

Report from Makang'wa

AUGUST 2019

DEAR FRIENDS,

Truly, it is some time since I have sent a Report. Much has happened over the months. The Australian visit was focused largely on the surgery in Brisbane. QEII hospital was splendid (If one can so describe a hospital), and the care received from Dr. Tan and the surgeon were most professional and KIND. What more can a person want? The recovery period seemed to take much longer than I had anticipated. 'Young John', the years have advanced.

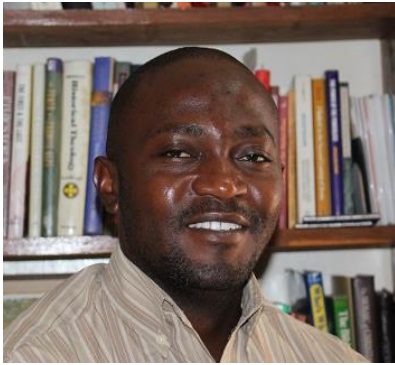
Yes, they have advanced. Every two years I have to renew my Work and Residency Permits. This is one of those years. The Government has changed the application processes. Now all is done online. The initial surprise was to be informed that the cost for renewal of the Work Permit has doubled, together with a requirement for much more documentation. As I was being informed of this I experienced a 'dying' feeling in my spirit. There was the sense that life was to move through a radical change. I informed the rather surprised secretary that I was not going to proceed with the renewal as suggested. As we left the office she followed us, trying to persuade me to change my mind. She was truly concerned for me. I knew that.

Godson and I went directly to the Diocesan Office. Fortunately, the Bishop was there. The result of the interview is that I have resigned as Managing Director of Amani and am now a simply Priest of this Diocese of Central Tanganyika. I have held a License from the Diocese for some time now. The Bishop kindly offered the services of the diocesan lawyer to assist us through the maze of regulations and paperwork. Four weeks later I have the Work Permit (pastor), and am now in the process of gaining the Residency Permit. Again, all must be done online. Well, that is another story but I am assured that it will all be worked through. I may not have the new Permit until I return from the USA early November.



This now means:

- 1. I am a priest in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika.**
- 2. I have resigned as Managing Director of the Amani Development Organization.**
- 3. I am still a member of the Board here, as well as in Australia and the USA.**
- 4. I shall continue to live at the Amani Center, and be a friend, pastor and general helper, without becoming intrusive. That may be difficult!!!**
- 5. Apart from other matters I intend to have a more active interest in the locally assisted preschools, and to have a 'pastoral' presence at the Prince of Peace School.**
- 6. I am a member of the Board of VIMECHIA and can continue with that involvement.**
- 7. AND – I shall no longer have to do the weekly shopping!**



GODSON MAGAWA is the new Managing Director. He is well prepared for this position, academically as well as through years of involvement at Amani. I truly believe he will shine in this position.

ABEL PETRO (R) is now responsible for all 'project' types of activity and most local community

relationships. Abel has about six years experience at Amani. He is a wonderful young man.



DINNA MENDA continues as Amani Accountant and as Bursar at the Prince of Peace SCHOOL.



GRACE HAROLDY (R) continues as Office Secretary and day to day cashier.



SAM MILAWI continues as the enabler, with responsibilities which touch on all aspects of operation, including the Prince of Peace School.



FROM THE BEGINNING OF WORK HERE WE HAVE PLANNED FOR A TIME OF TRANSITION, TO LOCALLY PREPARED LEADERSHIP. SOMETIMES GOD HAS TO GIVE US A NUDGE TO LET US KNOW THAT THIS IS THE TIME. I HAVE BEEN NUDGED. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM TRULY HAPPY WITH THE CHANGE.

As I sense the renewed enthusiasm being expressed in the staff I can perceive this 'tree of the Lord's planting' entering into a new springtime. In the midst of all this activity one of the local young men, who was sponsored through to achieving a Masters Degree, has reconnected with us. Netho Ndilito is now a District Director on the Southern Tablelands. That is a Presidential appointment. He is now in helpful and regular communication with us and is proving to be a 'door opener' for many of our District and wider involvements with the Government. Ndilito was the local teacher who in early 2006 set up the Food/Work Relief Program when we first arrived here. We do never know the full outcome of our expressions of compassion and generosity. But God knows and he will work out his plan and purpose if we remain faithful and focused. We must believe that.

I shall be in the USA in late September, departing from Dar es salaam on September 25th and returning at the beginning of October .

Warm thanks to all of our friends and supporters. I look forward to reconnecting with many of you when in the USA.

Fr. John

Amani Ambassador at large!

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