

**ADDRESS OF SHRI V. SHANMUGANATHAN, HON'BLE  
GOVERNOR OF MEGHALAYA AT THE 8<sup>th</sup> CONVOCATION  
OF THE MARTIN LUTHER CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY AT  
SOSO THAM AUDITORIUM, SHILLONG ON 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST,  
2015**

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The Chancellor, Shri Shyamprasad; The Pro Chancellor, Dr. Glenn Kharlongor, The Vice Chancellor, Shri R. G Lyngdoh, The Registrar of the University, Shri Donald Ingty, the Convocation Speaker Smti. Mamang Dai, the parents of the Graduates, the graduates of Martin Luther Christian University.

I feel honoured and happy to be here on the occasion of the Convocation of The Martin Luther Christian University. I **congratulate all the degree recipients** for their accomplishment who are now ready to move out to play a more **positive and a constructive role** in the society and shoulder the task of nation building.

A convocation day is great day for a University. It is a day to mark the achievements of an institution. It is a day where an

institution is reminded of the purpose for its existence, the philosophy that it holds, and its commitment to the field of education, to society and to its nation at large. I congratulate the University on its Eight Convocation. I congratulate the parents and guardians of the graduates. I congratulate you, the graduates, the teaching and non teaching staff of the University, on your willingness to go through a process and experience in this University, one that has educated you to serve your society and your nation. As graduates you now become a part of the whole.

I congratulate all of you on coming out with flying colours. Having toiled hard to earn your degree, you have a justifiable sense of pride and satisfaction. This is your moment of glory. At the same time, it is also an occasion to ponder over your priorities in life. Whatever field you choose to work in, make your contribution to the society. Being the bright young minds of our nation, help mitigate the problems afflicting us. As we grapple

with issues like drinking water, sanitation, infrastructure and health , your perceptive insights coupled with initiative can help overcome them. You will find your education useful only if you make yourself useful to the society.

India is potential global power. As a potential global power and with a population of more than 1.2 billion, India as a nation is dependent on human resources and human capital.

**Historically, India has been a seat of learning,** way ahead of all the contemporary civilizations. Ancient India could boast of Universities like, **Takshila, Nalanda,** which **attracted scholars** not only from India but also from distant parts of the world.

This is our sacred land India that is Bharath. Swami Vivekananda explained about the concept of India in the following words – “If there is any land on this earth that can claim to be blessed punyabhumi – the land where humanity has attained its highest towards gentleness, towards generosity, towards purity, towards calmness, above all, the land of introspection and of spirituality – it is India”. William James Durant popularly called as Will Durant, was an American writer;

and historian. He is best known for “The stories of Civilization”. He has spoken many good things about our motherland. India is the motherland of our people and Sanskrit the mother of Europe’s languages; she is the mother of our philosophy; mother through the village community, self-government and democracy. Mother India is in many ways the mother of us all. Even across the Himalayan Barrier, India has sent to the West, such gifts as grammar and logic, philosophy and fables, chess, numerals and the decimal system. India teaches us the tolerance and gentleness of mature mind, understanding spirit and a unifying, pacifying love for all human beings.

The German Indologist, Max Muller who in his spiritual and philosophical quest traced the common roots of Indo-European civilizations to the ancient Vedic culture of India. He said, “If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered over the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions to some of them which well deserve the attention even of those who have studied Plato and Kant, I should point to India”. Similarly, Dr. Arnold Toynbee, the famous British historian has said - “It is

already becoming clear that a chapter which had a western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in the self-destruction of the human-race. At this supremely dangerous moment in history, the only way of salvation for mankind is the Indian way". Many scholars, thinkers have spoken like this from different parts of the world. We have to move forward taking those good experiences along with us.

During the **last six decades** after independence, the country has shown **immense progress in the field of education**.

**Shillong** used to be the most **important educational centre** in this part of the country. Its **importance grew further** after independence. **Students from** all over the **North Eastern Region** as well as from other parts of the country attend the schools and colleges in this town. This University has **already earned a reputation** in many fields of knowledge. I hope that the University will carry on the **strong tradition of excellence** in the field of education for which Shillong is already famous.

According to Swami Vivekananda, "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man".

The end and aim of all training is to make the man grow.

Like fire in a piece of flint, knowledge exists in the mind; suggestion is the friction which brings it out.

What we say a man "knows," should in strict psychological language, be what he "discovers" or "unveils"; what a man "learn" is really what he "discovers," by taking the cover off his own soul, which is a mine of infinite knowledge. We say Newton discovered gravitation. Was it sitting anywhere in a corner waiting for him? It was in his own mind; the time came and he found it out. All knowledge that the world has ever received comes from the mind; the infinite library of the universe is in your own mind. The external world is simply the suggestion, the occasion, which sets you to study your own mind, but the object of your study is always your own mind. The falling of an apple gave the suggestion to Newton, and he studied his own mind. He

rearranged all the previous links of thought in his mind and discovered a new link among them, which we call the law of gravitation. It was not in the apple nor in anything in the centre of the earth. All knowledge therefore, secular or spiritual, is in the human mind. In many cases it is not discovered, but remains covered, and when the covering is being slowly taken off we say "We are learning," and the advance of knowledge is made by the advance of this process of uncovering.

**Thirukkural** guides us about the purpose of Education. Thiruvalluar Said, **"Learn well whatever is worthy of learning, Then act according to that learning"**

I have often emphasized the great spirit of tolerance and coexistence in our religious and cultural tradition because this is a fact that needs to be reiterated today with as much emphasis as is possible.

I may also dwell upon another aspect. India is today striving towards economic progress with social justice and in this endeavour, the university has an extremely important role to

perform by way of facilitating the application of knowledge to productive economic skills and vocations. Education cannot exist in a vacuum. It must help in improving the quality of life of those who are so educated. A literate person is better able to do his job and is more aware of the possibilities of improving his skills.

Today, more than ever, a great responsibility rests with the Educational Institutions with regard to building the character and acumen of the children and youth of India.

Ethical and moral values, awareness of the significance of our heritage of thought and culture, our spirit of pluralism and oneness, the inculcation of scientific temper, patriotism, and a sense of mission in the task of taking our great country forward – all these need to be nurtured in young minds by our teachers.

Martin Luther Christian University is a developmental University. Over the years since its establishment, it has made itself relevant to the needs of the region. At the level of the graduates, the Education System of the University has guided



you the students in identifying areas in the life the people that require the much needed attention. Areas of physical and mental health, social development, awareness of technological education, environment and traditional eco-systems are some of the vital areas where the university has placed its focus on. Thus the education that you have received in this University, as I understand, is one that empowers you to move into communities and society at large using your skills that can contribute to the better living standards of your people of your society.

As graduates you are not only knowledgeable but educated. Education implies change, a movement towards 'unity, equality, and brotherhood amongst the various sections of the Indian society'. In the words of Romain Rolland, it is "one place on the face of the earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India. "Great thinkers have emerged from this nation and great philosophers too. I am certain that today we

continue to see the emergence of great people from Universities across India and Martin Luther Christian University in particular.

**My felicitations** also go to all the **faculty, staff and officials of the Martin Luther Christian University** for their sacrifice and hard work; and **congratulations to all the individuals** on whom the University has conferred the **Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates**. I wish you all success and I hope that this education and service to humanity will continue to be part of your lives.

I am concluding the convocation address with a Quotation of Swami Vivekananda “ Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making assimilation of ideas. If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character you have more education than others”.

Thank You :: Khublei.

