

The Lion of Judah Academy

Loving God's Children...Teaching Christ's Truth

OCTOBER, 2009

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS UPDATE --

Summer work teams...
New athletic fields...
Construction projects...
dormitory...
labs and library...
chapel...

Medical room and sick room...
Lions Lair Gift Shop...
Prayer Concerns and Challenges...
Tuition and Student Scholarship needs...
School Videos...

WEBSITE VIDEOS -- We have produced several videos which you may view on the website. Not professional quality, but they help tell the story! School director Mtebe answering questions. Student testimonies. School life. And more! Some are there now. More are being added regularly. www.TheLionOfJudah.info

Hi, Everyone!

Things have really been 'popping' since the beginning of summer!

Nearly **20 people went to the school on work teams** during June, July and early August. Some team members (Lynn, Janelle and Laura) were there for nearly nine weeks! Lots and lots got done. Many

Robert and Anthony working on soccer goals... building the new soccer field was a huge blessing to the school



The Kings Academy team with many new friends

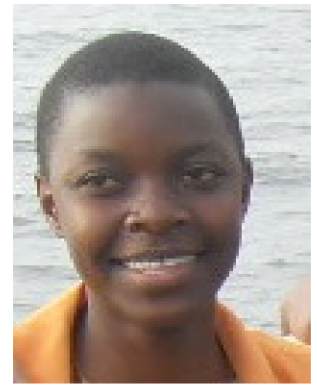
We were trying to figure out how those painters were able to get so much painted so quickly! Two rollers **must** be better than one....



Do they look like they're having too much fun? More paint on themselves than on the walls!

When Lynn got back to the U.S., she had received conditional approval on a project she started working on nearly two years ago: having a small **"missions gift shop"** in our home! So the past several weeks have been spent securing final approval, and getting, "The Lion's Lair Gift Shop" up and running! It's very cool...and all the profits go to the school! Come visit!

Another wonderfully exciting development is that **Abia Shinyanga**, a Form Three student at The Lion of Judah Academy, is now in the U.S. on a student exchange program with our "sister school" in Mohrsville, Pennsylvania – The King's Academy. The King's Academy sent a work team out this past summer, and Abia returned to the U.S. with them. She's fit in well in 11th grade, and is having a very special experience.



Abia

CHALLENGES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

Of course, there are – as always – challenges!

The school has grown to the point that the strain on the local **water system has nearly reached the breaking point**. Local authorities have given us one year – starting last July – to develop a solution. We have reached consensus on how to do it...but now we need to raise the money. LOTS of money (it appears it will cost around \$60,000 all inclusive -- pumps, electricity to the site, storage tanks, pipe, security, labor, etc.) This will provide water to the school for generations to come, as well as water to our surrounding neighbors. However, it will be the most costly single project we have undertaken. However, we simply cannot live without water!

Teacher salaries are a challenge, as well. We very much want to pay our teachers a fair, livable salary. But we also need to keep costs low...for our students, and for our student sponsors here in the U.S. That's a difficult balance! Teachers are underpaid! Our students are poor!

Tuition Costs and Student Scholarships -- So...closely related to the challenge/prayer concern about teacher salaries is the fact that all costs are increasing in Tanzania, just as they are here...only moreso over there! We've been able to keep tuition and scholarship costs stable for the past several years. However, tuition is no longer covering actual costs. Therefore, we are going to have to raise tuition for 2010, largely due to increased teacher salaries and book costs. That will, of course, place some additional strain on the students and their families.

The Board of Directors decided that, in 2010, full-tuition scholarships will increase to \$200 annually (about \$17 a month...still quite a bargain by Tanzania standards!). We realize this is a bad time to be asking student sponsors for increased scholarships, and we do so only very reluctantly. We are confident, however, that this increase will carry us through at least a few years to come. If you are unable to afford the increase, ***please don't stop your scholarship!*** We ***will*** keep you with your student, no matter if you can afford the increase or not! We NEED YOU! And thank you so much for your support!

Our first graduating class will be starting their final year in January (in Tanzania the school year runs January – November), and they will graduate in the fall of 2010! Not only is this extremely exciting...it also begs the question: "what next?" And the Tanzanian board of trustees has decided to **add a course of "A level studies"** ("A" stands for "advanced" level – form 5 and 6). This is something we in the U.S. are totally unfamiliar with! But it is an important, and critical, bridge between high school and university education in the Tanzanian system. There are no A level schools in our area, and many of our students want to pursue A level studies. So, we have about a year and three months to prepare to offer A level. It will require two new classrooms, as well as some very demanding educational and credentialing requirements which must be met. But we are confident God will provide, as He has time and time again.

"A Level" Classrooms will be constructed in this area, adjacent to the secondary school; new lab and library are in the background



The Combined Federal Campaign is a workplace giving campaign similar to The United Way, except it is uniquely for federal workers, postal employees, and military personnel. The Lion of Judah Ministries has successfully participated in the CFC for two years, and is participating once again this fall. If you know any workers in those categories, please mention to them that The Lion of Judah Ministries is eligible for their contributions, if they choose to designate gifts to the school. If you would like more information please contact us by e-mail or telephone.



The school received the gift of a **new, high-tech Yamaha electronic keyboard** several months ago. During the summer visiting teams were able to offer instruction in keyboard technique, music theory, and so forth. Thanks go to Bob Fleming and St. John - Hill Church of Boyertown, PA, for the gift of the keyboard. And to team-members Laura and Robert, for helping the students learn more about how to use this amazing instrument! Music is so important at the school, and this is a wonderful blessing.

Soccer Field Update -- You may recall that last fall, The Kings Academy (TKA) in Mohrsville, PA, had some special projects to raise funds for the LOJA soccer field. That has become a reality, thanks largely to those projects, the TKA team which went to Tanzania in the summer, and some unexpected divine intervention!



\$10,000+ of grading work, which cost the school \$2,000. Another miracle!



Not enough space here for the full story. But after learning it would cost \$10,000 to grade the soccer field, God intervened and found someone to grade and level not only the soccer field, but ALL the athletic fields (several times as much area as we had anticipated) for only a little more than the amount TKA had raised! Soccer goals and other details were added and, before the teams left, the first game was played!

What a special gift this is!

Construction Projects -- There's LOTS going on in the area of construction...

The Secondary School laboratory and library projects are nearing completion...

The Secondary School dorm walls are now up...

Ground will be broken soon, and the foundation laid, for the new school chapel...

The school medical room/dispensary is in operation...

As reported earlier in this newsletter, we are making plans for classrooms which will be needed for "A-Level" classes, scheduled to begin in January, 2011.

AND...we need to install a school water system!

WOW!! -- Thanks to all who have (and will) helped!



Trenches for the Secondary School dorm foundation were dug, then these rocks were 'mudded' in place... the walls have now been built!