



Dear Friends,

Firstly I thank you for your kindness and hospitality during my recent visits to Australia and the USA. I was truly blessed by the welcome and also by the many opportunities to share about the work of the Amani Center and the various outreach and support ministries which flow from the Center.

We are greatly encouraged by the evident growth in support for the work here in Tanzania. Truly, the Lord went before and prepared the way. Meanwhile here the people have prayed for blessings – and the blessings flowed. I could surely have spent more time in both Australia and Montana/Wyoming responding to invitations to share on the work. The breadth of support is encouraging and witnesses powerfully to the Lord's deep concern for the life of the people here.

It has been quite an adjustment for me to move back into the realities of life here. I am deeply impacted by the cultural, social, economic and 'developmental' differences. (Flat tires, internet 'down', l-o-n-g lines at the bank and 'constant' visitors!) This is the dry, windy and dusty season. One could scarcely imagine a greater contrast than that of Fall in Montana and Oct./Nov. in central Tanzania. However, the rain is coming. It is quite amazing to see trees budding out and flowering – before the rains come. It is as if nature is preparing to celebrate the season of renewal and joy.

Immediately on my return we moved into high gear with preparations for the wet season. Trucks have been delivering manure (for grape lines and general agriculture), sand and rock for building and also delivering materials from Dodoma to the Center. This week a truck will bring hard wood posts from a village to the south of here for the vineyard project. We have almost completed two rains water cisterns. The photograph shows one in the early stages of 'digging'.



Land has been prepared for planting at the Amani Center and also at the school site at Mvumi Makulu. This is all done with hoes! It is hard work. After the people complete the day here at 3.00pm most then go on to work at their own farm plots (shambas). They have a long day.

We have been assisting a number of people to repair their homes. This has been done through work opportunities and also several short-term small loans (regular workers). We have also 'gifted' new iron roofs to two elderly blind people. Their traditional clay roofs collapses during the last wet season. It is significant that many more village dwellings now display new iron roofs.

This past week has been a week of anxiety – and intense prayer! On Tuesday evening Albert, the Secondary School student, was stung by a scorpion. Believe me, that is very painful. At 3.30am we drove him to the hospital as he seemed to be showing signs of significant distress. But by morning all was well. Then, on the Wednesday evening Furaha, one of our young men, was bitten by a large black snake! (Our vehicle was in Dodoma overnight.) Furaha was immediately in intense pain. The snake was killed. Everyone here was sure it was a mamba! Therefore – local panic. After frantic phone calls we managed to get a car to come from Mvumi Mission to transport him to the hospital. Meanwhile many locals wanted him to go to a traditional healer and carried him off to the local 'witchdoctor'. (Now that is not quite as you might think!) Finally the car arrived and, as we thought, rescued him from the 'medicine man' and transported him to hospital. He was in such pain! Next morning family members insisted that he be taken to a traditional healer as they felt that the hospital has achieved very little. In the meantime about eighty people had gathered about the great Cross at the Center to pray for Furaha. Praise God, he is recovering well and we pray there will no lingering effects of the poison. (The snake was not a mamba but was probably a member of the cobra family.) Now we need some peace for a time. (Late entry: Two evenings ago our Security man was 'dozing' (he says) and was startled to hear a hissing sound! A large cobra was poised, with hood spread. He was able to spring to one side and then managed to kill the cobra. Perhaps he will not 'doze off' again.

This incident has impressed upon me the need for a second vehicle. If the one and only vehicle is away (as it will be again from this Sunday through Tuesday evening) there is no transport readily available when such events happen. For example, if the snake had been a mamba or a common cobra Furaha would almost certainly have not survived the delay in treatment. Well, we have so many pressing needs, but God knows and He will provide – and sustain us.

Over the next two weeks I intend to visit most of our extension' projects. I shall then prepare a Report on these projects. Of special note will be the progress on the initial residence for the children supported through the Dodoma Childrens Project. This is an exciting development. A clearer vision is also developing for the work with needy children at Makang'wa.

There is deep thankfulness as students benefit from the sponsorship program supported from both Australia and the USA. Currently this supports young people at Nursing/Laboratory School, Teachers Training College, Secretarial College and Secondary /High School. Special gifts are also supporting four young adults at Bible College. Note that with only three exceptions every sponsored student or a parent has worked to raise part or all of the necessary funds.

Today, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>, is the final day for my sister and brother in law here at Makang'wa. Tomorrow morning they drive to Dodoma, worship with the 'missionary community' at the Cathedral and will then be driven to Dar es salaam in preparation for their flight out late Monday afternoon. They will be greatly missed. On the way home the car will call in to the Agricultural Center at Morogoro. The Department of Agriculture is donating 180 more improved banana trees to the Center. This is in addition to the 60 already donated. Transport will require at least two trips to Morogoro. The Dept. Also wants us to consider a donation of Cashew Nut trees as they wish to introduce them to this region. More work – many holes to prepare!

May God's rich blessings rest upon you and prosper all that you do in His Name.

John Naumann



Late news: Our student volunteer, Nash Spence is busy learning Swahili and teaching guitar. Presently he is experiencing the joys of painting some of the timber about the housing. We are still waiting for the rains to commence. We had two days of rain on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> but this was 'unnatural' as it came from the east. It was the overflow of a strong influence on the coast and not the true beginning of the 'wet'. The next newsletter in early Dec. will present up to date information on a number of projects.