

# REPORT FROM MAKANG'WA

August 2012

Greetings from this wonderful land.

**T**ruly, it is dry and dusty yet it is still 'wonderful'. Today was the day of the first large grape harvest. Last year was encouraging but this season we are seeing the fruits of years of hard and patient work. It takes time to develop a vineyard, especially in this climate and region. One of the chief problems is the voracious appetite of the termites. However persistence and constant vigilance wins the day. We have also been harvesting some excellent table grapes from the three vineyard areas but they are still in early production Today we harvested the Chenin Blanc – many cases of Chenin Blanc. It has been a great day for our grape team and indeed for all who joined in the harvest. In about four weeks we shall harvest the Makutupora Red. This will also be the heaviest crop to date. Next year will be better still as many young vines come to greater maturity.

**A** beautiful Harvest Moon lights the countryside tonight. Because of the dust in the atmosphere it rose a deep orange and has now turned to bright gold. Soon it will be a 'silvery moon'. It seems to be the perfect end to a perfect day.

However I should share that the 'perfect day' commenced with the noisy evidence of a broken 'cross brace' under the Twin Cab! Our driver, James, rode into Dodoma on a Motor Bike to buy a replacement part. The Twin Cab is now operational again. James is my right and left hand man. He is deeply thankful for the life he has through Amani and we are thankful for him.

**T**he 'perfect' day drew to a close with the news that the 'switch' on the tractor has given up and needs to be replaced! The driver will go to Dodoma in the morning to get a replacement for that. Mark is also a most reliable young man. Saturday is not a normal work day but he will not require overtime (which is law here in Tanzania). Again he is thankful for the work and the responsibilities entrusted to him. His work companion on the tractor is a man named Alex. Alex would never win a 'most handsome man' contest but he is one of the best men I know. Alex is 'integrity plus'.

**Y**esterday I received a text message from a young man, Julius Yohonna Lubeleje. Julius is entering his final year at the Mvumi Hospital Laboratory Assistant Training School. I first met Julius several years ago when he came to the Amani Office seeking assistance to maintain himself in Secondary School. Julius has virtually no family. He was desperately poor, living in a 'rented' room in a traditional Gogo house, fending for himself. The only furniture was a small stool. He is one of those people who do not know the meaning of "no" or "never". He knew where life would lead if he failed to continue through Secondary School. He could see it about him. His eagerness and enthusiasm spoke volumes. I recall him saying at the time that most people's cows had a better life than his. Probably true! I managed to assist him through Secondary School. He passed but not brilliantly. In fact it was, for Julius, 'high marks' just to obtain a pass. The Headmaster was proud of him. He later sat for the entrance examination for the Laboratory School – and passed. He is now about to commence the final year of study there. He did have a sponsor for the first year of Lab. School.

Yesterday he was on a bus to Dar es salaam, going to a hospital there for the 'practical' segment of the training. On the way he texted me the following message.

*Good evening, my fellow sponsor in the world. You are the person who boosts my life. For myself, in the natural, it is very difficult. So thanks very much for help and kindness because through you my life will be changed when I finish college. Likewise, all the best. God bless you and make all your DREAMS to be successful. Julius Yohanna Lubileje. (typed as he sent it.)*

I try to emphasize that I am just the 'face' of many, many friends and encourage them to see past me to YOU. Julius is a truly thankful young man. He is one of the most 'positive' people I know. Failure is not on his horizon. His daily living circumstances are still tough but he will make it. He has become one of the Ámani family'. I suspect that it is probably difficult for many people to understand what that means here. To sum it up it means 'I have a life'.

Julius needs assistance for his final year. Thank you for past support. Now he is looking to the finishing line. The need is for 1,800,000/= . That is about \$1,100,00 however at this stage \$500.00 will see him into the next semester.

**T**hank you to the people from Montana who recently sponsored the three catechists at Ibihwa Christian Formation Center and to the couple from Australia who have sponsored two Teacher Aids from our new school to Teacher Training College. I wish you could be here to see the joy! We are so very blessed.

**C**urrently there are three young men here from the Sokoine University of Agriculture at Morogoro for their final year Field Work Assignment. These are three FINE young men – a joy to have with us. They have so very much to share which is a great help to our key workers. Presently they are concentrating on the Pig Project. This is a relationship we want to encourage. I know these men will return to the University singing the praises of Amani.

**I** spent some time in conversation with one of the young men, Petro or Peter, tonight. His degree course is in Community Planning and Development. He is so keen to see the rural communities develop. He made this comment which I must share. He said, " Makang'wa village is different from other villages. The people are hopeful. As I walk in the village people speak about their plans and hopes. They are thankful for all Amani does but they also see it as an encouragement for their lives. This village is different."

Thank you all for your prayers, generosity and encouragement of the work here. It is challenging, at times frustrating, yet in the midst of many concerns immensely fulfilling.

May God's blessings ever rest upon you.

John Naumann  
Managing Director, Amani Development Organization  
Phone # 255713141150  
[www.amanidevelopment.org](http://www.amanidevelopment.org)