

WELCOME ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 1ST ANUC NORTH-CENTRAL ZONAL CONFERENCE (LOKOJA 2022) BY PROFESSOR SUNDAY ERIC ADEWUMI, CHAIRMAN PLANNING COMMITTEE, CHAPEL OF GRACE, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LOKOJA

Protocols

Remarks

I use this medium to welcome our August visitors in this August, our beloved Chaplains to this 1st Association of Nigeria University Chaplains (ANUC) North Central Zonal Conference tagged "Lokoja 2022."

This period is a defining moment in our checkered history as a nation. The Israelites, always look onto God in times of challenges, such as the type we are witnessing now. So should we. The church will be in the best position to define relevant strategies on how believers can face the challenges of our time. We know our Chaplains are up to the task of guiding the flock under their care.

This programme is therefore apt and cannot come at a better time. The circumstance of our time limits this welcome address to 3 levels in which we need God's intervention.

The first is at the national level, premised on the theme - A City Set on a Hill (Matt. 5:14). By this, God wants to make our nation and the Church a public display for everyone to see to the frustration of the devil (Job 1:8) while at the same time making the devil spectacle of disgrace to the public as he has been disarmed on the cross (Col. 2:15). Disarming the enemy is for the

lifting of the cross to the world to see while damning the devil and his cohorts.

The Cross is for the crushing of the enemy while at the same time cushioning the Church to the glory of God the Father. Our prayers have been that Churches on our campuses will witness a new lease of an anointing while the enemy is put to shame.

The second intervention needed is at the level of our campuses, beyond Moses, we need a Joshua to take our campuses to the other side of the Jordan. You are the Joshuas of our time and we pray that you will continue to take the children of God to the other side where there are fresh water and pastures for the sheep. Many of our young men/women on our campuses need your nurture and guidance to be able to find a new direction in life and rescue them from a dying world full of vices that are in form of cultism, thuggery, robbery, and their likes. Our prayers are with you, who are in the field fighting numerous battles on behalf of the sheep under your care. Some of our campuses have been turned into dens of robbers, hideouts for cultists and brothels for prostitutes.

On our campuses, we find wolves in sheep clothing, who, though pretending to be godly, are ravenous lions seeking who to devour. If we have at one time or the other witnessed the havoc committed by cultists, one cannot but believe that the devil lives on some campuses. We need to chase them back to hell where they belong.

The third intervention required is at the level of the individual which calls for self-examination as the bible enjoins us to examine ourselves if we are still

in faith (2 Cor. 13:5). This is because the reason for creation is the man as affirmed in the bible in Gen. 2:5. Man must therefore live for God. I pray that through this programme, revival light will be lit on all our campuses with more souls won to the kingdom. It is, therefore, necessary that an individual, be it a student or staff, must examine himself or herself to be sure he/she is still in the faith. This can only be achieved through self-examination in line with the word of God. It is when we are in faith that God expects us to go into the world, make disciples, and thereby produce after our kind as detailed in Gen. 1:11 and affirmed by Mark 16:15. It is after all these that the saying of our Lord Jesus as enshrined in the theme of this conference, which says "A City Set on a Hill" can become a reality.

In conclusion, I sincerely welcome you to this historical city of Lokoja where the two dominant rivers meet. In this meeting, God and man will meet to set the revival fire on our campuses to the glory of God.

Thank you and God bless you.