

**ESPOUSING THE VISION AND MISSION
OF
LANDMARK UNIVERSITY**

BY

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**BEING TEXT OF ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION
OF THE
1st CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF LANDMARK UNIVERSITY,**

JULY 25, 2014.

Protocols and Special Recognitions

INTRODUCTION

I welcome you to the maiden Convocation ceremony of Landmark University. The event is historic because it marks the release of our first set of graduates whom we have christened - “***the pathfinders.***” Our involvement in education is a mandate derived from the scriptural admonition to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

The investment of the Living Faith Church Worldwide in education is therefore a visionary, destiny-preserving move, as in the case of Landmark University, aimed at prosecuting an agricultural revolution as our cross-generational contribution to ensuring a food security status for our nation and Continent, overflowing into sustainable industrial and technological revolution.

I have captioned my address as: “**ESPOUSING THE VISION AND MISSION OF LANDMARK UNIVERSITY.**”

The vision seeks to raise and release value-creating, new generation leaders who shall be equipped with relevant skills and good character to become change agents in re-positioning our nation and continent. The University's academic base and curriculum has been designed to give entrepreneurial, life applicable education to students in order for them to experience the much awaited restoration of dignity to the African people.

The vision of Landmark University as an institution was born out of a passion for change. That is why at every important occasion we always affirm that the University is not just an institution of higher learning but a revolution in education. This visionary affirmation therefore predates the opening of this great institution.

Our Vision and Mission Encapsulated

The Vision

- **To be a leading world class university, by spearheading an agrarian revolution on the African continent through the exploration of hidden treasures in the mother-earth thereby restoring the dignity of the black race.**

The Mission

- *Raising a generation of solution providers through a qualitative and life-applicable training system that focuses on value and creative knowledge*
- *Raising a new generation of leaders through a broad-based qualitative education built on sound biblical principles culminating in the birth of breadwinners, job creators and world changers*
- *Raising an army of reformers who shall redeem the battered image of the black race and restore her lost glory as these well-equipped graduates begin to build the old waste, repair the wasted cities and raise the desolation of many generations as pathfinders.*

Our mission is to develop models that will help inspire the fulfilment of the vision, that is, to design a production line that will guarantee our desired end product by exploring the hidden treasures in the earth, uncovering treasures in the midst of trash, building a think-solution platform, empowering destinies for maximum impact, raising an army of reformers. Landmark University is envisioned to be a land of unlimited possibilities offering unlimited opportunities, breaking new grounds. The reception, the articulation, the adoption and the sharing of the vision by all key players in the University is our approach for accelerating the pace of dynamic change for the transformation of our community or society.

The platform of the implementation of our Vision and Mission is our core values. Our Core Values are the nuggets of the creed that define us as a University. They are:

1. Spirituality

Here at Landmark University we consider spirituality as an asset of inestimable value. And according to scriptures; Spirituality is profitable to all things, having the promise of life that now is and of that which is to come. Furthermore, the bible says, *to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* (1Tim 4:7-8/ Rom 8:6)

And As I have often said, ***it is foolishness to be shameful of what is gainful.***

Here at Landmark University, we show our students the way to the saving knowledge of Christ, teach them to know God, love God and serve God; and what a transformational experience it has been for most of them.

2. Possibility Mentality

Possibility mentality is all about the confidence to create solutions to our unwanted situations. Here at Landmark University, we are committed to raising ‘possibiliterians’ - people who can see a future in their future because we live in a world of unlimited opportunities

3. Capacity Building

Capacity here connotes skill development. It is a known fact that, skill is a vital factor for success. But this is a most elastic endeavour as there can be no end to development of skill in the pursuit of any given task.

Our mission is to inculcate an untiring quest for capacity building, enhancement of professional capabilities and personal development into our students.

4. Integrity

Corruption has become a cankerworm in the world today. Integrity here connotes a lifestyle of faithfulness, accountability and probity.

