



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 8, 2015



Our lower primary headmaster George Stephen delivering books to happy East Meru Community School students.

A page-turning chapter in Tanzanian education

"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope... Literacy is the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential." — Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations

The wonder of leafing through a book remains an all-too rare experience for students in Tanzania, and St Jude's is helping all the more appreciate it.

Boxes of books were personally delivered to various government and community schools by our lower primary headmaster George Stephen and secondary headmaster Rasul Abdul, with help from library mentor Glenyce Surtees.

The donations will benefit a situation in which just 2.4% of the 1.63 million students who entered primary school complete secondary.

St Jude's works hard to ensure the best education opportunities for every child in our community, in line with our founder's belief that education is the best way to fight poverty.

Read more on page 2 inside.

Various school supplies, like library books, are not covered by our sponsorship programs. General donations to cover these expenses can be made at www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html

A page-turning chapter in Tanzanian education

"Instead of having books in the library that are not used, we consult with library staff and see if we can give away these books to other schools, where they are needed," George said, explaining that books were sometimes left over when heads of departments ordered new or different versions for their subjects.

"We realised there was a community school here (East Meru Community School), run by a former member of staff (of St Jude's)," he said.

"It is a kind of sponsorship school like St Jude's, and depends on donations and support from abroad, and we thought that could be a good place."

Rasul, meanwhile, took picture books to a government primary school and brought senior texts to the District Office for Education for further distribution.

"Local government schools are facing challenges with resources, especially supplementary books," he said. "The Government doesn't have enough funds to fulfill the needs of the schools, so most of those students do not get the opportunity to access different books."

"I believe the books donated will help (the students) to improve their English.

"Hopefully it will benefit the local schools so that we can improve the education system of our country. It is clear that when the students are exposed to different books, they increase their skills, broaden their thinking capacity and are more curious."

German company Freudenberg Group also realizes the importance of a good education, and as a result, have donated US\$4000 worth of books to St Jude's this year. The money was given to be spent on science books for



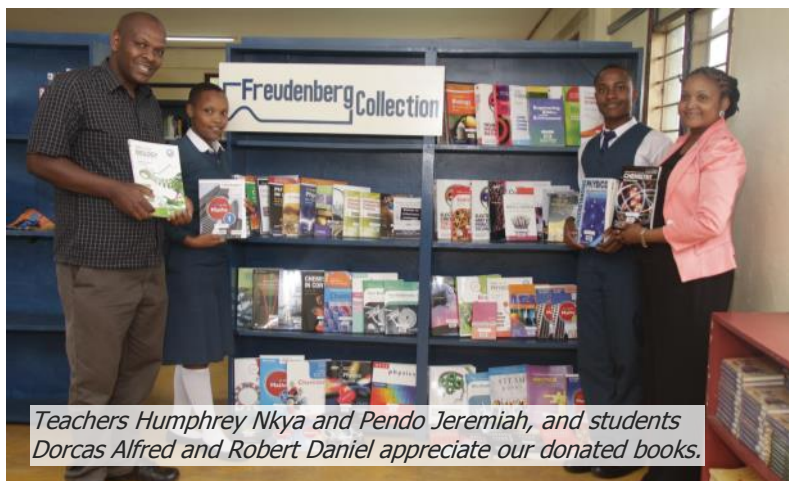
our senior secondary students, so science heads of department made up lists of books that would be most beneficial.

"As we worked through the list and the available budget, I was also able to add books about different careers in the science fields," library mentor Glenyce said. "Each of the individual books bought with that donation has a label on the front to identify it as such."

She said even the art department wanted to show their thanks for Freudenberg's generous donation, and made a sign made to go above the A level collection.



Secondary headmaster Rasul delivers books to Mama Mchome at the District Office for Education.



Teachers Humphrey Nkya and Pendo Jeremiah, and students Dorcas Alfred and Robert Daniel appreciate our donated books.

Erick's influencing Africa

Charismatic secondary student Erick turned one invitation to South Africa into a continental tour that will help him become a future leader of Tanzania.

He was so impressive during his scholarship-funded trip to the prestigious ALU Learning Lab in South Africa this year that he was invited to Mauritius, Uganda and Kenya.

"It was all about networking," the final year student said. "The key thing I feel proud of, of all the touring I did over those two months, is the network I've created.

"I met some great businesspeople (at ALU). They told me 'if you want to benefit in life, you must dare to do something. No matter the case – if it is hard or you don't have money, try to make an impact'."

Erick seized their advice whole-heartedly.

When representatives who visited the Learning Lab invited him to their countries, he jumped at the chance.

Over the following weeks, he visited schools, businesses and technology centres in Mauritius, spoke to high school and university students in Uganda about "utilising technology to take advantage of the opportunities they can get" and had a two-day stop in Nairobi, Kenya, where he spoke to media schools about journalism and news reporting.

