



THIRD QUARTER NEWSLETTER

July - September, 2014

This time, I am devoting the entire pages of this Newsletter to HUC's maiden graduation program that took place at the end of July, 2014. Though we have produced and distributed an informative publication on HUC's history (From Inception to Graduation), I thought it would be only fair for those who could not participate in the actual ceremony to see the pictorial presentations as they occurred, more or less. The graduation ceremony was attended by several invited guests, families of the graduating class and the HUC community members.

On behalf of the graduating class, the entire HUC community and that of my own behalf, I would like to thank all the friends of HUC for their consistent and generous support to HUC so that we could witness this colorful occasion.

The programmatic presentations as they occurred during the ceremony are presented as follows:





Dr Letemeskel

The program started with opening prayers by Dr. Letemeskel Asfaw, former Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr Letemeskel is still serving the Enterprises in her capacity as member of the Board.

COMMENCEMENT DEVOTIONAL: THE FUEL OF HOPE by Dr. Bete Mengistu, Chairman, Beza International Ministries.

Dear Graduates,

As I considered today's ceremony I realized the designation your Alma Mater affords you— which is "Graduates of Hope!" This is an interesting thought and an exciting premise. Particularly when you consider that you are entering a world steeped in cynicism and negativity— and at times, even threatening to extinguish the flames of possibility. It is encouraging therefore to see you enter the world, armed with hope. Hope in God, who makes the impossible, possible; and belief in yourself to be an instrument of positive change and transformation in our society.

The book of Hebrews chapter number six and verse nineteen and twenty tells us that,

¹⁹ *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,* ²⁰ *where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. NIV*

Our confidence therefore is not just in what we hope for— but rather in who holds our hope. And it is this hope that gives us the strength to dare to expect, dare to dream, and to dare reach for— what the world, would like us to believe— is out of range. Hope, on the other hand, emboldens our hearts to believe.

However there is a vast difference between knowing something in your head and believing something in your heart. When the knowledge of our intellect mixes with the passion and conviction of



Dr. Bete, giving devotional speech

our faith— it gives us the womb of creativity. When Solomon asked God for wisdom— God did not put it in his head— He put it in Solomon’s heart. The wisdom that sprung forth from his heart— is what satisfied society’s thirst for justice.

Simply put, knowledge is just the beginning. It is a spark— that needs the fuel of hope, to ignite its potential. In the early 1900’s— inventors known as the Wright brothers invented the world’s first successful airplane. But what is remarkable is that all of the mechanical knowledge they possessed was gained from their bicycle shop.

How do you go from a bicycle to an airplane? When that small spark of knowledge— was connected to their hope of flight— the bicycle almost literally grew wings! What I am saying is that— it is the gift of hope— that unpacks the potential of the knowledge in our minds— and puts wings to it.

However— head knowledge alone, will not get you very far. You who graduate here today, are amongst more than 80,000 graduates that are expected this year to enter the labor market across the country.

The question is what is it that sets you apart from that vast number? What are you going to do differently! Are you going to exchange hope— for corruption? Or are you going to hold onto a spirit of integrity and excellence— no matter the cost. Unless you are willing to be innovative and take conventional knowledge upon unconventional paths— you will not go very far.

In knowledge, you possess the tools— but it is the character of your heart that holds the keys to your success. Allow me to suggest two keys that I feel are most vital.

First, live your life from the inside out rather from the outside in. I firmly believe that every person born into this world— is born by design and a purpose. You are a designer’s special created in the image and likeness of God. And your true wealth is not in the salary you are offered— but rather in the value, worth, and purpose you give to yourself. I challenge you to ask these questions. Who am I? What do I live for? And what do I die for? Answering these questions properly will help you resist the temptation of being driven by external incentives only. When you approach life from the direction of your needs, you miss what *you*— have to offer. You will find true wealth, when you approach life from what you can give to it, rather than what you can receive from it. In other words do not wait on the outside environment to offer you a reason— to succeed. I challenge you to have your own conviction and determination to succeed in life— and the legacy you want to leave behind.

