

Report from Makang'wa

Report from Makang'wa

May 2007

Dear Friends,

That say that 'what goes around comes around'. We commenced here with kerosene lanterns. I am writing the rough draft of this report by the light of a kerosene lantern. The batteries in the solar system in my unit seem to have developed a terminal weakness. As this is described as 'cell failure' it sounds like 'cancer of the battery'! – absolutely incurable in this instance. That is a world apart from the human body which is 'fearfully and wonderfully made'.

Yesterday I had a light Sunday. I preached at the 7.30am Service at St. Mark's and then spent the day at home. There is not as much music at 7.30 but the worship is most prayerful and reflective. I enjoy being there.



We are in the cool season. Just imagine, it can be 80% and it seems to be cool. It does become cooler in the evenings and early mornings are very pleasant. The days heat up – but evening is coming. I have wonderfully large cabbages developing in the house garden. They evidently enjoy these cool evenings and mornings. But this is also the dry season therefore we are into 'serious' pumping at the well. As the price of diesel has increased this is now a major weekly expense.

Thank you to all who responded to the appeal for assistance with the 'Water and Power' crisis at Mvumi Makulu. All is working well now. The people are most thankful. Last Saturday a Youth Choir and a group of adults (36 in all) came from St. Stephen's, Mvumi Makulu to donate a day's work as a way of saying "Thank you, Amani." Another Young Adult Choir from St. Andrew's, Mvumi Makulu has cleared the overgrowth away from around the well and house sites on the school land there. That was quite a task – thirty years of growth!

Our harvest of maize, millet and groundnuts is not completed. We shall soon begin clearing the land for the next season. I am hopeful that we shall be able to purchase a chaff cutter and put most of the maize and millet stalks back into the soil. This is now the season of **MANURE**. This commodity had never been high on my list of priorities but it is now next to gold! I have tomato plants in my home garden as large as the ones I used to grow in Billings. This is the result of trenching and putting down plant material, etc and **MANURE!** The locals are greatly impressed and some are now doing the same thing. But it does take work! Remember, this is semi-arid country.



We do also have many, many meters of new grape trenches to treat with manure. As I type this the truck is out getting yet another load. This is very expensive but it is an investment which reaps a



benefit for many years to come. If anyone wishes to donate towards the Manure project' the gifts will be most welcome. (I do understand that other needs may be more attracting but here we deal with the basics of sustainable operation.) I expect that we shall need about \$1,500.00 to complete the task. In the photo takes 'from the rock' you see two truck loads in the lower right hand corner.

Nathaniel Asbell is now back in Billings, Montana preparing to enter University at Missoula. He was a wonderful blessing to the life of the Center and to the community. As he has a two year residence Permit he anticipates returning in the summer of 2008USA. He will be most welcome. On July 13th my sister and brother-in-law arrive from Australia, returning mid November. This allows me to visit Australia July 24th to August 28th. I expect to be in Montana mid September to mid October. The dates are not yet established with the airlines. In all of this I am thankful for the assistance of good friends.



There are several attachments to this Report, each one dealing with a specific issue. I have come to learn to consider each issue and challenge as an 'opportunity'. "Lord God, how do we respond to this need? How may the life of your kingdom of love and compassion be expressed here?" Just when I consider that I have reached the 'limit' he leads me to consider again his limitless love and compassion. Then the precipice turns into a path!

Do continue to pray for the work here.

Pray for the people; the single/deserted /divorced mothers; the widows, the elderly and the very ill.

Pray for the children that they may be cared for as true children of God.

Pray for all involved in the Amani Center that we may work in harmony with thanksgiving.

Pray for the teachers at the community schools that they may not be discouraged. Thank God for their dedication.

Pray for us as we prepare to commence the groundwork for the school at Mvumi Makulu.

I thank God every day for every one of you.

Every blessing,

John Naumann

Managing Director, Amani development Center, Makang'wa

P.O. Box 2094, Dodoma Tanzania.

