

Report from Makang'wa

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May

2009

Dear Friends,



The snow is now a memory, as is also the patch over the eye! Those were wonderful days at Red Lodge, resting in a winter wonderland. Well, actually it was spring! As I write this on the evening of Tuesday, 12th may the wind is gusting outside. The evening is pleasantly cool – and somewhat dusty. We are in the midst of the sunflower harvest. There will be a reasonable harvest but sadly the wet season departed early and the region has not yielded as anticipated. In fact there will be hunger again this year. However our land has fared better than most in the district. Presently there is much ‘beating of sunflowers heads’. Today the women of St. Andrew’s Church came to assist; a ‘thank you’ for a gift received from Montana.

Much has happened this year. I shall review some aspects of the ministry and progress.

1. In late February we enjoyed the visit of Richard Ince from Great Britain. Richard came to investigate the possibility of assisting with the development of a Tree Nursery/Forestry Project in this region. This would build on the work established through the work of Gordon Matthews. I was in the USA for most of Richard’s time here but did spend two encouraging days with him. It now seems that we are set to embark on a district program later this year with nurseries to be established in Makang’wa Village, Mvumi Mission and Mvumi Makulu.
2. We are in the process of installing the Oil Seed Processing Plant at the Amani Center. This represents a GREAT STEP FORWARD in development. It opens opportunities for local farmers and will also be of financial benefit to the sustainability of the center. Apart from the center buying local seed for processing village women will also be able to bring seed for pressing and then take the oil home for family use. All profit from the Plant will support the Igondola Children’s Ministry. We are thankful for the gifts which have enabled this **dream** to come to reality.
3. The Grape Shamba (vineyard) is looking most promising. The Officers from the Makutupora Grape Research Center taught our crew an improved method of pruning.

This method came from South Africa. It is encouraging to see the improved development of the vines and the increased production which is now evident for the next harvest. Due to the failed wet season we have just completed the first watering of the entire area and have now completed the second watering of 36 lines – bucket by bucket! There are about 160 lines in all. As I walk through the lines – and carry buckets – it is a joyful thing as I do truly see this **dream** coming to fruition.

4. **BUILDING IS UNDER WAY** at the primary School site at Mvumi Makulu. It has been a long journey to reach this stage. We owe such a debt of gratitude to faithful supporters in Brisbane, Australia who have worked so faithfully and so patiently to enable this to happen. The first two classroom block sits in the midst of a large field of sunflowers. Next week work commences on the second two classroom block. Next will be the toilet block and then a 'temporary kitchen' for the preparation of PORRIDGE. Not yet included in the funding is water supply. We do have a two inch line to the school from the windmill about three hundred meters away. However as that windmill also supplies the adjacent Secondary School and the surrounding community we need a 'reserve' tank for the school. The wind does not always blow! I anticipate that it will cost about \$2,200.00 for an in-ground reserve tank plus the same for an elevated pressure supply tank. We also want to 'harvest' the rain water from the school buildings. Our intention is for one large in-ground tank for every two buildings. Again, that would cost about \$2,200.00 plus rain water guttering for the buildings. It all adds up but this is basic to the operation of the school in a semi-arid region. Needless to say, the local people are joyful as they see this **dream** coming to 'concrete' reality.

Here are two views of the initial construction in its early phase. You will see the new Secondary School to the west of the Amani site.

This is the first part of a two part Report.



Every blessing.

Fr. John
Amani Development Center

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Continuing..... Today has been a day of encouragement. We welcomed the new District Land Officer to the Center, a Mr. George Lott. Truly, he is native Tanzanian but with a most English name. The purpose of the visit was to provide information for a report he must give to the Minister for Lands. He was a most gracious visitor and left us with the assurance that the report would be entirely supportive. Quite apart from that I have the sense that we have gained a good friend.

1. The Igondola Children's project continues to advance. Teachers and children have commenced using new classroom. Within a week or two we hope to have the shelving in the teachers' store room. In a few weeks our first sponsored Kindergarten Teacher will graduate and soon after that two more young women will commence training. How blessed we are through generous supporters. Rae Matthews (Bibi Rae) is remembered with affection through her work at Igondola. We have 'tentative' plans to develop a Tuition Center at the Igondola buildings. They are unused during the afternoons. I also *dream* that we shall be able to construct a further two-classroom block and a new toilet block. With such a set of buildings, including the church, we would be able to host conferences/seminars, providing a much needed facility for this area. That would fill the gap until we have finance for the Conference Center on the Amani land.

2. Construction continues on the classroom block at the village of Maumi, to the west of here. Here we are assisting local villagers to construct their first permanent Primary School. The village people are so very thankful for this assistance. I received the gift of a cow as a token of thanksgiving. This was a valuable gift. I have turned it into cash to further support our work with children. The local people have made the bricks, collected rock and sand and carried water from a sandy river bed some distance away. At this time the construction has reached ring beam level. Next is the roof! But that is another story and will require further



funding. The building will contain two classrooms and a teachers' office. At the village an old man had a *dream* concerning education for the village children. He said, 'I did not have the opportunity to go to school, but I am determined that the children will have the opportunity.' *Dreams* can come true.

3. **DREAMING!** It is quite evident that we need to develop further means of financial support here in Tanzania. We are now in the early stages of developing a two stage Grain Milling Center at the Amani Center. This will mill maize and millet/sorghum into ugali flour, the staple food of most people in Tanzania. There is great support for this project locally. Presently woman carry grain about seven km to Mvumi Mission and then carry the flour home. The income from the Mill would support the general operation of the Center. We already have a prepared foundation.

4. This project opens another door of opportunity as the 'bran' from the first stage of milling and the 'cake' from the sunflower pressing combine to make an excellent small animal and chicken (USA), chook (Aust), kuku (Tz) feed. Presently I **dream** of raising pigs and meat chickens at Mvumi Makulu to support the operation of the school. There is a ready and growing market for



both types of meat. The new school at Mvumi Makulu must have a good degree of local financial stability. Pictured to the left are some of the local people who are immediately involved in the project at Mvumi Makulu. To the right is Athanasio, the local supervisor. He is most trustworthy. He is also a catechist at St. Peter's Church.

5. I recently hosted a meeting of the catechists and the two Pastors of the fourteen Anglican congregation of Makang'wa Village. Yes, a village of 7,500 persons has fourteen congregations! The fact that people walk to church has a lot to do with the number of congregations. However it was truly encouraging to be with such a deeply dedicated group of Christians.



Today as I walked through the grapes I counted 45 bunches on one vine! That seemed to speak of the abundance of God's love towards us and his ability to produce fruitfulness in our lives. Read again St. John 15:1-8. Our vines have received 'expert' pruning. God's Word, empowered by the Spirit, is to be the modifying and fruit producing factor in our lives.

Truly, dream on! Matt. 1:20.....an angel of the Lord appeared to him (Joseph) in a dream, saying, "Do not fear to take Mary your wife....." Joseph was obedient to the 'dream' even though obedience was no doubt a costly matter. He clearly understood it was **God's dream** – and the purpose was love.

The Amani Center and its ministries is founded in **God's dream**, God's intention. "**I am planting a tree which will bear fruit.**" He invites us to participate in the dream and so see his purpose unfold. That purpose is love.

Day by day may you live in the blessings of the Lord.

Fr. John Naumann

Amani Development Center

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