



The Lion of Judah Ministries December, 2009

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Dear Friends and Supporters of The Lion of Judah Academy -

Greetings in Jesus name!

God has been so wonderfully gracious in blessing the ministry of The Lion of Judah Academy during 2009, and we would like to take just a few minutes to let you know about some of the highlights of the year, and the amazing things God is doing through your support and prayers!

350+ students, and their families...plus all the faculty, staff and support workers, and their families...plus the nearby community, and even the nation of Tanzania...are being powerfully reached by the hand of God. And you are part of it all!

"A miracle is happening" in the Tanzania bush! That has been one of the foundational proclamations of The Lion of Judah Academy, and it remains as true today as it was in 2002, when the miracles were just beginning!

Several events this past year have demonstrated the nearly unbelievable academic achievements of the students. But nothing has been so breath-taking as the results of the Form 2 national exam (form 2 is roughly equivalent to our 10th grade). Our Form 2 students took the exam for the first time in the school's history in November, 2008. We received the results late winter of 2009, and to say we were elated would be an understatement. In the Lake Zone, which includes over 600 secondary schools, The Lion of Judah Academy ranked 11th! The first time our students ever took the exam, they ranked 11th out of over 600! That's in the top 2%! And Mtebe feels very confident that this year's Form 2 students will perform even better, now that the school has the experience of having taken the exams the first time!

Another remarkable academic fact is this: all Tanzanian students must take a national exam at the end of Standard 7 (seventh grade). The national

passing rate is abysmal...only 12% of all students who take the exam pass. However, in the history of our school, 100% of our students have passed the exam, most with scores of 90%+.

It's truly amazing what God is doing through the educational/academic success of the school. But that's only one part of the miracle.

The very heartbeat of The Lion of Judah Academy is the spiritual life of the school and students. In fact, from the moment almost every visitor steps onto the campus, that is what strikes them most powerfully: the wonderful presence of God's Spirit. It is in the students. It is in the classrooms. It is in the dorms. It is in all the relationships among the students, and between students and staff. It is in the worship. It is in the morning chapels and evening devotions and nightly prayer groups. God is alive, and God is changing lives! Student groups regularly visit the nearby dispensary to pray with the sick. They conduct evangelistic crusades in surrounding areas. They support, encourage and disciple one another. And when they go to their homes, they carry this fresh breath of God's love and power to their families, home churches, and communities.

During 2009 we have had many short-term mission workers at the school, including nearly 20 on summer work teams, as well as Kurt Wegner, who has been living and working at the school throughout 2009. Those teams have accomplished a wide variety of tasks, including setting up new athletic fields, a new school dispensary, LOTS of painting and construction work, and, of course, wonderful contributions to classroom work in many different fields. For more details and photos about all that work please check the October newsletter on the website.

Construction on the primary school is now essentially completed. But secondary school construction is in full swing. A number of secondary school projects are in various stages of completion, including:

- new science laboratories
- a new secondary school library
- a new chapel, which will be the central campus meeting place
- a secondary boys dormitory
- new teacher's houses

In addition, a couple of visitors thought it would be great to have playground equipment to supplement the VERY well-used swings which were built by a work team several years ago. So they donated funds for the project. Problem is, you can't buy playground equipment in Tanzania!! We did the next best thing: we built our own! And it is turning out better than we ever could have dreamed. You can see photos on the website!

And, yet one more blessing, is the fact that we have our first exchange student from The Lion of Judah Academy studying in the U.S., at The King's Academy in Mohrsville, PA. She is Abia Shinyanga.

January is the beginning of the new school year in Tanzania. In January, 2010, approximately 400 students, in 12 grades, will assemble at The Lion of Judah Academy. It will be another 'banner year' in the life of the school, and will once again bring new challenges (sometimes we wonder, will

we ever face a new year which doesn't bring several formidable 'new challenges'? Answer: "*probably not!*"

In January, we will open the fourth and final year of "O-Level" secondary school. Four years ago, when the school trustees said, "Building a secondary school is our next goal," it seemed like an impossible dream. However, in about two weeks, that dream will be completely fulfilled!