Cell# +255 731 141 250

Gifts may be made through:

'Amani for Africa USA', (Mrs. Doris Gerstner, 4311 Loma Vista Drive, Billings, MT 59106)

'Hearts for Africa Foundation', (Mrs. Alison Jackson, 74 Pring St., Hendra, Q'ld, Aust 4011)

Note a specific area for donation in the Memo – or on attached note.

No not write any checks in my name!



THE SPONSORSHIP FILE

In the past we have managed to sponsor many students through High School and through College Degrees or Diploma Studies. We are changing this system to a ‘sponsorship program’. I shall simply advertise the names and some details of students requiring sponsorship and ask those reading this posting to consider the need and also to pass this on to anyone who you consider may have an interest in supporting education. I know all of the following people personally. All have been interviewed and all come with recommendations from schools and from pastors.

+++++



Albert Keneth Ng'hambi is a student attending Mvumi Makulu Secondary School. His father is ‘away’. His mother struggles to make ends meet and to keep the children in school. Kenneth has come to the Center seeking assistance. He is currently working to raise some funds for his schooling. He comes with high recommendation from the Headmistress of his school. I do know her personally. The following is an overview of his work: Civics C;

History A; Geography A; Kiswahili B; English B; Physics A; Chemistry A; Biology A; Mathematics B.

Albert is typical of many young people needing sponsorship. The school fee is \$40.00AUS per year. In addition each family is asked to contribute \$8.00AUS per year towards the cost of building the new Secondary School. The fees mentioned are the very ‘basics’. If you can sponsor Albert (or one of the many other ‘Alberts’ in the surrounding communities) do send donations to the addresses indicated on the May Report. The fee should be here by early July.

+++++



Jackson Lazalo Malyosi is a member of the congregation at the Anglican Church at Mloda Village, to the south of Makang’wa. I preached there several weeks ago and have been through Mloda a number of times. I have a developing relationship with the congregation. Jackson is seeking support in his intention to train as a catechist for his community. The ‘catechists’ are the teachers and ‘local pastors’ of the congregations. He is a fine young man. The basic cost for training at the Bishop Madinda Matumbulu

Christian Formation Centre (conducted by the Anglican Church in a rural setting – Basic!) is \$200.00AUS per year. The course is a two year course. At this Center students must bring a bucket, hoe, plates, etc plus all of their study/writing materials. Therefore a little extra would not be unappreciated! Send sponsorship gifts to the address mentioned in the May report.

+++++



Julius Mgongo and ‘Mama watoto’ . In Tanzania the custom is to identify a woman by her child or children. The children are twins! However this couple have also two children in Secondary School. They are from the Parish of Mloa Barabarani, again to the south of here. Mama watoto desires to attend Msalato Bible College to study a three year course. She will then be a pastor serving in a congregation. The cost is \$350.00AUS per year. Once again, this is the basic cost. A

Education!

June 2007

We are steadily progressing towards the commencement of activity on the site of the school land at Mvumi Makulu. Well, some activity has taken place but it is the very preliminary work to gain access to two work sites. A key work will be the official surveying of the property. The village believes that they have given about fifty five acres for the school. However Makang'wa village believed that they had given 250! It has surveyed at 530 acres! Fifty five will be most adequate for



the new school. The site is adjacent to the new Secondary School site. The village has 'almost' completed one building of the new school. The photograph was taken on June 11th. Some people were working at the site as we drove by. This building is very near to the boundary with our site. Our land then extends from the Secondary School to the river bed – wide and sandy – and then across the cultivated land to the north east. As you can see the river bed is very wide, very full of sand and shallow!

It will be like having a school at the 'beach'. There will be no shortage of sand for building. That is a great advantage as transport costs are relatively high here. However we shall have to transport rock from our Center. We do have plenty of that commodity. The people here are expert at building with concrete. Timber is scarce and unless treated will soon be devoured by termites! A hard red wood is used for doors and windows. It has a natural resistance to those pests.



