

# Tangaza Update

February- March 2005

## Editor's letter

"Nothing begins well if it does not start from heaven", said Don Bosco, the founder of the Salesians.

We begin our New Year by thanking God for his abundant blessings in the last year in our Tangaza Jesus Christ, the one for us to live grant us  
In our first issue this And may Jesus Christ, the one who makes each day a joy for us to live grant us peace in this New Year.  
ence of one of our Lecturers who was a victim of the gunshots in our city. We who was a victim of the gunshots in our city. We his gunshot wounds, College and is back imparting his knowledge to us. May God bless him.  
We encourage you to contribute articles on issues affecting our College. We ask for your support in making *Tangaza Update* the true voice of the College.

Happy New Year!

## Lecturer Shot by Carjackers

By Charles Khaemba and Beatrice Maagu.

**"It was all God's protection", says Dr. Samita.**

The year 2004 is one that Dr. Zacharia Samita would love to forget. He was involved in two car accidents, both as a result of a tyre burst while traveling from his rural home to Nairobi. "I thank God that I managed to come out safely in both accidents", says Dr. Samita. But the worst of 2004 was yet to come.

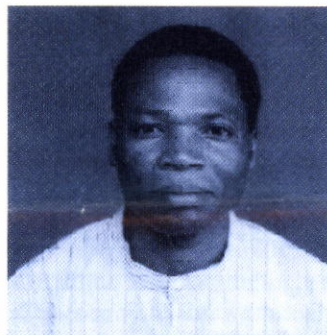
On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, Dr. Samita was shot by carjackers at Githurai 44 on Kamiti road

while escorting his sister-in-law, a few minutes before 7.00 p.m. His wife and their youngest daughter, who is eight years old was with him. After saying goodbye to his sister-in-law together with her four month old baby he went back to his car ready to go back home. Suddenly, two men who appeared to be drunk, approached his car which was parked just a few meters from the main road, and fell on the window. "It was at this point that they drew their guns and I immediately realized that they were not drunkards but were infact gangsters", says Dr. Samita.

They ordered him to go to the back seat, one of the thugs jumped onto the back seat and immediately pointed his AK-47 at him and dared him to make any noise or he would be killed on the spot. His wife was seated on the front passenger seat and the other gangster took the driver's seat and

**"I pleaded with them to take the keys of the car and leave us alone, but they were adamant"**

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## From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Friends

I am very happy to greet you all in this first issue of *Tangaza Update* of this year 2005. Thanks to the help of every member of the College and our esteemed benefactors, Tangaza College is on the move steadily and slowly growing, offering a very valuable service to the Church and Society. We are grateful to God for sustaining this College and guiding it to fulfill its mission for the Church and society at large.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.** During the month of January we kept the week of prayer for Christian unity, keeping alive in our hearts the desire and prayer of Jesus: "That they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). We keep up our enthusiasm for the unity of the Churches and ecclesial communities, and make sure that Tangaza as a whole (both students and staff) are ecumenically sensitive, well-informed and committed to the cause of Christian unity.

**Mary Immaculate Library.** By now all must have learned that the Mary Immaculate Library from the Vincentians has come in without any damage and is now safely in the Library Space of *Imani House*. Work in the Library is progressing. Right now we are placing the books on the shelves; after that computers (30 of them) will be placed for the library users. In view of the Library, we will also get a generator for *Imani House*.

**Tangaza Day.** This year's Tangaza Day will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005. We shall have the official opening of the Mary Immaculate Library on that day. Fr. Thomas McKenna (Provincial of Vincentian Eastern Province of the United States) and Fr. Aiden Rooney will join us for the occasion. Right Reverend Bishop David Kamau, one of the auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese of Nairobi will be the main celebrant.  
**Students Hostel (for women).** We hope to begin the construction of the Hostel for lay women and Religious sisters soon. We were delayed in the processing of the documents, which we hope will be ready shortly. Unfortunately, due to the shortfall of funds, the plans for the play-fields have been shelved for the time-being. Hopefully it is not shelved forever!

Dear members of the College, I thank you for your commitment and sense of belonging to the College. We are here for the Church's mission, which is the mission of Christ and that of God himself. Tangaza College is a wonderful witness of that unity in life and mission of so many religious communities embracing other consecrated and lay people, in our fragmented world, religious and secular. May you be blessed in all your undertakings for the Kingdom!



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# Supa! Sanu! Aloha!Koro! Fresh greetings for 2005!

