

REPORT FROM MAKANG'WA

September 2012

Greetings from all of the 'Amani Family'. This identity as a 'family' was brought home to us in a generous manner by three Final Year students from the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro. Joseph, Azalia and Abel spent five weeks with us on Field Work experience, necessary for graduation in a few weeks time. They greatly enjoyed their time here and we benefited from their knowledge and expertise. Their University Supervisor who visited here was also greatly impressed by the Amani Center and philosophy of operation, and also the care offered the students. It would seem that some students have a rather bitter Field Work experience. At his suggestion we are now developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University. This means that we shall receive students each year and also have access to the expertise of the University. The students said, "Here we are treated as part of the family. This has never happened to us before."

Two of the students have offered to 'volunteer' at Amani for a period of six months prior to moving on to general employment. They will be most welcome. One of their projects while here was developing a Dairy Cow Project. That is not such a simple matter in this environment. We hope to be able to combine this with a BioGas Project. These men are each from very poor village backgrounds. Their goal is to work in village areas, endeavoring to lift the life experience of their people. I just love it! They share the vision! When I asked them how they discovered Amani they all offered the same answer, "The Internet. We were looking for a community related experience and Amani seemed to be the perfect fit."

We have harvested the Chenin Blanc grapes and all of the Table Grapes. This is by far our best year to date and points to a sound future in this area of activity. Next week we harvest the Red Wine grapes. The vines are quite beautiful, bearing the large deep purple bunches of ripening grapes. Within about six months we shall have almost doubled the total area planted to grapes. Amani Table Grapes were a big 'hit' at the recent National Agricultural Exhibition held just to the east of Dodoma. We are greatly encouraged that now local grape growers are wanting to use the Amani Vineyards as a 'model' for developing their own areas. Our Grape Teams are enthusiastic to provide all assistance requested.

Four separate Micro Finance Programs are now in operation from Amani. These involve: Tomato Growers, Grape Farmers; House Renovation/Construction and Vegetable Growing. The last is the most recent. This program operates at Kikombo Village to the north east of here. A section of the village land is in a fertile valley with a high water table. Presently there are eight registered groups, each of three farmers, participating in the program. Each group has received a 'Money Maker Pump'. These are both hand or foot operated. Each group chooses their particular pump. The pumps are a USAID project, the cost of each pump being subsidized by the US Government. There is much enthusiasm – and thankfulness.

Prince of Peace English Medium Preschool and primary School continues to advance. It is such a happy place. The new Administration Building is now at the 'plastering' stage, prior to the installation of ceilings and painting. There will be quite a lot of fitting out required. IT IS IMPRESSIVE. All will be well in hand for the first intake of Standard Three students in January. I am 'hopeful' that we can construct a dedicated Kindergarten building in the near future.

In mid September we hope to welcome Katie Chapman, a volunteer from Australia. Katie is a member of the Australian Armed Forces, currently on leave. She is widely experienced in 'volunteer

activities' and is a deeply committed Christian woman. We shall therefore have three volunteers in the immediate future.

Thank you for generous support for the work and varied activities of Amani. Special thanks to the students and staff of **St. Luke's Anglican School, Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia**. Once again they have raised \$3,000.00 to enable the purchase of text books for the Prince of Peace School! Thank you, St. Luke's.

Currently we are nearing the commencement of the new 'College' year. All fees have been increased for this new year of study, especially at the three 'medical school' at the nearby Mvumi Mission Hospital: Nursing, Clinical Officer (local doctor), Laboratory Assistant. There have been so many requests for assistance. I have needed to turn many away however the problem is to keep presently sponsored students in place and also assist some who are in their final year – but are unable to complete the fees. All come with documentation from the respective College Principals. All are young adults from village settings, mostly single parent homes – or very poor circumstances. Our Auditor (mentioned later) is very impressed by the sponsorship activities of Amani as this relates to the village situations. Presently I have **eleven students** who each need a 'lift' this year. Some assistance has come directly through our supporting Foundations but funds are limited there and gifts are often directed to 'targeted' projects. **If we could receive eleven donations of about \$250.00 each we would meet the immediate need.** *Thank you to the supporters who responded to the last appeal. There are four very thankful people.* Be assured that without some assistance these young village people have practically no hope of advancing in life, especially in these particular fields.

The second immediate need is for 'housing assistance' for a very old woman and her legally blind adult son. Presently they are living in a broken down traditional house, broken through heavy storms last season. The intention is to rebuild with an iron roof. They would then be secure. Walls will cost \$112.00, termite proof timber will cost \$160.00 and roofing iron \$145.00. Local men will construct the building.

We have just completed the Annual Audit of our accounts. Once again we have received a CLEAN AUDIT. This is a 'great relief'. Our activities are now so varied it does require much attention to detail to keep all on track. I am deeply indebted to our Secretary/Cashier Dinna Menda and our Accountant Mr. Lewis Kasembe. AND personally also to my Secretary when Rector of St. Stephen's, Billings. *"Fr. John, where is the receipt?"* Betty held my feet to the fire! Well, not quite like that but she was 'particular' and that is the mark of a good secretary. The Auditor shared some horrific stories of 'financial confusion' – but not at Amani, thank God! And I do mean, "Thank God."

Do pray for the peace of Tanzania. The 'troubles' of Somalia have now reached south to Mombassa, Kenya. There also seems to be clear evidence that Zanzibar has some 'active' cells. Pray especially for Christians on the island of Zanzibar. This morning I preached from Ephesians 6: 10 – 20. Paul's words are so very appropriate for this present time – and for every 'time'.

Every Blessing,
John Naumann
Managing Director

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