

**“LOVE CALEB AND LIVE IT!”**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR’S ADDRESS TO CALEB UNIVERSITY STUDENTS’ ASSEMBLY,  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012**

The Registrar, University Librarian, Deputy Bursar, Deans of Colleges, Dean of Student Affairs, Staff and Students of Caleb University.

On behalf of the Visitor and Proprietor, Dr. Oladega Adebogun, The Chancellor, Brigadier-General Mobolaji Johnson, CON, Chair, Dr. Christopher Kolade, CFR, and Members of the Board of Trustees, the Acting Pro-Chancellor and Chair, Professor Fola Tayo, MFR, and Members of the Governing Council, Senate, Management and Staff of Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State, I welcome everyone to the first assembly of fresh and returning students of this University and to the new academic session, the sixth since the University commenced activities in January 2008. I thank the Almighty God for what He has done and continues to do for us individually and collectively.

Today’s event affords Management and Staff the opportunity to share ideas, explain and clarify issues and obtain feedback from our students. I look forward to a friendly and rewarding interaction in an atmosphere of civility and mutual understanding. For the sake of our new students, a few points have to be stated and re-stated for the benefit of the older ones.

First, as we all know, this is a Christian faith-based University, devoted to fulfilling the mission enshrined in its motto: “For God and Humanity.” It is important to stress the character of this University and what it stands for because all our staff and students are here by choice. Consequently, it is expected that University rules and regulations in the Handbook and other lawful directives which embody our Christian faith-based values must be complied with. There are rewards for compliance and appropriate sanctions for defaulting. Accordingly, active participation in Chapel activities is a compulsory obligation on the part of everyone. To this end, certain reforms have been introduced to deepen and enliven our worship experiences from now on. Details will be provided later. For now, I can announce that we have a new Chaplain, Professor Nosa Owens-Ibie, who is also the Dean of Students and Head of Mass Communication. He is assisted by a Chapel Committee comprising the Assistant Chaplain, Mr. Olufemi Oyedokun, teaching and non-teaching staff, and students. Please cooperate with them to develop your faith and character, and to make the best of your stay here.

Second, Caleb University has justifiably earned a reputation for high academic standards. So far, we have produced two sets of graduates, including several First Class Honours graduates. One of them, Mr Tope Bakare, the overall best pioneer graduate with a BSc. First Class Honours degree in Industrial Chemistry, underwent his national service as a staff of this University. Consequently, I urge all students to pursue their studies with utmost diligence. Caleb offers all classes of degrees based on students' performance, and there are neither institutional inhibitions to achieving excellence nor compromises with mediocrity here. All that is required is full attendance at lectures, punctuality, decorum, focus and diligence. Eighty per cent attendance at lectures is required for admission into examination halls. This will be strictly enforced from this semester onwards. An important development, as directed by the NUC, is that there is no more Summer School – all failed courses will now be carried over and repeated at the next available opportunity. This should be a great incentive to work harder and graduate on time.

Third, the University is compliant with all regulatory standards set by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and appropriate professional bodies like NIA/ARCON and ICAN. I am pleased to announce that all but one of our thirteen programmes secured NUC full accreditation till 2017; only one course obtained interim accreditation, which is valid till 2014. That exception was due to the limited number of full-time teaching staff, which we have begun to remedy. We are in the process of appointing a full-time Professor to rectify the deficiency that cost us full accreditation in that Department. Our Architecture programme has both NUC and NIA/ARCON full accreditation. Only one other private University in Nigeria shares this distinction with us. The applications for take-off of our College of Postgraduate Studies and the commencement of the MSc. Architecture programme have been submitted to the NUC and we hope to start once we receive the approval to do so.

Fourth, we aim to make our graduates nationally and globally competitive. This is why this session will witness great intensity in three of our programmes – the French language course, the ICT international certification programme co-provided with New Horizons and the Caleb Leadership Academy. All students must not only attend but show evidence of proficiency in them. Character, skills and leadership must complement academic excellence.

Fifth, the imperative of the consolidation of the Caleb Identity in the institution's sixth year of existence cannot be gainsaid. Our fresh students have demonstrated great enthusiasm for the University, which has reflected in the speed and dexterity with which they have rendered the University Anthem. Let this be reflected in upholding rules and regulations, including conformity to our dress code on respective days of the week. In this connection, staff and students will be attired in the new Caleb sports shirt on Wednesdays as you can see amply demonstrated by Management and other staff today. We all bought our

copies. As I promised, I am paying for the first three fresh students who arrived on the eve of our resumption on October 2. They will be presented with their gifts after my speech. I urge all our students to demonstrate great passion for and commitment to the greatness to their alma mater. Protect our facilities and defend the integrity of Caleb University. You have no other that you can call your own.

Sixth, there is proof that the Caleb Brand is blossoming locally and globally. This year alone, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Nigeria, H.E. Ryuichi Shoji, made Caleb University the first tertiary institution in Nigeria that he visited upon assumption of office early this year. In February, the United States Embassy organized a Black History Month programme on our campus. Our students participated actively and several won prizes. On March 10, our maiden Convocation was attended by dignitaries from all walks of life. Students of the Department published two newspapers under the guidance of their lecturers for circulation on the occasion. The Mass Communication Forum has also attracted to our campus distinguished professional and industry leaders to interact with our staff and students. Professor Owens-Ibie deserves commendation for these initiatives. A few months ago, I ran into a graduate of Caleb University. Jubril Atanda, at the airport on his way to commence postgraduate studies in a European country. That shows the credibility of our degrees and the competitiveness of our products.

What this denotes is that Caleb University is the place to be and you are in the right place. This is buttressed by the steady improvements in our surroundings, the endorsement of regulatory bodies, positive media reports, and the support of our beloved parents and friends of the University. Henceforth, our rallying cry is “LOVE CALEB AND LIVE IT! Otherwise, “LOVE CALEB OR LEAVE IT”! I am sure you will opt for the former unless you are a quitter. But quitters don’t win, and we are here to stay and win. Therefore, ignore the pessimistic and the self-defeatist; join the winners. Forward ever!

Welcome to Caleb! Love it, live it and make it great!

Thank you for listening and God bless.

Professor Ayodeji Olukoju

Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Letters

Vice-Chancellor, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State

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