

**HEADMASTER'S ADDRESS, DELIVERED AT THE**  
**99<sup>TH</sup> SPEECH AND PRIZE-GIVING DAY CELEBRATION**  
**ON SATURDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2009 BY**  
**MR. H. K. K. GRAHAM**

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Guest of Honour, (Nana Adu Gyamfi – Adontihene of Asanteman and Nananom, Guest Speaker (Mr. Y.P. Atuahene), My Lord Bishops and the Clergy, Directors of the Ghana Education Service, Distinguished Invited Guests, Santaclausians, Students The Press, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The light of this day has found all of us gathered here today to witness the 99<sup>th</sup> Speech and Prize-Giving Day Celebration of this great institution. No doubt, we owe our creator and sustainer tons of gratitude for his mercy, kindness, compassion and love towards us. With a spirit of humility and goodwill, I warmly welcome all of you on behalf of the Board, PTA, Management, Staff and Students to this function. We assure you that the benefit you will derive from this celebration will be enormous and memorable throughout year life.

**BEREAVEMENT**

Mr. Chairman, Adisadel College started the year under review on a rather sad note. Just one week after the celebration of the 98<sup>th</sup> Speech day, precisely Sunday, March 16, 2008 one of our students, Master Abdul Rhaman Gafaru fell from the fourth floor of the latest four-storey, sixteen unit classroom block apparently in an attempt to escape from the Senior Housemaster who was legitimately discharging his normal duty. The late Gafaru has since be buried. Adisadel gave cash donation and food items to support the family. The College also lost her hardworking messenger, Mr. Joseph Quansah and one of her illustrious Accounting teachers in the person of Mr. Anthony Jackson Gyesie after a short illness. He has also been buried since and as usual, the staff and students with the cadet were there to give him a befitting burial. With

all due respect shall well all, at this time, be upstanding to observe a minute's silence to their memory.

### ACADEMIC LIFE

The vision of the founding fathers to produce first class citizens who will take their rightful places in the field of work and impact positively on their generations has continuously become a reality. Both students and teachers have been sufficiently motivated to give off their best. Class attendance with effective use of contact hours, giving of assignments, writing quizzes and class tests are always the norm rather than the exception.

The assistant Headmaster (Academic) with the Heads of Departments leave no stone unturned to ensure that the efficient system that has been put in place to achieve academic excellence is vigorously and religiously pursued. The Guidance and Counselling Department is promptly brought into the picture when the need arises to save deviant students. The academic performance both internally and externally has given us justifiable cause to jubilate and we do that mindful of the fact that it is only God who deserves the honour, praise and glory. The highlights of the results since 2004 is as follows:

YEAR	NO. OF GRADE F's RECORDED	NO. OF SUBJECTS WHICH RECORDED 100% PASS	BEST STUDENTS RESULTS	OVERALL AVERAGE % PASS
2004	530	0	4As	65.0
2005	410	7	5As	88.0
2006	193	10	6As	95.0
2007	62	10	7As	98.0
2008	32	17	8As	98.6

## DISCIPLINE

Mr. Chairman, distinguished invited guest, the year under review saw Adisadel College taking a painful decision of dismissing ten final year students. This brought in its wake all kinds of undue pressures on the Headmaster, the Board and the entire staff, but by the divine grace of the Most High God we were able to withstand them all.

The Director-General of the G.E.S. through the Regional Director created a special examination centre for these recalcitrant students using their own invigilator and police security. At the end of the day the only reward these incorrigible students could offer their benefactors was to indulge in serious examination malpractice leading to the cancellation of some results with its attendant publication in the dailies. For once, Adisadel became a prophet and foresaw the quagmire these boys were about to plunge the college into and quickly spewed them out of her mouth. The powers that be did their best to rescue them but only to their utter disappointment. Adisadel has never compromised on issues that border on discipline. We have always been firm and fair in dealing with both students and staff. However, some individuals have always proven themselves to be the bad nuts and managed to influence others to tow their line. We fervently plead with parents, guardians and all well wishers to lend us their support to instil the needed discipline in our future leaders. The college considers discipline as the hallmark of success hence our continuous insistence on enforcing it to the letter. We are fully convinced and highly persuaded that the children who refuse to see eye to eye with the college authority and further fail to appreciate what we are doing for them will one day come to the true realization when they enter the world of life and reality. We shall never relent in our bid to discipline them for their good.

