

Chickens at the Amani Center



Chickens and Children

Most parents of children attending the Prince of Peace English Medium Primary School struggle to pay the very moderate tuition fees. This will be doubly true as we move through this year of 2015. The last wet season was a failure,



resulting in loss of the harvest. We are now entering into a time when there is a struggle to put food on the table let alone pay school fees.

This has led us to think of CHICKENS! We have devised a plan whereby every family with a child at the school will be required to participate in a chicken project. The families are ENTHUSIASTIC about this project. The project has been some months in the investigative and planning stage. If our calculations are correct, every family involved in the school will be able to contribute all of the required fees. Next year the tuition fee will be raised by 50,000/= \$24-us. This will enable us to offer our teachers a reasonable raise in salary. This is a necessity.

As the planning stage moves ahead it is clear that we shall be selling live broiler and cross breed chickens (local with improved). These last require an extra three to four weeks to develop but there is a ready market. We shall also be producing eggs and, to my surprise, slaughtered and frozen chickens! It will be a business enterprise. There is a wider interest in the project in the general community, but at present we are restricting involvement to the Prince of Peace community, together with a project at Children of Peace Preschool (eggs) at the Children's Home.

The project will operate in this manner:

- At the Amani Center we shall incubate, inoculate and develop chicks to the three week stage.
- The chicks will then be distributed on an arranged rota to the individual families, 15 to 21 chicks to each home.
- With the chicks, each family will receive the feed necessary for development to market stage.
- Amani will be solely responsible for the sale or processing of the chickens.
- We anticipate eleven groups of families.
- Within the program we anticipate producing between 400 and 500 broilers and cross breed chickens per week.
- Each family will have at least five sale cycles per year.
- Here at the Amani Center we shall have a reasonably large scale chicken production enterprise. Fortunately we have on staff a young man, Emanuel Mjavu, trained at an Agricultural College in the raising of chickens. He has now raised two trial runs at the Center.
- We also have Abel Petro, with a degree in community development, who is heading the community organization aspect of the program and also sales. He is like a dog with a bone,

persistent and effective. Every time we seem to have hit a brick wall, Abel has found an open door!

- Naturally, we are excited about this project. We do sense God's leading in this.
- Just imagine, I shall be able to buy a frozen chicken 'on site'. We are also receiving some requests from village shopkeepers relating to a supply of frozen chickens.
- And, the chicken manure/wood shaving mixture from the sheds is a welcome fertilizer for the gardens. Eggs shells from the incubators are also an important fertilizer.

We are thankful for the support this project has received to date. The latest gifts, from the USA, have been a strong double axle trailer (made in Sweden) for carrying the chicken transport cages, plus a roomy chest freezer. We also now have the materials to build a second shed at the Children's Home to house a further 300 chickens.

The critical state of our financial needs has meant that we must press ahead with this. On Saturday, 15th August, the Prince of Peace families at Mungano receive the first chickens. However, then there will be a break of three weeks as we wait for more chicks to develop. To reach the goal, and this is critical, we need, immediately, three more incubators. That may seem a strange statement but to supply the home groupings requires a large number of chicks! And, to meet the education needs here, requires a large number of chickens.

We also need to enlarge the shed area at the Center for the preparation and storage of chicken feed. We have commenced this work and have the funds to build the foundation and to buy cement to make the blocks. At that point we stop! It will require \$1,900.00Aud/\$1,379.00US to complete the work.

To summarize: Incubators three @ \$626.00Aud/ \$455.00US each.
 The shed \$1,900.00Aud/\$1,379.00US to complete.
 Welcome gifts: Amounts of \$92.40Aud/\$67,00US to cover the initial
 purchase of eggs for incubating. (Eleven gifts needed.)
 Once through the initial cycle, the project is self-funding.

An explanation of the incubators. They each hold 200 eggs. We need to deliver in lots of 400 to 425 chicks per group, but 400 eggs will not guarantee that number. Therefore we want to incubate 800 at a time. Excess chicks will be raised here at the center to assist with operational expenses, and also delivered to some local Children of Peace Secondary School parents to help them with school fees.

Thank you for reading through this long message. I needed to explain the nature of the project and its wonderful potential! Our recent visitors from Global Development were most impressed and supportive of this project. They say 'the devil is in the details'. I hope that you can perceive 'God's love' in the details of this project.

Sincerely,

John Naumann
Managing Director
Amani Development Organization