



UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

Remarks of the Chairperson University Council to the 23rd Graduation Ceremony (Part 2)

28th October 2022

Your Excellency The Chief Guest and President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

The Archbishop of the Church of Uganda and Chancellor of Uganda Christian University, His Grace Dr. Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu

My Lord Bishops of the Church of Uganda present

The Vice Chancellor of Uganda Christian University, Professor Aaron Mushengyezi

The former Vice Chancellors, Rev. Prof. Stephen Noll and Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi and your wives

Members of the Uganda Christian University Council and its Boards

Honourable Ministers

Members of Parliament

Representatives from Government and its various organs

Vice Chancellors from sister Universities

The Deputy Vice Chancellors of Uganda Christian University

The Cultural leaders present

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Representatives from the Uganda Partners US and UK

The Mayor of Mukono Municipality and the Mukono leaders present

Distinguished Partners

The Professors, Lecturers, Staff, Student Leaders and Students of Uganda Christian University

Invited Guests, in your respective capacities

Ladies and Gentlemen

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It is my pleasure to welcome students, families, and faculty to this Graduation Ceremony. Every one of you has made an impact on the graduates who sit here today. Thank you for playing your roles and for sacrificing of your resources.

The COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected the economic wellbeing of our families and something that our families are struggling with at this point in time, is to educate their children. I must therefore commend our parents and sponsors who have sacrificed greatly to ensure that our students graduate today. Can I request our graduands to clap/applaud our parents and sponsors for the great job that they have done.

But graduation is not an end goal in itself, it is instead a part of the larger journey of life. Life is a journey, and all accomplishments we achieve during its course should be taken as starting points for further achievements. Your graduation should serve as such as a launching point, projecting you to wherever your futures are meant to take you, whether you land yourselves a career, take up a trade, or continue your education. This means, that after your graduation, you should be purposeful as to what you would like to do.

I often interact with fresh graduates, and when I inquire about what their future plans or aspirations are after graduating, I get disappointed with the responses

of many. Their responses are often vague and lack passion. It is unfortunate that many have settled to just sail on the wave of life to wherever they will be taken. This is dangerous because a purposeless life is vulnerable to disruptions and destruction. Ask yourself today, as a graduate of Uganda Christian University, have you defined what you are going to do in life. It has often been said, that a purposeless life is not worth living. I therefore implore you to work out your life goals and purpose to achieve them.

Life is about growth. So it is my prayer that you increase in your knowledge and skills. Explore the opportunities of how you can grow your profession. Do not be satisfied with the status quo because the world you are moving into is very competitive and you need to give yourself a comparative advantage, through further training.

As the University Council we commend the University Management, led by the Vice Chancellor for all the achievements attained through the challenging COVID-19 period. UCU has remained a leader in Higher Education in this Country. Many Universities have come to bench mark on how UCU has been able to execute its business continuity plan. UCU has gone through phased of restructuring, aimed at ensuring greater efficiency and effectiveness. UCU was able to continue teaching and examining online or with take home exams. A number of UCU functions are now digitized right from Registration to Graduation. Management aims to transform all her Campuses into e-campuses.

The University Council also applauds the student body for being disciplined and understanding through the last two years where many changes were introduced

in our mode of teaching and learning. The Guild President and your team, thank you for leading the student body well

However, you should also be aware that you will be faced with all kinds of advice and you will also be required to make many choices both in your personal and professional lives. The Psalmist summarises for us as to what we should do, in Psalm 1. It reads

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish”.

The Psalmist is cautioning us, not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly, but we should delight in the law of the Lord. For the counsel of the wicked will only lead us to destruction.

Verse 3 reveals the fruits of seeking Godly counsel. It reads: “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper”.

I commend to you Psalm 1 as you go out. Make it your daily reference.

