

FAMILY REFLECTIONS

AT THE 7TH HOODING CEREMONY OF BABCOCK UNIVERSITY, ILISHAN-REMO, OGUN

STATE HELD ON 31ST MAY, 2018 AT BABCOCK BUSINESS SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

PROTOCOLS

My heart is gladdened with joy that today the **31st day of May, 2018** is a day to be remembered for the goodness of Thy Lord for making this day a reality for the fulfillment of expectations of various families herein present for this great and memorable event.

My thanks goes first and foremost to God Almighty, our Elshaddai, Our King of Kings and Lord of Lords for this great day he has made and we all gladly rejoice in it.

We also thank God for this great citadel of learning - BABCOCK UNIVERSITY for providing the opportunity to attain this height by the graduands, celebrants or celebrators of today's event. Wow! What a day to rejoice in!

It is my privilege and honour for me to be called upon to say a few words by way of reflections on the time spent by the graduands, our thanks and feelings to this great gathering and particularly to appreciate Babcock University for providing the right atmosphere and/or ambience for the completion of the Ph.D programme by the graduands of today. It is, indeed, a great honour to have attained this wonderful feat made possible by this University. It is impossibility made possible!

For the past few years, we the families of the graduands have passed through different phases and stages in the fulfillment of attaining this Doctorate Degree despite multifarious privations and challenges that we all encountered during the period of this programme. I must say that it is/was a wonderful experience which our respective families went through in order to celebrate our loved ones for the achievement of today.

Various families have their different perspectives on the challenges they all went through during the period of running this programme. Wives became emergency supervisors at home while husbands also became emergency supervisors depending on who amongst them is the one running the programme. Where both wife and husband runs the same programme, it is a different story all together.

Countless times of research work will take the place of either lunch or dinner. The experience, Ladies and Gentlemen, was amazing.

Today's celebration would not have been made possible if not for the support of Almighty God and the co-operation of the respective families herein represented today.

I must mention here that one of the Courses that is being taught in this Programme is **GEGS 901! Personal and Family Wholeness.**

The teaching of this Course has restored hope and faith in different families. Different areas relating to the family is being taught because the Family represents joy, happiness and discipline. Family core values are being taught because the happenings in the family shows what reflects in the Society. This is because the family finds growth in Christian character through accepting the responsibility for worship and instruction for the development of the spiritual life of each member.¹

What we are also celebrating today in each family is 'LOVE'. Without love, we will not be here to celebrate with the families that have attained this height.

According to **Clinton Jaja** ² he said: ***“Love needs three things, to wit: “Decision to start, time to grow and determination to succeed”.***

¹ the Christian Family “The Mennonite” (May 29, 1962

² Clinton Jaja: Humour at the Bar, Page 151

What we are all witnessing today, is the result of that bold and courageous step to start this programme, the time sacrificed by the members of each family and the determination by the Celebrants to succeed in this great task.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the importance of education cannot be over – emphasized. Having good and sound education must be predicated or established on strong institutions according to the former American President – **Barrack Obama**, where he said : ***“What Africa needs is not strong individuals, but strong institutions”***.

Nelson Mandela also opined thus: ***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”***.

There is no any scintilla or iota of doubt that Babcock University is a strong institution in Sub-Saharan Africa that is blazing the trail like a **colossus** in the educational firmament in Nigeria.

Babcock University is noted for her reinforcing commitment to offering superb student experience and penchant for adherence to the philosophy of the institution.

This is an eloquent testimony to her adherence to core values in the areas of Excellence, Integrity, Discipline and Accountability, etcetera.

Professor Yetunde Olawunmi Makinde once said³: ***“Mr. President/Vice Chancellor, Sir, my research activities have been driven by Babcock core values:***

➤ ***Excellence***

Our culture

➤ ***Integrity***

Our promise

➤ ***Accountability***

Our word

➤ ***Servant Leadership***

Our dignity

³ Babcock University 3rd Inaugural Lecture. Thursday, 2nd April, 2015 titled: Food for Thought in Thoughts for Food: Conceptual Genius of Local Ingredients in Global Diets & Food Habits of African Populations. (Page 53)

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| ➤ <i>Team spirit</i> | <i>Our strength</i> |
| ➤ <i>Autonomy and responsibility</i> | <i>Our passion</i> |
| ➤ <i>Adventist Heritage</i> | <i>Our commitment</i> |

According to Benjamin Franklin another American President, he said: ***“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest”***.

