

Report from Makang'wa - February 2008

Amani Development Center, P.O. BOX 2094, Dodoma, Tanzania.

Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you for your prayers and support. Without your care we would be literally 'dead in the water'. Yes, it is the WET SEASON here!

The world is GREEN. Now I understand that for some of you at present it may be white however here it is surely green. After an uncertain start the wet season has settled in and has provided abundant rain for this region. It has really been better than the excessive rains of the last wet season. Our rain water tanks are overflowing! It is distressing now to see rain water running down the hill. By this time next year we shall have another in-ground water cistern installed. I have had some men digging the hole over the past two weeks but that has been chiefly to get gravel for road maintenance. (It is called 'killing two birds with one stone!') The large cistern near the well now provides fresh rain water for the cooking and refreshment for the workers.

Before Christmas we installed rain guttering and PVC pipe for a cistern at the Mvumi Makulu Primary School. They are now also enjoying clean rain water. There is a plan developing to work together with local school staffs and committees to install cisterns at all local schools. Our men are quite able to do the work. The potential is there to collect some large volumes of water. Certainly this will be a priority for the new Secondary School at Mvumi Makulu and for our Amani School.

The wet weather has halted further development plans at the Amani School site. However the



land looks very fine indeed. Forty acres are planted with millet and five Apart from the need to produce some income from the land there is also the necessity to be seen to be USING the gift. The local village is now extending the gift of land by a further fifty acres! That constitutes both opportunity and challenge. A fine young man named Athanasio Mahajile is our Farm Supervisor. He is also a catechist at a local congregation. A

Jonas Makalenzi is our Security man. Both men are proving to be most trustworthy. In the photograph Alison Jackson from Australia is admiring a very large baobab tree on the land.

We recently experienced a major breakdown of the pump at the well. Both the submersible pump



and motor had to be replaced. Fortunately our supply of rain water more than covered our needs for the twelve days it took to inspect order and install the new equipment. The picture shows the large new cement tank at the garage. If you can enlarge it you will see water pouring out of the overflow pipes. Two falls of rain met the needs of the vegetable area and newly planted grape vines. (I have just had a 'normal' interruption; an old

man wanting to sell chickens and a young woman begging for food for herself and her children. These were followed by my week end cook, Gideon, bringing me half a small cooked squash to 'taste'. He knows my weakness.) To continue – I do not yet have the

bills for the new submersible pump however I am anticipating about \$2,000.00US – including travel and installation charges.

This wonderful wet season holds the promise of a great harvest. This past Friday I walked over our large shamba (farm). We have about thirty acres of maize, eleven of groundnuts and about three of sunflowers. That does not include grapes, fruit trees and vegetables. Everything is developing very well. Now, can you imagine harvesting all of that by hand! It is a daunting prospect yet it will have to be done. Here is where I need to emphasize the second need, the tractor and accompanying equipment. (I did not mention the harvesting of the fields at Mvumi Makulu. The key problem: where do we store the harvest from 40 acres of white millet?) It really is essential that we have a tractor with trailer by harvest time, chiefly to handle the produce. Our Godown (large shed) will be bulging at the seams! (We do have a number of competing ‘essentials’ but this one is present priority.) I know there was a most generous response in the USA to Ralph Spence’s letter. Can we extend that generosity a little now to enable this goal to be reached – and yet have operating funds in hand? Wonderfully I do now have in hand the basic funds for the installation of a windmill at our Makang’wa well. This will greatly reduce our monthly diesel bill during the dry season. This wet season it is truly ‘heavenly’ not to have the weekly fuel expense for our pump.

I expect that within two weeks I can produce some focused Reports on the varying aspects of the Amani work. Nash Spence (Billings, Montana) is gathering video footage and interview material. The photograph shows Nash as soccer practice with some of our Amani team. When he returns to Billings his video material will be used to create a promotional presentation which we hope will help to broaden interest in the work here. Alison Jackson (Hearts for Africa – Brisbane, Australia) recently spent four weeks here. Her last visit was in the dry season. This time she experienced the joy of ‘Tanzanian Eden’. Well, at times it seems close to that. The local monkey troop have become great friends. The ‘old guy’ comes to my door to let me know it is time for peanuts. At the present time there is so much food available to them that I sense they come just to say “Hi.”



Today, Sunday, we drove through heavy rain to the local St. Mark’s Church for the 8.00am Service. We commenced at 9.00am due to the rain but we were few in number. I preached from Philippians 3:17 – 4:4. Last Sunday we were at the Mungaano Parish Church. As it was my first time there they had pulled out all stops for a great celebration. It is a pretty area. Before we departed a severe storm was approaching. As we had two river beds to cross I was rather anxious to get under way.

The heart of the Amani work and ministry is ‘Community Involvement’. We are known for that and you are thanked for that by the village communities. We could be a work and ministry which simply focuses on one thing, and perhaps do that well and say “No” to every other need but in my understanding that is not how God has placed us. Life here is demanding – but also VERY GOOD.



Finally, Alison with orphans and children from very poor families at a center where the buildings are truly falling down! We presented \$500.00US to assist with a new building.

To the right some of the orphans we support at Igondola – just over the river. We have completed a new classroom and are now planning a new Teacher's room and storage area. Funds have been donated for uniforms for all of the children. Fifty are in the local Primary School. Amani fully supports this ministry working with the local Children's Committee.



Every blessing,

John Naumann
Amani Development Center
Makang'wa
Tanzania