"There are a lot of good opportunities coming every day, but there are a lot of people who do not know how to take the risk upon those opportunities," he said, adding that he was also invited to Burundi but had to decline for safety reasons.

Erick has been at St Jude's since 2003, and in that time he has developed into a confident and community-focused future leader.

For the past three years he has run Africa Moja Youth Society, an NGO focused on youth empowerment, leadership, entrepreneurship and education.

"We have been moving around the northern part of Tanzania, trying to educate youngsters about these things," Erick explained.

"We have been planting trees as well – we are planning on planting 1000, and so far we have planted 500



Erick's back studying hard at St Jude's after making the most of ALU's month-long Learning Lab.

across Arusha. We have had good support from the city council and the mayor, who has offered trees and a plot of land where we can plant them."

For now Erick plans to concentrate on his studies, but he envisions quite a future. Next year he plans to start an international business degree and launch an organisation called Leave Africa Better.

"It will be an organisation that will make an impact on society," he said, adding he plans to expand and work in partnership with other networks.

"We can try to bring ourselves together. We can all work together for one solution to the problems facing Africa."

Read about other members of the St Jude's family who are making an impact through community service on our blog, at www.schoolofstjude.org/our-stories/our-stories.html



Maize is now ground into fine powder at our on-site mill, to make fresh ugali to serve in school meals.

Three ways to self-sufficiency

The wheels of our brand new Moshono campus mill have started turning this month, and it's just one way we are working hard to ensure our self-sufficiency.

Efforts to cut down on our running costs mean more of our funding can go toward developing our education program and facilities – and we're finding ways to upskill staff and educate students in the process!

Here are three sustainability projects we're excited about:

1. Grinding and storing our own maize

Grinding and storing our own maize means the thousands of school lunches served each week will be made on-site with freshly-ground ingredients.

Mary Horne, Purchasing Coordinator at St Jude's Moshono campus, said the mill began in January and construction started in June. Benedict Barnabas, our Maintenance Service Team Leader, is hoping to finish the construction work later this month with a raised platform to pour the maize into the large storage silos.

"It will make things much easier for us. We buy maize and have storage areas to keep it here until we need to grind, with only two people needed to run it at a time," Benedict said, adding that it is a particularly timely project as the price of maize has recently sky-rocketed due to weather changes.



This new strategy, run on machines constructed by local fundis (mechanics), means we save money on fuel and enjoy freshly-ground maize at all three campuses.

2. Farming our own produce

Big plans are taking root in our gardens, with a large-scale horticulture project at the Smith campus and small gardens at Moivaro and Moshono to grow our own fresh produce.

Five acres of Smith's rich, fertile earth will provide the perfect bed for growing vegetables. Raised beds will be planted with cabbages, spinach, carrots, beans, tomatoes, squashes and other nutritious vegetables.

Two more acres will become home to fruit trees including avocados, mangoes, guavas, passion fruits, moringa and bananas.

The vegetable garden will be drip irrigated and include polythene tunnels to protect soft vegetables, with fertilizer applied to balance minerals in the soil.

Business manager Jim Hopkins said Samwel Christopher, Operations Deputy at Smith, would helm the project and "with great drive and enthusiasm".

"We hope to recruit a local farmer and initially use casual staff to prepare the raised beds and do the initial planting," Jim said.

"Our students will help with the planting and harvesting of our crops and in the process learn first-hand about agriculture, Tanzania's primary industry. Then they can enjoy the finished product during school meals!"

3. The power of solar

Solar power is lighting up much of St Jude's, and our students are learning of its benefits.

As a sustainable and renewable resource, solar power is particularly practical in hot and sunny Arusha.

As we are also close to Mt Meru, where it becomes cold in winter and at night, solar heaters are very helpful.

Currently our boarding accommodation has solar water heaters for the Form 5 and 6 students, and some of the primary children. This allows them hot showers and hot water to cook and wash clothes with, all while being friendly to the environment!



You can help us secure a more self-sufficient future by helping fund our garden, or water heaters for our primary students and lower secondary students. Go to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html to donate or call 0438 783 035.



We're proud of our award-winning scientists Venance and Martin, pictured here in the wake of their big success.

Science students taste national success

Two talented students have enjoyed a slice of success with their project, Smart House with Raspberry Pi, winning a national science competition.

Achievement sparkled in the eyes of Venance and Martin as they returned from the annual Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) competition, held in Dar es Salaam in August.

Their project took out first place in the Technology category and won a special award from sponsor and major electricity supplier Songas, garnering the 17-year-old students trophies and around AUD\$2000 cash and prizes for themselves and the school.

"(The experience) was so much more than what we expected, and showed us what to expect competing against the top students in Tanzania," Martin said.

