

**SPEECH FOR THE 49TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY DELIVERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 BY PROF BERNARD KUMI-BOATENG**

**Theme: "Christian Service University: A New Beginning, A Bright Future"**

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**Protocol**

*Mr Chairman, Members of the Governing Council, Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellors of Sister Universities, Registrar and Registrars of sister universities, Finance Director and Finance Directors of Sister Universities, Nananom, Ministers of the Gospel, Faculty and Staff, Church and Para-Church Organisations, Distinguished Guests, Alumni, Proud Parents, and above all, the brilliant stars of today; the Graduating Class of 2025...*

Good morning! It is with immense joy and deep gratitude that I stand before you today on this momentous occasion; the 49th Graduation Ceremony of Christian Service University. Today, we celebrate not just academic achievement, but the triumph of perseverance, faith, and the promise of a future shaped by purpose. Before I proceed, allow me to share a personal story; one that is very dear to my heart. Sixteen years ago, in 2010, a remarkable young woman sat where you are sitting today. She was also a graduate of the School of Business, with a BBA in Human Resource Management. But her journey to this CSU Durbar Grounds was slightly more dramatic than most. While her colleagues were putting the final touches on their projects and burning the midnight oil, she was in a different kind of intensive training. At the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, she was mastering a far more delicate and demanding skill; recovering from a Caesarean Section and learning how to care for a beautiful newborn daughter, all while her final exam papers loomed. Can we just imagine the scene? A new mother, body healing, heart overflowing with a new kind of love, and a mind fiercely determined to finish what she started. Her "study table" was a hospital bed; her "study group" was a newborn who had very strong opinions about her sleep schedule. And yet... just days after that major surgery, wrapped in courage and perhaps a little bit of stubbornness, she walked into that examination hall and wrote her final papers. She didn't just pass; she conquered. That incredible woman is my wife. That graduation day was not just an academic achievement; it was a declaration that with faith, a supportive family, and the foundation of this University, no obstacle is too great. She embodied a "new beginning" and she has built a "bright future" for our family. I always thank her for showing us all what true strength looks like. That little girl who was born in this University is currently writing her O'level Mock Exams. Her younger brother Kofi Gyimah Kumi-Boateng was also born in the same way

at KNUST during her masters. While most would have chosen rest and rightly so; she chose resilience. With stitches still fresh and strength drawn from a place deeper than muscle, she walked into the exam hall and wrote those final papers. That, my friends, is the spirit of Christian Service University: courage under pressure, faith in adversity, and the relentless pursuit of purpose.

So to the Class of 2025, I say this: your journey may not have included a hospital gown and a newborn in your arms, but each of you has your own story of sacrifice, financial hurdles, difficult courses, personal losses, of sleepless nights, pushing through when it would have been easier to give up or the simple struggle of balancing life and learning. You made it. And today, Christian Service University does not just hand you a certificate; we honour that journey; we affirm your resilience and launches you into your "New Beginning."

### **A New Beginning, A Bright Future**

The theme of this graduation could not be more fitting. "A New Beginning, A Bright Future" is not just a slogan or just a collection of words; it is a declaration and a testimony. You are stepping into a world that is both complex and beautiful, challenging and full of opportunity. The world needs your light. It needs your integrity, your innovation, your compassion, and your courage. But let me be honest with you. This new beginning, however, leads you into a world that is complex and often contradictory. As you step out, some of you will continue to other secular universities for further studies. I feel a deep, paternal urge to offer one crucial piece of advice. The freedom you will find there can be intoxicating. Among the many temptations, the use of recreational drugs often presents itself as a harmless escape, a social lubricant, or a way to cope with pressure. Let me be unequivocal: it is a liar's paradise. It promises liberation but delivers chains. It offers an escape but steals your future. The bright mind that CSU has worked so hard to sharpen, the moral compass that has been calibrated here; do not let it be clouded and broken by a moment of poor judgment. You are worth more than that. Your future is too bright to be dimmed by such darkness. Carry the light you have been given here into those spaces, and be the beacon, not the shadow. The world you are entering is not perfect. In many secular institutions, the pressure to conform, to escape, to numb the stress of life, is real. But I urge you: do not trade your bright future for a fleeting high. You are not called to blend in; you are called to stand out. You are not just graduates; you are ambassadors of a higher calling. You carry with you the values of Christian Service University; values

rooted in faith, integrity, and service. Let those values be your compass when the world offers you shortcuts that lead nowhere. Kindly note that God indeed forgave prostitutes, but He chose a virgin to give birth to His Son Jesus. Be a wise Christian young lady.

### **A Call to Government: Let CSU Lead the Moral Renaissance**

This leads me to a broader point, a plea to our leaders and policymakers here today. Look at this institution. Look at the products of Christian Service University. We are not just graduating accountants, IT or Cyber security experts, planners, business administrators, Nurses, and theologians. We are graduating individuals of integrity, service, and sound moral character with impeccable social values in Africa. In a world grappling with a crisis of values, where ethical lines are increasingly blurred, the model of CSU is not just an alternative it is a necessity. I call upon the government to look closely at the curriculum and ethos of faith-based universities like this one which is not just an academic institution, but as a moral compass for our nation. There is a pressing need to initiate and integrate sound moral lessons, the very kind taught here, lessons on integrity, servant leadership, and ethical decision-making into the broader national educational discourse. Let the "Christian Service" model inspire a national conversation on character building. For a truly bright future for our nation, we need not just skilled hands, but also principled hearts.

### **In Closing**

To the graduates: this is your moment. You owe no fees. You have passed all exams and fulfilled all the faculty/school requirements and more importantly GTEC norms. So, dance in your robes. Take as many photos as possible but be sure you can afford to pay. Hug your parents or spouses. But when the music fades and the gowns are packed away, remember this: your degree is not just a certificate it is a calling. A calling to serve, to lead and to shine. You carry the CSU DNA. You carry the strength of my wife, (Mrs Harriet Kumi-Boateng), who wrote her exams against all odds. You carry the promise of a new beginning, fuelled by the knowledge and faith instilled in you here. Go forth. Be brilliant. Be ethical. Be of service. And light up the world with your bright future. May your new beginning be bold. May your future be bright. And may your life be a living testimony of the grace, grit, and glory that define Christian Service University. Congratulations, Class of 2025!

*Thank you and may God bless you all*