

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Andrews Bowie, Director

IT mobile: +39 346 246 1885

UK mobile: +44 7825 279 439

US mobile: +1 901 219 8329

[abowie@gratiainternational.org](mailto:abowie@gratiainternational.org)

## GRATIA INTERNATIONAL REPORT JULY 26, 2012

There is no unrest where we are in the Southeast Nigeria - at Oba near Onitsha. Rather, the unrest up North is sending students to the safety of our schools. At Enugu, we have **1400** high school students, with **280** in residence, **190** boys, **90** girls. At Uga, we have **1540** students, made up of 820 High Schools, **400** grade school, **320** nursery school. In residence, we have **225**: **150** boys and **75** girls. Of these, **29** are physically challenged. All the physically challenged children have been more or less abandoned by their parents, so they are all on bursary and scholarship.

Tansian University, Umunya, is a government-licensed University in Nigeria. We are accepting students now for full time programs. We have a temporary Campus from here we have operated, while the main Campus buildings are being built. We have **1,200** students' residents at the temporary site, and have had up to **2,500** full and part time students. The main Campus of the University has **540** acres of well-located land, off a dual carriage way that goes to the Enugu Airport, **40** miles away. The land has fast moving streams running down each side of it, with a natural flowing spring coming out of the hill. So, it has abundance of fresh water for irrigation, and consumption. The main classroom buildings are being built now. The school is just outside Onitsha, a city of **3.2 million** people, on the Niger River, and **100** miles north of Port Harcourt.

In April this year, we had our first graduating set of **361** students, including **3** disabled students in a well-attended Convocation Ceremony. The Guest of Honour at the occasion is a leading figure in the country - President of the Senate. He is a strong Christian, spoke of his support, and was presented with our second Honorary Doctor degree on that day.

Our Curriculum for now is generally Arts Studies. We have a Communications Studio fully licensed for Radio and TV broadcasting. One of our students won a national Award last year in this field. The plan calls for up to **10,000** students fully built out. We have made arrangements with the **5** local villages to accommodate qualified students from these villages, with scholarships for over the next **25** years, thus, aligning their family interests with our own.

We have a Water producing Company at Uga - Iwene Tansi Table Water (ITW), with water drawn

**TAKE ACTION • DONATE • PARTICIPATE • CONTACT US**

**telephone: +44 (0) 7825 279 439 email: [info@gratiainternational.org](mailto:info@gratiainternational.org)**

**web: [www.gratiainternational.org](http://www.gratiainternational.org)**

and purified from two wells of **700** feet deep each. We produce both bottled and sachet water and distribute with **3** trucks on daily basis. Huge sales are recorded mostly by dry season- August to April of year. Income from the water business helps in taking care of the physically challenged persons and other categories of the needy: feeding, scholarships, etc. Operating cost is also covered. The project has operated successfully so far without any indebtedness.

Summary: We have about 5,500 students in total, 147 staff, including 14 PHDs, 10 Professors, 26 lecturers.

Great tribute must be given to Msgr. John Bosco, and his team for their selfless efforts in making all this happen. Lives and families are being changed, hope is restored. We believe God has a plan for each individual to fulfill his life. We are instruments in that process. All students are required to take a course in Philosophy of Life, which addresses the big issues. We also admonish on the individual responsibility to break the back of corruption, which is tearing the soul out of Africa, and the world.

Our Vision is informed by Christian values, dignity, respect, opportunity, hope, which are God-given gifts all human beings are created for. We stand for these values, and will not compromise them. After about **19** years, God has blessed this work, and continues to do so, not without many trials, challenges and struggles. We stay faithful to the Vision, and the students are the testimony to that. But, although we are informed by Christian values, we are open to people of all faiths.

Three Projects are in the pipeline this time for which we need help and advice on fulfilling them:-

1. **Sports Academy:** At the University, we have the land to build a Sports Academy, which is in the Master Plan: building a Soccer Field, track, dressing rooms, Spectator stands, and ancillary facilities. Africa has some of the finest athletes in the world. This academy would attract the finest Coaches, and we believe, the finest athletes from across Africa.

The vision is to fulfill the need of talented young people, not only to get the best coaching to develop their skills, but as well to acquire education to fall back on, when their sporting days are over. To the best of our knowledge, no other University in Africa provides this facility. We would envision assisting the athlete and his family, and encouraging anyone who wants to be professionalized in one athletics or the other.

The estimated cost for the Academy is **£350,000, or \$525,000**. This would give us first-class facilities to train our students, run Sports Retreats, even some day, perhaps, train the Nigerian Olympic Team. We intend to construct dams from the stream water for irrigation.

2. **New Female Hostels:** There is an initial budget of **£140,000., or \$210,000**. This would provide residence for about **80** female students. We propose that voluntary financiers would receive **90%** of the revenue for **5** years, estimated at **£70,000**, then the building would revert to the University as a donation. The Investor would get **2 ½** times his money within the period after tax deduction.
3. **The Vision for Rhodes type of Scholarship for students from across Africa:** to learn, interchange ideas, create relationships, build leadership, virtue, dignity, for the Africans to build their own future as equal participants on the world stage. They have so much to offer all of us. Some refer to this as a

**TAKE ACTION • DONATE • PARTICIPATE • CONTACT US**

**telephone: +44 (0) 7825 279 439 email: [info@gratiainternational.org](mailto:info@gratiainternational.org)**

**web: [www.gratiainternational.org](http://www.gratiainternational.org)**

**reverse mission.** We estimate we can endow a student seat for **\$15,000, or £10,000 lb.** We will have professional Managers of these Funds.

Gratia International assists Africans in building their own future, with dignity. That is what we represent and so much concerned about. We are unusual in charity, in that we do not chew up donations in fees and perks. All participate on a pro- bono basis. Anonymous donors who are honored for being part of this transformation work pay costs - perhaps another Mandella or Mother Teresa of the next generation is in our class rooms now!

**A short note on some of the ancillary benefits being received by the Communities we serve:** One is the growth in commercial activities in the villages around our Campuses - example the local house owners are being empowered by the earnings they make from the renting of accommodations to the students. Another example is the benefit that the local villages receive from our power line, at our Uga Campus. About 2/3 of the electricity in the entire neighbourhood is from our power line. This saves them the pains from constant black outs, and enables them plan all their electricity-assisted economic activities without fear.

###

Sources: Gratia International  
Web sites: [www.gratiainternational.org](http://www.gratiainternational.org)

**TAKE ACTION • DONATE • PARTICIPATE • CONTACT US**  
**telephone: +44 (0) 7825 279 439 email: [info@gratiainternational.org](mailto:info@gratiainternational.org)**  
**web: [www.gratiainternational.org](http://www.gratiainternational.org)**