

**A SPEECH DELIVERED BY REV. DR. YOHANNA YAKUBU ANGOLO, RECTOR ERCC
PASTORS' COLLEGE OBI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 34TH GRADUATION
CEREMONY OF HER STUDENTS HELD ON SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER, 2020.**

The President of ERCC Very Rev. Dave Denji
The Vice President of ERCC, Very Rev. David Tashi
The General Secretary of ERCC Very Rev. Gagagara Mulluche
The Assistant General Secretary of ERCC Very Rev. Dr. Zachariah Nasara
The chairman, Governing Council of Pastors' College
The Guest Speaker
The Education Director
The ERCC Board of Trustees
The ERCC Archdeans and Administrative Secretaries
The Chairman of this Occasion
The ERCC Head of Institutions
The ERCC Directors
The ERCC Esteem members
The Gentlemen and ladies of the press
Brethren in the Lord.

I have singular honour to welcome you wholeheartedly to this memorable and historical graduation ceremony which marked the 34th graduation ceremony in the history of the college which is tagged ***“A Pastor as a dreamer: A case study of Joseph”*** The college is graduating 52 students across its various programmes. Anything that has a beginning has an end. It is marvelous and joyous as we partake in this historical occasion.

APPRECIATION

First and foremost, I want to register my profound gratitude to God almighty for His grace and love towards us this year. Having brought us to the 34th graduation ceremony which we have been anticipating, glory and honour be unto Him for His sufficient and unconditional love which He bestows on us.

On behalf of the Governing Council, Staff members and the entire Pastors' College community, I wish to appreciate the ERCC President, Very Rev. Dave D. Denji for his enthusiasm and passion for the standard of education in ERCC, particularly ERCC Pastors' College Obi. The President of ERCC and the General Secretary provide us

with conducive environment for the smooth leadership and learning in the college. Indeed, we are most grateful for this gesture. May God give them more strength and wisdom in their leadership.

We are grateful to ERCC General Church Council for supporting this College in terms of providing befitting accommodation for our staff members through Alec Ricketts' will.

We also appreciate our partners in Germany for providing some accommodation for our students. We are indebted to our Archdeans and Administrative Secretaries for their immense support in making our Ministers' Management Course 2020 hitch-free. May God bless you and your leadership. I want to appreciate all the past leadership of this great college. I am indebted to my subordinates who later succeeded me as Principals and now my predecessors namely; Very Rev. Tanimu Kpadom who doubled as Education Director, Very Rev. Kaior Tsanger. This is a good chain of leadership which we pray should continue.

DEVELOPMENT

God has helped the college with some remarkable development in the following areas:

1. Staff Accommodation

As at present, our staff accommodation is conducive for habitation. We thank the leadership of ERCC for these projects.

2. Renovation of Rector's House

The Rector's house which was the old mission house which has long been without renovation has now been renovated and it is now admirable and habitable.

3. Students Hostel

The few students hostel built by our partners from Germany is a symbol of progress. We hope more of this will be actualized in due course. The existing students' hostels were renovated and this has really minimized their collapse of previous years.

4. Erosion

In this year, we are able to control the level of water that flows into our compound from various angles that surround us. We dug drainages round the college where water is channeled appropriately. This was the major cause of our falling houses. This reminds us the adage used by the Dutch

people that “God made the Dutch people but the Dutch people made Netherland”, because they have control over the waters that blocked them from building their houses. Water was diverted for buildings to be erected. This system really saved our building this year and we believe that in subsequent years to come it will be less problematic.

5. Anti-grazing

The Fulani herdsmen used to graze in our compound anyhow which is a threat to us. But glory be to God, with the help of Osuko of Obi, His Royal Highness Alhaji Aliyu Dangiwa Ogiri Orume, the ugly and disheartening situation has been minimized. We are indeed grateful to his Royal Highness.

6. Chapel Public Address system and Musical Instrument

This year God has helped us with public address system and musical instrument. It is revealed that every year during graduation like this, the college used to borrow public address system and musical instrument but glory be to God, He has provided for us. We thank the President and General Secretary of ERCC for laying the foundation of this instrument during 2020 Reverends management course, during inauguration ceremony through free will offering. We are thankful to Reverends Management Course participants for their donation during graduation for the purchase of the public address and musical instruments. Mr. President Sir, the Students Body and Women Fellowship of the College also contributed to the purchase of this musical instrument. We pray that you will bless them on our behalf.

PROGRAMMES OF THE COLLEGE

We have the following programmes:

1. Diploma in Pastoral Ministry (English)
2. Diploma in Pastoral Ministry (Hausa)
3. Higher Certificate in Christian Ministry
4. Certificate in Theology
5. ERCC Reverends’ Management Course

CHALLENGES (NEEDS)

Without challenges, there is no growth. The following areas are our challenges or needs:

1. **College Vehicle:**

The College had vehicle in the past but it is no more. Due to the necessity of the vehicle, we pray God should provide us with vehicle this 2021 in order to make our movement easy.

2. Fencing of the College:

We need to work on the area of fencing of the college even though the area is very large. We are in dire need of assistance in this regard. We had some assistance in the year 2018 graduation towards the fencing work. We still need more assistance from the government and well-wishers. The little we have; we will start with it.

3. Chapel:

Our present chapel is not in good condition. We are praying and making effort to erect a new building. In this graduation we are therefore soliciting assistance towards this gigantic project.

4. Students Hostel:

Our partners in Germany have started a good work towards our students' hostel. They had built four blocks of eight houses but have now stopped. We pray that they will reactivate the work as planned.

CHARGE TO THE GRADUATING AND CONTINUING STUDENTS

This year's Theme is titled: "A Pastor as a dreamer: A case study of Joseph". I urge you all to be holy, faithful and visionary like Joseph who dreamed and saw his future. You should rely on God who reveals secret things to his servants. As Joseph who was industrious and creative towards the present and future. I charge you to do same for the progress of yourselves, the church and the larger society. You should be like a holistic pastor who cares for both physical and spiritual welfare of his people. I wish you God's strength in your ministry as you go into the field and also His grace and sufficiency to the continuing students, as they strive to complete their studies.

Finally, I appreciate you all for attending our graduation. I wish you a fruitful Christmas celebration and prosperous New year in advance.

May God bless Nigeria

May God bless Nasarawa State

May God bless ERCC Family

May God bless ERCC Pastor's College Obi

May God bless you all, wishing you safe journey back to your various destinations.

Thanks.

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