

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AS GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE LEGON
PENTECOSTAL UNION GOLDEN JUBILEE**

ADDRESS BY:

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**SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON
CAMPUS**

The Chairperson for this historic occasion, Mr. Bernard Avle; our Guest Preacher, Apostle JFK Mensah; the executives of the Legon Pentecostals' Union; fellow alumni joining us from across the globe; invited guests; and, most importantly, the current students of LPU, good afternoon.

It is a real joy to be back home. Today, I stand before you wearing many hats. I am the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana. I am a Professor of Linguistics, and I would like to think that I am a distinguished one at that. But this afternoon, the title I cherish most is LPU alumna.

I arrived on this campus in 1991 as a first-year student, excited, perhaps a little uncertain, and trying to find my feet. Like many students arriving at Legon for the first time, I was looking for two things: a place where I belonged and people who would help me remain grounded. I found both.

I joined the Legon Pentecostals' Union (LPU), and I also joined the University Christian Fellowship (UCF). Between these two

fellowships, my faith was nurtured, my character was shaped, my network was built, and friendships were formed that have now lasted for more than three decades.

These groups did remarkably well for me. The only thing they did not succeed in doing was finding me a husband. For that, I had to look elsewhere! Looking back now, I realise that was probably part of God's curriculum as well.

Those years remain some of the richest and most formative years of my life. From 1991 to 1993, when I still had my choir voice, I sang in the LPU choir. I did this while taking up leadership at UCF at the Hall level - I was Vice-President of the Mensah Sarbah Hall Fellowship. When I lost my choir voice, I joined the Evangelism Team, where I served from 1994 to 1996, after returning from my year abroad program. Whatever the role, I always got involved, and those experiences taught me courage, discipline and the importance of speaking about my faith with conviction, but also with humility and love. Looking back, I realise they also helped develop the courage with which I carry out my responsibilities today.

What amazes me most today is not simply what happened during those years, but what became of the people who shared those experiences with me.

When I look around the LPU alumni group, I see contemporaries like Bishop Alex Sackey Ansah, Pastor Jones Amarnor-Darkwah, Apostle John Nkansah and so many others whom God has used powerfully in ministry. I also see many who have become leaders in business, academia, the judiciary, public service, media and numerous other professions.

Our Chair this afternoon, Bernard Avle, is one of Ghana's most respected media professionals. We count among our alumni Professor Okoe Amartey, distinguished academic and former Vice-Chancellor of UPSA; Mrs. Jackie Benyi, Managing Director of Enterprise Life Assurance Ghana; Mr. Kofi Bentil, Vice-President of IMANI Ghana; and His Lordship Justice Ekow Baiden, Justice of the Court of Appeal. By God's grace, I have the privilege of serving as the first female Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana. There are many others making extraordinary contributions across Ghana and around

the world.

This is what LPU produces. Not simply successful people, but men and women whose faith shapes the way they lead, serve and influence society. They remind us that there is no divide between serving God and serving society with excellence. When Christians carry their faith into their professions, the Kingdom is advanced far beyond the walls of the church.

Sometimes, as Christians, we speak as though there is "church work" on one hand and "secular work" on the other. I have increasingly come to believe that this is a false distinction. The Apostle Paul reminds us in **Colossians 3:23**, *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."* Notice that Paul does not say, "Whatever you do in church." He simply says, **whatever you do**.

For most of us, our greatest ministry happens not on Sunday but from Monday to Friday - or Saturday. Sunday is when we gather to worship, to learn, to encourage one another and to refuel. Then we are sent back into the world. The hospital becomes someone's pulpit. The courtroom becomes another person's mission field. The lecture theatre

becomes mine. The newsroom becomes Bernard Avle's. The university administration becomes mine as Vice-Chancellor.

The boardroom, the classroom, the laboratory and the marketplace all become places where our faith is made visible. That is where integrity matters. That is where compassion matters. That is where excellence becomes an act of worship.

As Vice-Chancellor, I often remind our students that character is just as important as competence. LPU taught me that long before I ever became Vice-Chancellor.

When I reflect on this Golden Jubilee theme - "LPU@50: Rebuilding with Purpose; Soaring like Eagles; Advancing the Vision" - I cannot think of a more fitting description of what God has done. I know some of the history. I know there were periods when membership declined as individual denominations broke away from the collective. There were moments when the future of LPU appeared uncertain. I know how frustrating and even discouraging that must have been. Yet God preserved this fellowship.

To hear that a fellowship which had dwindled to only a handful of students has grown again is a powerful reminder that God's work is never measured merely by numbers. It is measured by faithfulness. God is still rebuilding. God is still raising eagles. God is still advancing His vision.

To the current students of LPU, let me say this. Never underestimate what God is doing in your life during your years at university. You may think you are simply attending Bible studies, rehearsing with the choir, serving on a committee or participating in an evangelism outreach. In reality, God is preparing you for responsibilities you cannot yet imagine.

The friendships you are building today may become your lifelong support system. And who knows? Some of you may be more successful than I was in finding your permanent roommates!

The leadership opportunities you embrace today may prepare you for positions of influence tomorrow. One day, you too may look back and marvel at the story God has written with your life.

To my fellow alumni, this celebration should also remind us of our responsibility. LPU invested in us long before many of us had anything to give in return. Today, God has blessed this family with extraordinary people serving in ministry, academia, business, public service and many other fields.

The best way to honour those who invested in us is to ensure that today's students receive the same or better opportunities we enjoyed. Our support should not simply be nostalgic. It should be practical. It should be generous. And it should be sustained.

As Vice-Chancellor, let me also express the gratitude of the University of Ghana to the Legon Pentecostals' Union. For fifty years, LPU has provided fellowship and spiritual nourishment for students. But it has done much more than that. It has been a trusted partner in shaping generations of students whose lives reflect excellence, integrity, service and faith. The University of Ghana is stronger because organisations like LPU have helped produce graduates who excel not only intellectually but also morally and spiritually.

May God continue to rebuild this fellowship with purpose. May He

cause it to soar like the eagle. And may He use it to advance His Kingdom on this campus and far beyond it for generations to come.

Happy Golden Jubilee, LPU.

LPU! A Generation of POWER!

God bless you all.

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