Recently the people of the village have cleared away the growth from around the old well site and the original well keeper's house. In the 1970's they surely believed in building a solid platform for the pump engine. The three men are standing on the old foundation. The bore hole is at their feet. We have recently had a hive of bees removed from the bore! We anticipate being able to provide water for both the new Primary School and also the Secondary School – and for the farm we shall develop to support the operation of the

primary School.

The old well keeper's house 'looks' to be a ruin but it is basically in good condition. After the original pumping equipment was stolen people began to remove the roof, doors and windows! Opportunity knocks! The walls are strong therefore our 'fundies' (builders) will do a complete renovation of the small house and add a covered cooking area and proper toilet. The house will then be very suitable for a security person. We shall have the well cleaned and tested. All being 'well' the next steps will be to (a) build a secure storage shed (4 meters sq.) and (b) to install a submersible pump/motor and install a diesel generator. We shall probably use this until we can afford to bring in electricity from the TANESCO line which runs to Mvumi Mission. A group from the village is next going to clear a road way through the bush to the nearby road so that service trucks can easily access the site. We



shall need to have as much as possible of this done before the next wet season arrives. All of this will consume quite a sum of money but it is all absolutely necessary prior to commencement of the construction of school buildings.

I am setting up a small committee whose chief responsibility will be to steer us through the necessary steps with the Regional Education Office. We have had all of the 'informal' discussions and they are VERY supportive but now we do need to get to formalities. As you will understand there will be an extraordinary amount of work to be done. Assembling the key teaching personnel will be a major task.

I am most thankful to a group of people in Brisbane, Australia who have dedicated themselves to supporting the school project. They have recently opened an Op-Shop in a Brisbane suburb and staff it with volunteers. It is now gaining new Volunteers as people become aware of the purpose of the shop and citizens have been most generous in donating items for sale. All in all it is a great success! However we know that the operation of the enterprise involves REGULAR donation of time and energy. When I am in Brisbane in about five weeks time one of the key activities will be the official opening of the shop.

As we live in an area of village communities it is most important that the local people are closely involved in the building of the new school. The Education Department does have published plans for school buildings. They are very adequate and set a good standard. It is up to the individual community to 'improve' these plans as they are able. The key things is: local 'fundies' can build these classrooms. I have seen some. They are very fine. There may be people from Australia or the USA who would want to be involved in the building of structures. My understanding is that 'volunteers' work beside the local builders and then add particular expertise where local knowledge may be lacking. You would find that the local people are most gracious and thankful for all assistance and advice offered in this manner. While we may save money by having most building done by 'volunteers' we lose out badly in terms of community relations.

In the past week I have had a couple from New York staying at the center. They were in the area last year in connection with Habitat for Humanity. While here they came into contact with the Chalula Primary School. They were most impressed with the quality of the teaching staff and also the severe lack of facilities and supplies. After arriving back home they began to share about the needs. The result is that Chalula School is now getting a WONDERFUL Library, fully equipped with shelving, tables, chairs etc- and solar power for the lighting and librarians. It will also serve as a Community Library. It really is a 'first' for a local Primary School in Tanzania! I expect that we shall be 'hosting' them again in several months time when the Library will be officially opened. Well, there will be two in the district within a year or so!

I ask you to pray for guidance as we proceed with the school project.

Pray for wisdom – and patience. It seems to be taking a long time but then we have been 'on site' only a little over one year.

Pray for God's provision for the needs of the school project – the physical needs: structures, etc and also the need to find suitable staff. I am determined that all will be Tanzanian. I have been told that we will need to 'import' teachers from Kenya and Uganda. That we must NOT do. However 'volunteers' from Australia or the USA will be very welcome. We may very well need a 'tutor' to teach the teachers and to encourage them in their work.

John Naumann, Amani Development Organization.
P.O. BOX 2094, Dodoma, Tanzania.



Can a picture say a thousand words?

Maybe many more!

This little fellow is among one hundred orphans and children from very poor households cared for by the people of Igondola Parish (St. John's), our local Parish Church. Presently the ministry is conducted under the title

Igondola Evangelist Groups.

