

Holiday Message from the Vice Chancellor  
To the Valley View University Family

**From the Office of the Vice Chancellor**

December 22, 2023



Dear VVU Family,

On behalf of my family, the academic board, and the university administration, I bring you Christian greetings of joy and hope.

We have safely reached the end of the first semester of 2023/2024. Today the university will officially close for business; our students left last week for the first semester break, the rest of us, teaching and non-teaching staff are leaving today and will resume on January 3, 2024.

Though this year has been one of the most challenging year for us as a community, we take solace from the Apostle Paul, in 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

*“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus (NIV).”*

As the chief servant of this family, I understand the difficult moments this year brought to us, but as Christians, we need to focus on Jesus as the captain of our vessel, who always make the journey through to the shore in style.

The Apostle said, let’s bring our energies to always rejoice no matter what, pray always for God’s direction, and have the spirit of thankfulness, showing our allegiance to Jesus Christ, the master of the tempest, the ocean, earth, and sky. Valley View University’s future is safely in the hands of the Master.

Notwithstanding the challenges and difficulties, we faced together as a family in 2023, I am convinced that, the years ahead of us are the harvest years. The university, in the past couple months have voted on plans to move us past our challenges and refocus on the journeys ahead.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the successes and achievements from our admired current and past students, faculty, and staff, and the support we have received in 2023 from our Chancellor, the Constituency, the Council Chair and the entire membership of the University Council, our regulators, and friends of VVU.

Members of VVU family, let us praise God for the following solid highpoints in the history of our university:

### **Mission Report**

- During the academic year, 203 baptisms were recorded from the three Campuses.
- VVU for the first time, had students lead the Week of Spiritual Emphasis (WOSE) for the first semester of the 2023/2024 academic year. We are proud of our seminarists.
- The Move-In-By-Faith campaign was successful. By God's grace we continue to worship in our Chapel Building since April 29, 2023.
- The university-wide Pause and Pray continues to revive the spiritual life of our Campuses.

### **University Rebranding Report**

- Kumasi Campus Administration building reroofing project is near completion.
- Techiman Campus wall and campus beautification project has added aesthetic appeal and facelift to our university.
- The Oyibi Campus frontage has been redesigned and it looks beautiful.
- The cenotaph at the University entrance has finally been restored to the glory of God.
- We have erected a monument to honor our former General Conference President, Elder N. C. Wilson, at the entrance of our university.
- The monument was jointly commissioned by the Presidents of the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of Zambia.
- For the first time in the history of our university, and in any university, we could think of in recent memory in Ghana, we were honored by the presence of three living heads of States, two current first ladies, one former first lady, and a chief of staff, during the 29<sup>th</sup> congregation on July 2023.
- During the 30<sup>th</sup> congregation on December 17, 2023, VVU again honored a Federal Republic of Nigeria Governor of Osun State and the colorful presence of the MP of Assin Central.

- I am encouraged, for we need to celebrate these impressive achievements, and reclaim the mileage such activities have added to the VVU brand.
- In total, for the year 2023 and for the first time in our history as a university, we have conferred five (5) honorary degrees and two (2) special citations to three living Heads of States, one Governor, one former First Lady, a Presidential Chief of Staff, and a Philanthropist.

### **Service to the Community Report**

- iMigration Centre has been established in Techiman Campus to provide services to immigrants, returnees, and displaced persons.
- For the first time in our history as a tertiary institution in Ghana, VVU hosted a family from South America to learn English language.
- Our students, faculty, and staff continue to offer valuable services to our Country and abroad.

### **Alumni Achievement Report**

Our graduates are offering quality service in their professions with excellence and integrity. This past year, we have received good reports from our alumni community. Just to mention a few:

1. Induction of VVU Alumnus - an alumnus of the University, was inducted as a Chaplain of the Ghana Police Service. Pastor Chief Inspector Samuel Danso Marfo of the Ghana Police Service was the first Seventh-day Adventist Pastor to occupy that position in Ghana.
2. Ghana's Overall Best Teacher Awards. VVU has captured prominent places in the national award:
  - a. Overall Best Teacher for 2023 - **Faith Aku Dzakpasu**, pursued graduate degree from VVU.
  - b. Second Runner-Up - **Fredous Iddi-Amin**, pursued BEd in English language and was a class rep and a student leader.
3. Prestigious Global Teacher Prize:
  - a. Mr. Eric Asante, who emerged as the 2020 National Overall Best Teacher, was awarded as one of the top 10 finalist for the esteemed Global Teacher Prize Award for 2023.
  - b. He received additional award from the London School of Digital Business in December 2023
  - c. These achievements mark the second time that a Ghanaian has been shortlisted among the top 10 finalist for the Global Teacher Prize.
4. GUPS:
  - a. Our immediate past SRC President was successfully elected this year as the General Secretary for the Ghana Union of Professional Students (GUPS).
5. Best Teacher Award 2020 - 2022:

- a. Our head teacher for the Techiman Basic School, Ms. Mavis Ansah, received the Best Performing Staff (Private Schools Category) award.

