



Covenant University

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S 10TH CONVOCATION SPEECH



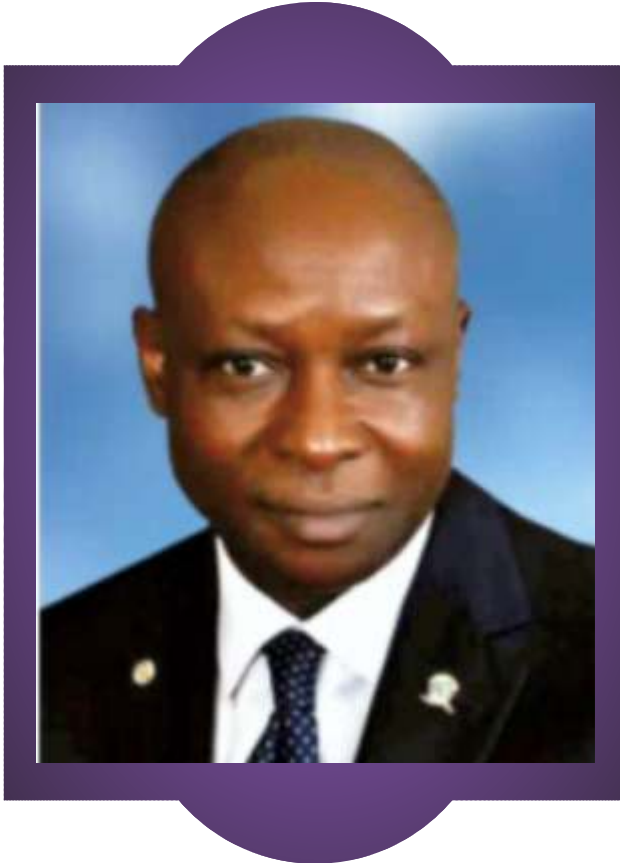
CELEBRATING THE DIVINE FAVOUR OF GOD UPON THE UNIVERSITY

By

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Protocols.

Celebrating the Divine Favour of God Upon the University

Psalm 44:3 KJV

[3] For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.

1. Preamble

With a heart of gratitude to God for a very impactful and result-oriented 2014/2015 Academic year, I welcome you all to the 10th Convocation Ceremony tagged “Release of Eagles 2015”.

By the Grace of God upon the University we are marching forward in our quest towards the fulfillment of Vision 10:2022, which is to be among the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022.

To remain focused on the Vision we set yearly goals, and the goal for this session is: "Innovation, Impact and Internationalisation". Looking back, with a deep sense of appreciation to God, all our targets have been met. Our story is a replica of Joshua 21:45 KJV: “There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.”

To him be all the glory.

2. Some Major Accomplishments

Covenant University experienced a major leap in her quest towards becoming one of the top ten Universities in the world by the year 2022 (Vision 10:2022) as the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo was invited to present a Keynote Address on: “*Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to Power High Impact International*

Collaborations with Africa in Cancer Care, Research and Education” at the 2015 Global Summit on Cancer held at the Harvard Medical School. Harvard University presently ranks as the best University in the world and as such the visit of the Vice-Chancellor to Harvard was not just apt, but also prophetic. The invitation afforded Covenant University the opportunity to advance prospects of collaboration with Harvard University and Babson College.

I am happy to report in this regard that the University has launched the Telemedicine and e-Health projects.

• **Telemedicine Project:** Telemedicine is about offering health services to remote locations where there are inadequate facilities and personnel through collaboration with experts within and outside the country using Telecommunication facilities. In Nigeria, this approach will serve as a major breakthrough in the health sector where the World Health Organization (WHO) has categorized Nigeria as one of the 'Dead Zones' of the world. Four centres are involved in this pilot scheme. They are:

- CU Health Centre - Host
- Ace Medicare Clinics, Ota - Remote
- Ado Odo Ota Health Centre - Remote
- General Hospital Ota - Remote

e-Health Project: One of the greatest barriers to e-Health adoption is the difficulty for patients or medical practitioners to access accurate and reliable information at the point of care. Though a myriad of e-Health solutions exist, cost and access is a major concern. The CU e-Health project is an online application designed to provide access to credible health information and connect patients, doctors and clinics together on the ICT platform in an effective way to enhance healthcare delivery. For now, the major concern is advocacy and health education

in the following areas of concern: Cancer, Diabetes, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Kidney Failure, etc.