We believe that impactful leadership is built on **two pillars of Integrity and Capacity.**

Whatever feat capacity may accomplish, it takes integrity to preserve it. For instance, here at Landmark University, examination malpractice is a capital offence and every victim automatically loses his/her place in the university.

5. Responsibility

We inculcate a sense of responsibility to our students. We expect them to respond to issues as demanded not as convenient. We believe in the place of discipline for effective leadership. Our students are not permitted to do what they like but what is right at all times, as enumerated in the students' handbook.

6. Diligence

Nothing enhances worth like work. Every high flyer is known to be a hard worker. You cannot eat your cake and have it. You cannot make omelette without breaking eggs. This is why hard work is one of our celebrated core values. A man that is diligent in his business he shall stand before kings, shall not stand before mean men.

7. Sacrifice

Every great leader of all time has a story rooted in sacrifice. Sacrifice is the ultimate price for all pathfinders. It is quality sacrifice that defines great leadership. As no one can get out of life more than what he is willing to put into it. There are no stars without scars and the scar of every star is sacrifice.

For the purpose of this address, I shall be looking at the core value of ***possibility mentality.***

In my view, thinking solution is the whole essence of university education; therefore, to allow the challenges of the day to overwhelm us to become helpless and grounded. My philosophy when confronted with challenges has always been, there must be a way out. I later came to

discover that the human brain, which largely defines how much a man accomplishes in life is absolutely the same in all humans, race or colour notwithstanding. That is, the human brain for all human for male and female is:

- ✓ *Same size*
- ✓ *Same content*
- ✓ *Same number of cells*
- ✓ *Same number of nerves running through*
- ✓ *Same colour*
- ✓ *Same weight*
- ✓ *Same potential, which implies*
- ✓ *Same capacity*

Where then is the Difference?

- It is in the robustness of the engagement of the brain.
- It is the active engagement of this 'principal gift' of nature that defines the limits of anyone's worth.
- First, we must recognize that we share same capacity of brain with all other humans and that consciousness should arouse the confidence in us to engage this precious gift most pragmatically.
- The story was told of one Albert Einstein; how that he was a very poor pupil in school and that one day the teacher had to invite the mother and in the course of speaking with her on his poor performance, the teacher made a sharp remark '**your son has got no brain**' his mother reacted violently '**my son has got more brain than you've got.**' This was the first time it dawned on Albert that he's got some brain. The same Albert Einstein became a world-acclaimed scientist with many Laureates to his name including the invention of electronic bulb.
- As Dennis Waitley once said "*the empires of the future will not be built of concrete stone walls, turrets, armies and gates. The empires of the future will be empires of the mind.*"

- Africa must wake up to the fact that we have got enough brain to match our seemingly insurmountable mountains.
- This implies that how actively and productively we engage our minds in seeking solution to the challenges of our time will determine how soon we overcome them whether as individuals or as nations.
- Truly, the only empire that will survive in the 21st century will be empires of the mind.

Furthermore, it is clear that most outstanding scientists of all ages are only – committed and addicted thinkers.

- Show me a committed thinker and I will show you another inventor/solution-provider in the making.
- I therefore, believe that the existing regimented training programme of our University system is long overdue for a review, if we must surmount our mountains.
- This is why our mission is to promote the relevance of University education to the society.
- Our mission is to promote the mental dignity of the black race who have largely lost their intellectual bravery to colonial entanglements.

Inventions all through human history were direct response to the challenges of the moment.

Edward Jenner 1749 - 1823

- ◎ He was a medical doctor
- ◎ Between 1700 – 1800, it was estimated that 60 million Europeans died of smallpox.
- ◎ This once dread disease was wiped out by the principle of vaccination that Jenner advanced.
- ◎ Was called “*the father of immunology*” and his work is said to have “saved more lives than the work of any other man”

Albert Einstein 1879-1955

- ◎ He was a theoretical physicist who developed the general theory of relativity effecting a revolution in Physics

- ◎ He received the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect
- ◎ When he was invited to become President of Israel he declined saying , **“Scientific problems are familiar to me, but I have neither the natural capacity nor the necessary experience to handle human beings”**
- ◎ **It was this same Einstein that invented electric lighting bulb**

Einstein’s invention of Electric bulb was to combat the challenge of kerosene lantern and associated challenges that came along with it such as fumes from the wick and limitation of its illumination.

