

A note from Fr. John, Amani Center, Makang'wa.

This is a time of change in the world. However, we shall move through it. Let us pray that the urgent work in the development and testing of a vaccine will be blessed with success, and that we shall determine to live in a spirit of responsibility towards our neighbours.

The activities of Amani have been severely impacted by the continuing rains. This is semi arid Central Tanzania AND there is MOSS growing around the center housing! I have been spending some time each day opening drains to move water through the lower grape and maize areas. The land simply cannot absorb more water. However, the forest is luxuriant, the center housing is almost hidden within the tree growth, the birds are singing and there are tadpoles all over!

Our immediate challenge is financial survival. Amani activities touch on the lives of many thousands of people. In Australia two of the key support enterprises in Brisbane have to close for an indefinite time due to the coronavirus. These are the Thrift Shop and the stalls at the Saturday Markets. Monthly distributions to Amani will be reduced at a time when conditions here, across all activities, especially the operation of the Prince of Peace school buses, are incredibly difficult. The answer clearly lies in increasing locally generated income. We are looking to three areas of opportunity as expressed in the Report.

1. The improved block making enterprise at the Amani Center. We consider this to be critical to the immediate operation of Amani. In this region the rains WILL cease, the harvest will be gathered in, and many people will be building.
2. The student related PIG PROJECTS. The Prince of Peace Student Project, commenced by the Cox family of Billings, is leading the way. We need to steadily increase involvement at Prince of Peace and, as indicated in the Report, extend to the Children of Peace students at Igondola/Makang'wa. It seems important to move from the traditional 'sponsorship' model to a system which enables local and continuing financial contribution.
3. The need for an expanded pig raising facility at VIMECHIA (Street Children). This need is immediate! It will be a simply constructed facility. Secondary school students at the Home are assisting with the care of the pigs.

A general note: Abel Petro, Amani Staff, is now the Amani Secretary for Facebook entries. He is super keen to increase the impact and usefulness of this work. We hope to be able, in short term, to bring the Hearts for Africa web page up to date, and then to continue with regular contributions.

With thanks for your support and prayers for your health,

Fr. John

Approved by: Godson Magawa, Managing Director, ADO.

Report from Makang'wa

March 2020

Greetings from all at the Amani Center, our Schools and VIMECHIA.

Fr. John writes:

It is seldom that we pray for rain to move on but this is one of those seasons. But we are thankful for the restoration of the sub-soil moisture and the water table. The land is refreshed. It may be that in some areas we need to relearn lessons long forgotten. My father used to say, "If you build on the flood plain you should expect to be flooded some day." Thankfully, the Amani Center is on a hill. As I type this the forecast is for rains for the coming five days! Our school buses are facing many problems, on the flat land!!!



News from the Staff.



We are working to clear the growth of weeds and grass at our Amani sites. In several areas we are re-cleaning where we worked about four weeks ago. The fact is that, when we attempt to clear weeds and grass in the wet ground, we mostly simply move it, and on it grows again. But the grape lines must be cleaned.

Children of Peace Preschool and Student Program, Igondola.

There are currently fifty enrolled at the Preschool. In the photo we see twelve of the 2020 small children, together with the Principal and the Secretary. Twenty nine children graduated to Primary School in January of 2020. Our present need is for primary school uniforms for these children.

Cost: USD \$175.00/AUD \$272.00.

Every year now COP students are graduating from Primary to Secondary School. We are introducing the Pig Project to these households when the

students are in Standard VII at primary school. They will then have the funds to enrol and to proceed through secondary and high school. It costs 110,000/= to set up a household with the initial two pigs. We shall need ten gifts to commence this program. Each household receives this funding once only!

Cost: \$48.00USD/ \$75.00AUD.



At the Center, VIMECHIA and the Prince of Peace School the fields of maize, millet and sunflower are impressive. If the rains move on before harvest time we shall have an abundance of blessings. Workers are beginning to prepare the 'bandas', or drying racks, for the harvested grains. After a drying period we thresh the seed. This work is surely LABOUR INTENSIVE.



VIMECHIA – Children’s Home. The pigs have been producing many ‘children’. That is how the staff describe them. The developing success of the project means that there is an urgent need for more sty space. There is a ready market for weaners, or developed pigs. Currently there are 86 pigs. Many of these are ‘children’. Gifts towards a target of 3,500,000/=, for twelve pens, will be received with thanks. **This converts to \$2,324.00Aud/\$1,526.00USD.**

Center Block Making Project. We are steadily moving towards the establishing of the improved Block Making Project. We have the funds for the purchase of the power operated machine, but now need the funding for the installation of the power connect from the gain mill to the site, with necessary controls. Abel recently received an order for 4,000 of our hand-made blocks. When the machine is operating orders will greatly increase. Rain or shine, this will increase locally generated income. **The need is for \$1,500.00USD/\$2,260.00Aud.**



May the blessings of God rest upon you, and upon the activities of Amani.

Godson Magawa,
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