3. Other Major Accomplishments

1. We have gone full circle in the adoption of ICT for the delivery of educational services. Consequently:
 - a) All our lecture halls are fitted with smart boards.
 - b) The University has five teleconferencing centres that are well furnished with state-of-the-art facilities with which we interact with our overseas collaborators and partners.
2. Recently, the University introduced mobile learning into her teaching processes that engenders learning anywhere and anytime on campus. This is a great feat and first-of-its-kind in the country. Thanks to the ubiquitous Internet facility and 24/7 electricity supply on campus. Now, all the students have these tablets loaded with courseware ready to optimize learning at the cutting-edge of ICT.
3. We have employed visiting professors from world-class universities who visit between May and July every year, during the long vacation to teach, conduct research as well as organize international conferences and workshops. Through these interactions, we have been able to revise our curricula to world-class standard and our laboratories are fitted with research facilities as those available in other world-class universities.
4. We have engaged Nobel Laureates in the two editions of Covenant University International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-ICADI) as Keynote Speakers. The Laureates are:
 - a. Professor Thomas J. Sargent, a 2011 Nobel Prize Winner in Economic Sciences and currently Professor

of Economics at New York University.

- b. Professor Eric S. Maskin, a 2007 Nobel Prize Winner in Economic Sciences and currently the Adams University Professor at Harvard University.
- c. Professor Alvin Elliot Roth, a 2012 Nobel Prize Winner in Economic Sciences and currently a Professor at Stanford University as well as Professor emeritus at Harvard.

With this annual assemblage of great minds, we are succeeding in proffering solutions to African Development Issues. By God's grace we will not relent until we redeem the lost glory of the Continent. Thanks to the strategic leadership of the Board of Regents.

- 5. It is noteworthy that our “Eagles” are at the centre of most development issues in the University. The University's new Mobile Learning Project was executed in partnership with Softcom Nigeria Ltd, a company founded and run by CU Alumni. Also, the current Registrar of the University, the Dean of Student Affairs and the Director of Physical Planning and Development are all graduates of the University and are doing well.
- 6. Also, the proprietor of the University has made enormous investments in infrastructural development and the provision of excellent as well as safe working and living environments for our faculty, staff and students. Some of the new structures constructed during this period include:
 - a. An imposing ultra-modern Senate Building on 8-floors, which currently serves as the administrative hub of the University.
 - b. A new Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies

(CEDS) building with facilities for entrepreneurial studies.

- c. An ultra-modern Covenant University Health Centre equipped with the state-of-the-art medical facilities.
 - d. An array of duplexes, three-bedroom luxury flats and two bedroom flats in the staff residential quarters.
 - e. Other significant projects on the verge of completion are the Covenant University Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery (CUCRID) edifice on seven floors, two Postgraduate Students' Hostels and Cafeteria with capacity to accommodate 480 and 500 students respectively.
7. The University held the first ever Industry Partnership Luncheon yesterday, June 25, 2015 with over 50 companies and organizations from the various sectors of the economy in attendance. The primary objective of this luncheon is to tie academic endeavours to nation building. If, after 55 years of independence, the country is still largely dependent on foreign solutions to our local problems, then something is fundamentally wrong. It is to this end that we proposed the partnership that offered us the platform to showcase our research prowess and endowment, through which we shall be proffering home-grown solutions to the myriad of problems which the nation is currently facing such as: poor quality education, challenges of nation building, food insecurity, insurgency, poverty and health challenges among others.
8. As part of the University's efforts to enrich the learning experience of our students, all undergraduate students were enlisted to participate in the SIWES programme. This is against the general practice where only Engineering and Science students are

involved in the Scheme. This is intended to enable them gain practical experience and better understanding of their various disciplines.

4. Fellowships, Grants and Awards

In the past three years, God has continued to expand the frontiers of the University beyond our national borders, with numerous awards and recognitions. Our faculty and students have won laurels, fellowships, research grants and excel in international competitions and research fairs while our graduates have also excelled in their postgraduate programmes in world-class centres.

Below are some of these notable awards, recognitions, fellowships and collaborations:

a. Institutional Awards/Recognitions

Some of the institutional awards and recognition recorded by the University in the last three years include:

- The Overall Best University in Nigeria and West Africa and number 15 in Africa in the Webometrics Ranking.
- Ranked No 1 in Web of Repositories in Nigeria and West Africa.
- The University has the highest listing of 78 out of the first 500 leading Nigerian scientists listed by Cybermetrics.
- First Class graduates of the University emerged tops in the Presidential Special Scholarship Scheme for Innovation and Development (PRESSID) in all the three editions by producing at least 10% apiece.
- In recognition of the excellent reputation, effective management and constant growth of the University, the

Europe Business Assembly awarded Covenant University the **“Best Enterprise Award”**. This award confers on the University the right to use the UK registered award logo for advertisement purposes as an emblem of recognition in accordance with the highest international standards.

