



A Letter from Makang'wa

Lent 2010.

Dear Friends,

Greetings on what is here a HOT Sunday afternoon. This morning I preached and celebrated at both morning Services at St. Mark's Church, Makang'wa. The Scriptures were Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 and St. Luke 13:31 – 35. There were many children and young people present. These scriptures seemed 'just right' for these congregations.

About four nights ago I woke to find the moonlight shining brightly through the window at the head of my bed. It was very bright! As I held up my hand I could see the lines on my palm very clearly. Then the thought came to me, 'This is really the light of the sun!' *The moon is simply a great reflector.* Surely it is an effective reflector but that is all. Of itself it produces no light. Apart from the sun it is very DARK. The Christian's joy is that we live in the light of the Lord. The psalmist wrote, "The Lord is my light and my salvation." When a Christian welcomes the Light of Christ to shine clearly into his or her life what a glory of reflected 'light' is cast into the environment about that person. Perhaps this might be our prayer this Lent: *'Lord, I do not want to be like a 'new moon', reflecting only a sliver of your light because the shadow of the world's sin effects my attitudes and actions. No! By your grace, and my desire, let the 'darkness' be gone and your light shine freely in me and from me.'*

THE FAMINE HERE is effecting all of life. Last Monday there were 204 at the Cross seeking assistance. We can schedule 50 per day – but because of the evident distress and need we had 71 working that day. On Wednesday there were 311 at the Cross, seeking help. I thank God that through the generosity of many people we are able to offer some assistance.

The situation is impacting greatly upon the ability of parents to maintain students in Secondary School. This week, in addition to the above numbers, we had 26 people working to raise the money for school fees. Each one needs a minimum of \$40.00. (I can offer work for one, two or three weeks depending on availability of funds @ 15.000 per week.) It does cost considerably more but this 'gets you in the door'. When people ask, "Do you conduct a school?" I believe I can say, "Yes, we do conduct a Kindergarten/Pre School and also a well attended after school Tuition Program (in all 415). But AMANI also enables very many Secondary School students to attain classes. The Mloa Secondary School, to the south of here, has an excellent academic record. Most of the assisted students attend Mloa Secondary.

THE MATAMBULU CHRISTIAN FORMATION CENTER, to the west of Makang'wa, is in the midst of crisis. Again, the famine has impacted the ability of students to pay the minimal fees. These are all adults and as far as I know all are husbands or wives with families at home. I know three of the students and their families very well. Presently six of the final year students are in great trouble and in need of assistance. Fees for the second semester are \$100.00AUST per student. If anyone can assist with a contribution towards this need for \$600.00AUST there will be great thanksgiving. A gift of any size is welcome. These 'catechists' are really the front line evangelists and lay pastors of the congregations. They are worthy of support.

Additionally, over Holy Week and Easter Week they are sent out on Evangelistic Missions. At this time it is extremely difficult for the local people to provide total housing and food for two weeks. The Principal has asked me to try to find \$300.00 to assist the students with these basic needs. If evangelism is your heart's concern perhaps you may be able to assist with this Mission.

Thank you for your prayers, messages and fellowship. We are greatly encouraged.

John Naumann.

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