



Why Christian Universities Matter – Forming People, Not Just Institutions, in the Heart of Africa

Tanzania stands at a crossroads of transformation. Rapid urbanization, digital expansion, and globalization are opening new doors for the rising generation, yet they also bring profound questions of identity and belonging. Where do I fit? What is my purpose? As the economy moves forward, society trembles. Technology advances, but the language of justice, truth, and peace becomes increasingly inaudible. What we need in such a time is not merely more technical education. What we need is the formation of people.

This is precisely why Christian universities matter. They are not simply institutions that confer degrees they are sacred spaces where a vision for a just, truthful, and peaceable life is cultivated, and where social agents are shaped to embody and pursue that vision. Philosopher Nicholas Wolterstorff rightly observes that “Christian learning is not private belief, but a public pursuit of truth rooted in faith.” Yet the calling of Christian higher education goes even further: not merely to teach ideas, but to form people whose lives reflect the demands of the Gospel.

Too often, theologians and educators become preoccupied with critiquing unjust social structures. This, of course, is necessary. But structures do not change societies people do. And transformation always begins with one person’s conviction, one person’s courage, one person’s faithful action. Christian universities must cultivate such people: those who speak truthfully, love justice, and choose reconciliation in the face of division. People whose lives echo the Gospel in word and deed.

To do so, Christian universities must foster a cultural atmosphere where truth and righteousness are honored, not ridiculed. No education can bear fruit in a climate where integrity is mocked and peaceful agents are silenced. A Christian university is not merely a place to teach knowledge and skills; it is a space where the very air and values of life are transformed. Professors must embody the Gospel they teach, and students must absorb that truth not only through lectures but through life together in laboratories, classrooms, and shared community.

In Tanzania, and across much of Africa, the role of Christian universities is especially vital. These societies bear the wounds of colonial exploitation, political corruption, poverty, and social fragmentation. No structural reform alone can heal such scars. Only a generation of Gospel-formed, Spirit-filled people and communities can rebuild the broken foundations.

That is why we confess: “What this land needs are not merely more buildings but people. And Christian universities are the holy communities where such people are formed.”



We exist not to analyze, but to act. Not to critique structures, but to shape character. Not merely to theorize, but to bear witness with our lives. In the midst of despair, the Christian university speaks with hope: We are not merely building buildings we are raising a generation.