Every invention was a product of dealing with specific problem. Today our nation is faced with mass unemployment programme with about four million college graduates roaming the streets. Again, we are faced with the issues of food security as a nation among others. Therefore, there is no better time than now for innovative, creative and inventive thinking.

It is high time we began to engage our diverse capacities in finding solutions to all the pressing issues of our day.

Our Problem is not Capacity but Capacity Utilization

A people not conscious of their history hardly experience development and advancement. We live largely today as a people without history. This is because the history of the outstanding feats of our ancestors was either not documented and where they were, they lacked required details. We have therefore been victims of oral history which is largely void of facts and figures of the gallant feats of our ancestors, making such feats mere fictions.

Unfortunately also, the colonial masters became the custodians of our history and cultural values. Our past was written off and dubbed primitive. Our values were all defined as worthless. But looking at the following issues of history will prove the viability of our heritage and

history contrary to the stories of generational depravity as told by the colonial masters.

Historical Reflections

Before the advent of colonial masters who taught our forefathers the art of farming? Who helped them to discover what was edible? Who taught them how to prepare their meals? Who taught them the planting season for every crop? If they had waited for the colonialists, would they have had what to eat - the imperialist will obviously have met nobody.

Secondly, who taught them the technicalities of child bearing and child care delivery? Yet they understood what to do at child birth, and they knew how to care both for the baby and the mother.

Our forefathers were obviously great scientists in their own right.

It should also be noted that they secured their territorial integrity, manufactured their own weapons of war, designed and produced their own textile. They had their own formal judicial system and operated same efficiently. They exhibited self-actualization through self-determination. They were self-reliant and enjoyed their human dignity. But the *'foreign agents'* came and dubbed our value uncivilized and debased. As I have said earlier, without a sense of history, brain cells can be paralysed and all advancement stalled.

As I earlier noted, possibility mentality is all about the confidence to create solutions to our unwanted situations. As it is written;

"Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field." - [Ecc 5:9](#)

This makes the world we live a world of unlimited opportunities.

But there are:

*more complainers than thinkers
more 'resident' than adventurers
more referees than players
more wishers than workers*

It was E W Kenyon's that said;

'Make your brain work, it will sweat; but make it work, then it will develop and improve until you become the envy of all those around you.'

The man that first conquered Mount Everest, *Hillary Edmond*, said; ***"It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves."***

We must rise to take our destiny in our hands.

A foreigner, once noted that; *'Nigeria is so rich that one can literally pick naira on the ground but Nigerians are so blind that they cannot see it'*

There is this testimony of a lady Youth Corper that served in Zaria, got engaged in buying and selling of tomato and through that business she bought a car for herself by the end of her service year.

There is a story of another young man with a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the United States of America, arrived back in Nigeria and could not get a job, but got inspired to engage in sales of palm oil from Edo to Kaduna. Within the shortest period of time he bought a house for himself in an high brass location in Kaduna.

We must recognize that:

- *Our world is full of challenges*
- *But challenges are opportunities in disguise, confront them!*
- *Challenges are valuable opportunities for your change of levels,*
- *We must not despair.*

- *Examinations are challenges students face to qualify for a change of class and eventually for graduation. In the same vein, we are often challenged before we can access the next level in life.*
- *It is a common knowledge that a boxer who is not challenged will never wear the champions' belt.*

But while it is normal to be challenged, it is unscriptural to be defeated.

