

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT THE 2011 FRESH STUDENTS'
ORIENTATION PROGRAMME, CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS STATE**

Registrar

University Librarian

Deans of Colleges

Academic and Non-Teaching Staff

Dear Students

I am deeply grateful to God for His mercies and most delighted to formally welcome you to Caleb University following your admission into one or the other of our degree programmes. I am aware that some of you have been in residence for a week and that you are gradually adjusting to your new environment. It is a universal tradition to take freshmen and women through an orientation programme that will break them into the University system.

During this week, you will be exposed to various aspects of Caleb University life, culture and facilities, and you would be acquainted with your rights, privileges, obligations and responsibilities. This programme will be at the University level today and at College and Departmental levels from tomorrow.

For my part as your Vice-Chancellor, I wish to emphasize the following and I urge you to pay careful attention to them and every other thing that you will be told during this period and beyond.

- This is a **Christian faith-based University** with its own set of rules, regulations and culture, to which everyone is subject . There is no room for partial or selective obedience or compliance.
- Respect constituted authority. There is no room for lawlessness here.

- You are now young adults, who will be held responsible for every deed or speech. So, behave responsibly.
- You are not here by accident. Hence, you must discover the divine plan for your existence on Earth and seek to fulfil it (Colossians 4:17).
- As the fifth set of freshmen and women coming into Caleb University, you belong to the pioneer generation. This status has its peculiar challenges and privileges. For the record, this is my third pioneering experience – the first set of students that I took part in producing at [Ogun State University](#) and [Osun State University](#) proved to be pace-setters then and now. You too have a chance to join that privileged group of achievers. Remember how [Mayflower School](#), Ikenne, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and, even, the [University of Lagos](#), overcame initial scepticism to achieve renown.
- Whatever are your talents, they are latent till they are fully harnessed
- Hard work pays: indeed, there is no alternative to it. There is no sweet without sweat.
"No testimony without a test ... and trials come before triumph"
- Avoid unethical short-cuts; they lead to short circuits.
- Stay at your task; stay focused; never give up - keep hammering without looking at the wearing axe head
- Nobody is a failure per se. "Failure" is a perception that becomes a reality through defeatism and indolence.
- Yet, you cannot afford to fail! Never give up!
- Shun evil associations, avoid the destiny-killers and those who have no focus or a good name to protect. Remember whose children you are! You are not here for anyone else. Each student has a destiny to fulfil. If deviants entice you, never yield.
- Identify and associate with good role models and friends that can add value to your life – two members of our first set of graduates (one male, the other female) obtained First Class Honours degrees in Industrial Chemistry and Economics, respectively.

- Therefore, aim to be the best, progressing from success to “good success” and excellence
- However, no matter how successful you are, there is always room for improvement.
"The sky is not the limit, but the beginning"
- There is enough space at the top for everyone; but only those who excel will get there.
- Be a six-o-clock person – touching heaven while standing on the earth ' **"Be vertically connected to God by faith, worship and prayers, and be horizontally connected to your fellow humans in good deeds ... and pray without ceasing as if everything depended on God, while you work tirelessly as if everything depended on you"**
- You now have the chance of a lifetime to be what you ought to be ...**"if you follow the Way, listen to the truth, and emulate the exemplary life of Jesus Christ, the Saviour and Lord"**
- Your parents are not merely paying your way through this institution; they are not buying you a meal ticket; they and us are empowering you for life! Don't disappoint.
- The world is waiting for you to blossom. It's up to you to fulfil your dreams. Here's your God-given chance and we are here to help you reach the heights. You will get there! Yes, you can! (Philippians 4:13); you are “well able” (Numbers 13:30; 14: 24).

Welcome to Caleb!

Thank you for listening. God bless.

Professor Ayodeji O. Olukoju, FNAL

Vice-Chancellor

Caleb University

Imota, Lagos State

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