- The University bagged Gold and Bronze Awards for inventing Eco Friendly Energy Retention Bag (ERB) and a Solar Powered Weather Station respectively in the recently concluded 'Korean Association of Women Inventors Exhibition (KWIA)' in Seoul, South Korea.
- Best Private University in Nigeria.
- Best Vice-Chancellor of Private University in Nigeria.
- The Centenary ICT-Driven University of the Year.
- The Best Private University in Nigeria by the United States based US Transparency International Standards (USTIS).
- Best Private University in Nigeria 2013 & 2014 by the Centre for Democratic Governance in Africa.
- Best Performing Higher Institution of the Year Award.

b. Faculty Awards and Recognitions

Recently, several of our Faculty won the highest awards and recognitions by learned societies such as, the Nigerian Institute of Architects, Female Architects of Nigeria, Nigerian Psychological Association, Nigerian Academy of Science, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, Institute of Policy Management Development and Nigerian Academy of Engineering among others.

c. External Research Grants Won By Faculty

Some of our Faculty also won research grants from world renowned Institutes/Foundations:

- Dr. Angela Eni of the Biological Sciences Department was awarded Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Research Grant on West Africa Virus Epidemiology. The award is worth **\$310,747**.
- Dr. Humprey Adebayo's research group of the Biological Sciences Department received **\$58,230** from The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) as research grant and support for M.Sc. students.
- Dr. Olayinka Ajani of the Chemistry Department received **\$10,000** from The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Research Grant in Basic Sciences for Individual Scientists.
- Professor Ezekiel Adebisi of the Computer and Information Sciences Department received a 12-month Georg Forster Research Fellowship Award in Germany.

d. Faculty on Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Our faculty has also attracted post-doctoral fellowships from world-class Centres, such as, the International Centre for Information Technology (ICITD), Southern University, USA; Durban University of Technology (DUT), South Africa; North West University, South Africa; Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute, Kolkata, India; Institute of Oceanography, Goa, India; and Key Laboratory of Pathogenic Microbiology and Immunology, Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China among others. Moreover, a number of our faculty have also won short-term research

fellowships of institutions in Sweden, Netherlands, South Africa, Germany and India.

e. Fellowships Hosted by Covenant University

Covenant University has become a major hub for the hosting of world renowned international fellowships such as Carnegie and Fulbright. In 2014/2015 session, the University hosted the following fellowships:

- Three Scholars of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship:
 - a. Professor Tokunbo Ogunfunmi, a specialist in Electrical Engineering, from Santa Clara University.
 - b. Professor Peyibomi Soyinka-Airewele, a specialist in International and Comparative Politics, from Ithaca College, New York.
 - c. Professor Egwu E. Kalu, a Professor of Chemical & Biological Engineering, Florida A&M University-Florida State University, USA.
- Two Fulbright Fellows:
 - a. Dr. C. Nana Derby, an Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Virginia State University, USA.
 - b. Professor Samuel B. Olorounto, a Professor of English and Comparative Literature, New River Community College, Dublin, Virginia, U. S. A.

5. Accreditation of Programmes

The University played host to accreditation teams from the following accrediting bodies in the course of the session:

- i.) **National Universities Commission:** The commission visited

postgraduate programmes of the Departments of Banking and Finance, Accounting and Business Management. The following undergraduate programmes were also visited: Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Demography & Development Studies, Mass Communication, Sociology, Accounting, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Building Technology.

- ii.) **Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria:** The Council visited Building Technology Programme.
- iii.) **National Institute of Marketing of Nigeria:** The Institute's accreditation team visited Marketing programme.
- iv.) **Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria:** The Council visited Mass Communication Programme.
- v.) **Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria:** It visited programmes in Computer and Information Sciences Department.

The feedback from the respective teams was positive. The formal accreditation reports are being awaited.

6. Community Development Impact

As part of its community impact mandate, the University implemented a number of projects under its Community Development Impact Initiative Committee (CDIIC). The projects are.

1. Free medical services, including reading glasses to over 232 people at Ilobi Village, Ado-Odo/Ota LGA as part of activities to mark David Oyedepo Day of Service (DODOS) on September 25, 2014.

