Decision is a fundamental requirement for every desired change; we need drastic decision to have the future we desire. The quality of decision determines the quality of leadership.”

The Covenant University Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2014 held its One Hundredth sitting with appreciation to God for all the accomplishments of the University from inception.

The Special Guest at the Centenary sitting and Chancellor of the University, Dr. David Oyedepo noted that the University was able to accomplish great feats because God is at the centre of it all.

“We are just what we are today by the grace of God and if we stop recognising this as the grace of God, it may be reverted to disgrace”, he warned.

Dr. Oyedepo who is also the Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University stated that the vision to become one of the ten leading universities in the world by the year 2022 would be a cheap possibility with faith in God.

“There is nothing impossible with God. Our problem is lack of faith in Him. One of ten in ten is a cheap possibility particularly when we do not trust in our own ability.

“One of ten in ten is not an ambition but God's divine mandate. You only need to plug in with your faith for cheap accomplishment. There is no divine agenda that can be accomplished in the energy of the flesh. Therefore, let's believe and we shall get there”, he advised.

The Chancellor explained that the great feats accomplished by the Living Faith Church Worldwide (the proprietor base of the University) till date was possible with faith in God and hard work.

“It is work that enhances one's worth. There are more potentials inside each of us that are not yet given expression. All we need is to create more time to reel them off”, he charged.

He hinted that the Church is starting the construction of two additional universities in April this year with all the resources for the work available.

Dr. Oyedepo therefore charged the Senate leadership to take quality decisions in order to accomplish the desired future. “Decision is a foremost task of leadership. Decision is a fundamental requirement for every desired change; we need drastic decision to have the future we desire. The quality of decision determines the quality of leadership.”

He appreciated all the past and present leaders and members of the Senate for quality decisions that have brought the University to her present level.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor and the Chairman of the Senate, Professor Charles Ayo enumerated the achievements of the Senate from Cont' on Pg 46
Aftter three days of an intense resource verification exercise by a five-man accreditation panel from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), the preliminary reports of the team have commended the level and depth of resources available in the Department of Accounting in Covenant University.

Addressing the Management of the University at the end of what was considered a peer review exercise, the team leader, Professor Ishola Akintoye said that having done an extensive assessment of the activities in the Department of Accounting, they were satisfied with the structures in place.

Professor Akintoye commended the philosophy of the programme at Covenant University’s Department of Accounting, noting that the philosophy and objectives of the department is in tandem with the prescribed template of the National Universities Commission (NUC) and ICAN.

He noted that the strict adherence to the minimum requirements of NUC and ICAN by the department is worthy of mention as the team was granted unfettered access to the files of students and other admission documents.

In addition, the team applauded the quality of lecture delivery at the disposal of the department. According to Professor Akintoye, “The quality of delivery matters a lot and we are proud of what we saw during our work in the past three days. We asked to be part of the classes we visited and saw the depth and quality in terms of lecture delivery.”

According to the ICAN accreditation team, the minimum benchmark for any accounting related programme to be accredited was that there must be at least four ICAN certified members in the teaching cadre, but Covenant University’s accounting department surpassed this by having 10 chartered accountants in its fold and two adjuncts, who were at the verge of becoming chartered.

They commended the University’s Management policy of sponsoring every faculty to one international and one local conference every year. This they said, would help professionals in the department to keep abreast of international best practices. The team said the department of accounting, academically, was doing great; however, there was need for the leadership of the department to ensure that incoming faculty were not only academically qualified, but also professionally certified.

Professor Akintoye noted that a thorough review of the examination system of the department revealed that the examination questions, scripts and marking guides were in line with the Institute’s standards. The team appealed to the Management to help bolster their capacities in conducting, monitoring and grading examination materials. Furthermore, he said the quality of project materials after evaluation was breathtaking and impressive, taking into account the fact that it was the project work of first-degree students. According to him, “All
elements of a perfectly executed project work were present in all the previous projects submitted to the department, and this is highly laudable when compared with what some institutions of learning accept as projects.”

