

SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROF. W. O. ELLIS, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF KNUST AS GUEST SPEAKER TO THE INVESTITURE AND INDUCTION CEREMONY OF PROF (MRS) F. T. K. OWUSU-DAAKU AS CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE'S 4TH PRESIDENT ON SATURDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2013 AT CSUC'S AUDITORIUM AT 10.00AM

Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees

Chairman and Members of Council

My Lord Bishops

President of CSUC

Past Presidents and Principals of CSUC

Vice President of CSUC

Registrar

Staff

Students and Alumni of CSUC

Invited Guests

Friends from the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring you special greetings from the management and staff of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) on this momentous and joyous occasion and also to thank the organisers of this Investiture and Induction programme for inviting me as a Guest Speaker. You all may know the fraternal relationship that exists between the KNUST and the Christian Service University College (CSUC) and I am most delighted

to be here with you this morning in my own capacity as a friend, as a Vice-Chancellor and also a high level representative of the KNUST.

Let me at this point heartily congratulate **Prof. (Mrs) Frances Thelma Nana Abena Kwabea Owusu-Daaku** for her appointment to the high office of President of CSUC. As the second woman to have succeeded in becoming the President/Principal of this institution since 1974 is a great achievement for you, your family, the KNUST, and womanhood in general. I also want to congratulate Dr Kofi Owusu-Daaku, KNUST's Dean of Students for his invaluable support to Frances, for behind every successful woman too, there is also a man. So on behalf of the entire KNUST fraternity, do please accept our warm congratulations and best wishes for a successful tenure in office.

Further to this, I also want to thank all past Presidents/Principals of this institution for their dedication, foresight and hard work that have succeeded in bringing the institution thus far. Special mention is made of Rev Bill Chapman, Foundation Principal and Mrs Juliana Senavoe, the second Principal both of blessed memory. I am particularly proud to note that Prof Emmanuel Frempong, the first President of CSUC and Prof (Mrs) Owusu-Daaku for whom we are gathered here today are both alumni of KNUST. In the words of Isaac Newton, *"if I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants"* and so the current generation is able to look into the future with much optimism because we can stand on your shoulders as giants. The Andrew of this College, Dr Adubofour deserves a special recognition here. He has for long stretches when needed, been Acting Principal or President and revert to the role of Vice when his job is done. He clearly

follows the John adage of Jesus; **“he must increase while I decrease”** – Dr Adubofour epitomises Christian Service indeed!!! (May he stand up on this august occasion to take a bow).

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Ghana as a developing economy is faced with a lot of challenges in all sectors and that of education is no exception. Over the years, accessibility to higher education in the public institutions has been a challenge; lack of modern infrastructure including libraries and ICT facilities, lecture rooms, teaching and learning materials such as modern text books, studios, workshops and student accommodation, inadequate staff in terms of quality and quantity resulting in large class sizes with unfavourable student : teacher ratios, high staff turnover/staff exodus in some places, frequent industrial actions, challenging working environments and conditions of service, funding gaps, graduate unemployment, student indiscipline and low female enrolment, among others. In a large measure, many of these problems apply to the private institutions as well, but for whose effort to help bridge the gap would have made the critical situation of lack of accessibility, even worse.

Private universities’ problems become even more aggravated as they do not enjoy any government support in the form of subvention. With the implementation of the Single Spine Salary Structure and the payment of research allowances to faculty of the public institutions, private institutions become more challenged in their attempt to recruit and maintain the requisite staff. This makes the running or management of our private universities very difficult; requiring good leadership, well established administrative

structures, lots of creativity and innovation and for CSUC in particular, a team that understands to a large extent, the dynamics of the current educational terrain and also why they work at CSUC.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the CSUC was established with a vision to be a *first class Evangelical Christian University that promotes knowledge about Christ through the training of men and women with moral uprightness, academic excellence and passion to serve and transform society*. In view of this vision, the University upholds the following core values:

- the Lordship of Jesus Christ;
- Integrity;
- Hard Work;
- Good Stewardship of Resources; and
- Mutual Support and Care

What this means is that for every staff and student of CSUC, this is what society expects to see and receive from you anytime they visit your campus or they engage you outside the campus as we pride ourselves as being a part of this institution or having gone through this institution. You, therefore, have a responsibility “**to know Christ better and to make Him better known**” through education; in spite of the myriad of challenges you may be facing. This places an additional unique responsibility on your shoulders. Of course, there are several other private universities including Christian denominational ones around but priding yourself as a Christian non-denominational evangelical

institution gives you the leverage to direct your graduates to exude **moral uprightness, academic excellence and passion to serve and transform society**. This should make you unique in every endeavour and this you must live squarely up to. You must be a model tertiary institution to provide the needed leadership in scholarship, training, research and community service.

