

# REPORT FROM MAKANG'WA

JUNE, 2008

Dear Friends,

As you receive this Report some of you will be entering into the 'Summer vacation' period in the US (although it is still Spring!). In Australia you will be moving into winter. In Great Britain it is Spring. Here in Tanzania the schools have closed for a break of four weeks. As it is still harvest time many of the children and young people will be busy.

To begin: We have received good news from the Kitchen Table Charitable Trust in England, They have approved a grant of 5,000 Pounds Stirling to cover the cost of the windmill installation at Mvumi Makulu. We are thankful. Both windmills are now financed.

We have had a reasonable harvest at the Center. The wet season ended rather abruptly therefore some planting did not fully mature, notable the last planting of groundnuts. We shall soon commence shelling maize with a hand operated maize sheller – and process the millet by beating it with long sticks.

## ! Next year – by machine!

Our vineyard is progressing very well. The vines are healthy. The older ones will bear well this season and the young vines (the great majority) will bear next season. It is truly a beautiful sight to look upon the now flourishing vines. All of the continuing care of the vineyard is in the capable hands of four local men who have been 'tutored' by the officers at the Makatapura Grape Research Center.

Unfortunately our well water is bearing a greater degree of calcium and several other minerals. This is of no harm to our plantings but it does interfere with the Drip Irrigation lines. It requires daily persistence to keep the lines open. (While I am typing several monkeys are looking in through my office window!) The water from the restored well at Mvumi Makulu is 'sweet'. It is truly excellent water. We shall move a section of the Drip Irrigation Program to Makulu. I expect that within a month or so the new Secondary School will have a large Drip Irrigation Garden under development. We shall also assist the local Upendo Group (AIDS Survivors Support Group) with a vegetable garden.

Volunteers from the Igondola area of Makang'wa have commenced digging the pit for an in-ground rain water cistern at the Igondola Children's Project Center. Work will also commence shortly on the walls of the second building there, a Teachers'/Store Building. That will be followed later by a second classroom. The children look very fine in their new uniforms and all are greatly encouraged. I have just completed negotiations with a local

family who own a beautiful piece of land along the nearby river and also directly adjoining our land. The water table in that area is at about twenty feet. This family is very sympathetic to the work with the children and have agreed to a price of \$700.00. It will be excellent for Bananas and Paipai (Pawpaw). We are presently expanding our area of Paipai to about 300 trees and hopefully to 400. If we can have about the same on the new land marketing will be easy as the buyers will come to access volume production. The income from the new land will be devoted entirely to the support of the children at Igondola Children's Project. It is part of our efforts towards a great degree of local self sufficiency. The other element in this is the Oil Seed Processing Mill which I have mentioned in a previous Report. **(You will find the \$700.00 for the land purchase on the Wish List on the Web Page.)**

With the support of a Sponsorship from Laidley, Australia we are able to send one young woman from Makang'wa to a Kindergarten Teacher Training Course. I am hopeful that we can send more young women, year by year.

I have mentioned the windmill at Mvumi Makulu. This will supply the new Secondary School, the Amani English Medium Primary School and also people living in the eastern section of the village. We are also hopeful of being able to install in-ground water cisterns at the Chalula Primary School (1,200 pupils) to the north of us and also at the central Makang'wa Primary School. We do have men who can build the cisterns but we do need to purchase cement, reinforcing iron and the basic plumbing needs – rain guttering, pipes, etc. I am believing this work will be completed before the next wet season. There is a local 'volunteer' element in all of this work.

It is a joy to have Gordon and Rae Matthews from Australia with us for eleven months. Gordon has already completed construction of a Shade House for the propagation of tree seedlings. Rea is involved with the children at Igondola. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> we welcome Craig Smith from Butte for a visit of four weeks. Later in the year Lyn Adnett, a trained nurse from Laidley, Australia, will be visiting. It is truly wonderful to have a steady flow of visitors. We are also receiving more 'local' visitors as people in the region hear about the Center. As people experience the environment here on this hillside and spend time in the 'garden areas' they now ask if it is possible to come and spend a day or more enjoying the peace and beauty of this place. One day.....

I recently read an article written by a Muslim scholar. He was lamenting the fact that every year many Muslims become Christians, especially in Africa. He offered, as a key reason, the fact that Christians promote and support education! He said Muslims will go and build a mosque, but Christians will build a school or a hospital. In fact that is happening here in Dodoma. Ghadaffi is financing the construction of Tanzania's largest mosque. However local people are not attracted by it. They say, "We urgently need more hospital wards. We need better schools. We need WATER. We do not need another mosque. We have ample already." Truly in countries such as Tanzania education and

water are crucial to life and progress. Also, when the Gospel is perceived to be the motivation for compassion and wisdom hearts are touched and life is renewed.

I continue to minister in village churches on Sundays. It is rare to have a Sunday when I can be in the congregation. Most Sundays are long days, departing from here sometime between 8.am and 9.am and arriving home late afternoon. However it is a 'gift' to share with the people. We recently hosted a group of orphans and children from very poor families from Dodoma at the Center. At the end of the visit they sang for us. Several of the songs were composed for the event! They then presented me with the 'warrior's' clothing – or perhaps the 'lion hunter's' as these have been a peaceful people. I now have the cow hide shield and a rather dangerous looking iron spear. It is the real thing and must be quite old. With that I was dressed in the traditional piece of colored cloth. One day I shall strut around the village, looking dangerous. I am afraid they would be greatly amused!

I do encourage you to continue to make contributions to the work here. The needs are great. The opportunities to be a blessing are all about us. People are truly appreciative and do praise God for your kindness and generosity.

May the peace and grace of God in Jesus Christ be with you and shine through your daily walk.

John Naumann

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