### **Affiliation Arrangements with Ghana Arm Forces**

- I am delighted to also report that, in November 2023, Valley View University, based on our affiliation agreement with the Ghana Arm Forces, graduated about 150 officers after completing a Certificate in Music program.

### **Institutional Collaborations and Partnerships**

We have also signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various organizations to add value to what we do for our students. To name just a few of them, are:

1. AdaGra – Garden of Renown, the concept of Garden of Renown is to return to our Adventist heritage, the health message and eating from the first food God gave to mankind. We have harvested and sold okra, cucumber, pineapple, squash, and other green vegetables. For this academic year, our students enjoyed fresh foods from VVU’s farms.
2. MoU with Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana. Agreement to grant our business students at level 300, many exemptions to write the ICA (GH) examinations.
3. CSIR (Council for Scientific & Industrial Research – Food Research Institute, Ghana) under this MoU, the two parties recognized the need for improved capacity of flour users, processors, and farmers to reduce the overdependence on wheat flour, reduce postharvest losses, and ensure food security whilst improving livelihoods and creating more jobs for the youth to promote Ghana’s economy. We are delivering on this.
4. MoU with Institutions abroad, Germany, UK, USA, etc. have been consummated.
5. On August 10, 2023, VVU signed a five-year MoU and partnership agreements with 25 higher education institutions in Africa and Sahmyook University in Seoul, South Korea. This MoU seeks to establish academic and research cooperation programs and to promote creative and interdisciplinarity to enhance education and understanding.

### **Grants and Sponsored Projects**

Valley View University has continued to pursue the tradition of grant acquisitions as a requirement of higher education institutions:

1. UNIDO – WACOMP Project: Grant Amount GHc183,000
  - a. Purpose of grant:
    - i. To set up a centre for mushroom production from cassava peels
    - ii. Recruit 50 VVU students on a Work, Earn, Learn Programme (WELP) in mushroom production, processing, and marketing

- iii. Train VVUTC bakers on use of cassava flour in bread making
    - iv. Set up cassava demonstration farm at VVUTC to provide raw materials for flour and mushroom
- 2. Ghana Skills Development Fund (GSDF) Project (CTVET/ WORLDBANK) - GHc2,100,000
  - a. Purpose of grant:
    - i. Procure modern equipment and establish a state-of-the-art Agro processing centre for producing composite flour for bread and pastries making, and training bakers and students
    - ii. Develop a curriculum for composite flour technology with CSIR
    - iii. Recruit 300 students on a Work, Earn, Learn Programme (WELP), in production and marketing of flour, flour products, value added mushroom products (fresh, dried and powder)
    - iv. Train and supply composite flour to 500 bakers as raw materials
    - v. Promote the composite flour technology in Ghana
- 3. UAPB (University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff) Aquaculture Project - US\$8,756.50
  - a. Purpose of grant:
    - i. Build a centre to promote aquaculture technology.
    - ii. Set up a modern lab for water quality testing for people within the northern and middle belt of Ghana.
    - iii. Train Faculty and students at Agribusiness department in tilapia production, processing, and feed preparation.
    - iv. Recruit 20 students on a Work, Earn, Learn Programme (WELP) in the production and marketing of tilapia and fish feed.
- 4. AdaGra - Garden of Renown - US\$50,000
  - a. Purpose of grant:
    - i. Set up a State of the art, commercial vegetable Production and Processing Centre for high-end market in Accra.
    - ii. Train farm workers and students in mechanized farming to improve efficiency and productivity.
    - iii. To establish a VVU Garden of Renown scholarship fund.
    - iv. Recruit 100 students on a Work, Earn, Learn Programme (WELP) in vegetable production and processing.
- 5. Ghana Skills Development Fund (GSDF) Training Grant - GHc225,000
  - a. Purpose of grant:
    - i. To train five farmer-based organizations (FBOs) in improved methods farming and Agro Processing

## **Significant Donations**

During the past year 2023, the university received significant donations from friends and philanthropists, including:

- 1. Friend of VVU - US\$100,000

- a. Purpose of donation:
  - i. Contribution towards the Chapel building
2. Mr. Thomas Svanikier – GHc380,000 approx. (brand new 2023 Mahindra Scorpio)
  - a. Purpose of donation:
    - i. For the Vice Chancellor’s secretariat.

Finally, I want to express my utmost gratefulness to you, our warriors for the patience you exercised, the sacrifices you made, and your readiness to discharge your duties when the rolls were called in 2023, you were vibrantly there. I, therefore, encourage you to take this time away from work to reflect, rejuvenate, and prepare for the brand-new year, 2024.

Whether you are coming back to work, as an essential staff, travelling locally or abroad, please be careful and take the needed rest with those that matter most in your lives (your immediate family). As we look to welcome 2024, let us remember our core values:

- Excellence,
- Integrity, and
- Service.

Let us be diligent, dear family, to faithfully validate these attributes of excellence in everything we do, to display integrity in our homes, and the community, and to selflessly offer service to the country that have invested much in us.

Just be nice!

Happy holidays from my family to yours.

Professor William K. Koomson  
Vice Chancellor  
Valley View University