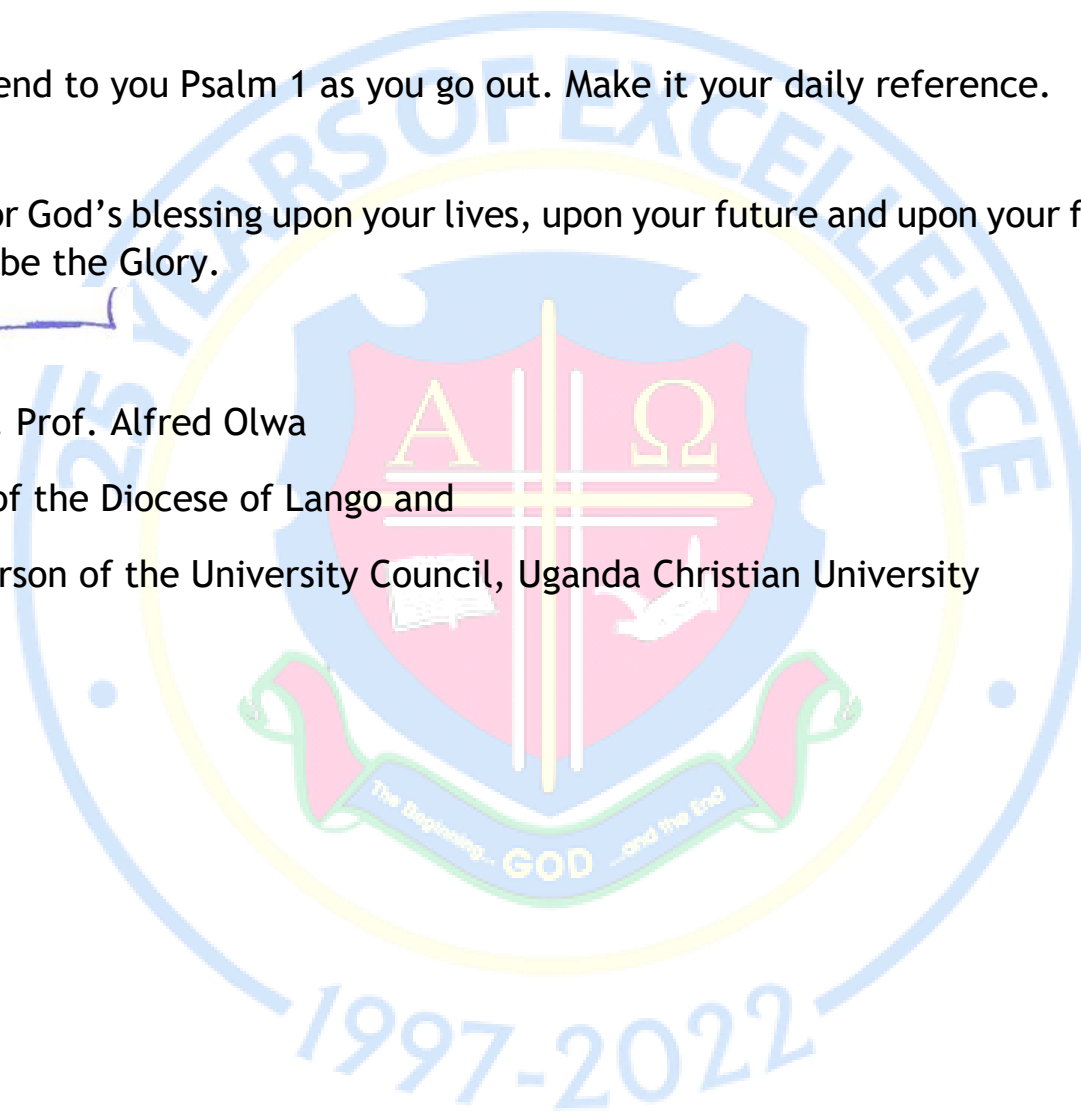
I pray for God’s blessing upon your lives, upon your future and upon your families. To God be the Glory.



Rt. Rev. Prof. Alfred Olwa

Bishop of the Diocese of Lango and

Chairperson of the University Council, Uganda Christian University



1 SAMUEL 7:12