Their project was one of only three in 120 that was seen by former Tanzanian President of Tanzania Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who gave them a glowing endorsement.

"He told us how happy he was to have good Tanzanian scientists to teach others," a beaming Martin said.

The ingenuity of their Smart House with Raspberry Pi was first recognized at this year's annual Science Day at St Jude's, where it topped more than 100 entries.

Their invention enables control of many household functions such as temperature, electricity supply and lighting remotely, by mobile phone. It was programmed using Raspberry Pi, a low-cost, compact device.

Their win means AUD\$1000 (1.5million Tanzanian Shillings) worth of computers or books for the school, as well as cash prizes for the students and teachers.

St Jude's has emerged as a national leader in science, with this year's inaugural Form 6 graduates placing in the top 10% of chemistry, physics and advanced mathematics in the national exams.

Now Martin and Venance have returned to St Jude's with big plans.

"We would like to proceed with our talents and develop more projects," Venance said when asked about what they would do with their hard-earned prize money.

They've already converted the school's manual bell to automatic, and have begun developing an egg incubator at Smith campus.

Both students said they were very thankful for the help they've had, specifically mentioning former school technology teacher Brendan Lawlor, Smith campus Head of Science and ICT Nzinyangwa Mcharo, and Science and ICT teacher Denis Eziron.

With Venance and Martin still a few years off completing secondary school, we're very much looking forward to what more these rising stars can show us.

Support a rising star today and sponsor one of our brilliant students at www.schoolofstjude.org or by phoning 0438 783 035 for more information.

Medical classes a real eye-opener

It was an insight into the world of medicine many of our eager senior secondary biology students had been waiting for.

Six medical specialists from the United States, with experience ranging from ophthalmology to public health, found they were equally impressed with our students' response to their two-day visit.

"(The students) have a great awareness, and the language they use... they really seem to understand community problems," Amena Qureshi said, following her presentation on the public health sector. "It's been great, really interesting to see their perspectives."

The Chicago resident said it had been an eye-opening exercise for her group to see St Jude's students' viewpoints. Her presentation with fellow team member Haifa Haroon required students to identify a public health problem and come up with a solution.

"They're talking just like we would, as grad students, and know what their community needs," she said.

It's just as well.

St Jude's students who decide to pursue a health profession, and other medical professionals who travel to Tanzania to lend their expertise, are sorely needed. UNICEF states that while health care in the country has improved, about 390 children under five years old still die every day of mainly preventable and treatable conditions.

While sharing their knowledge and experience with our

The good health of our students is essential for them to make the most of their education. Right now we are looking for health professionals, allied health professionals and organized individuals who enjoy working with youth and can volunteer, short-term, for our annual student medical checks between March 7 and 18, 2016. Go to www.schoolofstjude.org/join-us/health-check-team.html for more.

students, this latest medical group put their skills to good use by giving free check-ups to students with vision problems. Prior to that, only days before their arrival, they summited Mt Kilimanjaro and raised \$40,000 for international charity World Sight.

Team organiser and ophthalmologist Dr Arwa Alsamaræ said their St Jude's visit seemed natural to include in the whirlwind fundraising trip.

"It all just came together," she said. "It was fun, it was incredible, and there were a lot of students who were interested in medicine."

Dr Arwa told the class how she decided to pursue a career in her field after discovering that some people's sight could be restored through the magic of just a 10-minute cataract procedure.

Recent graduate Akram Alsamaræ shared his biomedical engineering knowledge, while Zeeshan Bhatti and Bilal Ahmed, both hailing from Kentucky, gave an overview of medicine, the areas students could specialise in, and advice on how to achieve their goals.



Team organiser and ophthalmologist Dr Arwa Alsamaræ from Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, examines one of our students during a visit to St Jude's.

On the radio waves of success

Jacklyn has known for the past six years she wants a future in broadcasting and nothing is going to stop her from fulfilling her dream.

The confident senior secondary student has worked hard to make a name for herself as a presenter around town, all the while developing her radio and television skills.

"Some people work for money, others work to get a big name, but it's always beautiful when you do something for passion," the ambitious 20-year-old said.

"I love this and I'm ready to do anything to make it happen. When I realised that, I started training myself."

Jacklyn's voice bubbles with enthusiasm as she shares her ambitions during this month's Careers Day.

Professional speakers, including an architect, a doctor, an air traffic controller and our very own accountant Victoria Thomas, share their career secrets, while Jacklyn herself is the best-credentialed on campus to give advice on broadcasting.

