

Report from Makang'wa

APRIL, 2016

Greetings from the Amani Centre, Central Tanzania.

This is a late afternoon view from my office at the Amani Center, looking toward the south east. In the midst of all of the activity it is important to stop and bask in the beauty of the region, especially at this time of the season, when greens begin to turn to gold and the rain showers move behind the distant hills.



This morning, April 22nd, we said farewell to two visitors from Australia, Penny Shehedeh and her son Tarecq. They were here to familiarize themselves with the various Amani activities. Penny and Tarecq endeared themselves to many people and departed with a plane load of information and impressions.

We completed the harvest of millet today, April 22nd. Maize and sorghum had been harvested several weeks previously.



Harvesting is labour intensive. This is an aspect of our **Relief Work Program**, offering mothers the opportunity to raise funds for school needs and food.



The new shed, completed through a gift from the USA, has been a harvest blessing, owing to the continuing rains. However, it does seem that we are now entering into the dry season. The cattle will be well fed this year. Our hay shed is packed to the rafters with bales of hay, and we have developing improved pasture grasses. With the development of the spray irrigation system we should be well placed this year for cattle feed. We hope to expand the dairy herd as we can sell every litre of milk we can produce. **A two-year old Friesian cow costs about 900,000/= \$410 us. Donations would be welcomed.**

Academically, our schools are continuing well. Here we see our visitors with the kindergarten children and teachers of the Children of Peace Preschool, Igondola. The two village preschools, Igondola and Makang'wa, are happy places. Each has seventy children. I have just today learned that our Prince of Peace Primary Standard Six children (on parade) sat for one of last year's standard seven exams and most gained A's with five B's. Excellent! The financial operation of the school is a great challenge. We hope that the improved harvest this year will enable



many parents to contribute more fully to the school fees.

Meanwhile we press on with the chicken project. The market has been challenging however in the last few weeks the buyers have been contacting us. As people become more aware of the quality of our chickens, sales are increasing. There is also a ready sale for eggs. We are working to increase the number of layers, but it does require time for hens to reach laying stage. Patience – and chicken feed! Two weeks ago we had 1835 chickens of varying stages of growth in the center sheds. Some have since been sold, but then we have just added 600 day old chicks, with more to come each week for the next two months. We bring the developed chickens from the children’s homes and sell from the center. If present trends continue, we shall need to increase our intake of day old chicks and also provide more ‘storage’ space at the center.

We are encouraged by the academic achievements of supported students. There is no doubt that children who receive a strong foundation through preschool and primary school are enabled to do well in the government secondary and high school. At this time six of our original children, supported through Amani, are studying at various colleges and universities, all having gained student loans on graduation from high school. More are on the way! One of the six, Shabani, is one of the original street children, supported through the children’s home ministry. Shabani completes his degree course this year but he is a product of the government school system, with Amani support. He is an orphan. A grandmother was trying to care for him. Three others are from the Children of Peace Preschool and Primary program. Your support enables these students to become achievers in their lives.

There is much activity here as we prepare for the visit of twenty students and five staff from All Saints Anglican School, Southport, Queensland. The group will ‘camp’ at the Centre. As I type this they are conducting a ‘preparation camp’ at their school. They will spend four days with us, spending the days with students and staff at the Prince of Peace School.

The Prince of Peace Preschool urgently needs a security fence. We are experiencing some vandalism. It is also impossible to develop necessary outside equipment for the children without that fence. We estimate that if 160 individuals or groups could each contribute \$60.00 we could construct the fence, encompassing buildings and the playing field. I ask you to pray about this and share the need. It IS critical to the future development of the school and also the perseverance of the present investment. There are one hundred children in preschool this year.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support. The Amani Family says, **“Thank you!”**

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