Unbelievable! We are already halfway this decade. An other half, and the decade will be gone. It's unbelievable how time lives its life: without rest; without looking back to take stock; without skipping a beat... time is on the move. Sir Winston Churchill, a British statesman once said "The further backward you look, the further forward you see".

Time in your life will only make sense depending on how you use it. It's inevitable that time will pass, but the question is, what you do with it when it's in the 'now.'

I believe that *the past, the now, and the future* all contribute to the essence of time though they cannot exist simultaneously. The past remains in the *known closet*, the now exists in *discovery closet*, and the future in the *not yet known closet*. What exists in the known closet is good because its strengths and weaknesses are discov-

ered and you can use the lessons learnt in the past.

But at the top of the hill lies the 'not yet,' that, which we move through in time; that which can be planned for so that one may be prepared when it sets in; that which gives us hopes to live for a better tomorrow. Yes we are at the beginning of a new semester, a new calendar year and a new day. God through time, has given us a second chance to plan for the 'not yet...' the future. To wait with renewed hope for the future, the not yet...' Time cannot plan, it moves on regardless... but both you and I can.

Just a thought: Discovery consists of looking at the same thing as everyone else does and thinking something different! (Albert Szent). Think about it!

Blessings,  
Wageni Kimani

## Tangaza Women and Sports

*Ituah O. Jerome, Sports Representative*

I must have been one of the most excited people at the opening match of our Football Tournament last year when I saw women of substance in the field of play in the Novelty match between the male and female staff. This was a great source of hope that our female students would not leave any stone unturned in outshining the male counterpart in Tangaza Sports. Within a short time after the tournament, some female students from CTIE approached me with the idea of beginning a volleyball team. This again strengthened my hope.

Now, months have past by, our volleyball

team still needs more players in order to reach the heights we had anticipated. The male teams are growing stronger, what is wrong? In order to get an answer to this question, I decided to embark on a journey to a strange land.

It was one hot afternoon. I had not planned any such trip, but in a twinkle of an eye, I found myself on the way. We traveled quite a distance without encountering anyone. Then, we got into a town with a large signpost 'the world of Women'. As soon as the car approached, all the women on the way turned their faces towards the opposite direction.

We concluded that these were shy people and, we continued with our journey till we reached another village with the sign 'hardworking Women'. Here, no one took notice of the oncoming car. Everyone was about their business. They really appeared very busy. We concluded that these women had no time for anyone.



We passed very many other villages with several signs some of which I have forgotten. Then we reached the very last town with the sign. "Sports village". Here women were very few. Some of them came to us lamenting and others even weeping that they lacked enough people to execute their plans. At this, I could not help but join the bandwagon of mourners since, I was driven by emotions. Suddenly, I looked around and I was left alone – I had been on my bed dreaming.

Dear sisters and ladies in Tangaza, we invite you again to travel in the "car" of sports in Tangaza. Let us remove those barriers of shyness, or the impression that you are here solely for academic work. We do need some kind of physical fitness as we journey through this noble college. Our Sports Day is around the corner. We need you even if you are not gifted in any sporting event, you can support others with your voices and hands.



Tangaza maiden Sports Day will take place at the De Paul's ground on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2005. We enjoy you all to be part of this historic event. Other colleges and universities will be joining us, so do not be left out.

# UNITED WE GROW

By Ekpenyong Gregory Gabriel

Tangaza College celebrated the week of Christian Unity this year with the guest of honour, for this historic occasion Mr. Oren Rozenblatt, the Second Secretary of the Israeli Embassy in Kenya. The M.C., Mrs. Edel Churu Ebale, the DPSL (Deputy Principal Student Life), gave a warm welcome to all by stressing the need for unity among Christians and unity with Islam and Judaism. This marked the opening of the ceremony.

The Tangaza band welcomed and introduced all to the spirit of the celebration with the opening hymn entitled "Shalom: Peace to You!" Fr. Ottone Cantore, IMC, who was described as passionate for the Jewish religion, was called upon to introduce the guest speaker Mr. Oren Rozenblatt. Prior to this, Fr. Ottone led all in the prayer in which the miracle of creation was acclaimed. At the end of the prayer, the Menorah, a Jewish seven-tick candle was lit.