The team leader said they were impressed with the state of the accounting laboratory and appreciated the quality of software packages that were available for the students to work with. He said that the students could really use them was a delight to the institute and the team had the privilege to try them out proved that the laboratory was a place that was actively in use. On why they had to try them out, Professor Akintoye said, “Many schools get the trial version that gets expired after a while, but what we saw in your laboratory was the real thing and that is worthy of emulation by other institutions.”

Other areas of remarkable interest as pointed out by the accreditation team were the library resources of the department, the departmental journals and the validation of the quality of graduates of the department as attested to by the letters from employers of labour, notably the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) and other financial institutions in the country.

Professor Akintoye rounded off by stating that the whole exercise was to see how much the standards in the Department of Accounting, Covenant University, has improved or dropped since the 2009 accreditation exercise, and they were proud to say that the ante has been raised.

The Head, Department of Accounting, Dr. Francis Iyorha, thanked the ICAN team for their commendations and observations, promising that the department would make adjustments where necessary and improve on its ratings when next the team comes calling.

The Director, Academic Planning Unit, Dr. Akam Williams, said that the University from the B.Sc to PhD levels takes the Entrepreneurial Development Studies (EDS) seriously and that at every level of education in the Covenant University culture the students must master one out of the several vocations being taught there, irrespective of the programme of study.

In the same vein, the Director, Centre for Learning Resources (CLR), Dr. Christopher Nkoko, told the accreditation panel that the departmental library requested for by the department of accounting was part of the strategic plan, which will address the needs of all colleges, schools and departments in the University.

The Dean, College of Development Studies, Professor Isaiah Olurinola, said that the Department would start driving the policy of ensuring that the professional grade points required of lecturers in the Department of Accounting is attained before the year runs out.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, commended the peer review mechanism, which is the best way to knowing where we are and how to improve on it. According to him, Management would take all recommendations and advice seriously, and work assiduously to make the practice of the profession better.

Professor Ayo commended the quality of leadership at the helms of affairs in the College of Development Studies (CDS) and the Department. This he said is why the department has been able to do wonderfully well.

He noted that no institution is worthy of existence if it cannot affect the nation positively. In his words, “Any nation void of accountability, probity and integrity would experience a dearth in development; thus the importance of an institute like ICAN in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized.”

The accreditation panel donated academic and professional journals and CDs to the department as a means of appreciating the good work going on there.

Also present at the meeting were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Taiwo Abioye, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Aaron Atayero, the Registrar, Dr. Olumuyiwa Oludayo, Director, Financial Services, Pastor Deji Okubanjo, Dr. Adeniran Fakile and Dr. Oluku Mukoro.
EXPANDING CU FRONTIERS
THROUGH COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In driving the Covenant University mandate of becoming one of the top ten Universities in the world in ten years, there has been several linkages in the form of MoU’s, Partnerships and agreements between CU and several World class universities, and organizations both local and International, centered on forming mutually beneficial relationships for expanded development.

One of such organizations is the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) which visited CU this year. The association during their visit, proposed a plan to have a working partnership with Covenant University.

According to its Students’ Support Manager, ACCA Nigeria, Mr. Joseph Udoh, the University is one of the selected 10 reputable institutions the group would be working with. The Student Support Manager noted that the Association would also work with the Department of Accounting for professional accreditation of the programme and possible increase in the number of exempted courses in ACCA examination from the present three. Explaining that this would increase the number of prospective students seeking admission to study Accounting in Covenant University.

Mr. Udoh added that the partnership would afford the Association the opportunity to work with the students and register them for ACCA for free. This, according to him, would give students who may want to develop a career in Accounting, the opportunity to attend the Association’s Summit, and acquire practical knowledge which would help them in the practice.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM) has also initiated moves toward consummating a partnership with Covenant University. This was at the instance of a visit by the executives of the institute to the University, led by its Registrar/CEO, Mr. Sunday Adeyemi.

