

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR.CK BRUCE. GUEST SPEAKER AT  
THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION CONGREGATION HELD ON  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015**

Chairman and Members of the University Council,

Vice-Chancellor,

Pro-Vice Chancellors,

Registrar

Members and Chairman of the College Advisory Board,

Members of Convocation,

Nii Mei Naa Mei,

Graduating Students,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today is a great day. Certainly a great day for the graduating class of 2015, a day that validates the hard work done over a number of semesters. It's also a great day for me, for the honor done me by the College in inviting me to be the guest speaker at such an august occasion. I never had the privilege of attending this prestigious institution of higher learning so I really cherish opportunities to associate myself.

Men and women of the Class of 2015, it might have felt that this day would never arrive. The long days and nights that you have stuck to your books, fighting off that sweet feeling of sleepiness, are now over. I must take this opportunity to show deep admiration for those of you who are holding down a job and caring for your family at the same time. It is not easy but I am sure that this day makes it all worthwhile.

As you cast your mind back to those initial days of when you began your course, I am also sure that when you got your first positive assignment grades you felt that there is certainly light at the end of the tunnel. The euphoria and excitement of the pomp and ceremony of today may give the feeling that you have reached that bright light at the end of the tunnel.

Brothers and sisters, I want to urge you not to feel that way, but rather picture it as crack in the tunnel where the sun light is coming through, it is a chance to breathe fresh air and be energized by the bright light but you are still in the tunnel. I want you to picture that point of the tunnel where you are leads to new pathways, new choices, new opportunities. There is a saying that it is difficult to look beyond a choice you don't understand. The benefits of learning are immense from building of self-confidence, enhanced horizons, deeper perspectives and higher analytical ability; all of which should enable you to effectively look beyond the choices facing you. But the irony is that the more you begin to understand what lies beyond, the more new choices appear...this paradox of life is what led the great Indian thinker Gandhi to say "live like you are going to die tomorrow, but learn like you are going to live forever".

Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen

There is probably no segment of activity in the world attracting as much attention at present as that of knowledge management. I guess I cannot give a speech without some reference to my area of endeavor. Knowledge, as you would all know, is derived from the hierarchical downstream relationships of data and information. Most times that is where the extent of the relationship ends. We stop there, we do not evaluate what knowledge should do for us, in fact sometimes I feel we do not care. My

brothers and sisters, knowledge should lead to wisdom for it is said that history is made by wise decisions, and wise decisions are based on good quality information.

The point I am trying to make is that all of you have the capacity to influence decision making wherever you go. You must be able to influence without formal authority and it is this information age that is making it possible. Our nation desperately needs empowered young men and women like you to make systems work. Let us recognize the power we wield and make judicious use of it.

I want to leave you with a quotation made famous by Mother Teresa, but actually originating from a collection of sayings created by a college student named Kent M. Keith, published in 1968 in a pamphlet titled “***The Silent Revolution: Dynamic Leadership in the Student Council***”. and it goes like this,

“People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.

**Forgive them anyway.**

If you are kind,  
people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

**Be kind anyway.**

If you are successful,  
you will win some false friends and some true enemies.

**Succeed anyway.**

If you are honest and frank,  
people may cheat you.

**Be honest and frank anyway.**

What you spend years building,  
someone could destroy overnight.

**Build anyway.**

If you find serenity and happiness,  
they may be jealous.

**Be happy anyway.**

The good you do today,  
people will often forget tomorrow.

**Do good anyway.**

Give the world the best you have,  
and it may never be enough.

**Give the best you've got anyway.**

You see,  
**in the final analysis it is between you and God;  
it was never between you and them anyway.**

I wish you all well, and may God bless us all. Thank you.