

GUEST OF HONOR SPEECH

March 14, 2015

Dr. Godfrey Gaisie

Bishop Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen, and fellow Santaclausians.

It is with immense pride and humility that I accept this honor of Guest of Honor at the 105th Speech and Prize Giving Day activities. I accept this on behalf of all the members of the great class of 1965. This is a shared honor for all of us. When we embarked on this project we were aware that most of us are retired with limited resources. However we are also very much aware of the immense benefit the education we received at Adisadel bestowed on our lives, and we dug deep into our resources to put this together, our Legacy Project.

There are three people who could not be here with us but deserve special mention. Robert Baafi, who came up with the idea of a modern computer lab, and worked tirelessly to order the components from different parts of the world and had them shipped to us here in Ghana. There is Edward Awuah Nyamekye, who was instrumental in acting as the liaison between the 1965 class members resident in Ghana and those resident outside Ghana. And then there is Albert Ebo Richardson, our head prefect, who was constantly on the phone and with email, trying to reach out to classmates around the world to contribute to the project. As you might expect, his experience as head prefect at Adisadel had equipped him with a certain tenacity.

So what is this legacy project of the class of 1965? Fifty years ago we graduated from "O Level" after 5 years on the Hill. Some of us came back for 6th Form, others moved on to different things. However during our time on the Hill, we became very much aware of the Adisadel spirit of self-help and giving back to the Adisadel community and the younger generation.

It is in that spirit that we embarked on this 50th anniversary legacy project. We looked for a project idea that we considered would have an immediate impact on students. It is no secret that we live in an increasingly digital world and any society that does not fully embrace this technology would be left behind in this 21st century. ***"The United Nations in 2013 said that unless concerted efforts were taken to bridge the digital divide, many developing countries could miss economic opportunities"***.

Good example, since many of the Class of 1965 are scattered all over the world, the very process of putting this project together involved a heavy use of information technology to keep us all informed and on board!

Information technology is constantly renewing itself. Faster and more efficient computers are constantly being created. We sought to position Adisadel at the forefront of computer technology. With this in mind we have purchased a new computer system for a 40 seat computer lab for the school. That is 40 students at a time can use the lab for basic computer literacy instruction and for more advanced information technology elective students the system has all that is needed to develop deeper computer

skills including Visual Basic programming, and Database management. Two servers that control 20 stations each form the backbone of the system. This is the state of the art approach to institutional computer lab systems and may very likely be one of only a few installed in the country. A projector and screen is part of the package, so the instructor can demonstrate concepts to the whole class at the same time.

The headmaster has indicated that the donation of the lab is most timely, since the school has increased IT electives this year.

As I mentioned at the beginning of my presentation, this is our legacy project. Why the word legacy? This is likely our last project together as a group. Many of us are retired or soon to be retired. It is not likely we will be renewing or updating this system as a group. But we strongly believe this is so important for the school and students that the lab should be maintained and expanded, as a permanent part of the school curriculum, and for as long as this school exists. We see the school as our partner in this vision of ours, and we all should bear our part of the responsibility.

For that reason, members of the Class of 1965 fervently hope, and expect, that Adisadel College will acknowledge, and undertake the following:

- That computer education is an essential part of modern education.
- That lack of computer education in a school such as Adisadel is a sign that the students are receiving inferior education.
- That Adisadel, which prides itself as being the best in Secondary School education will maintain the computer lab in top condition at all times.
- That Adisadel will expand the lab, and work with the Adisadel Old Boys Association, and other year groups to keep the computer labs always at the state of the art level.

Now, a word for the students. You are the reason why we've put this project together, so do not think we were going to let you off easy without a word of advice to you.

There was a time in the history of the educational system in Ghana when people went to school just to learn to read and write so they will become good clerks and messengers in the civil service. That was the time most decisions were made by the colonial establishment. In present day Ghana, even if all you want to be is a low level civil servant, reading and writing alone is not going to be enough for you. Without basic computer literacy today, you cannot even be a low level clerk in the civil service. But let me tell you something. The reason for your education at this level is to open your mind as to how the world works. In this school you are receiving the necessary education to assist you in your further studies at the universities, the technical schools, the business schools, seminary schools, law schools, medical schools, and architectural schools etc. We are depending on you to move our nation forward as the future leaders of this nation. So if all you want to be in the future is a nobody, then you are in the wrong place. Your parents are investing a lot of their limited resources in you. Do not waste their money! And your dedicated teachers, do not waste their precious time! It's not going to be easy, believe me, but you can do it.

Currently, Ghana, as a nation has many challenges. So it becomes your responsibility as future leaders to learn from our mistakes and set this country on the right path because you will inherit it after we leave.

We need you to be great City and Town Planners, great civil engineers, teachers, religious leaders, lawyers, doctors etc.

- Be the generation that banished flooding in our cities and towns during the rainy season.
- Be the generation that provided reliable water supply for the whole country.
- And yes, be the generation that banished dumsor permanently in this country.
- Last but not the least, be the generation that totally banished corruption from Ghana.
- We need you to be the generation that built Ghana into that biblical shining city on the hill.

And whatever your position in life later on, do not forget the school that nurtured you to be who you are. Give back generously to the school in a meaningful way. Help the younger generation as you have been helped. Keep the Adisadel Spirit alive.

Thank you