Mr. Adeyemi said CIPM chose to collaborate with Covenant University because it is one of the few privately owned institutions offering a programme in Human Resource Management in Nigeria. He added that since the institute has had the privilege of recruiting some graduates of the University, there was no doubt that Covenant University was the appropriate place to start from.

The Director of Professional Development at the Institute, Dr. Charles Ugwu said the essence of the visit was to partner with the University and bridge the disconnect between town and gown by ensuring that graduates of Covenant University are both academically sound and professionally certified.

According to him, the relationship between CIPM and Covenant University, if executed, would lead to dual qualifications for students in the social sciences and humanities departments of the University. This means that they would have the University’s degree as well as being professionally certified by the institute in the area of Human Resource Management.

Dr. Ugwu noted that it was very possible for students of the University to easily navigate through the institute’s certification programme while at the same time preparing for their degree examination by just reading through the syllabus of CIPM and aligning it with the course content currently in use in the University’s human resource management curriculum.

On the ICT platform, Covenant University and Diamond Bank recently signed a memorandum of
understanding (MOU) over the launch of Covenant University's multi-purpose and multi-featured debit card system.

The MOU which was signed in the Vice-Chancellor’s conference room consolidated the formal launch of the e-payment cum student identification card system which took place the previous year.

The Covenant University and Diamond Bank International Debit Card System, would serve as students' Identity card, and also be used for financial transactions. Being very flexible, the card would also serve as a platform for biometric attendance, registration, and as voter's card among the students body.

In a similar event in April, a marketing team from GistMate Communications Ltd, made a presentation tagged ‘Strategic Partnership on Digital Marketing Training’ to the Covenant University management at the Vice-Chancellor's Conference Room.

While introducing his team, Mr. Ayo Oyebade, the General Manager Gistmate Ltd, thanked the Covenant University management for granting them the opportunity to make a formal presentation of their proposal for partnership with CU on Digital Marketing Training.

During his presentation, he stated that their aim is to introduce and teach participants how to fast-track their business goal by understanding and maximizing the unlimited potentials of digital marketing.

He further stated that the training, which is open to anybody with an idea, skill, trade or business, and is looking for platform for expansion, will cover areas like, 'Intro to Digital Marketing (IDM),' 'Social Media Management (SMM),' 'Basic Website Management (BWM),' and 'Basics of Online Entrepreneurship (BOE).'</p>

Also, Covenant University and Pearson Nigeria, a world class education company, are discussing possible collaboration in the areas of Custom Publishing, Blended Learning and Print Solutions.

To this end, a two-man team from Pearson Nigeria, led by the Managing Director, Mr. Muhtar Bakare and Key Account Manager (Higher and Professional Education), Mr. David Fapohunda visited the University this year, to discuss details and benefits of the project with the University Management.

Mr. Bakare explained that custom publishing enables the lecturer design instructional and learning materials to accommodate what traditional textbooks cannot. He added that it makes publishing experience easy and can work on any platform. The company, according to him would also clear copy right issues.

In his presentation, Mr. David Fapohunda noted that the business model aimed to establish a partnership with Covenant University to provide the resources to allow her become a leader of technology in education in the country.

The United Bank for Africa’s Strategic Business Group Head in charge of Lagos Mainland, Oyo and Ogun states, Mr. Ayoku Ladi, recently led some executives of the bank in the south-west region to visit Covenant University.

Mr. Laidi said the team was on a courtesy visit on behalf of the Group Managing Director of the bank, Mr. Rasheed Olaoluwa, due to the strategic relationship that currently exists between the two institutions. According to him, the visit would also help him familiarize himself with the aspiration of the University and see how the existing relationship can be scaled up a step higher.

Mr. Laidi noted that part of what they have come to Covenant University for was to prepare the ground for the intended interaction between the Group Managing Director and the University’s Management, who he said, wants to come and witness firsthand the great things that have been said about Covenant University.

Still on the local platform, the Vice-Chancellor of Covenant University has indicated the University's readiness to commence an Executive Programme in Entrepreneurial Studies as a trial of the University's readiness to deliver maximally on its e-Learning system of education.