This is a remarkable ministry. Yes, there are many, many thousands of children cared for in Africa through Compassion International, etc but this is a 'congregation based' ministry. It is heart warming to see the devotion of the people to these children. However they have given about as much as they are able in material things – including food. There comes a point at which the burden is truly greater than the local resources can manage. Most orphans are the result of parents dying of AIDS or malaria. In this area it is most probably malaria. Poverty in households is a symptom of a father dying or deserting the family.



The congregation has appealed to me and to the Amani Ministry to assist with the care of the children. They will do all that they can – provide the cooks for food, the committee to manage the program, the homes to house the orphans, the men to construct buildings and the women to care and love each child. But they need assistance. The partly completed

building at the left has been erected with donations from Australia as has the small store/office to the right. They urgently need a 'cookhouse' and an improved toilet. Yes, it is all quite basic – but it works! Children are loved and encouraged in their education.



I participated in a committee meeting several weeks ago and am now a member of the committee. Through donations presently gathered in Australia I was able to assure them that Amani will supply the sugar for their porridge (\$40.00AUS per month); the wages for the teachers (\$20.00AUS per month; and give some assistance with uniforms. These are the uniforms they need for Primary School and also for attendance at this 'Children's Ministry'. Here uniforms put every child on an equal level and they feel like 'somebody'! I have pledged to supply the maize for the porridge through the Food Relief Program. That will require two large sacks of maize per month – about \$36.00US. Uniforms for children cost at \$3.00AUS per child



There are other costs such as medical care but these are the occasional costs. The great need at this time is to complete the two partly completed buildings and to erect the 'cookhouse' and toilet before the wet season arrives in early December. To complete the present two buildings we need about \$250.00US for timber (windows and doors) and fifteen sacks of cement (\$12.50US per sack). The work is done by volunteers. The

photograph to the left shows some of the children with committee members gathered in the background.



This is how the children arrive at the Church. The young mother is bringing two of her own and also one little orphan who are in her care. It was wonderful to see these small children walk up to the group and take their place very peacefully with the other children. It is a place of 'belonging' and a 'safe' place.

As I watched the children I could see that for most of them the designation 'orphan' disappeared as they participated in the larger group. Well, that seemed true for most but I was struck by one young fellow who 'did it all' but there was never a smile! He

looked at me and nodded his head – but there was no smile! African children smile and laugh! He is the lad in the grey 'suit' in the foreground. You remember such a child!



We do have yet to consider the name for this Ministry with Children. Compassion International was offering some assistance but that has not continued so it will be a combined St. John's – Amani Ministry. One very simple thing we can provide from the Center is 'greens' for their meal time. Chinese cabbage literally 'grows like grass' here and is very popular. Presently they have only ugali porridge.

Do pray for the children, their 'home family' and the teachers.

Pray for the Committee as they oversee the ministry and do their best to see that the urgent needs are met.

Pray for us all as we work on the program so that it will be both instructive and joyful.

Pray that hearts will be touched by the need and that offerings will be made to support the work.

Pray for the Amani Center as we seek to 'make a difference' in the communities amongst which we live.

(This Sunday, June 16th, I am to drive with seven others to the Rift Valley (four hours of 'local roads') to preach and to encourage the gathering at a village Church. They expect about 600 adults and 300 children to gather from several nearby villages. It promises to be a l-o-n-g day but also a very fulfilling day.)

Every blessing.

John Naumann,

Amani Development Center.

(See the May Report for donation advice)



Can this be semi-arid Central Tanzania?



Yes, we are on the shore of Metera Lake, the body of water behind the Metera Dam.

This area is part of Chiboli Parish. It is in the Rift Valley and is one of the very isolated regions of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. I preached at the Parish Church last Sunday, June 17th. Because of the large crowd who gathered the service was ‘outdoors’ under the shady trees. In the course of the welcome the people explained that they very seldom receive visitors. We were the first for a long while. That comment made the rough drive seem most worthwhile.



We visited the newest center of worship at a fishing village on the lake shore. It is a beautiful place – in semi-arid central Tanzania! The people can use the water for household purposes but not for agriculture. The power station at the Dam supplies much of Tanzania’s electricity. However the dam has a plentiful supply of fish!