It is not easy to maintain this feat without compromising on excellence and integrity as others are doing but as our Lord Jesus Christ admonished us in Matthew 5:13–16, CSUC must be seen to be the Light and Salt in Ghana’s tertiary educational sub-sector. Your role is, therefore, to provide the needed leadership in this regard. To get to this target requires teamwork and commitment from all staff. The success of CSUC in this new dispensation is not the sole responsibility of the President but also that of the staff and students. Thus, I want to charge the Board of Trustees, the Council, staff and students of this institution this morning as Nehemiah charged the children of Israel, “**Rise up and Build**” for we are in a new dispensation. Thus, be committed to the Vision and heritage of this University College and that of the incoming President.

Another very good example of team work which always challenges me in the Bible is that of the battle between the Israelites and the Amalekites at Rephidim (Exodus 17:8-14). Joshua was asked to go into battle with his own select army whilst Moses went to the top of the Hill with the Rod of God in hand with Aaron and Hur. When the going got tough in verse 12, they both held Moses’ hands high till victory was achieved. Thus, it

takes everyone in CSUC and not the President alone to achieve the set goal. Therefore, every staff of the University College would be needed in this forward march.

Most often than not when a new person is coming into office, we take positions and adopt attitudes of *let us wait and see what she can do*. For those in that category, I urge you to shed off that attitude and character for the work is the Lord's and the glory goes to Him.

Now, a word to my dear sister who is being invested/inducted into office today. Once again, congratulations and well done. As I have stated already, this is the Lord's work and we have been called to serve. The keyword is **Service**. As someone from the KNUST with over 30 years unbroken service in one of the best and prestigious institutions in the world, there is little doubt about the fact that you bring along a considerable amount of experience to your job which will undoubtedly help you better manage your affairs. KNUST and CSUC are homogenously linked, yet heterogonous unique and, therefore, may have divergent and unique challenges. Do please pick the best practices of KNUST for CSUC and leave out the unhealthy ones behind. The demands of your job would be enormous and the pressures would be gargantuan. Be firm but fair and let the good Lord direct your path in all dealings. Know that you are leading a flock or a team and always bring them along in all your dealings but remember Moses, remember Nehemiah and remember Daniel but most of all, remember our Lord Jesus Christ that in all circumstances, the Lord glorifies His name.

I want to encourage you with this example; the pilgrims who founded America landed at Plymouth Rock full of vision. The first year, they established a town, the following year they elected a town council. In their third year, the town council proposed building a road five miles into the wilderness far westward but the people then criticised this as a waste of public resources. Amazing, isn't it? Once they had been able to see across oceans to new worlds, now they could not see five miles down the road. What actually happened? They failed to keep their vision alive.

Therefore dear sister, keep your vision alive. But how do you do that? It is not easy talking from experience. However, I want to recommend two things:

- 1) Keep your vision before you at all times. Write the vision and make it plain that he may run who reads it (Habakkuk 2:2). Your vision is the road map for this work. Read it regularly and keep it before you at all times.
- 2) Believe in yourself even when others don't. Remember you may succeed if nobody else believes in you, but you will never succeed if you don't believe in yourself.

Finally, dear sister always stay young at heart because the writer Pearl S. Buck stated and I quote *"the young do not know enough to be prudent, therefore they attempt the impossible and achieve it generation after generation"* end of quote.

As I bring my speech to a close, as stakeholders gathered here today, we must ask ourselves this simple question – what type of University would we want to see in the years to come? As we attempt to answer this question, it should set us to pray for the institution CSUC, and also give to support it as well as serve as ambassadors as we leave here.

In conclusion, Madam President, I wish you God's guidance, providence and protection in the performance of your duties. Know at all times that the KNUST is solidly behind you and do please call on us whenever the need arises. The Lord is your shepherd and so you shall never want (Psalm 23:1). God bless and keep you.

Thank you.