

*Greetings from Fr. John
Amani Development Organization
Makang'wa Village, Central Tanzania
17th February 2020-02-17*

Praise the Lord!

This is the customary greeting here in central Tanzania, offered by a Christian when greeting another person. No matter what the circumstances, the opening greeting is always "Praise the Lord". Of course, it is scriptural. Frequently, we seem able to perceive only the problems and difficulties, the disappointments and failures. In this greeting we are encouraged to bring everything into the perspective of faith, and then to move ahead from that perspective.

I am now the Pastoral Advisor to the staff at Amani. Strangely, I find the responsibilities deepened, with a new awareness of what it means to share life in this community. Truly, not 'recycled', but more like being 'put on the spot'! However, it is a good spot.

The staff members here are doing a splendid job in undertaking key responsibilities, and are moving ahead with confidence. It is different, but MUCH BETTER! I am still learning that there are boundaries which I must respect. It is a little hard to step aside and yet to be there. I am discovering the joy of loving, encouraging, advising when necessary, and being a Christian friend. You may think, "Well, weren't you that in the past?" All I can say is, it is different when one is not THE BOSS.

My head has healed following the fall in the garden. That iron post was in the wrong place. From the moment people were aware of my groans I was carried on angels wings. At least, that is how it seemed. Now I have to decide on an important matter. Should I let the hair grow again or have it 'close cropped'? Actually, I have become used to 'close cropped'. I now understand my brother in law, Ivan Peters. Wise man! Be assured, I am wonderfully loved by many people.

God is a God who keeps promise with us. It is easy to forget that and to think that the work depends on us and not on Him. When the Lord said, "I am planting a tree which shall bear fruit" he was stating an intention. He will not forget even if we do sometimes become doubtful. He loves His work for His desire is blessing. What a joy to be invested in His work. There is the key. Our patient and expectant faith is a critical enabling factor in the flow of the blessings of the Lord.

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Godson Magawa

and

Abel Petro.



And all of the staff of the Amani Development Organization.

The Original Focus of Amani:

Time and experience provide a powerful education. Our initial vision and intention of 2006 will certainly require some adjustment of emphasis in 2020. We described the work of Amani in broad terms in 2006. The following is a survey of where we understand the organization to be in relation the initial focus.

1. **Water Resources.** Over the past years, but particularly in the last four years, the regional circumstances in Tanzania have changed. The Government is now much more actively involved in the development of village based water resources. Every village is now required to establish a Water Committee and to work together with local authorities towards the development of a water supply system. This is a positive step. It means that Ado now needs to change emphasis in this area. The photo shows the solar panels at Mvumi Hospital.



The extraordinary wet season of 2019/2020 has again delayed the drilling of our current well. That will change when we dry out. From our perspective the need is to look to change several of our present wells from mains power to solar power. If this can be achieved it will bless operations here at the Center. It will bless the operation of the water supply for VIMECHIA and for the adjacent village and, if we can achieve it, the cost of water supply to the Prince of Peace School. Of course, village people will still be required, as per government policy, to pay for water received.

2. **Agricultural and Forestry Development.**



This is surely a challenge in this semi arid region – now strangely WET. The development of the grape program was an original emphasis. This was set up in cooperation with the Grape Research Center, Makutupora. Seminars were conducted, involving many local grape growers. Most local grape growers set up grape areas, developed on the system set up at the Center. Several years ago we introduced a local involvement program here at the Center, offering a workers a share in grape income in response for the care of individual grape plots. This did not work well and led to the degradation

of some areas. The program has changed with a different emphasis on worker participation and we are recovering from the previous program. This wet season has caused great loss in grape production throughout the region. The constant rains have caused disease in the vines and rotting of development

bunches. The upside of this is that the moisture now present in the sub soils will encourage a much improved harvest in the mid year. That is the time of the main wine grape harvest each year.

- 3. Forestry.** This has worked well but not in terms of trees on the hills. Dry seasons and foraging goats present an insurmountable problem! Most trees and large shrubs go to regional school and homes. This year there will be greater demand. Currently, we are attempting to strike cutting from some of the larger local fruit bearing trees. There is some success. We expect that there will be more success when we take cuttings mid year.



- 4. Pigs and Cattle.**



The pigs are progressing well. Presently we have 31 pigs. The PIG RAISING PROGRAM for the prince of Peace School is enabled through the Center project. Weaned piglets are brought to the Center, receive their 'shots', etc, and are then distributed to homes. We also expect to be providing weaned piglets (at sale price) to homes within the school program.

- 5. Cattle.** WE have been selling some of the less productive cows, and also some of the heifers. The drought of 2019 has taught us that we can hold only a reduced number of cattle on this land. The aim is to continue to improve the quality of the cows, and also to have excess heifers to sell to local farmers who wish to have a small milk supply income.



- 6. Chickens.**

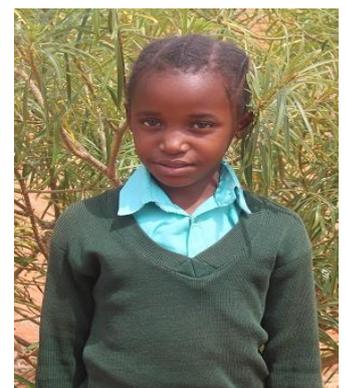


These are doing well. We seem to have moved through the disease problems and now have healthy chickens. The concentration is on egg production. There are currently 412 chickens. A further 300 layer chicks will be added in mid February.

- 7. Education.**



If we listen carefully to the regional people and ask what they consider to be of first importance in their family life, the answer will always be – water and education for their children. I expect that is normal for most societies on earth. Here, in these village based communities, an education of reasonable quality has always been a problem. The failure



rates are high in the government conducted schools. The ability of households to pay the fees necessary to operate a school present problem. The ADO administration and the POP School administration have worked consistently on this , attempting to be sensitive to the reality of the situation faced by parents. The pleasing academic achievements of the school have surely encouraged parents to 'come to the party'. This year of 2020 has commenced well in financial terms. Godson and the school administration have worked well with parents. Therefore, year by year, and step by step, wee reaching the goal.

At present there are 360 students enrolled and a staff of 25, including teachers, office, cooks and security.

In terms of Community Development involvement the Pig Project, enabled by the Cox Gift, is progressing well. There are now 40 households, which have struggled to pay fees, involved in the program. They shall certainly meet the school requirements. There are many more households waiting in the wings! We understand this as a program which can continue into the Secondary School years for graduation POP students. We do not sponsor our graduating students through secondary school as that would present an impossible burden. Household can do this within the Pig Project. However, they will need to commence raising pigs for this need by late May of the previous year so that they have the funds needs to initial enrolment. From our immediate area most graduates desire to attend the Anglican Church Secondary/High at nearby Mvumi Mission. It has an excellent reputation in Tanzania.

8. **Health.** We continue receiving support from Australia for the Eye Department in Mvumi Hospital. The department is the oldest and provides the best service in the country. From January to December 2019 we managed to support 204 local people, plus outreach services to more isolated villages.

9. **Block making project.** The project is six months old and is progressing well. The plan is get an electrical vibrator block machine which makes better blocks. Big construction projects need the blocks of certain quality that are made from a vibrating block making machine. Fr. John mentioned that he has got a gift from Jerry and Deb Smyle amount 2,000\$. We are planning on using that gift to buy the vibration block making machine. Gifts towards the total budget of \$3,500.00 will be received with thanks.



10. **Hay.** This year we are blessed with good rain. We are cutting and collecting hay for the cattle.

The team of Amani staff send greetings and many thanks to all of our supporters.



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