2. The University Commissioned and Dedicated 2 Borehole projects at Onigbongbo and Erin Villages on September 25, 2014.
 3. Project One Million Souls, an arm of the Student Council, visited and donated relief items to the Boys Correctional Center, Yaba and the Cheshire Home, Mushin, Lagos on October 18, 2014.
 4. Donation of materials by Students' CPC Community Development to Ijamido Children home on May 16, 2015.
 5. Donation of ICT facilities such as computer sets and printers to Anglican (Junior) Grammar School, Ota and Community Primary School, IbogunIfo, Ogun State to commemorate the 2015 Convocation event.
 6. Project One Million Souls hosted over 300 less privileged people from different homes in Lagos and Ota during their annual Festival of Love event held on April 4, 2015.
 7. The CDIIC donated and installed a 500 KvA transformer to the Agoro Community at Onigbongbon, Atan, Ota.

7. Research and Conference Support

Further to the University's drive to promote research, several research clusters were given research grants, while several Faculty were sponsored to attend both local and international conferences/workshops. The Table below shows that the University provided 105 conference/workshop supports for Faculty, sponsored 48 High Impact Journal publications and provided grants for 26 research proposals.

Category	No.	Amount (₦)
Conference Support/Workshops	105	29,533,600.00
Sponsored Journal Publications	48	5,346,183.40
Research Proposals and Grants	26	13,526,031.25
Total		48,405,814.65

Conferences and Workshops

During the 2014/2015 Academic Session, the University hosted 13 conferences and workshops that attracted scholars from within and outside the country. Some of the conferences and workshops include: International Conference on Demography and Economic Development, Launch of UN Global Report on Human Settlement, 6th IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer Inc.) International Conference on Adaptive Science and Technology (ICAST), Covenant University Conference on e-Governance, Future Ready University Conference, 9th Nigerian Network Operators' Group (ngNOG) Workshop, Prostate Cancer Workshop, among others.

8. 2014/2015 Result Presentation

8.1 Undergraduate

There are a total of 1315 graduands for the 2014/2015 Academic Session. The Degree Classifications are presented below:

Class	CBSS	CLDS	CoE	CST	Total
1st	31	2	45	26	104 (7.91%)
2 1	223	50	167	170	610 (46.39 %)
2 2	172	44	132	162	510 (38.78 %)
3rd	42	5	14	30	91 (6.92 %)
Total	468	101	358	388	1315

8.2 Postgraduate

There a total of 135 Postgraduate Graduands. The breakdown is presented below:

Ph.D	18
MA/M.Eng/M.Sc	109
MBA	1
PGD	7
Total	135

9. Future Pathways

Following the foundations established in the 2014/2015 academic session in the areas of innovation, impact and internationalization, subsequently, our efforts will be focused on improving on these areas to engender more innovation, product development and nation building.

10. Concluding remarks and Appreciation

I want to conclude my address by appreciating the Chancellor and Chairman BOR of Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, and the members of the BOR for the spiritual and financial backing we have enjoyed thus far. Counting on God, with the unflinching support of the Board, we are confident that the Vision 10:2022 is a prophetic verdict.

To the Covenant Parents, I deeply appreciate you for the cooperation given to us for the past 4 or 5 years when your wards came to us as eaglets. A lot of students matriculated with your wards that are convocating today, but on account of indiscipline had to be sent out of the University. We pray to God to help them recover their destinies. I pray that they will be a pride not only to you but generations unborn.

To our guests from other universities and the various sectors of the economy, your presence here today has added colour to this ceremony. We deeply appreciate you. It is our prayer that God will perfect all that

concerns you in Jesus Name. Amen.

To my colleagues, faculty and staff of Covenant University. I deeply appreciate your labour of love. Without your immeasurable contributions, the success we are celebrating today would not have been so. Let me assure you that as part of the price of change, we may, most times, be misunderstood, criticized and castigated by those with very little knowledge of our vision, mission and mandate. We should remain resolute and undaunted in the discharge of our assignments. Noting the words of our Chancellor, “It is foolishness to be shameful of what is gainful.” Collectively, we are sure to rewrite the history of higher education context in Nigeria and Africa in general.

To our Eagles, the graduands of today, the Admirable set. I say congratulations to you. To have subjected yourselves to the rules and academic demands of CU, I say congratulations again. Today, you are being certified in learning and character. The character component is prime to us and that is why our TTG & CLD programmes are our unique selling points. Thus, with this certification, I am confident that you will fulfill destiny. Remember the admonition of the Special Convocation Service Minister, Dr. David Oyedepo (Jnr.) that your certificate does not guarantee security nor a fulfilled destiny, only a personal relationship with Jesus does. You will succeed. You will fulfill destiny.

Continue to soar!

Congratulations!

Congratulations!!

Congratulations!!!

Long live Covenant University!!

Long live Nigeria!!!

Prof. C. K. Ayo