This was disclosed when the General Manager of EduTech, Professor AbiolaAwasika, and other management officers of the organization made a presentation to the University.

EduTech Software Solutions Limited, an education technology provider with a network of global partners, is to collaborate with Covenant University towards the success of the University's distance learning programmes.

While making her presentation, Professor Awasika noted that the level of development of any nation is directly linked to the quality of education. She stated that it was not enough to have quality, but availability of quality material was also of importance, and her organization would want to partner with Covenant University to be listed as one of the genuine places where one can get quality education irrespective of time, space and location.
Professor Awosika highlighted the importance of two institutions working together, as EduTech has taken time to research into some of the challenges working against the smooth operations of e-Learning in the country.

Some of the offerings that EduTech seeks to introduce to bolster existing ones at Covenant University, Professor Awosika said, include e-Learning infrastructure for Distance Learning, necessary hardware/ICT infrastructure that would power them and experienced manpower (expatriate) that can rapidly digitize the University’s existing paper based course materials.

Covenant University hosted officials from the Nigerian Institute of Management (Chartered), this May, to discuss possible partnership on NIM’s Graduate Certificate Scheme, in a bid to further arm its students with as many viable Professional certifications as possible. The group was received in the Vice Chancellor’s conference room.

In his presentation, the leader of the NIM delegation, Mr. Jacob Komolafe who is the Assistant Director, Field Operations, encouraged CU to buy into the Institute's Graduate Membership Certificate Scheme for its students because of the attendant benefits.

According to Mr. Komolafe, the Scheme gives the Students the opportunity of professional membership, especially in schools where students are expected to belong to at least a professional body as a prerequisite to the successful completion of their academic programmes.

Furthermore, he also explained that the possession of these professional certificates enhance the students' employability, as they would have gained knowledge and skills of establishment and management of small scale businesses, and can be self-employed, thus gaining an early start in life.

On the international platform, A Memorandum of Understanding was signed some months ago, between Covenant University and University of Durham, United Kingdom.

The MoU which was signed February 2014, in Covenant University at the Vice Chancellor's Conference room, established agreement on cultural, educational and scientific cooperation between the two institutions.

The MoU on Academic Cooperation recognizes the educational benefits to be gained through cooperative programmes between Covenant University and University of Durham that promote scholarly activities and international understanding.

In addition, the MoU will promote exchange of information and materials of mutual interest as well as the exchange of staff, students, and scholars.

The Management of Teesside University paid a courtesy visit to Covenant University a couple of months back to discuss the existing collaborations between the two institutions in order to explore the possibility of taking it to another level.

The official from Teesside University's International Office, M s . P a m e l a W h i t t i n g h a m , expressed high enthusiasm for the possibility of joint research projects and Post-Doctoral Fieldwork with the CU faculty.

Adding that, Teesside would be delighted to consummate the existing relationship with Covenant University in a more comprehensive and standardized way.

Expanding the international linkages further, Covenant University hosted Wayne State University in April 2014, at the Vice-Chancellor's office.

Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, United States of America, was represented by an Associate Professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Dr. Celestine Agwu.

Following a Memorandum of Understanding, which was signed between the two universities in February this year, the visit was scheduled to work out plans for the implementation of the agreed collaboration between them.

The areas of collaboration as stated in the MoU include, joint teaching; research; mobility of faculty, scholars, and students between institutions; staff professional development and sharing or creation of educational materials and resources.
360° POSH TO OFFER DISCOUNT CARDS FOR CU STUDENTS

360° POSH discount cards confers permanent discount to all its cardholders and it has a one-off payment subscription, unlike others that require renewed subscriptions after a period of time.

They had an idea during their undergraduate days at Covenant University and the idea has metamorphosed into what is now known as 360° POSH Limited, a branding, advertising, brand content push, research and consulting outfit.

The company made a presentation to the Management of Covenant University on the need to sign up undergraduate students of the University to become holders of the POSH Discount Card in a bid to save cost and take care of their transactions, enabling them to enjoy discounted rates in all their purchases, including visa processing fee, airline ticket purchase for both international and local flights.

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Akinlabi Adégoke, an Eagle (as Covenant University graduates are called), said unlike other discount cards that create a ceiling and are seasonal, 360° POSH discount cards confers permanent discount to all its cardholders and it has a one-off payment subscription, unlike others that require renewed subscriptions after a period of time.

Mr. Adégoke said the experience the Board of Directors, 360° POSH Limited (who are Eagles of Covenant University) had during their undergraduate days in the University, has enabled them to embed the 360° POSH Discount card with a special feature called ‘Errand Boy’ that would reduce the need for students to leave campus to pick up stuff from home or wherever they need to get things from.

360° POSH Ltd, the CEO posited, is also using the opportunity to give back to their root, as they would be setting up a full scholarship scheme under the POSH star competition. Moreover, the organization is looking at motivating students, by creating a Business Idea Incubation Competition, which would be open to all cardholders.

In addition, 360° POSH would avail its brand the privilege of partnering with the University's Convocation Planning Committee towards instituting an award for the best graduating student, with a prize money of Five Hundred Thousand Naira.

Commenting on their proposal, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Aaron Atyero, lauded the team for having stuck together after graduation. He, however, asked the organization to look at the possibility of merging the various cards the students currently have into one.

He advised the representative of the board of directors to think of the possibilities of making the discount card open to all in the academic community, instead of limiting it to just students. According to him, 360° POSH Ltd should look at the prospect of floating an academic discount platform that would serve the sole interest of those in the academic community, just as it is done in developed countries.

In her remarks the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Professor Taiwo Abioye, representing the Vice-Chancellor at the presentation, said she was impressed with the strides of 360° POSH in the short period of its existence.

She reiterated the request of Professor Atyero that postgraduate students should be availed the opportunity to enjoy the largesse of having the organization's discount card.

Professor Abioye told the team that there was need to look at the issue of an expiry date on the card. This she said would enable students who do not graduate within their schedule time of programme to still draw benefits from their cards while their studentship last.

Finally, she told the 360° POSH management that having once been in the shoes of the students they are trying to sign up, they should let the students see the uniqueness of their offer and what they would benefit by using the 360° POSH Discount card.

Present at the parole were the Registrar, Mr. Olumuyiwa Oluayo, Director, Centre for Learning Resources, Dr. Christopher Nkiko, and Director, Centre for Systems and Information Services, Pastor Abolade Afolabi.
CU DEPLOYS HIGH-TECH SCREENS IN CLASSROOMS

Technology today is on the fast track and it is not slowing down. It is now up to people and institutions to keep up with the pace or be left behind. Covenant University has chosen the former. There is no doubt that there has been a remarkable and undeniable improvement in the technological facilities of Covenant University over the years.

Of recent, the University deployed high-tech screens in most of its classrooms to aid learning. The progress is clear from white boards and marker to projectors and now to high-tech screens. The screens are large and clear, making it possible for the entire class to be able to read visibly all that it is projecting without the need for the students to strain their eyes.

These new screens have been of great help to lecturers who do not have to come to class with their lecture notes, books or laptops any longer because with just their flash drives connected to the screens, they are able to deliver their lectures smoothly. The screens are so convenient that lecturers can control the screen with just the touch of a finger.

Beyond the lecturers, the students have also said that the screens are state-of-the-art technology and a huge difference from the old ways of delivering lectures. It has also become very stress-free for students, unlike before when they have to collect the lecture notes from the lecturers after the lectures for further reading.

Miss Unini Grace Mosimabale, a 200 Level student of Industrial Relations, said that the new screens show that the University is very concerned with the educational well-being of the students and to ensuring everyone receives a high class delivery of lectures. Okwechime Dumebi, a 200 Level student of Economics supported this view and said that the new screens make learning easier.

