

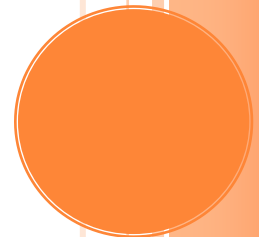
***REMARKS MADE BY DR A. T. DLAMINI
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TIBIYO TAKA
NGWANE***

***DURING
THE ACADEMIC FUND LAUNCH SERVICE***

***AT EVANGELICAL CHURCH
ON THE***

26TH MARCH 2017

MATSAPHA



PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

REVEREND DR NYAWO AND UMKHOKHELI

PASTORS

CHURCH ELDERS

LEADERS OF DIFFERENT STRUCTURES OF THE CHURCH

BRETHREN & SISTERS

INVITED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

1. INTRODUCTION

- I GREET YOU ALL IN THE WONDERFUL NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.
- IT IS MY PLEASURE AND HONOUR TO BE PRESENT TODAY AT THE LAUNCH OF THE ACADEMIC FUND OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, AND TO RECOGNISE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WHO GRADUATED FROM THEIR DIFFERENT STUDIES IN 2016.
- THIS IS MY SECOND VISIT TO THIS CHURCH, AND IT FEELS LIKE I AM COMING HOME.
- MAY I BEGIN MY REMARKS BY CONGRATULATING THE LEADER OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, DR NYAWO AND THE ENTIRE LEADERSHIP FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT INITIATIVE, THE ACADEMIC FUND, WHICH WILL INSPIRE THE PURSUIT FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AMONG THE BRETHREN.

- IF EXECUTED WELL, THIS NOBLE INITIATIVE WILL SEE MANY CHILDREN OF GOD ACHIEVING ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND EXCELLENCE.

2. PURSUE EDUCATION

- ONE CAN NEVER EMPHASISE ENOUGH THE IMPORTANCE OF ACQUIRING EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY IN AN ERA WHEN NEW AND SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND INFORMATION ARE AT THE CENTRE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
- EDUCATION IS, IN EVERY SENSE, ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL DRIVERS OF DEVELOPMENT.
- NO AMOUNT OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH CAN BE ACHIEVED IF WE DO NOT INVEST CONSISTENTLY AND SUBSTANTIALLY IN HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT.
- EDUCATION RAISES PEOPLE'S PRODUCTIVITY AND IS A CATALYST FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT.
- IN SWAZILAND, WHERE WE STILL BATTLE HIGH LEVELS OF POVERTY, EDUCATION IS A VIABLE TOOL FOR SECURING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, AND, IMPORTANTLY, TO CLOSE INCOME GAPS.

- **PROVERBS 9 VERSE 9** SAYS "GIVE INSTRUCTION TO A WISE MAN, AND HE WILL BE YET WISER; TEACH A JUST MAN, AND HE WILL INCREASE IN LEARNING".

3. PUT GOD FIRST

- GOD MUST BE AT THE CENTRE OF OUR PURSUIT FOR KNOWLEDGE.
- THE SCRIPTURE IN **PROVERBS 9 VERSE 10**, SAYS "THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM, AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY ONE IS UNDERSTANDING".
- THERE IS NO GREATER PURPOSE IN LIFE FOR EDUCATION THAN TO GUIDE PEOPLE TOWARDS THE HEART OF GOD, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT.
- EDUCATED CHRISTIANS ARE BETTER POSITIONED TO LEAD AND INFLUENCE OUR THOUGHT PROCESS, HABITS AND PRINCIPLES OF DOING BUSINESS AS WELL AS SOCIAL COHESION.
- EDUCATED CHRISTIANS PRESENT A SOLID ARGUMENT FOR SOCIETY TO UPHOLD GOOD VALUES IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE.
- AN EDUCATED CHRISTIAN DOES NOT ONLY TALK ABOUT EXCELLENCE. THEY LIVE IT, DEMONSTRATE IT AND ARE ABLE TO CONVINCING OTHERS TO PURSUE IT.

4. OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S ABUNDANCE

- TO WHOM MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN, MUCH MORE WILL BE EXPECTED. THIS HAS BECOME A COMMON PHRASE AND WE USE IT WITHOUT ATTACHING ANY MEANING TO IT.
- ITS BIBLICAL ROOTS ARE IN **LUKE 12 VERSE 48**.
- BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN SO FREELY LOVED, WE NOW HAVE TO LOVE OTHERS (**JOHN 13 VERSE 34**). BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, WE NEED TO FORGIVE OTHERS (**MATTHEW 18 VERSE 21-35**).
- OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S ABUNDANCE WITH US, IS TO SHARE THAT ABUNDANCE WITH OTHERS.
- GOD BLESSES US SO THAT WE BECOME A BLESSING TO OTHERS, AND THAT OUR SUCCESS BECOMES A TESTIMONY OF HIS ABUNDANT LOVE AND GRACE.
- THOSE OF YOU WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS FUND NEED TO ENSURE THAT THEY NURTURE THE SEED THEY WILL RECEIVE FROM THIS FUND SO THAT OTHERS TOO BENEFIT FROM THE FRUITS OF THIS INITIATIVE

5. MOTIVATION FOR GRADUATES

- PROGRAMME DIRECTOR; ALLOW ME TO ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO ARE BEING RECOGNISED FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR.
- CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU FOR THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE.
- YOUR HARD WORK AND SACRIFICE HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED BY THE CHURCH.
- I URGE YOU TO CONTINUE TO SHINE BRIGHTLY IN YOUR PROFESSIONS AND OTHER AREAS OF YOUR VOCATION.
- REMEMBER THAT GETTING YOUR CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF. YOUR FAMILIES, SOCIETY, THE CHURCH AND THE COUNTRY EXPECT A LOT FROM YOU.
- YOU ARE NOW EXPECTED TO PROVIDE RICHER INSIGHTS AND BETTER SKILLS IN HELPING THIS NATION TO RESPOND TO ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES.
- AS CHILDREN OF GOD, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN DISCIPLINED AND NOT GET CAUGHT UP IN THINGS THAT MOCK GOD AND ELEVATE THE DEVIL.

- MANY TIMES WE GET EMBARRASSED WHEN WE READ NEWSPAPER STORIES ABOUT CHRISTIANS INVOLVED IN CORRUPT PRACTICES AND OTHER ILLICIT ACTIVITIES IN BUSINESS, AT WORK, AT HOME AND IN SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS.
- RESIST THE TEMPTATION OF PURSUING SHORT-LIVED WEALTH AND FORTUNE.
- I URGE YOU TO CONTINUE BEING GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE COMMAND OF GOD
- BE LIKE THE WISE MAN IN **MATTHEW 7 VERSE 24** WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON SOLID GROUND, SUCH THAT EVEN WHEN RAIN FELL AND WINDS BLEW, IT REMAINED STANDING.
- **BE STEADFAST IN PURSUING HONESTY, INTEGRITY, HUMANITY AND EXCELLENCE. MOST OF ALL, PURSUE HOLINESS.**
- **REPRESENT YOURSELVES, FAMILIES, CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND YOUR RESPECTIVE PROFESSIONS WELL, AND WITH DIGNITY.**
- **BE THE BEST ROLE MODELS AND SET EXAMPLES THAT WILL BE ADMIRER BY GENERATIONS OF PROFESSIONALS,**

ENTREPRENEURS AND ARTISANS WHO WILL COME AFTER YOU.

6. THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

- GOD REWARDS SACRIFICE.
- FOR THIS FUND TO TAKE OFF AND THRIVE, IT REQUIRES OUR COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL SACRIFICE AND COMMITMENT.
- IN **2ND CORINTHIANS 9 VERSES 6 AND 7** WE READ "REMEMBER THIS, WHOEVER SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY AND WHOEVER SOWS GENEROUSLY WILL ALSO REAP GENEROUSLY."
- I URGE ALL OF YOU TO EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF GIVING IN ORDER TO KEEP THIS FUND ALIVE.
- MAY I ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE NOT JUST A ONCE OFF PLEDGE, BUT A PLEDGE THAT WILL RESULT IN A REGULAR OFFERING. IT COULD BE MONTHLY. IT COULD BE YEARLY.
- TODAY MAKE GOD SMILE AT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. GIVE AS THOUGH GOD WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU PERSONALLY, TO RECEIVE YOUR OFFERING.

- TODAY, I WISH TO PLANT A SEED OF **E..**
TOWARDS THIS FUND
- I WANT TO CHALLENGE THE WHOLE CHURCH TO
EXCEED THIS PLEDGE.

7. CONCLUSION

- IN CONCLUSION, PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, MAY I
WISH THIS CHURCH, ITS LEADERSHIP AND THE
ENTIRE CONGREGATION GOOD HEALTH AND
SUCCESS IN FULFILLING ITS MINISTRY.
- MAY YOU ALL BE BOUND BY HIS AGAPE LOVE

I THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL