

Report from Makang'wa

Greetings from 'cool' Makang'wa, Tanzania. I have heard of the heat in Montana. Wonderfully, I have experienced 'winter' here. Well, the locals call it winter. The days are warm but pleasant. Now you may not believe this but I have been wearing a 'Montana coat' from about 6.30am to 8.00am on recent mornings! This has been most welcome. I have also discovered the 'windy' season. There are days when the wind does not stop and it surely comes up every evening. However that really does keep the evenings quite pleasant – except for the blowing dust! The sunrises in the early morning are quite spectacular, but different from Billings with its wonderful cloud effects. Here it is a 'bright' red at first with just a few streaks of dark cloud and then it changes to a wonderful 'golden' glow (It may be all of the dust in the air.) and finally rises to become the hot sun we all know. Every morning is quite a 'show'. I love it.

Today the water flowed for the first time! There was great joy and excitement. I had prepared for this time by buying eight dozed sodas. When the first water flowed we signaled 'Stop work' to the relief work crew and almost eighty people gathered for a soda and celebration. This day marks a great change for the Amani Center and for the surrounding community. Now there will be abundant water: water which is clean and readily available. When the temporary cap was taken from the bore hole we could see the water about eight feet from the surface. The actual well is about eighty meters deep. It has tested to a very high capacity therefore we are confident about the future.

The Relief Work program continues, thanks to the generosity of people in America and Australia. We have needed to expand the numbers as the situation is so grim for many, many people. Currently there are 70 people on site each day. All receive a meal. That itself consumes a lot of maize flour (ugali) and beans. Then all receive a 'tin' of maize (milled) at the end of the week. In addition we give a small amount to needy elderly people every Friday afternoon. Last Friday over 78 elderly people turned up. Some are so very old and frail. Now we are receiving urgent calls for assistance from villages to the southwest of Makang'wa. It is really the same administrative district. I am going there tomorrow to celebrate and to preach at the central Anglican Church. We have had 11 from there on the Relief Work team for the past two weeks. That will grow to 25 next week. We shall probably split the numbers equally between Makang'wa and Mloa/Mloda villages. (We shall try to extend the 'elderly relief' of a Friday to Mloa.) It is quite a journey to Mloa and Mloda therefore people from there stay with local people while working at Amani. This week a mother with infant twins came for Relief Work from Mloda village. That is a very long walk. She really is weak and worn. We have decided to give her a 'week's vacation' with TLC at Amani Center. She will be able to relax, be served hot tea and 'bites', have a good lunch and a relaxing afternoon and evening. As you might understand it takes a lot of work to organize and supervise such a large work force – and to find special tasks for the elderly who come and for the weak. Some of the elderly who come are much too old and weak to work. We give them a cup of tea and something to eat and send them off with a pack of maize – and inform them of the distribution on Friday afternoons. Of course, there is also the job of 'encouraging' the lazy ones. There ARE some of those.

On the afternoon of Sunday, July 30th the local MP came to pay an official visit. Dr. Marachello (probably spelled wrongly) is an elderly but very active man. He is an ex Prime Minister and ex Vice President – and is a good friend of the Amani Center – really a most gracious man. He has the ability to 'put in a good word for us' to the right people and I do hear that he is already doing that. The local people seem to have a great love for him. He now hopes to have the Dedication arranged for about the last day of September or the first day of October. I am thankful for the delay as we could not possibly

have been ready for an earlier date. The lack of water has been a major delaying factor. Dr. Marachello really picked up on the word from the Lord, "I am planting a tree which will bear fruit." He seemed to be greatly encouraged. He is a committed Christian – an Anglican.

Three weeks ago today, Saturday, I attended the Dedication of the reconstructed and expanded Mvumi Mission Secondary/High School here. There was a very large gathering. The Prime Minister was present to officially dedicate the school. Also present was the British Ambassador – and also the Chairman of Marks and Spencer (Have I got that right – the English department store?). His family had given very generously to the building program. At the Dedication it was announced that his family and another English family were giving a further 1,000,000,000/- schillings! Yes I do have that figure printed correctly! It is a wonderful gift. I do hope that some of the gift is placed in a fund for student scholarships, especially for local youth. There is little point in having a wonderful school if the people cannot afford to attend and that is already a problem here.

The vision for the future continues to develop. If you go to the Amani web page (access through St. Stephen's web page) you will be able to see an outline of the land and the proposed development at the entrance area. It does show the foundation of a proposed Farm Manager's house. That will now probably become a Farm Supply Store for the local farming community, and that is almost everyone. The people are very excited about that prospect as they will then not have to travel to Dodoma for their needs and, as it will be a non-profit, the basic costs will be lower. There is also the idea of developing a 'farm hire' department where people could hire needed equipment, things they could not otherwise possibly have available for use. This will also enable the introduction of new concepts with the ability to both demonstrate and to enable the local farmers to experience them first hand. Such a center would also become a 'center' for Gov. agricultural agents to use for the demonstration of improved methods and for instruction in the use of various 'supplies'.

I am also developing a plan to build a 'pergola' around two legs of the 'diamond' shape near the entrance. This would be about twelve feet deep, with cover. It would turn that 'dedication' area into a permanent gathering place, an area where many people could gather for varying purposes. With the added shade of the large baobab tree (not in your plan) we could possibly have 400 people gathered in the shade. This would also mean that the Cross, a twenty five foot reinforced concrete Cross, would be in the center of such gatherings – a concept I desire.