It is obvious that all the new improvements are a stepping stone to the achievement of the University’s Vision 1-10-10.
Covenant University within her 11 years of existence has adopted one of the defining teaching platforms in the world that gives faculty and students of the University access to academic tools and resources anytime and anywhere. Between 2008 and 2012, the University's e-learning platform was on the test run phase, basically devoted for periodic course continuous assessment and professional certification examination that the University was conducting, but it has evolved over the past one year into a platform that every member of the University, particularly the academic section of the community have come to embrace.

The last year has seen a revolutionized learning and teaching environment in Covenant University, since the adoption of the Moodle teaching platform, otherwise known as Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The Moodle system of learning and lecture delivery has been roundly embraced with over 450,500 activities, with a projection that by the commencement of the Omega and Summer Semesters of the current academic session, the Virtual Learning Environment of the University would have attracted as much as 2.5 million activities.

Today, students of the University can all go online to receive lecture notes, do assignment and quiz in the form of tutorials, especially when reviewing topics. They are now enjoying greater dimension of engagement with their lecturers. The lecturers in turn are using forums platform to communicate with their students. Covenant University has been steadfastly committed to driving educational excellence via the deployment of Information and Communication Technologies in advancing quality delivery of education. The current Management of the University has shown enormous commitment to the usage of e-learning in the quest of the University fulfilling her Vision 10:2022, which is to become one of the ten leading world-class universities in the next ten years. The University has also started the process of developing Covenant University Open Course Ware (CUOCW). The development of the platforms was through theCUOCW began with the advancement and improvement in standardizing teaching format and delivery system, as well as having access to a broadcast YouTube channel. When all these elements are synchronized, lectures would be captured and attached to teaching materials that were made use of during the specific class.

This is also preparing her capabilities for distant learning, which is the direction of the future of modern day education. Covenant University is preparing for this in view of her march to becoming a global relevant brand name in the dispensing of quality education. The Management of the University looks forward to attracting students across the world to learn, grow in knowledge through this e-learning platform. The target of the University is to have a functional and quality Course Ware running in the shortest possible time in key areas of learning and subsequent update as other courses delivery are standardized and uploaded. The University, which has won numerous ICT related awards, is raising the stakes in education delivery system, by displaying through the Virtual Learning Environment the quality of contents and relevance of teaching materials the students are exposed to.

The new teaching platform would be of enormous benefits to parents and guardians, in the sense that they are able to see, track and evaluate what their wards are being taught in school. Furthermore, the parents could also ask questions and get clarification on courses from time to time. All they have to do is google 'learn.covenantuniversity.edu.ng’, input the course code and access the course material.
COVENANT UNIVERSITY HEBRON FM: A TOOL FOR COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Hebron FM has availed the community the privilege of independent witness reporting, that is, telling their own story as it happens in their locality.

Since the advent of radio broadcasting in the early 20th century, it has become a strong tool of enhancing social integration. What was hitherto meant to entertain, inform and educate has become a channel for influencing government's policies and the feedback platform by the people.

Even the evolution and proliferation of social media outlet all around the world have not been able to overtake the importance of radio in the lives of the people.

The daily activities of Ado Odo/Ota people have come under the influence of community radio since the commissioning and commencement of transmission of Covenant University's Hebron FM, broadcasting on 88.2 Frequency-Modulated band, in October 2013.

Hebron FM, within the last six months has been able to prove that the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC) licensing of community radio was a noble initiative. The station has been able to create a platform for social integration and communal discourse among the people of Ota and environs by setting agenda for discussion on the airwaves.

The beauty of Hebron FM style of broadcasting is rooted in its ability to engage the people in their local dialect, creating a customized programme that actually addresses pressing social needs of Ado Odo/Ota community, while also giving the people a voice to get back to the administrators at various levels.

One programme that has elevated the level of social discourse in the community is the early morning breakfast show “Oju mo‘ayo” (meaning A New Dawn with Joy). The two and a half hours programme has won the hearts of the locals to the budding radio station receiving an average of 35 callers on every edition. ‘Oju mo‘ayo’ is a compendium of diverse programmes that get the people of the community to start on the day. This includes segments such as Eya Ise, Omi Imoran and Oro ti’i’i’i nlo. Each of these programmes has come to constitute a major early starter for the community.

