



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University August 1-5, 2016

## CU Chancellor Declares New Academic Year 'Session of Change'

The Chancellor and Chairman Board of Regents of Covenant University, Dr. David O. Oyedepo, has christened the 2016/2017 academic session of the university as a "Session of Change" in furtherance of the institution's vision of being among the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022.

Dr. Oyedepo made the prophetic declaration on the opening day of CU's Executive Advance, an annual programme designed to equip faculty and non-teaching staff for the new session.

The Chancellor, who made a presentation on the topic, 'Towards Attaining Vision 10:2022: Our Core Values Perspectives', said the vision of being one of 10 in 10 is a foresight into the future of Covenant University.

Every set goal, he stated, is accomplishable, it's just for all stakeholders to engage their capacity. "In most cases, it's not the lack of capacity, but capacity

engagement. There is nothing mystical about excellence, it is simply about one's commitment to improvement," said Dr. Oyedepo.

And while acknowledging the great feats recorded in the first four years since launching the vision, the Chancellor called for more commitment to the task.

"There is nothing God says that creates a concern for Him in delivery," he said. "All we need is capacity for delivery. It's a session of change; each one's commitment will result into great accomplishment. There is nothing we are doing that we cannot do better; no result we cannot improve on."

Delving into the topic of his presentation, Dr. Oyedepo said the core values of Covenant University – Spirituality, Integrity, Possibility Mentality, Capacity Building, Responsibility, Diligence and Sacrifice – constitute the creed that defines the university.



Dr. David Oyedepo

Spirituality, he explained, is the hub that keeps the other core values together. "We recognize that spirituality guarantees all-round profiting, and the spiritual roots of all world-class universities authenticate this claim.

Contd. on Pg 2

## Research, Pathway to Attaining Vision 10: 2022 –VC

Covenant University would have to focus more on research to realize its vision of being one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA Atayero has said.

Professor Atayero, who recently assumed office as Vice-Chancellor of the institution, made the declaration during his presentation on the opening day of the 2016 Executive Advance of Covenant University.

Speaking to the topic, 'Recite: A Research-Intensive Approach for the Attainment of Vision 10:2022', the Vice-Chancellor said the current administration at CU has a mission to fulfill Vision 1 of 10 in 10 by evolving a world-class Research university.



Professor AAA. Atayero

And as a measure of seriousness attached to the quest, Professor Atayero unveiled 'Project ReCiTe', which means Research, Citation and Teaching. "Research," he said, "is our responsibility; citation and innovation leading to Income is the reward, Teaching is our Goal."

In driving this leg of the vision, he explained, the current administration makes an assumption that Vision 1 of 10 in 10 is a mission accomplished when Covenant University attains top 10 of any of the reputable global rankings of world universities.

Revealing the strategy for Recite, Professor Atayero said: "Aim for the sun and land on the moon. This we shall accomplish through the instrumentality of 'Glocalisation', which means benchmarking with established (indisputable) world-class universities, while introducing innovations to address our local contextual needs."

He emphasized that if Covenant University can get its act together on research, the institution can meet any of the criteria easily. "If we continue with the rate of publication, we'll be there, especially in the Times Higher Education ranking."

Citing the example of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), an American private doctorate-granting university, which focuses more on Research and has consistently risen on Times Higher

Contd. on Pg 2

## Executive Advance: Faculty, Staff Advocates Teaching Excellence to Attain Vision 10: 2022

The second day of the Executive Advance for the 2016/2017 Academic Session with the theme, "ReCiTe" Approach for the Attainment of Vision 10: 2022," saw contributions from various speakers and panel discussions toward teaching and learning excellence.

Former Director, Physical Planning and Development (PPD), Architect Gbenga Alalade, sets the tone for the day in his presentation titled, "Enabling Institutional Excellence through Investment and Maintenance of Infrastructure." He argued that while the University paid greater attention to excellence in teaching and research in its quest to attaining world-class status but this can only be achieved with excellent infrastructures and conducive environment.

"We live in a world of competition, if you remain where you are, you are left behind. This means there is need for everyone to be running. Therefore, for Covenant University to be among the leaders, we need to keep striving for excellence, particularly in the area of infrastructure. The key issue here is that a university that must be competitive, must ensure that its infrastructures are on top of the game," he said.

He took a retrospective look at the state of the University's infrastructures from inception even as he called for collaborative effort and creative energy of all stakeholders including management, statutory organs as well as faculty and staff in order to see the desired future.

Contd. on Pg 2

## 'The Bible: The Most Reliable Text on Leadership'- Dr. David Oyedepo

The Chancellor of Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, has christened the bible 'The Book of Books.' In his lecture on the third day of the University's Executive Advance programme, he spoke of the Bible as the most reliable guide in the race of life, as well as, the most dependable and reliable text on all issues of life; including the quest for leadership (2 Peter 1:3; Deuteronomy 28:1; Joshua 1:8).

