

Habari Njema! *"Good News" from Africa*

*Come and see what God has done,
how awesome his works in man's behalf! – Psalm 66:5*

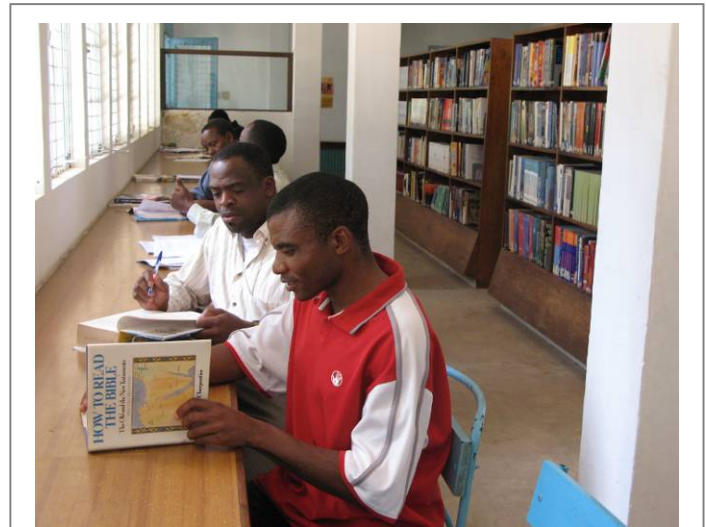
Welcome to *Habari Njema*, 'Good News' in Swahili. The Friends of St John's University of Tanzania have a lot of *Habari Njema* to share. We're excited by the University's vision to transform Tanzania through Christian higher education. We're delighted you're part of the team and hope you enjoy the updates and profiles from the first issue of *Habari Njema*. Let us know what you think!

As the Apostle Paul said, the *Habari Njema* of Jesus Christ is a matter of "first importance" (1 Cor. 15:3). That has big implications for a brand new Christian university in the heart of Africa. Everything in the philosophy, purposes, and policies of St Johns University is shaped by Jesus' *Habari Njema*. Professors sign a Christian Instrument of Faith. Students understand the teaching will come from a Christian perspective, whether in Science, Nursing, Pharmacy, Education, Business, or Theology. It's *Habari Njema* all the way!

The *Habari Njema* of Jesus is of "first importance" because it is the "power of God for salvation" (Romans 1:16). The *Habari Njema* is that God has a wonderful plan for your life, AND He has a wonderful plan for the world! The Lord is revealing His *Habari Njema* through St John's University, so watch to see what the Lord does in the months and years' ahead to shape not just individual lives, but a new generation of Christian leaders in a nation at a crossroads. Please pray for the ripple effect of *Habari Njema* to be felt not just in East Africa or across the continent of Africa, but to the Middle East, and to the world!!

For the *HABARI Njema* of Jesus,
Julian

The Rev. Julian D. Linnell PhD
Co-Chair, Friends of St John's University



"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." – Romans 12:2

The *Habari Njema* of Christ is the foundation of the University's vision of holistically developing students so they learn to serve. Without the Gospel there can be no radical transformation of the whole person – heart, soul, and mind. Without the Gospel and its transforming power, – there will be no lifelong commitment to service over self.

*'Not by might nor by
power, but by my Spirit,'
says the LORD Almighty.
– Zechariah 4:6*

Visit us on the Web at:

<http://www.friendsofsaintjohns.org>

Greetings from Dodoma!

Observations from the University

St. John's first student intern, Peter Mullen of Holy Trinity Church in Raleigh, and I arrived on campus in early July. Peter was brave enough to start at the ground floor – or as the ground floor was being finished. His only payment was witnessing God delivering a newborn university and new friendships with the Tanzanian library staff with whom he worked.

It's been a whirlwind ever since. Academic Staff wrapped up their curricula. Contractors finished *just* enough of their rehabilitation work *just* in time for students to move into residence halls. Then, the best part, God brought over 800 students to join one of six Faculties to embark on the 3 or 4 year journey to a university degree.

Their journeys will be different from those of the students across town at the new government University of Dodoma. Ready or not, SJUT students will be learning in a "Christian Ethos," an environment built upon Jesus Christ – "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 3:11).

So, join with us in celebration, in rushing back to throw ourselves at Jesus feet to thank him for the birth of St. John's. Also, join us to in praying that we are faithful "parents" who "Train [St. John's] in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Proverb 22:6)

In Christ,

John

(From Dr. Ham's web log at <http://blog.sjut.org>)

*"Instead of bronze I will bring you gold,
and silver in place of iron.
Instead of wood I will bring you bronze,
and iron in place of stones.
I will make peace your governor and
righteousness your ruler"*
Isaiah 60:17



"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

– John 8:31–32

Prayer Partnership

*in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God – Philippians 4:6b*

Praise

"...Nothing is too hard for you." – Jeremiah 32:17

Thanksgiving

- God's revelation of Himself
- God's provision and blessings
- Changed lives

Intercession

- Salvation and spiritual growth for all administration, faculty, staff, students, and anyone who God brings to the University
- God will bring people around the world to Himself as partners in His Work in East Africa through St. John's

Check for regular prayer updates on the blog at the Friends website, www.FriendsofSaintJohns.org, and join with partners in the U.S. and Africa who lay the University before the Lord.