Mr. Oren, the secretary to the Israeli Embassy took the floor by exposing the Jewish faith. The most significant comment made about Judaism was the fact that it was a religion of LOVE. Mr. Rozenblatt summarized Judaism in the following words: "That which you hate, do not do to another." He explained the life of Judaism and even touched on the rites of passage within the religion. The secretary to the Israeli Embassy concluded by pointing out that Judaism is a male dominated religion and it is slow to admitting non-Jews.

Fr. Cantore applauded the speech and led the prayer for, and with Israel, which stressed God's love for Israel. At this juncture, the tri-stick candle stand was lit to mark the unity among Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Mr. Oren Rozenblatt represented Judaism, Enemali Mark Cssp, the chairperson of Tangaza College Justice and Peace Commission represented Christianity. Shamsia Ramadhan, from the Institute of Social Ministry and the only muslim in the college was there to lead credence to the day.

The candle was lit according to the age of each religion: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Fr. Christopher Owczarek SDB, the head of the Biblical Department gave a short response on behalf of Christianity. He stressed in a significant way the fact that Christianity and Judaism operated on the same principle. While Judaism takes on the negative; "That which you hate, do to no one", Christianity takes on the positive; "that which you love do to others".

On this note, the Tangaza band led all in prayer from psalm 23: "The Lord is My Shepherd", a prayer cherished by both Judaism and Christianity. Subsequently, the Principal Fr. George Kocholikal SDB, gave a vote of thanks to Mr. Oren Rozenblatt for his contributions. He thanked Fr. Cantore and the DPSL for the organization, the band for their animation of music and the whole College Community.

Finally, the principal called on Jerome Itua Ocd, the Tangaza Sports representative to present the symbol of a fig tree to Mr. Rozenblatt, a gift that represented the common root from which Judaism, Christianity and Islam grew. Having received the gift, Mr. Rozenblatt was called upon to lead the "Shema Israel" which he did in Hebrew. The whole assembly followed by reciting the prayer in English. This marked the end of the inter-faith prayer service as the band taught and led the final hymn, "Evenu Shalom Alechem".

*We love to hear from you*

**Do we have enough space?**

Thank you for the publication of *Tangaza Update*. This is an indication of how Tangaza as a community is interested in enhancing the communication process in the college.

But I have a question for the Editor. Do we have enough space in the *Update*? The question remains unanswered not only to me but I believe to many others who would like to contribute to the *Update* on various issues affecting the college.

I have been prompted to ask this question because the publication looks too small and limited in content. Could we have columns on politics, entertainment, opinions and social welfare?

Thanking you in advance,

**James Thairu.**

**ISC**

*Dear James,*

*Thank you for your kind remarks. Tangaza Update is still in its initial stages and as we grow we shall for sure expand and have more pages. You are however welcome to send your articles which we will definitely consider for publication.*

*Editor- update@tangaza.org*

**Dear Editor,**

The "First Years" of ISC appreciate *Tangaza Update* because it promotes communication and dialogue in the college and this is a very important platform. We appreciate your efforts and achievements and pledge to continue supporting you.

**Simon Kimani Rugu.**

*Asante sana. We shall try our best to achieve our goals also. You can now reach us via e-mail update@tangaza.org*

*from Pg 1*

started the car. Their daughter was with him in the back seat.

The gangsters hauled all sorts of abuses on them as they took control of the car.

"I pleaded with them to take the keys of the car and leave us alone but they were adamant", remembers Dr. Samita. Luckily for Dr. Samita, there was heavy traffic some meters ahead. All the cars were at a standstill, and he noticed that the lock for the rear door was loose. He pulled the lock and pushed the man on his side. They both fell on

the tarmac in the middle of the road.

To his surprise, there were people watching the drama as he struggled with the man. They were all staring and none came to his rescue. Meanwhile the other man went for his gun and although Dr. Samita's wife tried to fight him, he managed to jump out of the car and shoot Dr. Samita in the arm as he continued to wrestle with his enemy. In the ensuing commotion, the two thugs managed to escape through the crowds into thin air.

"I managed to walk back to the car somehow only to discover blood oozing from my left arm. that my left. I asked my wife to drive as fast as she could to Kenyatta University", recalls Dr. Samita. At the Kenyatta University health center, he was given first aid before being rushed to M.P Shah Hospital where after an X-ray, he was taken to the theatre. At the theatre, his arm was operated on.

Dr. Samita still has a bullet lodged in his ribs and doctors hope to remove it after he recov-

ers from his left-arm operation.

The timing would not have been worse for Dr. Samita who had to be driven in a hospital ambulance a few days later for his graduation with a PhD in Religious Studies.