## FINANCES

The finances of the College have not been the best even though much frantic effort are being made. Prudent measures have been put in place yet the global economic crisis has had its toll on our dear nation Ghana with its ripple effect on Adisadel. The prices of goods, services and works have soared so much that we can hardly feed the children on the 80 Ghana pesewas per day, maintain existing infrastructure and provide the much needed conducive environment for excellent academic work. The College needs urgent assistance to prevent her from grinding to a financial halt. Other schools have received prompt and tremendous financial assistance from their PTAs; old students and well wishers. Adisadel deserves the same token. Beside this intervention we plead with parents and guardians to show great interest in their children and wards by paying their school fees in full and on time. We also plead with the government to release scholarship grants and the absorbed fees early enough to save the heads of school from impatient and shylock suppliers.

## STAFFING

The staffing situation in Adisadel College is just adequate to meet all aspirations of the founding fathers. Staff members are very qualified and experienced in the job they are doing. Teachers who left for one reason or the other including further studies, transfers and retirement were in the persons of Ms. Cynthia Amankwah for ICT; Nana Yartel the III in the Social Studies

Department, Mr. Isaac Wilmot for Chemistry, Rev. Canon J.J. Bain-Duodoo the chaplain and

*Mr. Oliver Cudjoe Cudjoe former Headmaster, staff secretary and General Welfare Chairman retired*  
Mr. Abraham Nelson Cooper Maintenance Officer were quickly replaced. New staff members

included Mrs. Rosemary Baiden, Rev. Canon Peter Amoako-Gyampoh (the Chaplain),

Mr Kwame Asadu Amponsah the Accountant, Mr. John Dadzie, Maintenance Officer, Mr. Enoch Mensah, Mrs. Ama Boahema Owusu-Sekyere, Ms. Mary Araba Jackson, a typist and two service personnel with five interns. Seven teachers who had no periods to teach were assisted by the Headmaster to relocate to other schools but they refused and rather resorted to court action against the headmaster and GES. The case is still pending at the high court in Accra. They have sworn to teach in Adisadel College whether they have a place or not.

\* Two teachers (i) Mr. Charles Rhyas Odurosah former Headmaster & Head of Science and ICT  
(ii) Mr. Victor Mensah - Adaher former Smt. Headmaster and Asst. Headmaster (Acad) were seen appointed Headmasters of Assin North Sec. Tech Sch. Assinpongase and Academy of Christ the King respectively

#### INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Adisadel takes the culture of maintenance very seriously except that funding is always inadequate to meet her needs. In the light of this one or two masters bungalows are identified and maintained to some appreciable level in addition to what the PTA does. Dormitories and classrooms blocks are also given some attention. Mr. Chairman, Adisadel College is an ancient institution and our infrastructural needs are unlimited. Definitely, the scarce resources we have cannot do all and therefore call for outside support from all well wishers. The PTA four-storey, eight unit block of flats which has been captured by the GETFund is progressing even though at a rather slow pace. The construction of the dispensary building has virtually come to a standstill and effort to get the Kankam family to complete it has yielded no fruit. The same situation applies to the flats for the staff at the barracks near the dining hall. The construction of the long expected Centenary resource centre which has four major components; a two-thousand capacity auditorium, a library, a state of the Art Centre for I.C.T. and the administration block has been awarded to a contractor Messrs Halifax to be supervised by AESL under the Regional Engineer J.K. Afful. The site has been handed over to him and preliminary work has started. As usual, extensive support is needed from all to see to its timely completion.

Mr. Chairman, Adisadel College now has acquired her own Satellite Dish which provides a twenty four hour internet connectivity service to our community members. The only snag is that authorization has to be sought before enjoying the facility. Furthermore, additional Pentium IV computers with accessories have also been purchased to augment and replace the obsolete Pentium II.

### **THE FOUR-YEAR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Mr. Chairman, educational reforms has been with use since independence. Committees upon committees have been set up to review the various educational reforms for redress. The three-year Senior Secondary School System started in January 1991 and was in existence until 2006/2007 academic year, when the Four-year Senior High School concept took over now in its second year. It is just fair that the Government of Ghana sustains it and nourishes it to the end. We must all admit that not until we get to the end of the tunnel we can not know what is there. Let no one think that the four years will be too long and expensive; after all some of us spent seven solid years in the secondary school before becoming properly backed for the university. My plea to the government is for her to set the nation's priorities right and sacrifice to put in place the needed infrastructure, teaching and learning materials, classroom, library and science laboratories facilities among others for the best to be achieved. There is no doubt that when the teachers who are the implementers are given adequate motivational packages the four-year Senior High School system will surely succeed.

