

Preparing Adequately For (Tertiary) Admission– Asaolu O. S. (asaolu@yahoo.com)

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Introduction

Isaiah 57:14 *And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people.*

The Christian life on earth is one of preparing adequately for heaven which is a prepared place for a prepared people. Each living individual should be “*prepared to meet thy God*” because “*it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*” Preparing for worship or service is very important as indicated in Scripture. Under the Old Covenant, the LORD commanded the Israelites to prepare AHEAD for the Sabbath day of worship (Ex 16:20-26, Jn 19:42) and the religious festivals such as the Passover (Ex 12:14-20, Mt 26:19). Daniel and his friends were being prepared for leadership (1:3-6), Ester and other maidens for queenship. Elisha and other youths were prepared for the office or work of prophethood (2 Kg 9:1). Saul of Tarsus learned at the feet of Gamaliel while the law was the schoolmaster that prepared the nation for the Messiah. Of the savior it is written “*Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me*” - Hebrews 10:5. Jesus prepared his apostles for the kingdom or church via three years training. We are to count the cost of discipleship and decide if we are prepared to follow Jesus. Paul taught disciples how to serve and worship and commands same (Acts 19:7-10, 2 Tim 2:2). Since preparation is necessary it should be done adequately or sufficiently not half-way or haphazardly.

Luke 14:28-29 *For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him.*

Career Choice and Planning

The spiritual education of children is primarily an obligation of parents (Eph 6:1-4 Tit 2:1-6). Similarly, the general raising, provision for and secular education of children is wholly the responsibility of the parents – Prov 22:6, 2 Cor 12:14, 1 Tim 5:8. The community and/or government may assist according to laid down policies via social amenities, programs, welfare, subsidies/waivers/scholarships, etc. When it comes to choosing a career to learn a trade or embark on post-secondary education, parents should guide not impose their will on the children. *Academic or tertiary study* refers to structured schooling or tutoring, formal learning by study of documented knowledge from experts with certification based on passing of prescribed examinations. This is thus multi-apprenticeship. The long term goal is to pursue jobs and a career.

A job is anything that you do to earn an income whereas a career is a course of work-life that you pursue for personal fulfillment.

Career path should not be determined solely based on financial considerations but must take into account one’s talent/abilities, personality, desires and available support for realization. One should know and it would be fairly obvious whether s/he is more analytical or communicative or a field (roving) person or a tinkerer with devices, etc. What are you good at almost effortlessly that gives you joy? Try and get paid for doing it! Whether it be sports, speaking or craftsmanship. A little post-secondary education will go a long way to polish you and make a difference in the long-run.

From teenage years [say JSS level], youths must choose whether to ‘pursue higher education or learn the skills of a trade.’ Whatever the career choice and route taken, the following attributes and people are needed to realize it and excel therein:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ambition (goal and objectives) –Prov 13:19a, Jms 1:8• Patience (time and self-control) -Eccl. 7:8, Heb 10:36• Courage (boldness and hope) –Ps 31:24, 2Tim 1:7• Wisdom (right use of knowledge) -Prov 23:12, Jms 1:5• Integrity (uprightness and honesty) – Prov 11:3, Acts 6:3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Family</i> support (moral & financial)• <i>Friends</i> encouragement• <i>Tutors</i> impartation of knowledge• <i>Mentors</i> (advice / role model)• <i>Rivals</i> for healthy competition |
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The Christian youth also needs *prayer and the word of God* for good success (Phil. 4:6, Ps 119:9, 2 Pet 1:3) for ‘it is neither by power nor by might..., the race is not to the swift... it is better to trust in the Lord than on anything or anyone –Ps 118:8, Prov. 3:5-6. This could make one to surpass his instructor and master’s professional achievements –Ps 119:99, John 14:12

Practical issues in Present-day Nigeria on preparation for Admission

Tertiary education is desirable but is not for everyone as some lack either the interest or the intellectual ability or other necessary attribute. There are about 200 tertiary educational institutions in Lagos State alone! Most people only know of UNILAG, LASU and YABATECH but there are other universities, mono/polytechnics, colleges of education, institutes of oceanography, film, etc. that are all government approved. Youths should visit the websites of the NUC, NBTE, etc. to get a full list of addresses and programs of study. Academic pursuit needs time and some level of concentration. Are you ready to embark on full-time study? If presently a worker, you may need to apply for study-leave or quit or make some other arrangement with your employer, even if self-employed! Some Part-Time programs exist under DLI, etc. For adequate preparation towards School Cert, UTME and Post-UTME examinations:

- a) Get copy of the latest approved Syllabus and try to cover it. Ensure you master at least 80% of the topics therein.
- b) Obtain and practice with Past Questions in both paper and electronic formats repeatedly; as untimed and timed tests e.g. from CDs and sites like www.andrewschallenge.net
- c) Try and avoid notorious centers, examinations malpractice and flouting of exam instructions.