Hebron FM has availed the community the privilege of independent witness reporting, that is, telling their own story as it happens in their locality.

The eyewitness reporter aspect of Hebron FM programming has helped curb social vices in the neighborhood. Recently, the station aired the report of residents of Oju-Ore and Iyana-Iyesi on the activities of drug peddlers in their neighborhoods. Days after the report, the Nigerian Police swung into action, clearing out those areas and restoring sanity to the localities. At another instance, the head of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria in-charge of the community has had to intervene when callers repeatedly complained about their community being in total blackout.

In addition, the station has helped the people report vehicular traffic in and around Ado/Odo Ota. The platform of eyewitness reporting has helped the state Traffic Control and Enforcement unit (TRACE) to ease the flow of traffic and remove broken-down vehicles from the roads to make for a smooth drive around the community. The station has developed diverse programmes that are tailored to meet the needs of different class of listeners and this is with the intention of promoting Covenant University community development drive to help improve the standard of living in the community.

Some of these programmes are geared towards inspiring people, developing their capacity to do new things, giving health tips, keeping them abreast of events around the world and regular sport updates. Hebron FM, 88.2 has become one community voice through which greatness is being inspired in the heart of the listening public. The station has become the first choice of the people in getting quality information about activities in and around Ota axis.
WE OWE PARENTS A DUTY
TO WATCH OVER THEIR CHILDREN...CHAIR, FSP

The Management of Covenant University has commended the performance of the Faculty Support Programme (FSP) for the measures they have put in place to make learning and living on campus conducive for the students.

This much was made known by the Chairman of FSP, Dr. Zacchaeus Omogbadegun when he reflected on the performance of the team in the current academic year. According to him, “I was surprised when Management said they were satisfied with the achievement of the FSP with regard to improving the living conditions of students on campus.”

The FSP Chairman said the success story is rooted in their ability to uphold and operate under the gamut of the very essence and objectives of the Faculty Support Programme, which is to connect both students and faculty, such that the in-loci parentis role of the University can be seen as being in place.

Dr. Omogbadegun said the FSP is eager to see to it that students feel at home in a way that would make them concentrate and give their very best to their academic pursuits. He stated that the FSP is now operating in a way that would make it the very first point of call for any student who needs attention, either that academic, emotional, material or advisory whenever there is any challenge whatsoever.

The current FSP arrangement, he said, has taken keen interest in areas in which students’ needs require more attention in school, especially in the areas of catering, refreshments, academics as well as advice on the challenges of university life for young adults. This has been key in getting them to see the FSP as a vital link to their academic stability and wellbeing on campus.

“More often than not, we have told them (the students) to see us first as their parents. When you are challenged come to us first before contacting home, see us as your parents on the ground here. We owe their parents that duty to ensure that their total well-being is taken care of and as such we don’t count it as an inconvenience whenever they come to us for parental or academic-related advice,” he added.

The Chairman of FSP noted that the level of interaction they desire between the FSP and the students’ populace has not been attained yet. However, with the kind of intervention the FSP has made on behalf of students with regard to issues of welfare, academics, discipline and with a listening Management team in place who have constantly lent an ear to the recommendations of the FSP on the needs and expectation of students, gradually the students are beginning to see the FSP as the place where their human needs can be duly recognized, respected and met.

Dr. Omogbadegun reiterated that the openness and promptness of the Management in dealing with pressing matters has been a huge pillar of support for the FSP. According to him, the speed with which things are done now has made more students to be endeared to the FSP as they no longer see bottlenecks in accessing the University authorities on pressing needs.

“We interact more with our students thereby building bridges between them and the Management. Every opportunity we have, we relate with them on issues bothering on Cafeteria operation and cost, lecture halls and Common Room challenges. All these are in the pursuance of the overall success of our students,” he enthused.

