

Tangaza Update

A Publication of Tangaza College, CUEA

January, 2007

A HAPPY 2007!

On behalf of the entire Tangaza College Administration, the Tangaza Update Editorial Team would like to wish you all a very Happy and joyful new year. Welcome back to yet another academic challenge in your life, its surely bound to be an exiting semester!!!

By: Grace Kamuyu

2007 is promising to bring forth many good things. Well, it may depend on some of the resolutions you have made for the New Year. The other day, I was thinking aloud, "are these resolutions really followed up?" Who really stops to figure out what they actually resolve to do? Well, I may not be in a position to clearly say whether they are true or not, but I know that I myself made some few resolutions. For instance, I resolved to love more this year. We never know how much we have till we learn to give it away. "Love grows by giving. The love we give away is the only love we keep. The only way to retain love is to give it away," declares Elbert Hubbard. Remind yourself this year that each precious day offers new opportunities to give away love. This can be done by showing more tenderness, extending more forgiveness, expressing more appreciation, acting more considerately and exercising more compassion. So be it your brother, sister, parent or just a fellow classmate, make them feel worthy enough to be part of this wonderful earth that our loving God created. Whatever it is you resolved to do this year, do it to the fullest. Don't let it be that there will come a time when you are going to regret not having led a complete life. Live for today, since it is a present from the Almighty.

For some of my fellow students, it is the last year in this wonderful college. Of course meaning that they have to work day and night to finish the marathon they started three or four years ago respectively with a lot of psyche.

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WHAT'S ON?

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

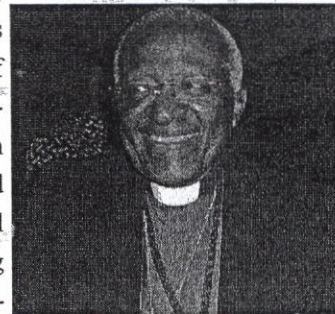
The Christian Unity week is on (18th-25th Jan.). Pleasant readings and prayers are already set out for the whole college. This year's Theme drawn from the book of Mark says "He even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak" (Mk. 7:31-37). What a wonderful master that we have, able to do all the miracles we can and cannot imagine!

It is a message of love, asking us what we are doing for one another. "The same spirit which makes us brothers and sisters in Christ also empowers us to reach out to every human being in need", as quoted in the week's message. All this week and beyond (may be forever) we will reflect on these inspiring messages as we extend an olive branch to all our brothers and sisters. Sure even the non-Christians are welcome to reflect with us at this time. May God bless you.

WORLD FORUM FOR THEOLOGY & LIBERATION: Spirituality for Another Possible World

By: Theophilus Nyamali

Between the 16th and 19th January 2007, theologians, researchers and people of diverse interests on human rights and ecological issues among others gathered at the Carmelite



Undying smile: Archbishop Tutu walks out after closing the WFTL Forum.

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Eyes are windows of the body through which we get light. Thanks to his eyes Jesus saw Zaccheus on the tree, called him down and told him "today I will dine in your house".

We thank the 'eyes' in our Tangaza house. How precious it is to know that some of us are watchful and alert to different happenings. It is great to create awareness.

In the Tangaza compound we have observed that there are many people who wear spectacles. Why? May be these people need to see well. The spectacles have different kinds of lenses...why is that?

The lenses help the eyes to focus in a certain direction. Oh!? We then thought: maybe the 'eye' in our Tangaza house needs to put on some lenses too. What kind of lenses would these be? Would they be doctor's lenses? Lawyer's lenses? Witches' lenses? Judge's lenses? Or police lenses?

As we continued our discussion, we bumped into an old lady with grey hair. On hearing our discussion she advised us to tell our 'eye' to put on **educative lenses**; oh! What is that? These are lenses that will not only help to see but they will help to insert the eye into the situation, trying to understand it and address it with more human dignity and a respectful approach. We then learnt that we were called to review our responsibility. All of us, in fact, can be deviant in one way or another and it is very easy to point our finger at other people. In being trained as ministers in Tangaza, could we not start ministering to each other by helping one another to grow instead of castigating other people's deviations?

Can we remember that Tangaza Update is not only read by Tangaza students? The language of the November article on 'puppy love' was too generalized and almost dehumanizing. How would other people who are not from Tangaza, and have no idea of the real and total situation, look at us? (especially the religious).

What our eyes see may not be the reality! How could the person (writer of "Puppy love") ascertain that a person has been for instance at the canteen for the whole day? One cannot surely know if some of the people present in the cafeteria have free periods, are discussing their lessons or even while socializing.

