

# **THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S NEW YEAR ADDRESS TO THE EVANGEL UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY, 2018**

## **PROTOCOL**

It is with great joy that I welcome you all, the esteemed members of Evangel University community to the 1<sup>st</sup> semester and indeed, to the hope-filled year of 2018.

## **REVISITING OUR ESSENCE:**

I would like to start by reminding each of us – old and new, of that very essence that defines our university as great and unique among the rest in contemporary Nigeria. Without formal education, the potentials of man will be highly diminished. The two-pronged discipline of education and godliness refines a man: and reinstates him to his pristine dignity. Hence, in all the mushrooming of universities in Nigeria, Evangel University has embarked on educating the total man. This is why we are here. Had the objective been to simply found a university as other faith-based organizations did in recent time, I am sure our founding fathers would not have given the venture the slightest contemplation.

But the truth is that our society is both sick and confused; and so needs healing and redirection. Therefore, even when we may not have given it a deep thought, the Almighty God has chosen and gathered us from our sundry backgrounds to be made and remade on the hallowed campus of Evangel: to be made as in those who are young and growing, and to be remade as in those of us that are ill-made by our previous trainings and orientations.

We are here to be made and remade by the enviable culture of the Evangel University. We are also here to continually make the great citadel known as [the] Evangel University – our binding culture and convener.

When we lift this institution, this institution would in turn lift us; and together we shall return sanity and sublime values to the world. Therein lies the greatness we daily seek as individuals in our collective community.

## **EVANGEL UNIVERSITY CAN BECOME THE BEST:**

An organization is only adjudged great when its players see themselves as the critical elements on whose shoulders the success or failure of its common good rest. For a fact, most of us didn't know one another prior to the advent of Evangel University. But having united us, we must each endeavour to run our yards as in a relay race, acquit ourselves creditably as we hand over the baton of responsibility to the next teammate; while continually cheering him or her.

The Evangel University can be the best in Nigeria if members of its community desire it. Evangel University should be the best. And if you agree with me as I believe you do, the Evangel University must be the very best [at least among its contemporaries] because we shall will and work at it with close-knit cooperation. We should and must compete with the first-generation universities in Nigeria.

The surest way to contribute your quota is to hit the ground running with your assigned duties. Be flexible in your thoughts and ask questions wherever and whenever you are not clear on anything. Never be afraid or embarrassed to ask questions; regardless of how stupid the question may seem. No question is stupid; for as the Americans would say, the stupidest question in the world is that which was never asked.

## **STUDENT ENROLMENT:**

While acknowledging that Evangel University is a young and growing university, we must also expect and work for the young to grow. This is the law of nature. For one, I am not impressed with the growth rate of our university. For an institution that is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year of existence – having commenced academic activities in November 2012, it is expected to be on a conservative growth of 1000 students by now. But we have been much less than that. And I think that the lag is owed to the careless approach to adequate representation of the university at our individual levels.

Every one of us must own and execute the responsibility of being the Evangel University's ambassador wherever and wherever we find ourselves. We must each be public relations man and woman for the university – always

conducting ourselves in such a manner that may positively market our brand; and speaking with such a tone that may win patronage to it.

### **INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS & PRIVILEGES:**

Let me inform members of the Evangel University community that we are here to do serious business; and we should be ready and serious with it. We must cooperate with one another. Everyone must dutifully do his or her own bit. It is no longer going to be business as usual because we have critical mandate to deliver; and we all must work in concert.

I need maximum cooperation from everyone – whether academic, administrator, or student. If anybody deserves something, that person would surely get it. All rights and privileges must be accorded to everyone without bias. But we must work for them!

**Remember our slogan, “we have been here for too long so we must move” – Deutronomy 1: 6-8. I will desire that every member of this community should readily prove to me that he or she is not static. There must be something positively new each day in our collective endeavours to move EU forward.**

**Prof. I. U. Kalu**  
Vice Chancellor