Many of the local people earn a living fishing on the dam and selling to the people of the surrounding communities who are mostly cattle herders. The congregation once earned funds for ministry by fishing on the lake. It all sounds very Biblical! However, as you can see, their boat is ‘broken’! They are urgently in need of a new boat so that they can finance ministry among the local people. I asked them the cost of a new boat. They said that it would cost about \$400.00AUS for the timber and to pay the boat builder for his work. That seemed to me to be quite a good deal.



Do keep in mind that the Amani Ministry is ‘Christ Centered & Community Related’. The Parish leaders spoke about the need for training for the Sunday School teachers and the great need for teaching materials. These materials are available in Dodoma – but they may as well be on the moon as far as these village people are concerned. It is difficult for us to comprehend the stark realities of life in these village communities. But these are wonderful people, keenly dedicated to the Gospel. Perhaps some congregation may like to send about \$150.00 to assist the teachers of the congregations of Chiboli Parish with the teaching of the

children. Then this ‘end of the road’ Parish will surely know that they have been visited by the love of God and the love of His people.

There you have it! The Parish needs a new boat and they need some teaching materials. I am deeply dedicated to the people of the villages. There is ‘opportunity’ in the larger towns and cities but here life is a day by day challenge. I greatly admire the parents who can plan effectively to supply the basic needs of their families. As you can see they also supplied some of my needs – a string of fresh fish – and later a ‘fresh’ white goat! It was quite a journey home, with the odor of fish and goat combining in the back of the vehicle – and plaintive ‘crying’ of the goat!



The children crowded about us to wave us on our way. As you see the enterprising ones ‘bring a chair’. It was a wonderful day. In the background the animals were singing! It was the day for that region when the Government was inoculating cattle and goats against Rift Valley Fever. This fever spread rapidly because of the extreme wet conditions early in the year. It is often fatal to humans. About 130 died in the Dodoma region.

It was a great gathering of animals and their herders, people representing several different tribal groups. The African ‘longhorn’ is a docile animal but still !!!!!!!!!!!



Do keep the people of the villages in your prayers.
Do pray over the needs I have mentioned.
Pray that some hearts will be touched and that these basic needs will be supplied.

For information on donations see the May Report.

John Naumann
Amani Development Center
P.O. BOX 2094
Dodoma, TANZANIA



Community Relations



The Amani development Organization is a 'Christ Centered, Community Related' ministry. This means that **Faith** and **Service** must touch upon every activity. It would surely be easier if we simply 'closed the gate' and concentrated on development on the Amani land and the planning of the school but then we would not be true to our calling.

Assistance through Work Opportunity

Apart from our normal work force we have up to eighteen people each week, mostly women, working to raise finance for a variety of family needs. It is significant that no one comes and simply asks for money! All ask to work for funds to support family needs. However this severely strains the budget. We pay 10,000/= per week (Almost exactly \$10.00 AUST.). People normally work for a three week period. The 'needs' cover medical expenses, secondary school fees, house repairs resulting from the severe rains,, etc. I often average three requests per day. People need to come with evidence of need in the form of a document from a doctor, hospital, school or Village Committee. In the photograph we see some of the 'Work Assistance' people gathered under the tree at the well.

Presently we have:

Mary Nasi	Her child was born with a 'floopy foot' and needs hospital attention.
Joffrey Matonya	A child with TB who needs to have care at Dar es salaam.
Andrew Petre	His child needs secondary school fees.

I offer these as representative of the needs which come to our attention. In this poor nation there really is no 'safety net' for the people in the villages. Our hope is to offer assistance while we also work to life the living standard of the people. The annual cost of this aspect of our ministry is about \$6,500.00 per year. I would like to institute **Operation Compassion**, a program focused on these areas of need. It is this aspect of ministry which has gained for Amani the reputation of **kindness**. People are used to being brushed aside by 'officials'. Others who do truly care do not have the resources to express their concern. We do have the opportunity to touch the lives of very many people, especially the young mothers and children and the elderly. Maybe there is a community of people, like the people of the Lockyer Valley, who would see in this an opportunity to share God's love. I pray so. At this point I express thanks to the people who assisted with the Power and Water Crisis. All is now 'well'!