TURNING GRADUATES TO FARMERS

According to Scriptures;

“Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment”- Pro13:23

At the Food and Agricultural Programme held in alliance with the World Rural Forum and World Farmers Organization which recently held on the 8th of November 2013, it was observed that in a world that has an estimated population of 7 billion, where almost 1 billion people are undernourished (of which 239 million are in Sub-Saharan Africa), the African continent is faced with serious challenges related to food security and nutrition. This is a major impetus to further fuel the Agrarian revolution in Landmark University by ensuring that at the point of Graduation, every graduate emerges an entrepreneurial agriculturist indeed, in actualizing our quest of turning every graduate into a farmer! This is indeed one model that can provide solutions to overcome the challenges related to Food Security in Africa.

This is a wakeup call for all of us in this part of the world. As I noted earlier, the whole essence of education, particularly university education is to enhance man's capacity to think solution.

A WORD FOR THE GRADUANDS

There are three areas of waste that you must guard against as you head on in the adventure of life, they are:

1. Your Time:

Benjamin Franklin once noted;

‘Doth thou love life, then don’t squander time, invest it for that is the stuff life is made up of.’

Shakespear, the literary once stated;

‘I wasted time, now time doth waste me’

Our own national legend, Dr Nnamdi Azikwe

‘Give me my ‘youth back’, then I will pay any price for it.

The story of two high school boys is apt in this regard:

Two young boys, who grew up in the same environment, went to school same period and graduated same year. One of these boys said to have read over 600 books covering areas such as; human development, psychology of success etc., while the other was working in restaurants and fast food related platforms.

19 years after, the two boys met at the home coming meeting of the alma mater and at this point they were ‘continents apart’. While the later was worth **6.75 Dollars** per hour, the other boy who invested his time in developing himself in the area of interest was said to worth **200, 000 Dollars per hour.**

You must understand that time is your greatest asset in the adventure of life. Therefore, go and make the most of your time, because the worth of your time is the worth of your life

2. The second area is your Energy

We live in a world that continuously promotes energy conservation. You must avoid mis-investing your energy in things that do not matter. You must not become ‘busy body’ in other men’s matters. You must study to be quiet and do your own business. I once caught the picture of the black man from scriptures many years ago:

“Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept.” - SOS1:6,

This is why being busy here and there, gets a man nowhere. But a man that is diligent in his business shall stand before kings and not before mean men – Proverbs. 22:29

3. Finally, your Resources

A waster today is sure to be a beggar tomorrow.

It will interest us to note that Nigerian households spend more on recharge cards than on food

In a recent publication of Business Day of May 23, 2014, the following disturbing picture was unveiled:

The average Nigerian household spent more on recharge cards than they did on petrol, soap, washing powder and personal food care, a survey report for 2012/2013 carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in collaboration with the World Bank, has shown.

The survey showed that recharge card spending by Nigerians moved to essentials from discretionary spending as 72.3 percent of the sampled households, reported making expenditure to recharge their phones, higher than personal care foods (52.2 percent), and petrol (30.9 percent).

Nigerians collectively spent about N449.7bn a month on recharge cards. –(report by Anne Agbaje, May 23, 2014)

I therefore admonish all Pathfinders being released today, to keep this treasure for life. Pathfinders are leading leaders. But be reminded:

- Great leaders are not those with chains of degrees but those who change their world
- Great leaders are not those who occupy great positions but those who make great contributions in their generation

- Outstanding leaders are not those with barrage of titles but those who bear great values to their world
- Men of real values are least concerned about titles
- This is because titles are more often than not, adjectives of convenience and entertainment gestures. The real worth of man is in:
 - ✓ *The value he adds*
 - ✓ *The contribution he makes*
 - ✓ *The feats he accomplishes*
 - ✓ *The impact he makes.*

My prayer is that every Pathfinder being released today will truly end up as Pace setters and Pathfinders in the adventure of life in Jesus' name. See you at the top.

May I at this point congratulate the Parents of our dear Graduands, hearty congratulations! I salute your tenacity and commitment and celebrate your role in this process. May you live to enjoy the fruit of your labour. Amen.

God bless the Pathfinders, 2014

God Bless Landmark University,

God bless Nigeria, and

God bless Africa!!!

Thank you all for listening.