

A message to our friends.

5<sup>th</sup> April 2014

I have put together this newsletter you some of the growth at the Center as the result of all of the rain. Well, the weeds also grow so that has provided a lot of work. The heavy rains have also done a job our internal road, and the local roads, and also our drainage ditches. I spent a long morning with some workers today on that job. Yesterday morning we were working on the river crossing and both approaches. The river broke its banks the night before.



Here are three of the calves, with one of the dogs behind a calf. This is typical of the grass cover over all of the land, except some of the cultivated land. The red and white calf is for beef! The black and white is a heifer. We shall keep her. The one on the ground is a bull. The mother is a good milker. We expect to raise him, possible to replace the present bull.

The photo to the right is taken from just above the grapes. It shows the large area of sorghum, stretching up to the thornbush scrub. We cleared up to that foot path which went through the scrub. The lower portion had manure but none in the new land. The heads are **large**! We really planted a lot of sorghum for cow feed but this season has meant that we have not needed to feed it so there will be a lot of grain. It does make good ugali porridge so that, together with the maize, will supply the children. I expect that we shall be able to also provide much more assistance for DCMP.



Here is some of the maize, just above the coconut trees. There are six acres of maize – a guess! But it all looks like this, or better. There will be a very large task with harvesting this year! However it will be a happy time for all. Many areas have not been as blessed as this village. There was too long a break between the planting rains and the follow up rains.



The last photo shows the cattle feeding in an area of grass and sorghum above the older grape area, with maize in the background. Again, this area was cleared last year, up to the walking path. It really has created a large expansion of the farm land. This wet season has been a great blessing. They will not all be like this.

At the Center we also have five acres of sunflower, all looking very well indeed. There is a further two and one half acres at Igondola, and a further five at Mvumi Makulu. Now, all of the sorghum, maize and sunflower has to be harvested by hand, head by head! So..... if you have some spare time there is work available at the Amani Center.



Thank you for your interest and support.

Fr. John