In his presentation, titled, 'Introducing the Most Reliable Text on Leadership,' the Chancellor cited the Bible as the most valuable volume of all texts in the world and the oldest, authored by the Ancient of Days; yet the most current (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Chancellor stated that the Bible has remained the best seller of all times (Pro. 23:23); consisting mainly of sublime 'authors,' yet the most widely quoted of all texts on the earth (1 Cor. 1:25-26).

Further eulogising the validity of the bible, Dr. Oyedepo stated that the principles of the Bible still rule most of the civilized world today (John 9:5) and its laws make up most of the contents of all legal systems worldwide (John 1:1-5/9). He stressed that the contents of the bible touch on all aspects of human existence – spiritual, intellectual, physical, moral, social, etc. (Deuteronomy 28:1-13), hence, it is a volume of writings, whose light penetrates the invisible with its

invincible force and delivers its mission with precision (John 1:1-5; Ephesians 6:6).

"The 'meat' (revelation/insight), from the Bible," he said, "strengthens the soul and revitalizes the body (Mathew 4:4/24). Its 'light' shatters all darkness and shows the way to go (John 1:5) and its 'balm' heals the sick body and sets free the afflicted (Psalm 107:20). Its 'sword' destroys all satanic holds and wins all invisible wars (Mathew 4:1-14) and its 'refiners fire' sanctifies all rotten lives (Psalm 119:9-11), while its 'principles' edifies and makes wise (Psalm 19:7-9)."

According to the Chancellor, the written word is in absolute command of all the happenings in this world (Hebrews 1:3) and rules both the natural and the spiritual world (Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:13-16). "Without the Bible, the human race would have been doomed, reason being that the Bible is the only volume that clearly defines the rights and wrongs of life (John 8:12; Deuteronomy 5:30-33)," he stated.

The Chancellor explained that the practice of what the Bible says would turn any dummy to a living wonder (Deuteronomy 28:1) and turn a nonentity to an envy of the world (Luke 5:1-8). He noted that every other text informs, but this book transforms (Psalm 119:97-100) and



Dr. David Oyedepo

you cannot be grounded if you follow its principles. "I am yet to come across any man that ever regrets his commitment to the practice of this book but many that I know continue to regret ignoring the values of this book (Numbers 23:19). You are always in command of the happenings, holding fast to what is 'written' (Exodus 4:17; Isaiah 11:1)," he stressed.

## Research, Pathway to Attaining Vision 10: 2022

–VC *Contd. from Pg 1*

Education ranking of world-class universities, the Vice-Chancellor said Covenant University must be dynamic, focused and autonomous to emulate Caltech and the like.

"A faster and more effective approach to achieving world-class status is by starting new institutions on the following conditions: availability of academic talent; availability of financial resources; responsible governance, especially autonomy and academic freedom," said Professor Atayero.

What CU must do urgently, he added, is to determine its areas of strength; take three and run with them. ■

He assured the participants that the University would attain Vision 10: 2022 noting that, "It is a prophetic verdict that has both the spiritual and material support of our proprietary base, the advice of our consultant (Times Higher Education) and the determination of faculty and staff to get there."

The Director, Academic Planning Unit, Dr. Olawande Daramola, proposed the establishment of Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Committee on Teaching and Learning in every College in his presentation titled, "Teaching and Learning in Covenant University: Quality Expectations and Imperatives."

In order to improve teaching and learning, Dr. Daramola also enjoined the University management to recruit faculty with tested teaching ability; redeploy faculty with inadequate teaching skills to other duties in the University; engage postgraduate students as teaching assistants; ensure that courses are taught by capable persons; ensure that matured and experienced faculty are those that teach at the foundational levels and final year, as well as employ full-time researchers, who will do more of research. ■

## CU Chancellor Declares New Academic Year 'Session of Change'

*Contd. from Pg 1*

"Every student must understand that the knowledge of God is the foundation of success. Spirituality is not only relevant to spiritual life but professional pursuit and academic excellence," said the Chancellor.

He continued: "Possibility Mentality is key to a world of unlimited possibilities; Capacity Building is commitment to develop relevant skill in the pursuit of a given task; Integrity defines the sustenance of your value, maintaining academic and intellectual

integrity across board – faculty, staff and students.

"Responsibility is all about self-discipline in the pursuit of a given task; in Diligence, no one ever gets out of life more than he puts into it; and in Sacrifice, there is nothing extraordinary on its own, it is man's extraordinary input that makes it extraordinary. It takes a global price to generate global impact."

## Executive Advance: Faculty, Staff Advocates Teaching Excellence to Attain Vision 10: 2022

*Contd. from Pg 1*

world-class status.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu, in his presentation titled, "Promoting a Culture of Teaching Excellence in a World-Class University," submitted that without effective teaching, knowledge gained by research could be lost.

Professor Chinedu suggested continuous improvement in the areas of ICT, modern teaching facilities, practical classes, problem-based learning, engagement of competent faculty and staff, learning resources (well stocked library), well equipped state-of-the-art laboratories and workshops, closer interaction between students and faculty as well as tutorial.



Architect Gbenga Alalade

He also commended the efforts of some individuals and groups in the University for their contributions towards the development and maintenance of the structures in attaining