It is germane to note that the knowledge you all have acquired through this programme put together by this University is an investment which dividends you will start to reap after this ceremony. This is because “every family will soon shout “Halleluyah” because God will do new things and each spouse will conquer ten thousand instead of one chasing a thousand” (Amen).

Ladies and Gentlemen, the fact that this is the 7th in the series of Hooding ceremony is not by coincidence. This is because seven (7) is a unique number. This can be found in Genesis Chapter 2 verse 2. The Bible says as follows:

“And on the Seventh day God ended His work which He had Made; and then He rested on the Seventh day from all His work which He had created and made”

Genesis 2: 3:

“And God blessed the Seventh day and sanctified it, because that in it He rested from all His work which God created and made”.

Therefore, the number 7 has spiritual significance. The number 7 is the foundation of God’s work. The number 7 was used 735 times in the Bible (54 times in the Book of Revelation alone). If we include with this count how many times “Sevenfold” is referenced which is six (6) times and “Seventh” which is referenced 119 (One Hundred and Nineteen times), the total becomes 860 (Eight Hundred and Sixty times) references.

Again, Ladies and Gentlemen, 7 (Seven) is the number of completeness and perfection (both physical and spiritual). It derives much of its meaning from being tied directly to God's creation of all things.

There are for instance, 7(Seven) days in a week and God's Sabbath is on the 7th day.

In **Matthew Chapter 7 verse 7** the Bible says: ***“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:”***

From the above Bible passage in Matthew 7vs 7, anything you all ask shall be given unto you and the doors shall always be open to all of you in Jesus Name.

As graduands of this great University, you should constantly remember the Mission and Vision statements of the University and Babcock University Anthem anywhere you go and in any position that you may find yourself which provides as follows:

MISSION STATEMENT

Building people for leadership through quality Christian education, transforming lives, impacting society for positive change through the pervading influence of our graduates in service to humanity.

To achieve our mission, we are committed to:

- ***Achieving excellence in our teaching, research programme and service delivery.***
- ***Imparting quality Christian education.***
- ***Instilling Christ like character to the members of our community.***

VISION STATEMENT

A first class faith based Seventh day Adventist institution building servant-leaders for a better world.

HAIL BABCOCK (BU ANTHEM)

***Hail Babcock, God's own University
Built on the power of his word,
Knowledge and truth, service to God and man.
Building a future for the youth.
Holistic education, the vision is still aflame
Mental, physical, social, spiritual – Babcock is it!
Hail Babcock, God's own University
Good life here and forever more!!!***

The Babcock University apart from showing committed interest in the education of her teeming students also take unquantifiable interest in the health of all staff and students of the University. The University makes sure that when you are within the confines of the University, you must eat healthy diet and not any how diet.

Professor Yetunde Olawunmi Makinde⁴ on the quality of Diet in Babcock University, opined as follows:

"Babcock Tofu is also very adequate on its own merit, with a score card of 70% of the nutritional needs of a vegetarian compared to beef, but more beneficially without the worries of attendant health hazards associated with beef or comparable animal protein consumption."

(Underlining mine to draw attention)

We are happy to become VEGANS in Babcock University!

⁴ Supra

Ladies and Gentlemen, I will not end this short 'Reflections' without thanking the President/Vice – Chancellor, Deputy Vice – Chancellors, all Professors of the University, Deans of all Faculties and Colleges of the University, Dean of Post Graduate Studies, super, super Supervisors and the entire Babcock University Community for making today a reality in fulfillment of the expectations of all the graduands on the resumption of this programme.

On a final note, Ladies and Gentlemen, let us all join hands together to pray for this Country as we are going or passing through a ***“Season of Anomie”***.

Let us all join hands together to fight for equality and unity in order to enthrone an egalitarian Society.

More importantly, let us fight the scourge of corruption in high places which is the bane of the socio-economic development of our nation.

For if I may ask, how do we fight corruption and all other social ills plaguing our society?

My ready-made answer is this:

“Let us, therefore, put on the whole armour of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the evil called ‘corruption’ ! For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against corruption in high places and against rulers, judges and politicians who perpetrate corruption in our land. Let us put on the breastplate of righteousness as a people both the public and private sectors and lovers of democracy, justice and transparency in this country in order to quench all the fiery darts of corruption in our land”.⁵

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for listening.

⁵ Roland Otaru, SAN, FCI Arb (2011)

God bless you all!

The Future is Bright!

Aurevoir!

ROLAND OTARU, Esq, SAN, FCI Arb,

31st day of May, 2018