



## The Lion of Judah Ministries

Christmas, 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus! May your hearts be filled with renewed wonder and hope as you celebrate the birth of our Savior!

As we near the end of 2012, we want to thank all of you who have prayed for, worked on, contributed to, and cared about the ongoing miracle that is The Lion of Judah Academy. God's amazing faithfulness continues to be poured out with unfailing generosity on the school.

This is the end of the year break for The Lion of Judah Academy. The new school year begins shortly after January 1, 2012. The school year in Tanzania runs from January to mid-November.

We don't yet have results from the fall national examinations (required of all students in class 4, form 2 and form 4), but every indication is that our students have once again excelled. For the past several years LJA has consistently been ranked in the top 2 schools in our region, and our students, collectively, have been ranking in the top 2-3% of all Tanzanian students on their national exams. *Praise the Lord!!* That is a testimony to God's faithfulness, together with the hard work and motivation of both teachers and students.

Some of the highlights of the past year include:

- The start of A-level classes: Form 5 opened last spring, and Form 6 will open in the spring of 2012; that will bring our student body to about 550 students;
- A flourishing, spiritually vibrant student body...Jesus is Lord at Lion of Judah Academy! Students and staff alike honor and glorify Him!
- The newly constructed older boys' dorm is open and operating; the form 5 and 6 classrooms are partially completed, and in use; the new chapel, while not fully completed, is totally functional and in use virtually daily; it is an amazing building, out in the middle of the Tanzania bush!
- The teaching staff is, each year, growing in their understanding of and commitment to the mission and vision of the school; we have a wonderful teaching staff and it grows stronger every year!
- The second exchange student, Miriam Jacob, is studying here in the U.S., at The Kings Academy in Mohrsville, PA
- Work teams from the U.S. and Europe continue to visit the school regularly, both blessing the school, and being blessed far beyond their expectations

Each and every day is, very literally, a new miracle at The Lion of Judah Academy. God's mercies are, indeed, "new every morning...great is God's faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:23)

But there are ***always*** some significant challenges! Here are some ***things you can be praying about:***

- Recently drought and food shortages have wrecked havoc in East Africa, including at LJA; those will only be alleviated by adequate rains. Early reports on the current rainy season are very encouraging. Please pray for good rains and a strong harvest.
- The drought and food crisis, along with the global economic crisis, has had a devastating effect in Tanzania, touching virtually all the students and staff. At LJA we have had to spend extraordinary amounts on basic necessities, especially food, causing real financial stress in all areas of school life. All of our school families, including our staff members and their families, are suffering. Please pray for God's comfort and provision during this time of great need.

This, in turn, makes students scholarships even more important than they usually are, since so many of our families are under financial duress...we need more student scholarships than ever before to meet the needs of our students. These scholarships play a vital part role in paying teachers, providing books and other resources, and providing daily necessities for the students. Please pray for funds for scholarships for the students.

- Also, many of our development projects (finishing the chapel, building form 5 and 6 classrooms, the water project) have been put "on hold" because so many of our resources must be focused on meeting the expenses of food and other absolute necessities. Please pray, asking God to open the floodgates of heaven, pouring forth not only rain, but also resources needed to complete the many other important projects currently being delayed

During 2011 we've been working hard to provide ways to help you be more closely connected to The Lion of Judah Academy. For instance, we've started a blog which has lots of neat information, updated regularly:

[www.lionofjudahacademy.wordpress.com](http://www.lionofjudahacademy.wordpress.com)

We have a Facebook page that a growing number of people, in the U.S. as well as in Tanzania, are "liking"  
<http://www.facebook.com/LionofJudahAcademy>

We have a YouTube channel, with various videos related to the school:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/Tanzy99?feature=mhee>

We've added profiles and photos on all the faculty and all the students needing scholarships, accessible from the home page of the website. In fact, all the features above can be found on the website, at:  
[www.thelionofjudah.info](http://www.thelionofjudah.info)

People often ask us, "what can I do to help with the school?" As 2012 quickly approaches, there are three things we would like to suggest:

First, consider sponsoring a student scholarship for 2012. You will find more information about that on the profiles section of the website. Full and partial scholarships are greatly appreciated

Second, we desperately need to complete the water project. It is 75% done, but we still need electricity run to the pumping station, and a storage tank. We estimate those tasks will require \$27,000 - \$28,000. That's a lot of money! But anything you can do to help will be a tremendous blessing. (**Last minute update**...we have just received a \$25,000 gift for this project! Praising God, and thanking the amazingly generous donors! Can you help put the project "over the top"?)

Third, and most important: please pray. God answers prayer. We know that, because The Lion of Judah Academy has been built on and with the prayers of faithful supporters from all over the world...people just like you. Please pray for the school, the staff, and the students. And please pray for "the hope and a future" God has in store for His children there (*Jeremiah 29:11 - The Lord says, "For I know the plans I have for you -- plans for your welfare, not for disaster; plans to give you hope and a future"*)

**Scholarships** -- If you would like more information about providing a full or partial scholarship, you can contact us or visit the website and click on "Student Scholarship Program" on the left side. [www.thelionofjudah.info](http://www.thelionofjudah.info)

**Upcoming Work Teams** -- Would you be interested in joining a work team to the school in 2012 or 2013? Please contact us now so we can fill you in. Contact information is below, and on the website.

**E-mail address** -- do you use email? Do we have your address? We send out regular updates through the year, as well as special notices from time to time. We simply can't afford to send these out via postal mail. We would love to send these to you...all we need is your e-mail address. We promise to keep it secure, never to share it, and use it only for Lion of Judah Academy updates and information. Send your address to: [LOJ@thelionofjudah.info](mailto:LOJ@thelionofjudah.info)

Yours in Christ's love and service,



*P.S. We'd like to close with a true story which we believe conveys one dimension of the miracle of The Lion of Judah Academy. A friend of the school, an older lady whose children and grandchildren have benefitted greatly from the school, recently retired. She received her government pension in one lump sum: 33,000,000 million Tanzania shillings (just a bit over \$20,000). This amount has to carry her through the rest of her life, and she knows it will be a struggle. But, to express her gratitude to God for the blessing her family, and her nation, is receiving from The Lion of Judah Academy, she decided to tithe her pension payment to the school...over \$2000! This is an extraordinary gift for any Tanzanian, and we believe this may be the largest single gift we have ever received from any source in Tanzania. It will be used to help build new high school classrooms. And it demonstrates, more than words ever could, how grateful our Tanzanian friends are for The Lion of Judah Academy, and how the vision and ministry of the school has captured their hearts.*

*"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!"*

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