Can a religious person really spend a full day in the cafeteria? And where is that person to see that the person is there the full day? Is the 'eye' missing class too? However, there cannot be freedom without duties and responsibility.

We would like to call to mind the responsibility that each one of us has towards our brothers and sisters. We cannot be allowed to answer like Cain: "I am not my brother's keeper".

God has gathered us from the four corners of the world and we are all our brothers' and sisters' keepers! We would suggest to the 'eye' of our house, to call upon the other members of the body so that there should be many more 'eyes' in an active participation and educational watching, while keeping awake.

The educative lenses suggest that:

⇒ A kind and friendly remark could be used to remind a brother or sister our common aim of gathering in Tangaza.

⇒ Help to be drawn from students' reps., class reps., institutes' reps. and congregational reps., in our desire and effort to help our brothers and sisters grow in the sense of belonging and in the purpose of their stay in Tangaza. We can also help each other by telling a classmate: *Hi! I missed you in class!*

⇒ Let us try to use some respectful, kind and Christian language when talking about other people's sins, mistakes, mischief. African wisdom says that "*when you point one finger at your brother/sister, remember that three other fingers are pointed at you!*"

We extend Tangaza educational activities beyond the lecture rooms and the lecturers by developing a 'peer' educational attitude. The *educative lenses* invite all of us to move from being simple individuals to forming a community where we all belong.

People who can know and notice who is around in the class, who is absent, or sick. Notice who comes next to me in the library? What has the person brought with him?

Can we learn to see Jesus beyond the books, papers or notes that we are reading, and just give a slight attention to our brother and sister next to us?

Cont. from page 1

A Happy 2007!

It is also time to begin saying our goodbyes and preparing ourselves to face the world in our respective ministries/professions. For instance in the Institute of Social Communication the final year students are being prepared very well for the task ahead of us; the Institute has always done the best for us and is seeing to that right through to the end of our final year. A special and important course "Integration Seminar" which is offered this semester puts us in perspective; a summary of all we have been doing for the last three years. This course is a bit different from other courses we have had in the past. It involves having of retreats and writing reflections which will help us to integrate well and figure out where we would best fit as communicators/journalists. One would think it is a course offered in a Theology School, *hapana!* (No!), it is offered in Social Communication. This course will also offer us the opportunity of hearing from different professors in the field of communication/journalism; to give us a solid foundation and orientation of what we would expect in the field. We remain grateful to the administration of the institute, it is our greatest desire to go out there and implement all we have learnt and hopefully our era will make a difference in journalism; we shall stand for truth, justice and peace and be fair and objective in our reporting and coverage. It is our hope that we shall get job opportunities as soon as we graduate come May 2007. Best wishes for this lovely year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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COMING UP!

In our February Edition we will bring you more in-depth analysis on the just ended World Forum on Theology and Liberation and the on-going World Social Forum plus many more stories.

Center for the 2nd World Forum on Theology and Liberation (WFTL).

The forum brought together about 250 well known theologians and grassroots Christians from different continents and Churches to reflect on "Spirituality for Another Possible World". The forum gave room for debate on Theology and liberation, analysis of the social, political, economic and religious issues as well a bringing reflection on faith (theology) to impact on our concrete action in solidarity with the poor.

In these days of Globalization, the forum fostered inter-ethnic, inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue as people from various backgrounds, contexts or cultures were able to come together to share ideas, pull resources together in an attempt to develop a "Spirituality for Another Possible World". The deliberations and proposals acquired in this forum will be tabled at the World Social Forum whose motto is "Another Possible World." taking place in Nairobi from the 20th to the 25th of this month.

Some well-known theologians who were present at the WFTL include: Jon Sobrino (El Salvador), Sergio Torres and Diego Irarrazava (Chile), Ramathate Dolamo (South Africa), Patrick Kalilombe (Malawi). Desmond Tutu was the speaker at the closing address.

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

Another World is Possible!

Do you ever think that one day the human race will be extinct? May be the world will have come to an end! No, think again.

Well with a dying humane spirit the Earth is vast becoming inhabitable. Well, the World Social Forum is here in Nairobi (20-25th January). Tangaza is well represented in this global debate now brought home.

So, come out and be not just one among the decision makers but real actors. The biggest challenge in live may as well be being fully human and fully alive. Please participate in the World Social Forum indeed a new world and a new life is possible.

Write to us

If you have anything you want the College fraternity to know about, let us know and we will let them know.

Jokes, any information, articles etc are very much welcome. Send to:
update@tangaza.org or
vivianatime@yahoo.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE FUTURE

Fr. Ottone cantore

As I walk slowly silently gently out of the desert into the noise and frustration the future may hold, I know. I believe. I am chosen. A beloved disciple totally loved as I am in this moment of time. Don't let me look back - don't let me look too far forward. Just help me Lord to hold on tightly to the moment I clutch in my hand. For that's all I have.