The second key I want to suggest to you is, commitment. Commitment is the hand maiden of hope— because without commitment you will never reach what you aspire for. If success came easy everyone would have it— but success is for those who have

committed themselves to see their dream alive. Can you imagine how many times they must have crashed and failed while trying to build the first airplane? But the heights of success is reserved to those who are committed enough— to endure the crashes of disappointment and pick up their wings and fly again. It is reported that Thomas Edison failed over 1000 times before developing the bulb that would light the world. And a reporter came and asked him— how did it feel to fail— over a thousand times?” Edison responded, “I did not fail 1000 times. I had successfully eliminated 1000 ways that it would not work— in order to find the one way it could work.” Don’t let life convince you there is no way for your dreams to succeed. There is a way! And you will find that way if you stay committed!

The Bible tells us that Paul was shipped wrecked many times in his life. Peter was jailed. Jonah was imprisoned in the belly of the fish... All of these faced disappointment but rose again to fulfill their destiny.

Finally, I want to remind you, that we live in remarkable times. It is a time that demands remarkable men and women to rise and demonstrate remarkable character in the market place— and thus, impact society with justice and righteousness. And you have been created for such a time as this.

May God help you, bless you, and make you a blessing to your generation.

Opening address by the President

Dear graduates,

Dear Guests and Families of the graduating class,

Members of our College community,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all (parents-guardians-educators alike) are gathered here:

- to congratulate the graduates,
- to wish them all good for their future,
- to express our gratitude to the College community for the training conducted,
- to also recognize the various parties who played important roles in supporting and encouraging the students to pursue college education.

Many stakeholders might have wished to witness such an occasion at this institution.

Members of the graduating class also anxiously waited for this day to come. And, here it has come! I congratulate you all!!

Dear Graduates,

Developing a nation is an overwhelming task. This task starts with education and will be sustained only through education. And we all recognize and appreciate your choices to pursue this education. I would say you made a right choice since education is the

ladder to self empowerment, a ladder to self assertiveness in a society. Indeed education puts one on societal map. It makes one recognizable.



The president addressing the gradu-

The time you spent at Hope University is rather short, but its legacy and impact on your future lives remains printed and permanent. What you have learned and gained here has equipped you with skills and readiness to put you on another starting point into your future. You are ready to begin a new beginning, that is, community service in a wider world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hope University College started its academic program in 2011 with five departments dully accredited by Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency of the Ministry of Education. Soon after, three additional departments were included and thus at present, there are 500 students pursuing their education in eight different departments. We strongly encourage gender balance in our institution. To that effect we already have 50% female population. Fifty six(56) % of today's graduating batch is females. We would want to go even beyond the break even point, to 60 percent in the near future.

What is more important at HUC is the support we provide to number of needy students coming from economically difficult situations. There are a total of 130 beneficiaries getting free education as our record indicates. I am happy to tell you that some 36 of today's 71 graduates were supported to attend and complete their studies.

Hope University College is a non-profit charity institution and thus depended on many helping hands to come to this stage. Individuals, institutions, foundations and churches

here and abroad have joined hands to support our students to pursue their education. We have tried to recognize them in our maiden publication which some of you may have received already. However; a Foundation known as Woord en Daad in the Netherlands and Ethiopiaid in the United Kingdom come top of the donor list and I am glad to announce that they will stay with us for the coming three years. It is my hope and solid expectation that local partnerships like Awash International Bank, Ethiopian Insurance Corporation and Beza Church Ministries will establish future donor bases.

All those who such supported believed that eradication of poverty and up-lifting of citizens from backwardness takes the power of education. They indeed made true investment.