"It was God's protection", he says adding that had his wife not restrained the other gangster, the story would be totally different.

We at Tangaza College pray for his quick recovery and thank God for saving his life.

## Do you want to be happy?

Valerian's Diary

If getting rich makes us happy, then why don't countries as a whole get happier as they grow wealthier. Are you happy? Really, truly happy?

Be competitive, be happy  
But being an achiever and rising out of poverty surely must bring happiness. "What about values?" "Why are deeply religious people usually so much happier?" ... Are television programs about the rich and famous, is the "pop culture celebrity cult" the source of all unhappiness?



Maybe happiness is like a forest that from time to time needs a fire – or suffering – to grow happily?

And once you are rich you can afford the "creature comforts" that make life pleasant and happy.

"Just see the joy that music and entertainment can bring to the boys in the poorest parts of Nairobi."

The lesson: if you're happy and you know it ...

Happiness is relative. It comes with the balance between aspirations/expectations and realities of life. Imbalance between these factors leads to unhappiness.

The factors that control aspirations are envy, greed, self-actualization and lust for power.

People interested in happiness try to match realities with aspirations by their hard work and intelligence. Failure to do so and existing hurdles in the way to do so leads to unhappiness.

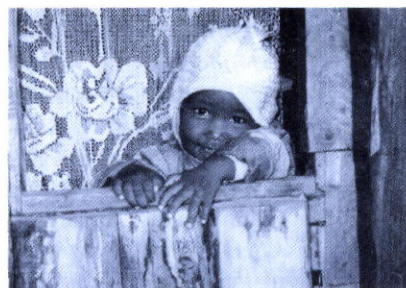
Happiness consists of recognizing that everything is interconnected. Everything in this universe is dependent on something else. If you send out love along those connections – if you truly see and acknowledge the beauty of a tree, the magnificence of the ocean, or truly see and acknowledge the strengths, beauty, and essence of another person – then that love you send out is what you feel internally, as happiness.

Every emotion, every deed, every thought, interconnects with everything else and has an effect.

## Why I love Africa

Adapted from BBC Online by Josephine Nyokabi

I love Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Egypt where African Arabs dress in robes and veils. Their rich culture, beautiful leather works, rugs, artefacts, the Suez Canal and the pyramids are great tourist attractions. I also love some leaders from this region including Libya's Gaddafi and Algeria's Bouteflika.



I love Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad and Sudan for their desert life. I love the sand storms, locusts, camels, donkeys and the countries' rich literature. Oh, I love the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia. They together present exciting flora and fauna, culture, politics and history. No wonder the colonialists scrambled here for slaves, minerals and land.

I also love the calmness of Southern Africa where rivers Zambesi and Limpopo meander. I love the wisdom of the late Jomo Kenyatta, the safari suits of Kenneth Kaunda, the teachings of the late Julius Nyerere. I love Africa... Africa for its great sportsmen and women... past and present... Roger Milla, George Weah, Maria Mutola... its great musicians... Franco Luambo Makiadi, Yusuf N'Dour, Salif Keita.

I love Africa's suffering children and disadvantaged women. I love Nelson and Winnie Madikizela Mandela... symbols of the continent's freedom and greatness. I love Africa.

## Laughter lines

### Divine trouble

A preacher was having trouble with his choirmaster on one particular Sunday, his senior was so much against alcohol, and so he preached. "I pray that God will strike all the trucks that transport beer so that all of it flows into the river." The congregation said "Amen!"

"I pray that God will strike bars so that all of the beer flows into the river," the congregation stood, clapped and said "Amen!"

"I pray that God will strike all the breweries so that all the beer flows into the river." Now the congregation stood, clapped and said "Amen!"

The preacher turned to his choirmaster and said, "Give us a song to go with that." His choirmaster went to the mic, cleared his throat and said, "We'll do a song that says "Lets all gather by the river".



*A fortune teller admits to a wife, "can't hide the truth from you, prepare to become a widow. Your husband is going to die soon".*

### WHAT'S UP!

- ◆ 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2005 – Tangaza Sports Day.
- ◆ 8<sup>th</sup> March Womens Day
- ◆ 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2005 – Tangaza Day and Graduation Day for the Theology department..
- ◆ Photo competition, submit any photograph to focusing on a social issue, winners will be awarded by Update.
- ◆ If you have any upcoming event that you want the College fraternity to know about, let us know and we will let them know.  
[Update@tangaza.org](mailto:Update@tangaza.org)