More about St. John's

A Mission of the Anglican Church of Tanzania

St. John's is the ACT's response to the reality in Tanzania that:

- Only 1% of Tanzania's population of over 38 million has a university degree
- None of the few existing universities serve the underdeveloped central and western regions
- Over 38,000 qualified students seeking admission to universities are denied, due to lack available "seats"
- There is an acute shortage of B.Sc. degrees in education, pharmacy, and nursing.
 - Tanzania needs 28,000 more nurses, especially those willing to serve in remote regions served only by Christian clinics and hospitals

Mission: To provide and maintain high-quality education and training, research and service to the public across a range of theological, social, technological and scientific disciplines.

Current Status:

- The University has its first class of 800 students working toward one of six degrees: B.A. Education, B.Sc. Education, B.Sc. Nursing, B. Pharmacy, B. Bus. Admin. or B.A. Theology.

Course	Male	Female	Total
B.A. Ed.	198	102	300
B.Sc. Ed.	59	19	78
Nursing	12	53	65
Pharmacy	34	9	43
Business	191	105	296
Theology	23	2	25
Total	517	290	807

- 44 full-time teaching staff, with 4 volunteers from UK and Australia; 5 visiting lecturers and 7 part-time lecturers.



The Needs:

- Dedicated Prayer
- Staff and Faculty: short-term or long-term
- Scholarships and Student Support
- Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Pharmacy, and Nursing Laboratory Equipment
- Prayer
- Books, Journals, Access to Online Libraries
- Academic Partnerships
- Funding for Rehabilitation of Existing Academic Buildings and Construction of New Buildings
- Support for Developing Sports and Games Programs and Facilities
- Did we mention Prayer?



Our goal is to provide Christ-centered University education open to all

Note from the Chancellor

The Most Revd. Donald Mtetemela

"Starting a University is a crucial enterprise to the future of our nation and our people. I know it is a major undertaking. It is a historic initiative by our Church for the benefit of all Tanzanians regardless of race, color, tribe, gender, religious or political affiliation. We need the support of individuals, institutions, companies and corporations in Tanzania and overseas to make this a reality. I believe you can support us. Please give us your support and God will honor you. Thank you."

Who are the Students?

"Community is like a large mosaic"

There is no typical student at St. John's. In fact, the diversity of the student body is heartening. Every corner of Tanzania is represented, male and female. Students fresh from Form Six, mature students finally getting the chance to seek a degree, practicing nurses, pastors. There are Christians and Muslims, as well as Hindus, Sikhs, and others. There's Ben Mlewa, our own admissions officer who admitted himself. There's Godlove who came from central Dodoma in his wheelchair, under his own power, to help us check our readiness for disabled students. There are those here on the support of Tanzania's generous student loan program. There are those whose families have pulled together the fees over many years. There are those who have private sponsor, such as two Masai boys from Longido, who are being supported by Stephen Kiruswa, well known to many of the Friends of St. John's, and by a member of Galilee Church in Virginia Beach. There are those who may only be able to do a semester here or a semester there, until they can finish. Over time, we will select a few individuals to profile, but for now hold in your mind the beautiful mosaic that is the SJUT student body. Pray the mosaic comes together into a unified whole, all going forth to use their education in service to others.



"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ." - 1 Corinthians 12:12

"Community is like a large mosaic. Each little piece seems so insignificant. One piece is bright red, another cold blue or dull green, another warm purple, another sharp yellow, another shining gold. Some look precious, others ordinary. Some look valuable, others worthless. Some look gaudy, others delicate. As individual stones, we can do little with them except compare them and judge their beauty and value. When, however, all these little stones are brought together in one big mosaic portraying the face of Christ, who would ever question the importance of any one of them? If one of them, even the least spectacular one, is missing, the face is incomplete. Together in the one mosaic, each little stone is indispensable and makes a unique contribution to the glory of God. That's community, a fellowship of little people who together make God visible in the world." From *Can You Drink the Cup?* by Henri J. M. Nouwen. (Nouwen, Henri J. M., *The Only Necessary Thing*, Crossroad Publishing, New York, 1999, p.124)

St. John's University of Tanzania

PO Box 47

Dodoma, Tanzania, East Africa

Phone:

+255-26-239-0044

(914) 410-6875 (US)

E-Mail:

jham@sjut.ac.tz

**For from him and through him
and to him are all things.**

**To him be the glory forever!
Amen - Romans 11:36**



Tulibako C. Mwakasege

Student Profile in Leadership

Many St. John's students and their families pay more than tuition for their education. Consider Tulibako C. Mwakasege, a B.A. Education student who served as President of the SJUT Interim Student Government. A teacher since 2001, she left a full-time teaching position with the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanganyika to seize the opportunity to earn a university degree at St. John's, but that was not the real sacrifice.