After selecting one or two courses to study, you need to find out available schools running the program, whether it is accredited by say NUC and relevant professional body (e.g. ICAN or COREN), the cost (e.g. Federal or State University, B.Sc or OND), the distance from home and safety concern (NE, SS etc.) The reputation of college and present experts is also important; if possible visit the school or its website or make enquiries via phone or email to the department of interest! The current Admission requirements (e.g. which 5 papers in one sitting may be plus Further Maths or Tech Drawing) can be validly ascertained from the JAMB Brochure. It is not ideal to do UTME first and then gamble on NOV GCE afterwards; you should first obtain your O'Level results and have the proper subject-combinations for your proposed course. If necessary consider Direct Entry (Foundation/Diplomas/A'L), Supplementary List is not guaranteed.

Note the Catchment Areas and acceptable Educationally Less Developed States. Candidates should make a true self-assessment and get honest counsel BEFORE filling the Application Forms. Most people remember their brethren and acquaintances that are university staff after the results are out and their relation or ward is unlikely to meet the selection criteria. Prior consultation might help in many cases e.g. Mass Com / Chinese Studies applicant. [*See a determination of course cut-off marks in Sample for my dept. on Pg 3*]

Are you mentally, emotionally and physically prepared and mature for tertiary education? Those that came up with the policy of a candidate being at least 16 years old in the October of the year of admission arrived at that decision after years of research and observation! University or Poly etc. is far from the secondary school setting or Boarding House. There is considerable measure of independence and it is assumed that the student can reasonably cope with life and take care of self to a large extent. While this may be appealing to youths who look forward to leaving home and their parents' apron-strings, it must be noted that "*there is no greater bondage than unlimited freedom.*" The institutions do have their own rules as per dress-codes, attendance, fighting, etc. which differs in mode and implementation from secondary school.

Considerable sums exist as fees for *Freshers* in all institutions; from Acceptance Fee, to Registration Fee at University/Faculty/Department and various Associations. Sustenance allowance could be a bit high unless one cooks at times; money is required for Textbooks, Photocopies, Lab Reports and Toiletries etc. especially for girls. One will survive with planning and contentment especially when s/he keeps good friends and company. There are work-study programs, academic/sporting/indigent scholarships etc. available for bright students. Hostel Accommodation is always a problem especially for those not in the first or final year, prepare to squat with mates or rent proximate quarters or stay with a relation off campus during your study.

Conclusions

It is better as Youths to commit our ways to the Lord and not rely on our strength or understanding. Advice could also be sought from Mature Brethren, Career Counselors, Academics and the Aged who have trod the path before (Prov. 11:14). ***It does not matter if you have tried and failed before, what matters is you should now plan better and put in more faith and works*** (Jms 2:17).

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMS ENGINEERING
2012/2013 UME ADMISSION

SUMMARY		PERCENTAGE			CUT-OFF	PERCENT
DEPARTMENTAL QUOTA = 60					MERIT	63.88
UME QUOTA= 40		66.67%			LAGOS	62.38
DIRECT ENTRY=20		33.33%			EKITI	57.38
					ONDO	60.50
MODALITY / QUOTA	required	FILLED	BALANCE		OYO	61.50
MERIT=0.45*40=	18	20	50.00%	-2	OGUN	62.38
CATCHMENT= 0.35*	14	13	32.50%	1	OSUN	56.00
ELDS = 0.2 * 40 =	8	7	17.50%	1		
ATTRITION			0			
TOTAL			100%		0	

SN	REGNUMB	STATE OF ORIGIN	UME SCORE	POST UME SCORE	AGGREG ATE	MODALITY
1	25960208JE	OGU	267	82.50	74.63	MERIT
2	25960090GA	OSU	262	82.50	74.00	
3	25955403FG	DEL	240	82.50	71.25	
4	26223525BE	LAG	235	82.50	70.63	
5	25954734CG	OND	232	82.50	70.25	
6	25865946CI	ANA	231	82.50	70.13	
16	25966935IJ	DEL	239	72.50	66.13	
17	25926013FD	LAG	246	70.00	65.75	
18	26176489IE	OGU	234	70.00	64.25	
19	26034206DG	IMO	233	70.00	64.13	
20	25871578BA	LAG	231	70.00	63.88	
21	25942913IE	LAG	216	72.50	63.25	
22	25990840FH	LAG	239	65.00	62.38	
23	25953404DJ	EKI	231	57.50	57.63	
24	25969285CD	EKI	259	50.00	57.38	
25	26251366AI	OND	213	72.50	62.88	
26	25961269BF	OND	254	57.50	60.50	
27	26387413ED	OYO	254	60.00	61.75	
28	25921918BJ	OYO	232	65.00	61.50	
29	26032377JB	OGU	254	62.50	63.00	
30	26081924FE	OGU	249	62.50	62.38	
31	25922773HD	OSU	258	52.50	58.50	
32	25993543JG	OSU	218	57.50	56.00	
33	26057830HB	LAG	220	67.50	61.25	
34	26177964CE	KEB	271	57.50	62.63	
35	25861798FG	KOG	242	60.00	60.25	
36	25862961FJ	BEN	262	52.50	59.00	
37	25944523AH	KWA	206	62.50	57.00	
38	25858200ID	SOK	200	62.50	56.25	
39	26169859IJ	CRS	212	52.50	52.75	
40	26098851AE	RIV	242	40.00	50.25	