

# Report from Makang'wa

February 2011

## Very Good News!

**The Prince of Peace Preschool and Primary School will open on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February.** It has required much hard work and the love of many people to reach this goal. On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January the first meeting of parents was held at the primary School. There was great enthusiasm and joy. Fifty eight parents attended plus village officials and School Committee members. Two large funerals at Mvumi Missions and another at Makang'wa kept some people away. The Preschool will take 60 children. On Saturday 55 were enrolled! Primary School Standard One will also take 60. That day 35 were enrolled. I am confident we shall commence with close to the target. For financial reasons we do need to reach the target. Whether there are 120 or 320 we still need to pay for the same Headmaster, Secretary, Security and general Caretaker/Volunteer Work Organizer. The initial two years will be challenging, then matters will ease, year by year. In two years time the grapes at Mvumi Makulu will commence production, supporting school operation.

I intend within the next two weeks to send photographs of children and staff. This last week prior to opening will be busy to say the least, however it will also be exciting as we approach the 7<sup>th</sup>. "Thank you" to the amazing team of volunteers at the Thrift Shop, Banoon, Brisbane and to all who support this work. "Thank you" also to supporters in the US who contributed to the Sponsorship Fund, enabling more children to benefit from this excellent project. This is a 'work for sponsorship' program therefore many parents will be volunteering on a regular and organized basis at the school.

Children of Peace at Igondola continues to flourish. Presently there are 130 in Kindy/Preschool and 160 in the Junior Primary Program. We are currently installing the concrete floors in the new double classroom building, then come the windows and doors. It is costly. Any gifts targeted to the cost of these items will be much appreciated. The new rooms are urgently needed for proper class division. We need two doors/doorframes @ \$140.00 each. We need 10 Windows @ \$130.00 each, plus \$200.00 for cement to 'finish' each room once these items are installed.

Work on the new Toilet Block will commence in about two weeks. The LARGE in-ground water tank filled in the first two storms of the season. If this season brings one or two more falls of

rain there will be adequate water for the year ahead! Do pray about this as the rain seems to have departed early once again and crops are starting to wither.

The Preschool children and teachers at Children of Peace and Prince of Peace are very thankful for the teaching materials purchased through donation from St. Luke's Anglican School at Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia.

Recently we were able to conduct, with great joy and praise, the initial distribution of Bibles to Sunday School teachers from our Deanery on this Diocese. Eighty Seven teachers received Bibles and will soon also receive teaching materials. Many walked very long distances that day. These Bibles were donated through the Bible Society of Tasmania. (This illustrates how widespread the Amani family has become.

**I do have a sponsorship request!** A local young woman from Mvumi Makulu (single parent family) has commenced training as a Primary School teacher at the Anglican Province Teachers' College, Mtumba, east of Dodoma. Mariam Eliah is a truly impressive young woman. She gained 76% overall in the first semester results. She would have been in the low 80% but English pulled her down. She is really very bright. The need is urgent. Her mother, a local subsistence farmer, is willing to become the cook at the new Preschool in response to sponsorship for her daughter. This is a half day job, allowing her time for farm and family. I hope this need speaks persuasively to one or more people. A partial contribution toward the total need of \$700.00 would as appreciated as would a total sponsorship. This is her first of two years. Sponsorship therefore means that Mariam receives her education and the Preschool children receive their daily 'porridge'.

We also have a young man, an orphan, at the Laboratory Training School, Mvumi Mission Hospital, who needs sponsorship. The figure is the same as for Mariam.

As I close this I am so very conscious of the severe floods in Australia and now the impending destruction to be caused by the cyclone approaching the north. It is difficult to imagine so much striking this area in so brief a time. Our hope and faith are tested – and proved! That is the peace of the Christian life. Meanwhile we see that much of the Muslim world is in turmoil even as so much of the west seems to be in spiritual decline. Can we hear the call of Jesus in the midst of this? Truly, as a man sows so shall he reap! We reap distress and disorder. But Jesus said, "I am planting a tree which shall bear fruit!" That fruit shall be sweet for surely the tree of which he speaks is related to the Tree of Life, bearing fruit season by season and through its touch bringing healing to the peoples.

Every blessing,

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