostle Paul to the Christians at the Rome of his day;

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:2)

While not abandoning the major infrastructural and other developments that have taken place, under my leadership, we shall endeavour to put in place measures that will orient the University in this direction. We would ask our Christian brethren, especially those of you who are of the "Evangelical" persuasion to pray with us for the Holy Spirit's help and direction in this area ~~in Ghana~~.

- Ladies and Gentlemen, the tertiary education landscape has changed tremendously over the last few years. Many University Colleges, established by the churches and other private organizations are now dotted every where on the landscape. That calls for Government

regulation to ensure that standards are maintained, and I must confess that Government regulatory bodies such as the National Accreditation Board are doing a good job. But I think, the Government should not only be a Regulator but a Facilitator as well. To regulate means; *"to control something, especially by making it work in a particular way"*, and to facilitate is *"to make possible or easier"*.

It seems to me that in Ghana, many Government regulatory bodies and professional bodies rather put impediments that delay and sometimes frustrate, instead of helping infant organizations to stand on their feet. Regulation must not be blind to facilitation. Illustrate

Let me also add that, private participation in University or tertiary education in Ghana is now a reality and therefore Government policy on education must take this reality into consideration.

For example, the recent policy of switching over within a very short period from 3years to 4years by the NPP Government and back to 3years by the NDC Government had tremendous negative effect on admission for the private universities especially as the regulatory bodies also push their rules and demands on who should qualify to do what course etc.

The public universities could care less, because they can afford the luxury of throwing away a large number of very well qualified applicants.

- I want to add my voice to the call by many bodies for the Government to go back to the 4-year Senior Secondary programme. As I chair the boards of many secondary schools, it's become obvious that the student performance is far far better under the 4-year programme than under the 3-year programme. That will also help the private universities to enroll students with relatively good grades to make our work easier.
- Our resolve is to make Christian Service University College, the destination of choice, by all who want to have tertiary education in a

Christian environment to prepare them to face the issues of this world from a Christian perspective.

We are bent on preparing the full person- intellectually, socially, morally and in the fear of God.

Now to the Graduands

- University education is a very significant achievement in the life of any individual, especially in the young adults such as we have here. The challenge is out there in the field and that is why we have invited someone who has made a business success of the professional training he received at the University to address you.

I don't intend to pre-empt what he has to share with you since I know him to be a very competent academician, businessman and above all a Christian. He also chairs the Council of a sister Christian University. Listen attentively when he speaks and pick out the gems as he shares his experiences with you.

We share your joy with your parents and family and well-wishers and we congratulate you all and wish you God's blessings and success in your new endeavours.

Let me once again welcome you all to the 35th Graduation ceremony of Christian Service University College.

And on this note, by the powers conferred on me as Chairman of the University Council, I declare this congregation properly constituted.

Thank you.