## CHALLENGES

Mr. Chairman, everybody knows the position of Adisadel College when it comes to educational matters in Ghana but I want to use this forum to press home the fact that our challenges are unlimited. Many are the parents, guardians, old boys and well wishers who are moving heaven and earth to have their sons in Adisadel College but they forget that the CSSPS has a lot of inherent constraints. I wish to appeal to all to sympathise with the College when their aspirations are not met in entirety. Accommodation is another pressing issue that needs to be tackled. Currently Adisadel needs a dormitory block that can accommodate at least six hundred students. Our toilets, electrical and plumbing facilities need urgent attention. Adisadel urgently needs a fence wall to check encroachment on our college land.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Mr. Chairman, distinguished invited guests, Adisadel College really passed through consuming fire last academic year. Nevertheless, we knew one thing for sure and that was "the sound Christian foundation upon which this college was built was solid enough to withstand all storms and vicissitudes of life irrespective of where they came from. As the Head of the College, I only had to encourage my students and staff to remain committed to our vision and appreciate the fact that the challenges we were facing were only preparing us for better things to come. Lo and behold, the battle days eventually ended and victories started appearing in multiples and boundless leaps.

Adisadel came first in the Project citizen Ghana regional showcase competition organized by the National Commission for Civic Education. Mr. Owusu Nkansah of the Geography Department has continuously won the What Do You Know Quiz Competition up to the Champion of Champions level.

For the first time in the history of the college since the inception of the Senior Secondary School system in January 1991, Adisadel has been able to come out with 8As and the student who made Adisadel so proud was Master David Kofi Nyarko. Out of the twenty candidates who made 8As, in Ghana, three of them were adjudged the overall best candidates and Adisadel College was among them. Kofi took the second runner up position and was honoured on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 with the national award. Again, the quality of his raw scores propelled him to win a further award in West Africa. The stage is now set for young Kofi to fly to Freetown – Sierra Leone to receive the West African International Excellence Award accompanied by the Headmaster and his Assistant. Mr. Chairman, Adisadel College has lived up to its motto “Vel primus” by becoming the first boys institution in the whole Ghana and for that matter Cape Coast, the centre of education in Ghana to win this WAEC International Excellence Award. Once we have opened the gate the rest can follow.

Mr. Chairman, kindly permit me to state one hard fact which I shall do with great humility and respect for all; is it possible for a naked man to promise clothing to another person in nudity? Surely Adisadel College is achieving these excellence awards simply because you only need to be reminded that the leader himself is an achiever. In the year 1999, the whole nation crowned Mr. H.K.K. Graham with the 1999 Ghana’s Best Science Teacher Award. He



was only then a young classroom teacher. Today, he is a Headmaster and on Wednesday, January 14, 2008, the name nation has crowned him 2008, Ghana's Most Distinguished Headmaster. Yes, Adisadel College has chalked all these successes but we shall not allow ourselves to be blindfolded by them. They have rather served as eye openers and mighty challenges to propel us to much greater heights and we shall never be found wanting; God being our unflinching helper.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mr. Chairman, Adisadel College has had the benefit of experiencing the immense of Santaclausians; both local and abroad, parents, guardians and well wishers in a ground style. To be quite honest, Adisadel College is the only school in Ghana where the good works of the staff and students are acknowledged, recognized and appreciated in US Dollars and UK pounds sterling. A good numbers of Santaclausians have instituted several excellence awards to motivate not only students but also teachers to walk the extra mile in lifting the image of the College. These will be announced at the presentation of Prizes/Awards shortly. Other benevolent individuals include Mr. Kodwo Bondzie Asmah a parent, and Mrs. Belinda Opoku a pharmacist who have donated a large quantity of assorted drugs for the dispensary. The Metro Chief Executive – Mrs. Mercy Arhin teams up with the Presiding Assembly member Hon. Nana Awuku have provided Adisadel with Street Lights. Mr. P.Y. Atuahene has completely renovated the batchealer's flat. Assorted books were also donated by ..... through the initiation of Mr. George Arthur, President of the Adisadel Old Boys Association in North America, Mr. Kofi Kyere-Darkwah donated 140 louvre blades and 4 ceiling fans and Mr. James Amissah nonated a set of Table Tennis Equipments and Accessories to Thomas Jonah House. Mr. P.Azuman donated Sporting equipments, Mr. Kingsley Amporfu - 1 set of Football Jerseys,

Mr. Charles Tachie-Menson – 2 Sets Water Closet to Quaake House and Mr. J.M. Danquah – Mower to Adisadel College. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I did receive a lot of support from the GES directors, the Chairman of the Board, the PTA, Management, Staff, Students, Santaclausians and my classmates and I use this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and profound appreciation to them all. Jonathan Adjetey Osekere Gh.¢500 for Sports.

*Saluting the sponsoring year group.*

### CONCLUSION

The vision of the Founding Fathers has become a reality in Adisadel College and we shall continue to lift high the banner of excellence as we produce high profile men who take up their rightful places in the field of work to do exploits and add to the gains of our predecessors.

Long live Adisadel College

Long live the Santaclausian Family

Long live Mother Ghana.