

# Special Report from Amani Development Tanzania



Young Ben. **GOOD NEWS** Richard



Good news is always welcome, one would think. Sadly, much of the media seems to love sad news! But we are the ‘Good News People’, bringing the troubles of the world into the saving and healing love of God. Some years ago I was invited to preach at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Red Lodge, Montana. The Parish Priest said, “Fr. John you have good news to share. The people need good news. You are welcome.” Fr. Keene was a dear friend and was much loved in that community.

**GOOD NEWS.** VIMECHIA (Viable Means of Child Care) is a ministry with former street children and at-risk children which commenced in 2005 in Dodoma. Amani has partnered with the ministry over these years. Truly, we are not like World Vision and other high profile organisations. We seem to pray and struggle along the way, relying on the faithfulness of God. Sure, there are the tough times, times when we need to remember in whose Name we serve. I have enormous respect for the staff at VIMECHIA. **Total dedication**. Young Ben, as we call him, and Richard are amazing people, leading a small group of volunteers.

This is the way of Jesus. He said, “I lay down my life that I may take it up again.” John10:17. Well, he surely did that and all who follow him share in that amazing ‘taking UP’. I recall seeing a memorial plate in Westminster Abbey, with these words inscribed around a candle stub in a holder – ‘In burning for others I have given my life away.’ Yes, Jesus said, “Follow me”... “and I shall raise you UP.”

**GOOD NEWS.** Winfrida Malango has completed Form VI (senior high) at a government High School at Mwanza, Lake District, Tanzania. She did well at Secondary School, gaining a place at High School. The results are out. Winfrida has gained **Division I** in the national examination! This is the highest grading. Congratulations Winfrida, and High Fives to Young Ben and especially to the Guardian Household mother who has cared so faithfully. Special thanks to Frank and Shelley Haughton who have sponsored Winfrida over the past two years.



**There is more.** Sailes (pronounced Silas) Nhyapuli has completed Form VI at High School at Iringa, to the south of Dodoma, on the southern tablelands. He is also sponsored by Frank and Shelley. ‘Silas’ has gained Division II. This is also an excellent result and sets him on the path for higher education with government loan assistance, if that is his plan. Congratulations Sailes.

VIMECHIA is an amazing ministry. The government has termed it to be ‘viable’ as it has such a depth of local volunteer involvement.

**The low annual cost per child relates to the degree of volunteer involvement.**

We read of the troubles in many places of this world, and surely in places of this large continent of Africa. Certainly, all is not perfect here in Tanzania, but there is peace and progress. Within a culture of encouraging, self sacrificing care young people such as Winfrida and Silas have their hearts set upon a positive future.

Friends, we are now in need of more sponsorships for the VIMECHIA ministry. The Haughtons have borne the burden for two years. **We support 57 children/students at \$350.00USD per person.** I ask you to pray earnestly about this. Jesus once said, “You have not because you ask not.” Truly, he knows the hearts of people, and he has a provision, a provision through the hearts of people dedicated to his purposes in this world.

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Anglican Aid Abroad, Brisbane, Australia has blessed us with a gift towards the installation of a Vibrated Cement Block Machine at the Children’ Home. Amani for Africa USA has now given assistance towards the completion of the basic required infrastructure. At a time when people have said, ‘There is nothing available’- God has acted. This is simply his way.

We give warm thanks to all in the USA who contributed so generously to the appeal for the Evangelistic Crusade, commencing here August 29<sup>th</sup>. The people are as busy as bees, preparing for this work.

We thank God that the nation seems to be ‘virus free’. It is a source of wonder to us. I know people in the area of health services and there is not a whisper of people becoming infected. Freedom expressed through a spirit of responsibility may be the cause of this blessing. AND, this has not become a political issue here!

We do pray for you all, praying with thanksgiving for God’s blessings of health and joy in the Lord upon everyone.

Fr. John  
Godson Magawa  
Young Ben  
Richard



## GOOD NEWS FROM MAKANG'WA

The first stage of the Evangelistic Crusade at St. John's Church has been completed. The Mission Team has returned to the University of Dodoma – all 180 of them. Now stage two is commencing. This is the time for the nurture and encouragement of the many people who have responded to the Gospel Call. Wonderfully, the way is prepared.

There is a saying which I first heard many years ago, 'What you see (experience here) is what you get (when you return home).' It comes from the fact that many people attend a crusade, seminar, or cursillo type of weekend or program, and then return to the home congregation and find all is so different, subdued, motionless, absolutely scripted. There can be a stark contrast between the life of the fellowship attended and the life of the home congregation. "I am surely not getting it here!" The message was intended to make sure there would be a helpful connection. Frequently there was a let down.

This is not the situation here. The way has been prepared. Congregational leaders have participated fully in the crusade and in all preparation leading up to it. As I type these words on a Saturday afternoon I know there will be great joy tomorrow. WE GET IT!

The team from the university was well prepared. They brought their own food. Well, most of it. They had teams arranged for cooking their meals. Then there was the prayer group, musicians, choir, speakers, children's ministry team, and the response/encouragement/dancing for joy (whatever) group! There were people praying in the church building throughout the crusade.

Locally, preparations had been under way for several months. With generous assistance from some of you who receive this posting dorms had been prepared and made secure, lighting installed in two buildings, the environment cleaned, and funds donated for Bibles. (We do need more. Is that a good sign?) An outdoor stage was installed (rock and cement) for the crusade. Local young adults spent two days at the Amani Center gathering dead wood for the cooking fires. Members gathered for prayer and the choirs prepared with enthusiasm.

On the morning of the final day, to demonstrate appreciation for the Amani involvement, many of the mission team came to the Center to see what we do here and to be involved in some hand-on activity. They planted onion seedlings and gathered hay. Then there were photos at the Center housing – MANY photos.

These students are from all over Tanzania. The work of Amani will be spread with the word of faith. Of course, the 'tree' of the God's planting is people: people rooted through faith in Jesus and in a strong response to God's Word. Therefore, maybe the church should resemble a forest, abundant in the fruit of the Spirit, daily refreshed in those showers of blessings we read of in Scripture, and confidently inviting all to come and share in the wonder of its life.

This Sunday morning I preached and celebrated Holy Communion at St. Andrews, Makang'wa. The building was PACKED. At least one third of the congregation were teenagers and young adults! Included in the worship was thanksgiving for the recent marriage of two people. Mandela is from Makang'wa and Prisca from Arusha. They will be living in Dar es salaam. I used my old 'rubber band' illustration. 'You will never know the significance and wonder of your marriage until circumstances t-

e-s-t the strength of your love and commitment.' Pass that test and you will be well on the way to be blessed and to be a blessing – to many.

May you be richly blessed in the Lord and daily strengthen in your faith.

Fr. John. ( Pastoral Advisor to Amani and Pastor within this Diocese of Central Tanganyika.)

