

EDUCATION REPORT FROM MAKANG'WA

January 2013

New Year's greetings from Amani.

This Report is about Amani's Education and Student Sponsorship programs that are the very heart and soul of our work to conquer poverty and provide opportunities for young Tanzanians.

January is the high tension month here at Amani as Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools commence a new year and College level students have to pay second semester fees to be able to continue their studies. And there is never enough money!

Although primary and secondary education in government schools is basically free, there are many extra costs that student families cannot afford, and the educational standards and the student pass rates in the district are very low. Tertiary (college) education is not free and therefore is often beyond the reach of many talented and worthy students.

College students

Many poor families in this region have the funds for the first semester college fees but cannot pay for the second and later semesters. This arises because most families are subsistence farmers and so much depends on having good seasons. This is incredibly difficult and unpredictable.

At the college level we support students in a wide range of disciplines including:

1. Teacher training at University, Diploma and certificate levels.
2. Nursing School
3. Clinical Officer and District Doctor training.
4. Laboratory Assistant training.
5. Accountancy.
6. Agricultural College.
7. Bible School.

ALL of our college level students are in disciplines that are in short supply in Tanzania. They will readily find employment. There are 'Amani students' spread across this country. Amani and its supporters sponsored the training of all of our own Amani school teachers and some of the current teacher trainees will also be employed by Amani to meet our rapidly expanding requirements.

Secondary Students

Presently I have the names of fourteen prospective Form I Secondary School students here on my desk. These are from our Igondola Children of Peace school or are former Dodoma Street Children who are in Amani's care. They have excelled in Primary School and are now moving on to Secondary School. I might add that this Central Region of Tanzania has the lowest pass rate of the entire country in the 2012 national Standard VII examinations. This makes the achievement of these students all the more notable and worthy of support.

In fact all our High School sponsored students have been high achievers at Secondary School. For many students Form IV (Secondary) is as far as they will progress in the education system however a pass in Form IV opens the door to many further educational opportunities. It also offers the basic requirements needed to live a productive life in a slowly developing society.

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Primary and preschool

With the poor standards and results in Government schools, we have started our own schools (that have over 700 students) and our primary education is conducted in English because employment opportunities are very limited to those who do not speak English. We require payment of very modest fees from all our students and many families work at the Amani Centre in payment of fees.

Assisting young people to develop the abilities and skills required to live a sustainable and productive life is very much part of our calling and purpose. Therefore what a joy it was this week to participate in the Graduation Ceremony for forty-one Preschool children from the Children of Peace Preschool, Igondola. Forty-one were tested – and forty-one passed! It was a great day. We have been able to provide them with new uniforms for Primary School and some basic school requirements. Once again this Amani Preschool leads the way in preschool education in this District and the immediate region.



The photographs are from the Children of Peace Graduation.

A personal note

I find this time of the year very stressful because I too was a sponsored student in completing my theological studies at St Francis college Brisbane, and so I know how important it is to the students. I will always be grateful for the assistance I received. My sponsors were anonymous!

When young people are given HOPE that their dreams and aspirations may come true, they work with great enthusiasm and passion towards reaching their goals. For so many students, AMANI translates into HOPE. May we continue to nurture this spirit of hope alive in the hearts and minds of the young people of Tanzania.

I am so grateful to all who support the work with the children and students. Please remember that all donations are welcome, no amount is too small and the joy (and thanks) of our students will be bountiful.

May the blessings of God be welcomed in your hearts through this year.

John Naumann and the students of Amani,

Amani Development Center
Makang'wa Village
Central Tanzania.

www.amanidevelopment.org

People wishing to sponsor a student at a particular level, preschool, primary, or secondary should go to the web page and click on 'student sponsorship information'.

For college level, contact me by email for information, as the fees vary depending on the field of study. However, donations directed generally towards 'college level' will be distributed according to need.