

ON ★ COURSE

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Educating Christian Leaders for the Advancement of Kingdom and Community



June 16-19, 2016

HCC's Grand Inaugural Celebration – Accra, Ghana

In near unison, the students of HCC rose from their chairs and stood at attention as they regaled guests in the singing of the school anthem. Together, they sang, “Let us all unite and fight for our common chosen aim.” That aim is to create a better future—a sustainable future where Ghana’s youth are taught the importance of integrity, innovation, and dedication to spiritual, moral, and ethical development—to make Ghana great and strong.

On the sprawling green lawn of the HCC campus, the stage was set; surrounded by tented canopies adorned with fabric buntings in vivid red, yellow, green, and white—all signifying Heritage as a distinctly African institution—students, staff, faculty, and guests, along with a host of distinguished members from all levels of local and national government gathered together to inaugurate the grand opening of Heritage Christian College as an internationally accredited tertiary institute. HCC is the first accredited Christ-centered four-year degree granting institution of higher learning sponsored by the churches of Christ in all of Ghana. To commemorate and celebrate the Grand Opening of the College, HCC hosted a weekend long celebration including lectures, keynote speeches, and lessons delivered by Ghanaian dignitaries, church leaders, and current and former faculty of Abilene Christian University. During the ceremony, guests were treated to a stunning musical performance by the Village of Hope choir.

In keeping with the chosen theme for the event—“Making Our Nation Great and Strong”—speakers presented on a variety of topics emphasizing the

importance of Christian Education in transforming Ghanaian life and culture. In a country where, on average, 50% of youth remain unemployed, HCC’s entrepreneurship and philanthropy-focused curriculum is providing a missing link to Ghana’s education system. By teaching the principles of morality, Christian values, and entrepreneurship, HCC is providing Ghana’s youth with a better way of learning, living, and leading in the hopes of combatting what they believe is one of the root causes of poverty, unemployment, and corruption (both moral and material) in Ghana and across Africa—the widespread practice of developing material and intellectual skills without the influence of Christian values. “There are many good colleges and universities which can give students standard academic training, but if our school—HCC—does not give students more than that, HCC has no reason to exist,” says Dr. Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah, president of the college. HCC’s commitment to instilling in its students a Christ-like character, a desire for discipline, and a positive work ethic was highlighted throughout the weekend’s events.

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Inaugural Celebration Lectures

“Making Our Nation Great and Strong”

In celebration of the grand opening of HCC as an internationally accredited university college, distinguished speakers were invited to the campus in Accra to address students and guests. The theme for the weekend, “Making Our Nation Great and Strong,” was borrowed from Ghana’s national anthem as an echo of the mission and vision of HCC, and to exemplify the spirit of allegiance to God’s Kingdom that HCC hopes to instill in its students.



On Thursday, June 16, speaking on the role of the Christian university in transforming the mind to re-create a great nation, Dr. Jerry Taylor, Associate Professor in the College of Biblical Studies at Abilene Christian University and adjunct professor of Theology at HCC, spoke eloquently and passionately about the value of a transformed mind. Throughout his message Dr. Taylor highlighted the piercing contrasts between the mind set on light and life as it inspires positive progress and growth in wisdom, and the decaying mind, set on death and darkness as it breeds ignorance and destruction. The Christian university, he proclaimed, “stands forth in every nation as a bright light of spiritual intelligence that transforms the mind to combat the destructive forces of ignorance.” As he issued reminders of the power found in spiritual connection and communion with God, Taylor reiterated the role of the Christian university in helping students engage in a partnership with God. It’s this “interaction with the inward Presence of God,” he said, “that empowers the human spirit to engage in the re-creation of a great nation.”

