

# Celebrating an Icon, the former Deputy Dean, CLDS at 71

Group Photograph with the Celebrant

It was a day of fun and knowledge impartation, as the Staff of the College of Leadership Development Studies and well-wishers celebrated a distinguished icon, The Deputy Dean School of Leadership Development, Covenant University, Professor Christopher Awonuga on his 71st Birthday recently.

The birthday ceremony also witnessed a presentation of a Festschrift launch titled “*Language, Literature and Style in Africa*”, in honour of the scholar Prof. Awonuga for his great achievements.

Dr. Kehinde Ayoola, a lecturer from Obafemi Awolowo University, who made the book presentation, stated that the main aim was to appreciate a leader and recognise his works and lifestyle that had touched so many lives. Dr. Ayoola, described Prof. Awonuga as a leader who stood his ground against injustice and oppression.

In his words, “The editors of the book decided to write this book to recognise the achievements of Professor Awonuga so far. Prof. Awonuga is a true leader who understands the concept of leadership. He is a man of God and has stood his ground against injustice and oppression”

Earlier in his opening remarks, the Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Professor Charles Ogbulogo, celebrated the scholar, describing him as a man who is very quiet and deep.

The Dean, College of Leadership Development Studies, Professor Aize Obayan, represented by the Head of Department, Languages and General Studies, Dr. Samuel Owoeye, described him as

the “father of the department”, who wants everyone to succeed. She also thanked him for his diligence and professionalism towards the institution and students. “Professor Awonuga is a man of honour and very diligent who believes in the ability of human beings to achieve any feat. He also do not believe in failure.” he said.

Responding to the various comments about him, Prof. Awonuga described the love received from his family, colleagues and the university as overwhelming. He gave thanks to God for making it possible for him to witness another year. He added that it was the grace of the Lord that sustained him.

Furthermore, he urged other scholars in all universities to give their best in every capacity to train students or subordinates by giving the needed assistance that could aid in personal and national growth.

The Editors of the book includes the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Taiwo Abioye, Dr. Arua Arua from Botswana and Dr. Kehinde Ayoola.

Professor Chris Awonuga got his B. A. English Degree from the then University of Ife (Now Obafemi Awolowo University), Ile-Ife in 1973 and M. A. in English from the same University in 1977. He proceeded to The University of Edinburgh in Scotland, UK, to obtain his Ph.D in English Studies in 1983. Had taught in Ife until September 2007, when he joined the Faculty of Covenant University. He was once the Dean of School of Postgraduate Studies and the Deputy Dean, School of Leadership Development, College of Leadership Development Studies.

His areas of research interest include span linguistics and literature, where he is currently teaching stylistics and other areas of language study. He has supervised several undergraduate projects as well as Master's dissertations and Ph.D theses.

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