Presently I am speaking with a wonderful woman in Dodoma about 'Women's Needs' in the region. We do have a partly completed 'foundation' here which I hope one day will be the foundation of the first stage of a Women's Vocational Training Center. It is near the well, the new public toilet and the developing 'shelter' for workers and other gatherings. It will be an attractive setting. All is adjacent to the large Center Cross. It will cost about \$9,000.00US to complete the basic building to a good standard, using our building team. It may be that there is a person or group 'out there' who have a keen interest in Women's Vocational Development. This would be a wonderful project to support, knowing that we have an excellent and experienced resource in my friend, Mrs. Kasembe. Presently she is employed by the Anglican Province of Tanzania. Of course there are many other aspects of 'community involvement'. In another message I shall highlight another which is our close involvement with the orphans and children from very poor families who gather at St. John's Church, Makang'wa.

John Naumann, Amani Development Organization.



Drip Irrigation & School Nutrition Program



This area of activity has ‘caught fire’. People have now seen the benefits and are keen to develop gardens of their own. The photograph to the right is from Mvumi Makulu Primary School. They have harvested the vegetables and have then greatly expanded their area of their garden. They will plant in early July following the school holiday break.

All schools are expanding their garden areas. A new system is being established at a local Compassion International Center (270 orphans and children from very poor families). A large new garden is also being established at the Mvumi Mission Secondary School. The school projects do provide food and they also provide excellent exposure to the systems for the children, teachers and parents.

Our present Facilitator, Godson Magawa, has gained a scholarship to study for a Master’s Degree at Vassar University Finland. This is a great achievement. I do believe that he understands that the climate will be different! We now have to train a new Facilitator. I believe that we have identified that person. He is now working with Godson and will be further trained by my brother-in-law when he is here this year.



Last year contact was made with a group of AIDS survivors/supporters. These people are now ready to commence a large garden project at Mvumi Mission. We shall provide the kits and the expertise to assist them to develop an excellent garden. Their aim is to provide good food for their own needs and to have produce to sell for family income. In the photograph we see Godson Magawa with some of the group members when they came to see the house garden.

We are also in the early stage of planning a Garden Project with a group of single mothers. The plan is to give them use of a plot on our Center (We have unused land) for about two years to ‘model’ what is possible. We have water available. The women would be expected to work at the Center for three half days as their response to the gift of water but also to give them further experience in the operation and maintenance of the Drip System. With about twenty kits they would be able to provide a good quantity of food, year around. I am sure that other small cooperatives would form.



Here we see a ‘private’ garden in the home of a doctor at the Mvumi Mission Hospital. They have harvested lots of ‘greens’ and are keen promoters of the system. Note the scarecrow! The birds also look for greens in the dry season! We are very thankful to the community of Lockyer Valley for their support of the School Nutrition Program. Thank you. Keep up the good work as it is providing a wonderful blessing in these communities. I pray that some other communities may come to adopt an aspect of the work here.



Now, here are some local guys ‘monkeying around’. My word, they could sing and stamp their feet! They say you have to take care with these guys. They eat their meat RAW! Well, not really. They are all students at Secondary School who do traditional dances. They are really very good dancers.

Her are some other men ‘monkeying around’. The man who is about to kick the ball is named Ndlito, He is a local teacher and also one of the people who assist us very greatly. Blue is the color for the Amani Football Team. Ndlito was playing on the Village Team.



Here are some local ‘lads’ monkeying around on the high rock behind our housing.

They are pupils from the Makang’wa Primary School. I think they all have hopes of acting in the Makang’wa Local Theatre Society!

Life is not all hard work here. We do also have some FUN! The people love to laugh – and we white people provide them with many reasons for laughter! The trouble is, we so do not know what they are laughing at but they obviously enjoy having us around.

Fr. John.
Amani Development Center
Makang’wa, Tanzania.