

PIVOTAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR PERSONAL SUCCESS AND SOCIETAL PROGRESS

Text of Chairman's Speech delivered by **Professor Ayodeji Olukoju**, FNAL, Vice-Chancellor, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State at the Valedictory Service of Tim-Becky Heritage College, Shangisha, Magodo, Lagos on Thursday, 26 July 2012

My Lords Spiritual and Temporal, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Students

First, I give glory to God for the privilege of chairing and addressing this assembly of distinguished men, women, young adults and children. I also felicitate with our chief hosts, Pastor and Mummy Femi Oyetoro, on the landmark occasion of the College's second graduation. Next, I bring you hearty greetings from the Caleb University Family, specifically from the Proprietor and Visitor, Dr. Oladega Adebogun, Chair and Members of both the Board Of Trustees and Governing Council, Staff and Students.

My brief remarks will focus on **partnerships**, which I consider to be critical to success in life. As we all know, the first recorded instance of partnership was pronounced by God: "*Let us make man in our image.*" (Genesis 1:26a) Accordingly, I intend to draw attention to three critical areas of partnerships in relation to the upbringing and overall success of our children. My remarks are entitled **PIVOTAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR PERSONAL SUCCESS AND SOCIETAL PROGRESS** to underscore the importance of these elements.

The first is the partnership between **parents and children**. This is fundamental to the children's well-being, proper upbringing, grooming and emotional bonding, all of which are required for success. Parents must discharge their duty of partnering with each other and with their children to develop the children's potential in the fear of the Lord. It will cost time, effort and resources, and no sacrifice is too much to make in this regard. Parents should identify and nurture their potential, and encourage them to be their best. **However, mothers are pivotal to this partnership**. Permit me to salute all our mothers, including my own mother and wife, for what they have done for us their children. Experience has shown, especially for those of us raised in polygamous homes, that it is the mother that gives focus, purpose and character to the children. Kindly join me in recognizing and appreciating the mothers in attendance today.

The second is the **teacher-student** partnership. Teachers are investing their lives and indeed reproducing themselves in their wards. Many of us recall how we decided to specialize in a subject simply because of the way it was taught or in sheer admiration of the teacher. On the one hand, we teachers must take our assignments as God-given and sacred, giving it our best. We have failed if our wards failed to make the mark. On the other hand, we students must work hard, obey and respect our teachers, knowing that God appointed them to nurture us to excellence. When exemplary character, hard work, passion and

competence on the part of teachers combine with humility, diligence, good character and teachability on the part of students, the potential of the students will be developed optimally.

The final and overriding partnership is the **divine-human** partnership. It is the most important as it cuts across all others. No matter its magnitude, success is worthless if it lacks the God factor. I want to challenge all parents to individually forge a personal relationship or partnership with the Lord Jesus Christ and then take their children, especially, the seemingly difficult ones, to Him for transformation. What we know from experience is that there is nothing too hard for Him to do (Jeremiah 32: 17).

I conclude by wishing Tim-Becky Heritage College the best in the years ahead. Knowing the people behind this enterprise, I am confident that the products of this school cannot but be good, God-loving and prepared for excellence. At least I can vouch for their daughter, Charity Femi-Oyetero, a member of the pioneer set of this College, who is studying Pharmacy at the University of Lagos. My humble admonition is that the Oyeteros should aim for higher heights and that the products of this College must jealously preserve that good thing that this school has instilled in them.

Finally, on the issue of partnerships, I urge every well-meaning institution, organization or individual to partner with and support Tim-Becky Heritage College. Caleb University is happy to partner with this growing institution by offering automatic admission into our degree programmes to its qualified products, with the aim of reinforcing whatever virtues you have imparted in them. At Caleb we live according to our motto (“For God and Humanity”), convinced that what this present age requires and which we produce are young men and women, who are prepared for the challenges of life, armed with the best in academic learning and steeped in faith-induced ethical values. This is our own contribution to fostering pivotal partnerships for societal progress. Working together with like minds, we can boldly affirm, like Caleb in the Bible: **“We are well able!”**

I welcome you to this great occasion and wish this school divine blessings in the years ahead.

Thank you for listening. God bless.

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