But new impossible sounding dreams have taken its place! For instance:

The Water System: We MUST construct a school water system this year. We have completely outgrown the community system, and community leaders have told us must leave that system as soon as possible, hopefully no later than the summer. This is a *VERY* expensive project: an estimated \$66,000. That is by far the biggest single project we have undertaken. But the system will be an excellent water system, and will serve the school, as well as many in the surrounding community, for decades into the future. We are seeking grants and foundation funding, but believe we must raise no less than 25% of the total cost ourselves (that is about \$17,000). We can think of at least three ways our friends and supporters can help: 1) please pray! This, of course, is the most important thing! 2) do you know anyone (individuals or foundations) who might be interested in helping fund such a project? If so, let us know, please! All of our best 'leads' have come from friends of the school! 3) consider a one-time gift to this urgent need!

A - Level studies: In the East African educational system, secondary education consists of four years of "O-Level" (ordinary level) studies. Then, for those students who excel, an opportunity may be available for "A-Level" (advanced level) studies. However, A-level schools are very few and far-between, and very difficult to get into.

Almost all of our Lion of Judah Academy students are interested in pursuing A-Level studies following their O-Level graduation in November, 2010. And they will be qualified. However, there are no A-Level schools anywhere in our region. So The Lion of Judah Academy trustees have determined the next challenge to be met is to become accredited as an A-Level Secondary school, and to achieve that status by the end of 2010, so our students can continue their education right on our own campus. This is a huge challenge...as well as an amazing opportunity. Can you imagine what it might mean if the only A-Level institution in our entire region is The Lion of Judah Academy. Can you envision the impact that could have for the Kingdom of God?

We will write more about this as the year progresses, but it is a major undertaking, and will require God's grace, plus a lot of hard work. Please pray!

One day this past summer I - Hart - found myself standing in the middle of the campus, slowly turning in circles, overwhelmed to be gazing upon what God has done...with the help of many people, like you. Mtebe came to stand beside me, quietly for a few moments. Then he said, "I know what you are thinking." I looked at him quizzically, and he continued, "I do the same thing sometimes. I just look around at the school and wonder to

myself, 'How has all this happened?'" Mtebe continued, "Then God reminds me, **'I have done it all, just as I told you I would do it.'**"

One of the greatest privileges of our lives (Lynn and Hart) has been to be part of the amazing miracle of The Lion of Judah Academy. And you are part of it, too. Thank you! We hope that, one day, you will be able to visit it for yourself, to stand there in the center of the campus, looking around, overwhelmed, wondering, "How has this happened?" And then you, too, will be able to hear God whispering to your spirit, **"I have done it all, just as I have promised. And I have used you to help work the miracles!"**

Please pray:

- for the needs mentioned in this letter, including the ongoing construction, the very important and costly water project, and the development A-level studies at The Lion of Judah Academy
- for the academic, spiritual and personal development of all our students
- for our teachers and their families, who make great sacrifices to serve in the ministry of The Lion of Judah Academy
- for headmaster Josephales Mtebe and his family; the burdens he carries are great, and he has so much to do
- for scholarship and other funding necessary to enable the needy children – AIDS orphans and children of poor Tanzanian pastors, especially – to be able to attend the school

And, finally, a quick checklist:

- If you have provided a student scholarship in the past, are you able to renew that scholarship for the coming year? We hope so. Finances are very tight for many of us, we know. But your generosity has been changing the life of a poor student – probably an AIDS orphan or the child of a struggling Tanzanian pastor. If you can continue to help, it will be such a blessing!
- If you have not provided a scholarship in the past, can you consider providing a student scholarship in 2010? We always have more students in need than we have scholarships. \$200 will provide a full ONE-YEAR tuition scholarship for one student! For more information, contact us or visit the website.
- On the website you will find new videos about the school, and several e-mail updates sent during 2009. Check them out!

Thank you so much for your encouragement, support and prayers. God IS working an amazing miracle in the Tanzania bush. And you are a part of it!

Yours in the love of Jesus,

Lynn and Hart Inlow