

# Report from Makang'wa

August 2010

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia. It is quite chilly here this Saturday morning. I should be sitting with my feet in a dish of hot water! I am enjoying meeting many old friends and catching up with family members. It is an encouraging time.

Today, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 is a RED LETTER DAY for the Amani Center, central Tanzania. This is the day for the Celebration of Independence in Tanzania. Replicas of the Freedom Torch are carried about in every Administrative District. Ours is Chamwino District. This year the District has made the Amani Center the focus of the celebration, including in that the Children of Peace project. Mid afternoon to day the District Commissioner and about seventy District officials will arrive at the Amani Center. There will be a VERY LARGE gathering of local people including all pupils of the local Primary School – about 1,000 children. Included in the visit will be the presentation of a Report to the District Commissioner, the official Dedication and Opening of the Center by the DC and the gift from the DC of new uniforms to all Kindergarten and Preschool 'Children of Peace' children.

It will be a great day and a wonderful recognition of the involvement and work of the local people and a great encouragement to us all. The Government is doing this, they have declared, to express appreciation for the involvement of ADO in the local communities in the fields of education, rural development, poverty relief, health and water resources. AND, I am not there! This is really excellent as they will experience the Center under Tanzanian administration. It has always been our policy that all activities should be led by local people. This policy has been most effective. It is at the heart of today's celebration.

Thank you for generous and consistent support for the work of the Amanai Development Organization – Amani Care. Great things are now happening. We are on the 'fast track' for the opening of the English Medium Kindergarten/Preschool and Primary School at Mvumi Makulu. Staff selection is now under way and all seems most encouraging. It will be known as the Prince of Peace School.

The Children of Peace Kindergarten/Preschool at Igondola continues to flourish. In July we were able to pay all wages for teachers, secretary and security from income from the Grain Mill. This represents a significant step forward and is a great encouragement to all of us. Our overall aim is local financial sustainability. Step by step we are moving towards that goal. The current expansion of the Grape Project at three sites is at the heart of this goal – wine, table and raisin grapes. The development of the Grain Mill at Makang'wa, combined with the Oil Seed Mill and the Pig Project also supports this intention. Our hope is to develop a second Grain Mill at Mvumi Makulu on the large school site. This will directly support school operation and also enable the expansion of the Pig Project. There is much to anticipate.

Thank you to all who participate in the Education Sponsorship Program. I encourage all who are able to do so to renew sponsorships for the coming year. College and Vocational Training level sponsorships need to be renewed by the second week of September. That marks the commencement of the new school year for these students. We are also seeking sponsorships for three local young adults who are seeking entry to the Laboratory Training School at Mvumi Mission Hospital. That cost is set at a basic 1,200.00 per year. This may be contributed in two payments of (a) \$650,00.00 in September and \$550.00 in late January. Please email me if this need speaks to your heart. Please note that the study course at this school covers two years. It is not essential to sponsor for two years but I do need to know your present intention.

Other immediate needs are:

1. Water Lines for the new Grape Development at the school site, Mvumi Makulu. We need eight lines at \$350.00AUST per line.
2. Text Books for four classes at the new school @ \$850.00 per class covering all basic subjects.
3. Furnishing for six rooms (includes two offices) at \$1,400.00 per room.
4. The basic machinery and set up expenses for Grain Mill machinery: \$3,100.00 for two diesel engines and two milling machines.
5. The shed for the new Grain Mill: \$3,000.00.

Again, thank you for your prayers and loving support. I am sure you will be very much in the hearts of the 'Amani family' today as they gather for the Freedom Torch Celebration.

Every blessing,

Fr. John