Dear graduates,

Dear guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Preparing a generation for its future responsibility should be a shared venture. The last three years have shown us that if we could cooperate in pooling our small resources to support the needy, it is only possible to produce competent and productive citizens. In this connection, I would like to invite all who can stretch friendly hands to support a needy student. Individual sponsorship, institutional as well as joint supports are all mechanisms available.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Preparations for today's ceremonial arrangements are made by members of our staff led by Ato Temesgen Gebregziabher. I would like to thank all members of his team for the arrangement. The musical presentations are the works of Yared School of Music for whom I have special respect.



Musical presentation by Yared School of Music

Beza International Church and International Leadership Academy of Ethiopia have been our close neighbors. To Dr. Beta and his wonderful team, we are grateful for their patronage in this case. The local administration of Nefas Silk Lafto Sub-city in general and the police department in particular have been

our allies in matters of our security. We are indeed thankful for that and believe such attention will continue. In this connection, I would like to raise one challenge we face. Our today's graduates are graduating without having any sport-like activity due to lack of breathing space. The Sub-city is one of the largest in Addis Abeba and does not have a small sports field for our students. I hope they will consider this need for our students' extra curricular activities sooner than later future.



Graduates family

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, I just want to be thankful to the members of the graduates' families, who took all the pains in standing behind the students; members of the Board of our Enterprises, who gave all the directions and administrative support to make our work easier; and local and external supporters who made our financial travel road much easier.

The presence of the members of the Board and the General Assembly and that of our special guest of honor, participating in this convocation, makes us only happy and proud this morning.



Ambassador Truneh Zena, giving guide lines

All could not be done without Almighty's direct involvement, my friends! We thank our Lord for all His graciousness to this University College, which is built by hope, and run and sustained by hope. THANK YOU ALL!!!

Guidelines to the graduates by the Guest of Honor, Commissioner Truneh Zena

Ambassador Truneh Zena, who is also the Commissioner for Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, made motivational speech underscoring the importance of education in the making of competent citizens that the fast growing economy of the country deserves. He elaborated on the utility of

education in the respect and upholding of human rights as well as democratic values. He thanked both the family members of the graduating class and the HUC community for their roles in supporting and guiding the students. He further expressed his best wishes to the graduates as they eventually prepare themselves for the job market.

Presentation of Diplomas by various invited dignitaries (by department) were carried out as follows:

The Accounting and Finance graduates received their diplomas from Dr. Lemma Degeffa, the Board Chairman of the Enterprises.



The Management graduates received their diplomas from Ato Amanuelwork Abebe, Chairman of the General Assembly



The Marketing graduates received their diplomas from Ato Negash Kebede, General Secretary of the Hope Enterprises.



From among the 71 graduates three top students from the three departments were selected and presented with medals and trophy. The trophies were presented to the winners by the guest of honor ambassador Truneh Zena



Yonas Hadgu receiving both the medal and trophy



Siryet receiving the medal



Tigabu Mekonnen receiving the medal

Immediately after graduation, graduate placement follow-up and Internship exercises kept many of our staff busy. Though the placement result will not be known for sometimes, we will have something to report in the subsequent newsletter.

As we prepare this Newsletter for dispatching, preparation for the start of the new academic year is fully underway.

We still need your help

Contact Us:

*Dr. Teketel Forssido
President*

Hope University College

*Lebu, P.O. Box 12382,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*

*Tel. +251-118 -959726,
+251-118 -959238,
+251-118-959239*

Email: hopeuc_dl@yahoo.com

Visit us on the web!

www.hopeuniversitycollege.org

The vision of HUC is to provide quality education that produces graduates who combine knowledge, skills and values to contribute to the renewal and transformation of Ethiopia. HUC believes all students should be in a setting where they develop a love of learning driven by creativity and curiosity, and also a desire to make their communities a place of hope, justice, peace and progress. We value each student and desire to involve them in an educational process that develops them to their full potentials. In this initiative, we believe that no student who has a yearning for learning should be left behind. On behalf of those needy students, we are currently looking for student sponsorships for the academic year 2014-2015.

For more information or to make a donation, please visit our website or contact us in our LEBU Office in Addis Ababa.

Thank you again for your generosity!