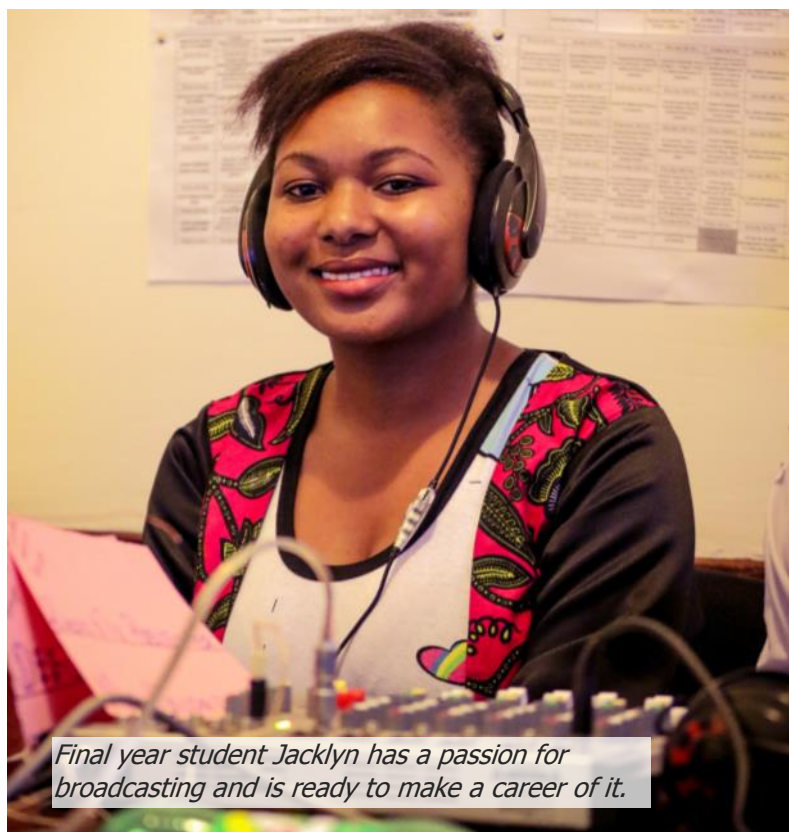
She gained a reputation around St Jude's as an MC at assembly and events like Cultural Day, and by making class presentations throughout the past few years. She branched out further into the community to broaden her experience.

"When I'm at home (on holidays), I usually go to a certain radio station – Clouds' branch in Arusha. I go there for training and make some advertisements," she said, adding that St Jude's senior headmaster's younger brother, who is a DJ at Clouds FM, has become her mentor.

"DJ Ali came to school when I was MCing an event, and he said I was good and he wanted to train me and gave me his contacts. When I was on holiday, I went to the studio, I recorded my programs, and then I see where I went wrong and correct it. He gives me training and advice, so when I go to university it will be good to already have knowledge of many things."

Jacklyn said she plans to pursue mass communications, public relations and advertising through the school of journalism at the University of Dar es Salaam.

She stressed the importance of having good



Final year student Jacklyn has a passion for broadcasting and is ready to make a career of it.

broadcasting in a place like Tanzania.

"This world is very big, and there are some things that people need to know and it's hard for them to get that information here," she said.

"Let's say something very important happens in America. Who will let the people know about something like that, that is important to the whole world? When you have a radio, which can be very cheap, even farmers who are working out at the farm can hear the news. Most people like to hear the news, and when you are on the radio you go on the air and let them know about that stuff. People can get information, be entertained through music... that's what we are doing."

She said she would eventually like to work in Tanzania, and encourages everyone to pursue their passion by keeping a certain piece of advice in mind: don't be afraid.

"I go on stage and host or MC and be crazy and make people happy and enjoy," she said. "I love it."

Read about other St Jude's students following their passions on our blog: www.schoolofstjude.org/our-stories/our-stories.html

Meet 'Captain Victor'



Victor loves learning about science at St Jude's.

Have you met Victor? You should!

Victor is a master of languages; at age 8, he is top of Standard 1 (Grade 1) in English and Kiswahili. He is also number one in computer class and science!

Science is Victor's favorite subject and when he grows up he wants to be a pilot. Why? "So I can go to all the places I want to go to," he said.

'Captain Victor' lives in Moivaro with his father, mother and younger brother Steven.

His parents, Adrian and Beatrice, have only a primary school education; both work six days a week to provide for the family and make sure Victor gets to school and has time to study.

Victor started at St Jude's in January this year. Now that he is receiving a free, high-quality education, the family's dream is to save enough money to buy a small piece of land, his mother, Beatrice, said.

Victor relishes being at St Jude's; he's a veritable ladies' man, in the sense that all his best friends are girls. His favourite things to do are to speak English and, "play football, the monkey game and go on the slide at

lunchtime."

If you'd like to be dazzled by Victor's school reports, correspond with the master linguist and even hang out with him and his family in person one day, why not become a sponsor?

Find out more about sponsoring a St Jude's student at www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html.

