

REPORT FROM MAKANG'WA

Dear Friends,

This is the first Newsletter for a long while. I apologize for that. Thank you to all who support the work here. Your gifts make a substantial difference in the lives of very many people.

Presently we are in the midst of the second phase of the Wet Season. The 'early rains' were abundant and enabled much farming activity in the region. In fact this is the most I have seen since moving here. However the rains disappeared and we entered into a long and very hot dry spell. Many crops, especially the maize, suffered greatly. Some fields have withered and some sunflower has rushed into head on underdeveloped stalks. NOW the 'latter rains' have arrived, a little too 'latter', but nevertheless very welcome. The storms have been heavy with the local river running strongly. Some local Gogo earth walled houses have collapsed yet the people seem to take this as simply part of the fact of living in this region.

Since Amani came here many people have been able to improve their houses, either by placing iron roofs on the earth walled dwellings or by building new houses of either locally made red brick or cement blocks. As I sit on the front porch of the house in the late afternoon writing this message I can see the iron roofs shinning in the late afternoon sun. This is very 'visible' evidence of the impact of Amani on this region. Visitors coming here in 2012 would not readily understand this fact. Perhaps I would need to drive them to some distant village to the south to see 'old Makang'wa'.



Children: This work continues to expand. The *Prince of Peace School* at Makulu is in its second year of operation. We knew it would be a challenge to conduct an English Medium School in this village region yet day by day we move ahead. I am deeply thankful for the consistent efforts and dedication of the staff at the school. We do urgently need your support, especially sponsorship gifts for teachers. That can be either a full sponsorship for a year or a contribution towards that need. The building on the right in the photograph is the recently completed third double classroom building. (See the foot of the Newsletter for details.)

Children of Peace at Igondola is flourishing. Our local teachers, young women sponsored through teacher raining by Amani, are doing a splendid work and are greatly encouraged by the results. Pictrued below is Pendo Mapuga, the first woman sponsored by Amani for Children of Peace. Pendo is now the Head of the Preschool. She is very able and deeply thankful for the oppportunity offered through Amani.



This year a new Preschool has opened at St. Andrew's Church, Makang'wa. The obvious benefits seen at Children of Peace are encouraging other congregations and community groups to commence similar programs. The new St. Andrew's building is very large and was intended to be multipurpose. They have commenced with 135 children! We have been able to send two trained teachers there. Presently they are 'managing' with the help of some young women from the village. At the present time we do have three more young local women in Preschool Teacher

training, preparing for work in these Amani assisted Preschools. These Schools do have their own committees and undertake the key responsibilities in the day to day operation of the schools. Amani is here to assist and provide the financial undergirding so necessary in this society.

Relief Work. The rains have returned but we are still several months away from harvest and cash crops. Many people are hungry, which seems surprising when one looks upon the green fields – and our own



luxuriant jungle at the Amani housing. (More ‘critters’ are appearing! People have seen a cheetah in the hills behind the center. We had a visitation by a five foot lizard (!) and also some interesting members of the ‘cat’ family. Well, they were covered in fur.) HOWEVER – many households, especially those which are single parent households, are really struggling. Added to this is the need to pay school fees, especially Secondary School fees. It is sad when a mother comes to say that her son or daughter has been ‘chased’ from school through inability to pay fees. I find it almost impossible to say, “Sorry, I cannot help you!” We

do what we can. Steven Mazengo is from such a family. He is assisted to attend Mloa Secondary School to the south of Makang’wa. He is deeply thankful for the assistance. Without it he would surely be sitting about the village. Steven is in Form IV and is second in the Form. He is very bright but also totally dedicated. He knows that an education is the key to moving ahead in life. The alternative would be to become a poverty stricken subsistence farmer. Well, he may yet become a farmer but he would be a farmer with the ability to improve and to increase his farm and to have a much improved life however I am sure he will go on to High School and College and become a ‘leader’ in some capacity in this society.



Fortunately our two closest regional Secondary Schools, Mloa Barabarani and Mvumi Makulu, are well above average nationally. This means that students who apply themselves have a reasonable expectation of success in examinations. That is surely not the case in much of rural Tanzania and even in some city schools. A sad fact at the present time is that the Government is once again delaying paying out the University Student Loan funds. These are funds promised to the students. They rely on these funds for food and basic study requirements. At present many Uni. students are absent from classes through lack of food! Soon there will be student demonstrations, met with tear gas and some violence, with some students being banned from University. It seems to be a regular event in university life. Fortunately our two University students at Tanzanian Universities, Furaha Menda and John Leonard (above right), are supported through Amani and, although they are in the Student Loan program, are assisted through these troubled times. They are grateful. Furaha is at the Uni. of Dar es salaam. He says that sometimes in his room, meant for one student, there are four students as the others cannot pay room rent when Student Loan money is withheld. All contributions to Relief Work support food, education and medical needs.

These are the salary details for teachers at Prince of Peace School. The salary includes basic pay, Social Security (which has a health component) and Pension. All of this is stipulated by the Government.

Primary Teacher: \$2,250 US per year, \$188 US per month
Preschool Teacher: \$1,957 US per year, \$163 US per month

May God bless you through this Lenten Season. Remember, Lent means ‘Spring’. We cultivate a life renewed in the grace of God.

John Naumann, Amani Center, Makang’wa
Web Page: www.amanidevelopment.org