Mr. Mike Willoughby, CEO of PFSweb (leading Global Commerce Service Provider) and elder at the Church of Christ on McDermott Road in Plano, Texas, spoke on Friday, June 17 about the role of entrepreneurship in creating jobs and alleviating poverty. Mr. Willoughby, who has decades of experience as

a successful business owner and entrepreneur, credits his accomplishments to an unwavering commitment to following biblical principles as his compass for both personal and professional growth. Using key passages from scripture, Willoughby outlined the core principles of Entrepreneurship placing particular emphasis on the importance of stewardship. “We are called to identify our giftedness and to use those gifts to leave the world better than we found it,” he



said. His points highlighted the necessity of recognizing the difference between wealth and value, sharing that while the world tends to regard entrepreneurship as a tool for wealth creation, Christians should view enterprise as a virtue and a calling. His advice to the students at HCC, who are encouraged in their coursework to create and pursue entrepreneurial opportunities, is to take action, be involved, and never stop learning. He inspired the students to be persistent, creative, and to invest in themselves; he encouraged HCC faculty to help the students develop an entrepreneurial mindset and stewardship mentality as he shared, “When we teach what to value, and how to create value, then we teach enterprise, and enterprise is the key to transformational growth.”

On the morning of Saturday, June 18, guests attending the official inaugural ceremony heard from HCC faculty, area church leaders, and Ghanaian dignitaries from local and national government agencies. Dr. Ian Fair, Emeritus Dean of the College of Biblical Studies at ACU and Interim Chair of the Department of Theology at HCC, delivered the keynote address on the topic of maintaining the essence and distinctiveness of a Christian University. Speaking of Ghana as being “One Nation Under God,” and as having a “Theocentric Culture,” Dr. Fair highlighted the abundance of observable evidence that God and Christian principles are at the center of Ghanaian life—in commerce, in education, and even in the national

anthem. He urged attendees to recognize and embrace the higher standard of living that Christians are held to as he acknowledged the uniqueness of the opportunities granted by a Christian education for the pursuit of this standard. Access to the highest academic, theological, and informational level of instruction, research, and publication, affirmed Dr. Fair, is at the heart of the essence and distinctiveness

of the Christian College experience, and is essential to preparing the next generation of Christians to lead in Ghana. “Students from HCC return home to become excellent leaders and servants because of the education and values they receive here,” he said.

Dr. Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah, President of the College, closed out the ceremonies on Saturday by restating HCC’s vision, purpose, and mission to transform the mindset of Ghana’s youth. By instilling Christ-like character, discipline, work ethic, creative skills for innovative entrepreneurship, and a spirit of altruism, the students of HCC are receiving the training and preparation they need to make the nation of Ghana both great and strong.

At the Sunday Assembly on the Campus of Heritage Christian University College

One Jesus–One Body–One Church

On Sunday morning, June 19, following the events of the Grand Inaugural Celebration, 600 Christians of all ages, speaking 7 different languages or dialects from more than 20 different congregations all gathered to worship together on the front lawn of Heritage Christian College. Leading this group in the service of the Lord's Supper, Dr. Ian Fair made note of the unity among those gathered as being one in Christ just as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12:12 - *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*



During a sermon delivered to his home congregation, Dr. Fair shared some thoughts about his experience in Ghana: "What impressed me as I looked out over the gathering was that I was looking at the universal church of Christ." The group of Christians gathered together on the HCC campus that day were assembled into one body in the name of Christ, representing the universal church that Christ promised to build. "This reminds me that there is only one Jesus, one body, and one church made up of many local congregations or local churches; but only one universal church, united in faith and worship," said Dr. Fair.

It was inspiring to see such a diverse group of God's people worshiping together in harmony and unison. It was encouraging to witness the coming together of so many congregations and individuals whose presence at the service was also evidence of their support for HCC.



The Church forms only one Body – the body of Christ

Final Exam Meal Drive Update

HCC students say "Me daa se! (Thank You!)" for your great gifts!

Final exams. For many students, these exams can be particularly challenging, especially if adequate nourishment is not available. But thanks to your loving generosity, every student at HCC received one square meal every day during the 10-day exam period in June!

What a blessing this was for our students! They are so grateful! In fact, they started referring to their daily gift of a nutritious meal as "Manna from Heritage." To receive the

meal each day, students were required to shake hands with HCC's President and spiritual leader, Dr. Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah while at Chapel. He would then provide a daily meal ticket valid only for the day it was issued. Students loved this fun way of receiving a gift meal. The students were encouraged as their hearts and bodies were filled and fueled for the tasks ahead each day.



Thank you for your generosity!



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