

Christmas Greetings from Makang'wa

December 2013

Christmas Greetings from the Amani Family to all of our friends and supporters. I had the joy of seeing many of you over recent months during my travels to Australia and the United States. Warm thanks from all of us here for your prayers, good will and generous support.

During my recent visits to Australia and the USA there were many Presentations made of the Amani activities and, in the Unites States, quite a lot of driving. I was in familiar territory so that was quite fulfilling. I was reintroduced to driving on snowy, icy streets once again, without mishap! I am deeply thankful for the generous hospitality received during these visits. So many people are incredibly kind.

Children of Peace, Igondola.

This village based educational program is a great joy to us all, and especially to the children and local households. The end of this year brings wonderful news. *Thirty five* of a total of thirty seven preschool children have passed the primary school entry tests! Once again this is WAY ABOVE all other local preschools. For example, the local Compassion Center passed only six out of fifty two tested. We truly thankful for our group of five fine teachers, and for the cooperation of the guardians and parents. The Children of Peace Committee maintains a caring oversight of the school.

Fifteen Standard Seven children from the COP Saturday Program have graduated to secondary school. That 'graduating' number will increase over the next few years. One of the Form Four students, Gilbert Yohanna, has graduated to High School, with distinction. It is clearly evident that a positive experience in preschool, for many children, carries through to the primary and secondary years. I believe that there is something here about 'building on a firm foundation'.



On January 11th there will be a great 'Graduation and Thanksgiving Ceremony' at St. John's Church, Igondola. I trust that these fine results are an encouragement to all who sponsor children and in other ways support the Amani education program. Your participation in the lives of the children and young people is greatly blessed.

However, success has its cost, or should I say, opportunity. The great majority of the Secondary School students involved through our Students for Peace, (graduates from Children for Peace), are not personally sponsored. There are now *thirty four* such students! Blessings come with a cost at times- or we might say, an opportunity. To meet the minimal needs of each of these students for the 2014 academic year will require 3,700,000/= \$2,530.00 AUST, and \$2,300.00 USA. This will still require an extra 'work for support'

contribution from guardians and parents. A contribution towards this need would make a welcome Christmas Gift, and would be deeply appreciated.

The **Prince of Peace School** at Mvumi Makulu has also experienced a most positive year. I shall highlight that school in the next Report, in January. The year 2014 marks a milestone in the development of the school. We reach Standard Four, the first in the cycle of National Examinations which must be passed. The present Form Three children will 'eat' that exam! They are such a bright bunch of children.

The Christmas Trees are flowering (poinciana), and there are signs of rain to come. This has been such a long dry season. Rain will be a most welcome Christmas gift. A new highway into Dodoma is being constructed to the south west of us. In future we may take that route to Dodoma to avoid the extremely rough and destructive road which we now use. That renewed road will also be a welcome Christmas gift.

While in the USA I managed to complete the basic editing of a book I have written prior to sending it to prospective publishers. This has been a two year project. I pray that God's blessing will rest upon it. The book is not about John Naumann. It is about what life may become when lived in the loving purpose of God.... when we simply say "Yes."

We wish you all a most happy and blessed Christmas Season and a New Year filled with peace, purpose and blessings.

John Naumann and the Amani Family
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Do check the facebook link on the web page.

Ten of the students with Wilfred Makanalzi and Emanuel Mundo, Chairman of the Children of Peace Committee.





Children of Peace Students for Peace

St. John's Church
Igondola



We are both excited and challenged by the progress of the children and students involved in the educational programs at Igondola. It is a privilege to be involved with the young people, the local committee, and the parents and guardians. They firmly hold to a confident

Focus on the Future.

All support offered is effective in assisting the young people to hold to the course and succeed in the fulfilment of their hopes. This is a young nation. Many challenges lie ahead. The future of the nation and indeed, of the East African region, rests in the lives of young people such as these. I am most impressed by the achievements of these students, and of the teachers and leaders who instruct and encourage them. Truly, we operate on a shoestring budget and yet so very much is achieved.

I remember well our initial meeting with the Igondola children in 2006. It was a time of famine. Untrained teachers, and local leaders, were trying to sustain the lives 130 kindergarten and preschool children. Now, in late 2013 the teachers are trained, the leaders equipped, and the committee positive. Many people said that these local people were not capable of such progress! Actually, many long for it. These people have set a shining example within the surrounding communities..... and all on a shoestring.

As the December Report indicates, we do urgently need a minimum of \$2,540.00AUST or \$2,300.00USA to meet the minimum requirements of our secondary and high school students for the commencement of the 2014 school year. When spread over a total of forty students that is a rather thin spread. Of course, more would be welcome, but that does get each student in the door. Our Relief Work Program does also provide assistance in addition to this as family members, and students on vacation, can earn needed funds through doing essential work at an Amani center. I ask you to pray God's blessing upon the work, with thanksgiving for the dedication of the teachers, leaders and local committee members.

Every blessing.

John Naumann,
Amani Development Organization