Tulibako has a family from whom she is separated while undertaking her studies. She is only able to see her husband and two small children on weekends, if at all. In a country where education is more valuable than gold, her family's situation is not unusual. It is a common story: one parent seeks a degree while the other manages the family, then they switch roles.

Answering God's call to Leadership involves sacrifice. By submitting herself to His will she is readying herself to act on the vision God has placed in her heart, the vision that a strategic step



"Village life in Israel ceased, ceased until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel." – Judges 5:7

toward alleviation of poverty in Africa is to address the issues that limit women's participation in society and the economy. In this she builds on the legacy of one of her hero's, Julius Nyerere, the father of modern Tanzania, who made equality of sexes a priority and thus helped open the door for another Tanzanian hero, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary General of the UN. Let us pray that God continues to grow and use Tulibako to take her vision to reality.

(more at <http://blog.sjut.org>)

Professor M. V. Meshack

God's Man for God's Purpose in God's Time

Like so much of His work at St John's, God began preparing His choice for Project Leader and Vice Chancellor, Prof. Manoris V. Meshack many years ago. God knew the first VC would need the right personality and skills.



For skills, He needed someone with a mix of teaching, planning, and administration experience. So, Meshack started with a BA in Education but ended with a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from Dortmund Univ. in Germany. He also started as a lecturer but ended as a Deputy Vice Chancellor who helped transform the University College of Lands and Architectural Studies (UCLAS) from a college to a University.

For timing, Meshack was preparing to retire, to slow down and occupy himself with consulting, and to enjoy his home in Dar Es Salaam. God had other plans, however, and called him to Dodoma, to his "home" region. How could he refuse?

For personality, God shaped Meshack to be firm, but with the firmness of a teacher. Correction is always given as a lesson, with humor always on the ready to break tension and move everyone forward. Correction is always private, praise and support are public. He also shaped him to be calm, to trust God will complete work He begins and so, to exude the confidence those around him need to carry on when the tasks seem too big. He knows they are too big for us but not for God.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."
– Isaiah 55:9

Development Update

Message from the Friends

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since we began our development efforts as the Friends of Saint John's University Tanzania! What began as an exciting ministry vision has now become a reality as the University has opened its doors this fall to over 800 students. Although much has already been accomplished through the generous support of our donors, the need for financial support continues to be great as the campus must quickly add new and updated facilities and personnel to serve what will soon be over 3,000 students. Bwana Asifiwe! Praise the Lord!

To help meet these needs, we have begun efforts to broaden the scope of our donor base. We began our development efforts by holding development dinners in homes in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Now, we have a grant writer working with us to secure funding through grants and foundations, and we are happy to report that several proposals have already been sent and the outlook for success is promising. Please keep our grant efforts in your prayers as this is a very detailed and lengthy process, but it will be a key piece in securing much needed support for the University.

We also have plans to reach out further to both Anglican parishes and other missions-oriented churches. Thus far, our efforts in acquiring church support have been very successful, and we owe much of that initial success to the leadership and membership of Galilee Church in Virginia Beach who gave \$300,000 made possible by a gift from the Gilliam Family Trust – thank you!

We have also continued to update and improve our logo, website, and marketing materials. This newsletter is a tangible result of that effort, and we would like to thank committee member O.E. Burke for donating his time and efforts in this area.

"...they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will." – 2 Corinthians 8:5^b



Professor Meshack receives a plaque from Bob Thornton from FOSJUT. The plaque is in honor of the gift from Galilee Church, provided by the Gilliam Family Trust, that was used to support the launch of the University. Bibiana Mwaluko, Dean of Nursing, was part of the ceremony in the chapel.

The key to our success is God's wisdom, God's favor, and taking great care to properly and prudently invest donor funds. Often people ask about how funds invested in this ministry are distributed. I am happy to report that aside from the minimal expenses required to maintain a website, submit grant proposals, and create this newsletter, 100% of your donations go directly to the University. Friends of St. John's University maintains no staff or paid employees; We're 100% volunteer driven to ensure that your contribution gets to exactly where it is needed the most...Saint John's University, Tanzania.

On behalf of so many grateful students whose lives are being positively impacted for God's kingdom, thank you for your support in helping us to further God's work in East Africa!

Want to be a part of God's work in East Africa? Contact:

*Friends of St. John's University
915 First Colonial Road, Suite 100
Virginia Beach, VA 23454
www.friendsofsaintjohns.org*