I don't really own that. You have only lent it to me, Lord. I'll never have any more no matter how long I live; my hands can only hold one moment at a time. Help me Lord, to care for this moment so precious. I may not be given another one. Help me to love it and live it to the fullest in your peace and your joy, out of love. Help me to use it so well that it won't really matter if I don't receive another.

For this moment so well lived in accord with your will may take me with it. Who knows? Only you, Lord. As it slips silently and swiftly to its place in eternity, no moment returns, not even to be relived in perfection newfound repaired or renewed.

Help me, Lord, to treasure each moment so graciously given that none will return to you broken or bleeding empty or wasted,but filled.

Really filled with the love of your Heart - the Love of the chosen, the true disciple, totally loved. The Love of ONE who has totally received and totally given.

Gemma Trotter.

PRAYER OF A DISCIPLE

Loving God, that you would think my heart capable of belonging to you! You have filled my life with your goodness in so many ways. I hear the call to give myself to your love in an ever deeper and more complete way. I long to follow you so totally that you are evident in every fiber of my life.

I pray for faith, that long-lasting, true sense of you that weathers all storms, that comes across the waters bravely when you ask for me, that sinks into your love and lets go of anxieties and worries, that looks long into the eyes of others' sufferings, that takes care to be gentle with sinners and those whose lives are never free from intense pain of body or spirit.

I pray for love, that great and generous-enough love that looks compassionately upon all, that love which accepts others with their mystery, doubt, hesitation, that love which reaches out even though there is no response in return, that love which is patient and kind, that kind of love, which is your love, never jealous, boastful or conceited, that love which is never rude or selfish but rather, always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes.

I yearn for you to be the intimate Master, the one at whose feet I can sit and ponder the message, the one whose hand I call hold and walk with when I am afraid, the one at whose side I can sit as we taste the meal, the one whose robe I can touch, even in the crowd.

I will follow. I will rejoice in loving you and being loved by you. I need to hear your voice over and over and over again. I need to keep reclaiming all the intimacy you hold out to me. I need to let go of all the selfishness that binds me. I need to believe that you want to win over my heart completely.

JOKES

Laughter, the music of the soul

MIRACLE

Steven Mutuku

Doctor June who is known for miraculous cure of arthritis had a waiting room full of people when a little old man, completely bent over in half, shuffled in slowly, leaning on her cane.

When his turn came, he went into the doctor's office, and, amazingly, emerged within a half an hour walking completely erect with head held high.

A young lady in the waiting room who had seen all this, walked up to the little old man and said, its miracle!! You walked in bent in half and now you are walking erect. What did the doctor do? The little old man answered "miracle? What miracle? He gave me a longer cane".

MY SON IS A

Sr. Njideka Ngene

Four Catholic ladies are having coffee together. The first one tells her friends, "My son is a priest. When he walks into a room, everyone calls him 'Father'. The second Catholic woman chirps, "My son is a bishop. Whenever he walks into a room, people say, 'Your Grace'." The third Catholic woman says smugly, "My son is a cardinal. Whenever he walks into a room, people say, 'Your Eminence'." The fourth Catholic woman sips her coffee in silence. The first three women give her this subtle "Well..?" She replies, "My son is a gorgeous, 6'2", hard-bodied stripper... Whenever he walks into a room, people say, 'Oh my God...!'"

SIZE OF FAMILY

Grace Kamuyu

A Catholic, a Baptist, and a Mormon are bragging about the size of their families.

"I have four boys and my wife is expecting another. One more son and I'll have a basketball team!" said the Catholic. "That's nothing!" said the Baptist. "I have ten boys now, and my wife is pregnant with another child. One more son and I'll have a football team!"

"You both should be ashamed of yourselves!" said the Mormon. "I have seventeen wives. One more and I'll have a golf course!"

WHERE IS JESUS?

Anonymous

One day in Sunday school, the teacher was talking about Jesus is to the kids, "Bobby, where is Jesus?" asked the teacher. "Jesus is in heaven." replied Bobby. "Very good!", said the teacher. The teacher then asked a little girl, "Where is Jesus, Emily?" Emily said innocently, "Jesus is in my heart!". The teacher beamed at little Emily and said, "How very sweet!!!". The teacher now asked Timmy, "Timmy, where is Jesus?". "Jesus is in my bathroom." he said assuredly. "Please elaborate, Timmy.", the teacher said. Timmy then replied, "Well, every morning my dad gets up, bangs on the bathroom door and yells. Jesus Christ, are you still in there!!!"