

# REPORT FROM MAKANG'WA

March 2014

Dear Friends,

Greetings in this Lenten Season. This is a remarkable time of the year, a season of hopefulness and promise. Tonight (Saturday 15th), I have been preparing for worship at Mloda Village, about twenty kilometers to the south of here. We shall leave the green of Makang'wa for the drought of Mloda. At Makang'wa we are deeply thankful for the rain which soaked the area last Sunday evening. However, it was not as extensive as we had imagined. Places like Mloda are facing a very difficult time over the next twelve months.

We are most thankful for the generous gift which has enabled further progress on the development of the Prince of Peace English Medium Primary School at Mvumi Makulu. It now seems that we are very close to completing the journey towards official Registration of the school. Here in Tanzania this is always an involved process, requiring patience, dedication and perseverance. Our Headmaster, Caleb Dobogo, possesses these fine qualities. This last Friday morning I was at the Primary School and had the joy of listening to a Standard III (Grade III) student read a story in English from one of the library books. Only one word defeated him, the word 'laughed'. In just three years he has learned to read well. The teachers are doing a fine job.



Amani is essentially community related. This is at the heart of who we are. It also means that, in some aspects, we are not as tidy in operation as an organization which is centered on one primary work. However, I would not have it any other way. Two weeks ago we received a visit from eighteen staff and students from Msalato Theological College, Dodoma. They had heard of Amani! The students came from villages scattered across the region. They were excited and inspired by all they experienced, but particularly by the Amani philosophy of operation. As they departed they said, "This tree of God's planting has today developed many new branches. It will spread across Tanzania."



Recently work was completed on the renovation of the Village Clinic at Makang'wa. The collapsed ceilings were replaced with termite resistant materials and the solar system returned to operation. Then this last Thursday we had the joy of providing fifty bags of cement towards the construction of the new Village Health Center at Mvumi Makulu. This is the initial portion of a gift of \$5,000.00 received towards that project.

During the past week I received an official visit from the Headmistress and some teachers from the Mvumi Makulu Primary School. There are 1,300 children with few resources. We have pledged to supply some reading material and library books. I expect that by the end of the coming week they will have prepared a room which will become the new school library! Maybe someone who understands this crucial need in a school can gather a gift of \$300.00 to enable us to assist with this work. I have been appointed 'Guardian' of the school. I am not sure exactly what this position involves but I suspect it means becoming a blessing to the life and needs of the students.

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**T**he Dairy Cow Project continues to move ahead. Currently we are building a hay shed cum sunflower processing area, a water trough with float valve, and much barbed wire fencing! The Center is taking on the appearance of a working farm with cows, pigs, maize (corn), sorghum, windmill and water tanks, plus the extensive grape area. The recently pruned grape vines are producing an abundance of young bunches, promising a bountiful harvest. The lower photo is of the fencing crew.



**A**bout three weeks before the rain came we commenced using a new drip irrigation system. We have introduced drip emitters which I found while in the USA last year. They are suitable for our water quality, in fact, designed for it! This is showing great promise. I am sure we shall be able to grow fodder for the cattle through the long dry season and also a planting of maize for food for the children. Our intention is to set up drip systems at Children of Peace, Igondola and the Prince of Peace Primary School at Mvumi Makulu. Children and parents will be able to experience hands on involvement with this system. There is much fine tuning to be done however I am hopeful of being able to develop some co-operatives of single mothers in the village for the growing of vegetables.



**A**group of people in Billings, Montana have been gathering support for a Five Well Water Project for this region. The intention is to drill and equip one well a year for five years. The initial two sites have been surveyed and drilling of the first well will commence as soon as all organizational details are completed.

**I** have not mentioned the work of the Dodoma Children Multipurpose Project- former street children and now including some village orphans. Actually, these village children are the ones who would most likely end up as street children in the city. In some ways, this is a preventive action. This work will be the main content of an Easter Report.

**L**astly I have to say that we have some very wonderful human beings involved in the Amani work here in Tanzania. I do love and appreciate them. In the photograph, left to right, Furaha Menda, Uni. student, second year, Degree in Education. Abel and Azalia, Graduates from Sokoine University of Agriculture, volunteering at Amani, and John Leonard, Uni. student, second year, Degree in Education. Furaha and John will teach at the Prince of Peace school at Mvumi Makulu.

Every blessing in the Lord,

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