I am now the 'manure king' of Makang'wa. As we prepared land for various agricultural purposes we need to 'fertilize' it. Well aged cow manure is the fertilizer of choice in this area. So far we have brought in twenty six double truck loads – and we need much more. It is not cheap when you add the cost of the manure and the cost of transport, but it is necessary. Now that we have the water we shall also develop a 'compost farm' on one section of the land. Local farmers will be invited to participate in this project by developing their own composting site on our land. The process requires quite a lot of water and we have the water available here. We shall also be able to grow the green material, needed for the process.

A friend in Billings has sent me a cutting from the Gazette which describes the Weza portable generator. It surely has great potential for use here in Africa – and even in remote cabins in the USA! There is so very much out there which can benefit many millions of people. The great difficulty is in knowing about it all. So please do keep sharing such things. We have recently become familiar with a South African farming magazine. While some articles relate to Southern Africa in particular in the two I have read there have been articles which are most applicable to life here. I hope that we can subscribe to it. I must also look into what may be published in Kenya as there may also be assistance from that direction. I really had not thought that I would be a farmer once again but that is now part of the reality

of life here. Yet it is also a process of learning from the local farmers who do possess much useful knowledge.

My visit to Australia continues to bear fruit although I must say that much of that is due to the wonderful efforts of friends and supporters there. I am still hopeful that we shall receive the donation of a tractor from Australia! In Brisbane a Prayer Support Group has been formed. In November I am to meet with the Australian Director of TEAR FUND. They are familiar with this region. He will be visiting a project which they are supporting near Morogoro, to the east of here. They have expressed interest in the Amani Center. Pray that this will be a fruitful meeting as they have the ability to provide substantial support for approved projects. The governing factor is that projects must be community related. Well, we surely seem to be 'community related'! I find it interesting to be working alongside the local people with a pick and shovel on weekdays – and to be celebrating Holy Communion, preaching and baptizing with the same community on Sundays. It is a good relationship.

On the lighter side, the local monkey family finds our buildings of great interest. Several days ago they were 'relaxing' on the steps of my little unit. One was peering in a window. They are quite shy. I expect that is because the locals have little concept of valuing the local wildlife. It is either food or a nuisance. However, as I share about such matters and state that the Amani Center will be a conservation area they do begin to see the point of it all. Well, maybe when our 400 fruit trees begin to bear fruit my attitude may change! Fortunately monkeys do not gather food at night (So I am told.) therefore we may be able to exercise some control. I certainly do not want to eliminate them from the area. I will not say the same for the scorpions! They are quite numerous. The sting is extremely painful. And the termites are also welcome to leave the district!

Recently we had the joy of being able to donate treated timber for the roofing of two new buildings (mud walls) at 'our' parish church. They will be used for their ministry with 270 children supported through Compassion International. Actually the mud walls are very strong. When finished with cement and when there is proper drainage provided they will last for many years. Our donation of the timber has encouraged someone else to donate new roofing iron so these buildings will look quite splendid. The Makang'wa community has commenced gathering the concrete building blocks from our site for their new Maternity Clinic. There will be 2,000 blocks in all. There were made through the Relief Work program. This gift has inspired Dr. Marachello to donate the roofing iron for this building.

Locally I am now known as Fr. John the Baptist! Sunday by Sunday I am invited to celebrate Holy Communion, preach and baptize and various village churches. The 'bookings' now stretch several weeks ahead. I have been wanting to attend the Cathedral in Dodoma to reconnect with the missionaries there but that will have to wait. The ministry here is a great privilege and joy. I shall buy a Swahili Prayer Book tomorrow when in Dodoma and practice the words of the prayers and versicles. My efforts will probably result in some chuckles from the congregations for a few weeks but they tend to laugh 'with' you and not 'at' you.

I seem to have 'forgotten' how to transfer pictures from the video camera to the computer program therefore there are no photographs with this Report. I am sure it is only a temporary issue! I pray!!!! Actually I am recovering from a bout with the flu. As there has been no opportunity to 'take it easy' my 'abilities' seem to have suffered – a little.

Finally, and this should have been the first thing mentioned, warm thanks for the generous support offered through the recent appeal. I am very encouraged in the work here and the people are blessed. It is a very great privilege to be the 'agent' of your generosity. There has been great generosity! One day there will be three flag poles at the Amani Center entrance. They will fly the flags of Tanzania, the

USA and Australia. (I do already have three wind socks featuring those flags!) The Cross will stand centrally to those three flags.

Do continue to pray for the ministry here. Specifically for:

A wise use of the precious gift of water of water.
The peaceful development of the Center.
The encouragement of the local clergy and catechists.
The provision of food for the needy.
Integrity in local and national leadership.

Thank God:

The arrival of the water.
For the hopeful and persistent faith of the people.
For their friendship in the ministry.
For His provision for the ministry.
For our daily bread.
For daily guidance.
For opportunities to share of His love and purposes.

Be blessed.

John Naumann
Managing Director
Amani Development Organization
P.O. Box 2094
Dodoma, Tanzania

E-mail: jfnaumann@yahoo.com

Donation for the ministry:

Amani for Africa, USA
4311 Loma Vista
Billings, MT 59106
USA

Hearts for Africa
74 Pring St.
Hendra
Brisbane, Q. 4010
Australia