

# Amani Development Organization, Makang'wa, Tanzania

P.O. BOX 2094, Dodoma, Tanzania

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*The photograph is of children at the Igondola Children's Project wearing their new uniforms.*

I trust this letter finds you well and enjoying the Spring Season. It is such a beautiful time of the year in the North West. I shall be there to enjoy the Fall later this year. That is also wonderful. The North West is surely a blessed region of the world.

Here we shall soon be in the dry season. We have had a rather indifferent wet season. It commenced late, then seemed to fail, then came back again with heavy rains and then seemed to fail again (Some crops began to wither) and then during Holy Week and Easter returned with torrential rains. It has been difficult for many people. However there will be a bountiful harvest of groundnuts. We have almost completed harvesting them now – all done by hand. The poor old back is not so supple nowadays. We have commenced to harvest maize and will shortly commence harvesting millet, all by hand.

Our vineyard is now beginning to look as it should. In about eighteen months it will look splendid as the new plantings begin to mature. The mature vines are now flowering following the recent pruning. Grape growing is a learned art! That is especially true in the tropical regions. The next step will be to purchase about a further 800 posts to support the lines for the new vines. We are so very blessed through the generosity of many people. I learned very recently that a friend in Brisbane, Australia is donating \$10,000.00 to the Tractor Fund. That is such a blessing. When I say 'friend' this is a man with whom I had no contact for 22 years until I visited Australia last year. But God has now inspired him with a vision for the work here. Well, that is exactly what God does when he wants a work to be done. Thanks to the generosity of friends in Montana we do now have the funding for the tractor itself but now need funding for the basic implements. The basic needs are as follows: Heavy Duty 5 Ton Non Tipping Trailer: \$7,960.00; 16 Disc Mounted Offset Disc Harrow: \$3,893.00; 3 Bottom Disc Plough Heavy Duty: \$2,920.00; Rotary Tiller/Rotovator 42 Blades \$4,600.00; Sunshade \$280.00. By making these purchases now we move a long way towards enabling the Center to achieve basic financial self sufficiency. We shall be able to do so much more. The trailer will be one of the most useful items here at the Center and at the School Site at Mvumi Makulu.

Two years here have taught us many things. Currently we are in the midst of a rather extensive reorganization of the operation of the Center itself. This involves reordering the workforce. We shall now have a more clearly defined division between Permanent workers and temporary workers. We are also greatly expanding the area of paipai and reducing the area of vegetables. The fruit trees require less work,

produce very well and do not attract insects as do the vegetables. We intend to plant at least 300 paipai. We shall still have a reasonably large vegetable area but it will be operated more in the sense of a 'demonstration' area than an attempt to earn funds through sales. Young cashew nut trees are now appearing above ground! The Department of Agriculture wants to experiment with the growing of cashews in this region.

We are encouraged by the erection of the windmill at Mvumi Makulu. This is a splendid sight and encouraging to the local people. The first water has been pumped and it is 'sweet water'! However it is not yet funded!!! The Water Project people have said to me, "Do not worry. The money will come. We will work along with you." We need a further \$12,000.00 to complete the funding of the Makulu Water Project. Apart from the Tractor Fund this is the primary need at this time. It is the enabling factor for progress on the school project. Two 5,000ltr elevated water tanks have been funded. This windmill will supply water to the Amani English medium Primary School and the new community Secondary School.

The land at Mvumi Makulu is most suitable for agriculture. We shall soon have 100 acres there. Presently there is a wonderful crop of millet and also groundnuts and sweet potatoes. There are many established mango trees on the land. As the school develops we shall have the opportunity to grow maize, millet, sweet potatoes and an extensive area of bananas, paipai and vegetables.

The next step is to erect the windmill at the Amani Center. This has basically been financed from Montana. We have only to get two 150 meter rolls of 2" poly pipe and the necessary fittings – about \$1,800 in all. The two tanks will be 300 meters from the well to give us sufficient elevation to connect to the present in-ground water distribution system.

Last Thursday we welcomed Gordon and Rea Matthews from Australia to the center. They intend spending eleven months with us. Rae is a Primary School teacher with extensive experience. She will become deeply involved with the children of the Igondola Children's project, just over the river from the Center. This is now a combined Community/Amani Project and is developing very well. Gordon has extensive experience in a number of areas – building, horticulture, tree planting and tree nurseries, etc. Yes, in some ways he is a 'jack of all trades'.

I have finally managed to get the house garden under control following an infestation of red spider mites. It really meant adopting a 'burnt earth policy' and then replanting. All is now looking fine once again and is demonstrating the benefits of Drip Irrigation. Amazingly up here 'on the hill' I have excellent paipai and bananas. The landscaping project continues to move along. It draws the attention of all who come to the Center. We have already named the area Makang'wa Gardens! Eventually it will encompass the areas about the housing, walking tracks through the forest areas and 'viewing points' from the great rocks along the hill.

Photo by Nash Spence



When I complete typing this letter I shall Take Rea Matthews over the river to the children at the Igondola Children's Project. Rae will be deeply involved with the children there. This year we hope to see a further strong advance in the development of the ministry there. The children look just fine in the new uniforms presented through a gift from Billings. Next week I expect to visit the Mahoma Makulu Children's Home site and see the progress there. Tomorrow I shall deliver a large sack of beans and a gift of funds (from Australia) to the office in Dodoma. Everything in relation to this ministry is accomplished by volunteers.

I am most hopeful that I shall be granted Permanent Residency within the next two months. That would be a great blessing to me and to the work here. It will also represent a wonderful 'official' recognition of the presence of the Amani Development Organization in Tanzania.

May God bless you and bless many through your faith and love.

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