The FSP has consistently acted as intermediary between students and the various units of the University community. On a number of occasions, the FSP feels the pulse of the students and meets with the head of the Strategic Business Unit of the University, keeping him abreast of the students expectations.

“The Strategic Business Unit (SBU) sees us as a partner in progress and they admire it. Let me put it on record, SBU takes action anytime FSP draws its attention to students’ welfare. They promptly go into action to rectify such,” he averred.

On students’ discipline, the FSP Chairman said that when students go out of line, many people think that the University would take ‘police action,’ which is punitive. First, we take the corrective measure by bringing such students close in order to understand the motive behind such actions.

“When we discover a student has become a recurring offender, we resort to punitive action at that point in time. What we desire most is to build them and not destroy them, but whoever we consider unrepentant; we do not hesitate to invoke appropriate sanctions as contained in the Student Handbook.

“At the initial phase of any form of dereliction, the FSP always plays a counseling and advisory role in order to make students desist from the wrong path of living, but whenever what has the tendency to become cancerous to the system is spotted, the FSP will resort to the Students’ Affairs Unit for prompt action,” he explained. Currently, the FSP is working on a plan to help students develop a progressive study pattern of learning, by assisting them develop individual reading time to improve their academic performance. In addition, plans are in advance stages to create more relaxation centres for students where they can read and interact in a good and sociable ambience.
CU LIBRARY RANKS AMONG BEST IN THE WORLD

As part of measures towards ensuring better service delivery for users of the University's library, Covenant University Centre for Learning Resources (CLR) has started the process of improving on existing facilities at the Centre.

The Director of the Centre, Dr. Christopher Nkiko, made this known on the heels of the University's emergence as the best-ranked University in Nigeria and the 13th in Africa at the latest Web of Repositories ranking released recently.

Dr. Nkiko said CLR is responsible for the University's repositories and is committed to continuously enrich the institution's repository deposit and improve the Centre's digitalization processes.

According to him, "Though we are attracting attention from other universities in Nigeria, they have been coming here to learn from us on what we are doing, how we are doing it and the processes, but we would not rest on our oars."

"No doubt we are almost at the best performance level in Nigeria, but there are heights that we are targeting, benchmarking against the very best in the world and visiting other world class university libraries, in a bid to draw inspirations, spot gaps in our operations and improve on whatever they have currently," he stated.

While alluding to plaudits given to Covenant University CLR from one time president of the Nigerian Library Association, Professor Lenrie Aina, in The Punch of July 21, 2013 (page 67), as one library that could be reckoned with in Nigeria, Dr. Nkiko said, "We can still improve on our performance, become better and compete with the very best in the world."

Covenant University's CLR got a facelift since the beginning of the Omega semester, with the procurement and installation of a teleconferencing facility and the creation of additional single reading rooms for postgraduate students who stay behind for extensive study and engage in lengthy research work.

In addition, the Centre has over the years sent at least five of its staff to conferences, within and outside the country, in a bid to build capacity, identify and keep abreast with latest trends, and software application in administering library affairs. Apart from this, CLR staff are exposed from time to time to in-house trainings, seminars, workshops and symposia.

Furthermore, the Director affirmed the quality of personnel at the disposal of the University's Centre for Learning Resources. He said that the process of continuous improvement of the human resources of the Centre is one that would not be reneged on, since they are as important as the number of volumes that are acquired each year.

According to him, "None of our personnel here is below M.Sc level and we are presently looking at getting Management approval for foreign trips for some of our staff who are qualified for Postgraduate programmes."

Covenant University's Centre for Learning Resources has continued to enrich the University's repositories since its inception, with over 700,000 eBooks generated and 10,000 hardcover materials added every year to her existing resources.

Covenant University's Centre for Learning Resources has one of the richest online resources in Nigeria and Africa. It is signed up to various online resources to enhance research work for its faculty and staff. Among these online databases are EBSCO, JSTOR, AGORA, NUC VIRTUAL LIBRARY, HINARI, OARE, MIT Open Courseware, Science Direct, SAGE, Ebrary, Myilibrary, Scopus and other virtual library components.