

The Amani Magazine

Dear Friends,

This ‘magazine’ is a supplement to the Makang’wa Messenger. It is a long while since I have been able to transmit photographs therefore this is a long delayed ‘catch-up’! In part it is a survey of development at the Center but it also has contemporary news and information.

IT IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE to put into words the experience of living in central Tanzania. The Makang’wa area is particularly beautiful (or so it seems to me) therefore I have trouble placing it ‘anywhere’ distant from life in the USA or Australia. It does not seem to be a strange place and the

people are really just like folk anywhere. That is anywhere where people are generally law-abiding, community minded and where a good percentage hold a strong Christian faith. The late afternoons and evenings are particularly lovely.

From our hill side position we overlook the Makang’wa village and also look towards Mvumi Mission to the east. That view has changed greatly with the appearance of the four communication towers!



In the late afternoon and early evenings we hear the gentle sounds of conversation from the

village – music from the shopping center – and the sounds of children and young adults playing football.



Life here generally revolves around the work and demands of the Center and its varying ministries in the community, and the ministry exercised on Sunday in the various congregations. The later is a joy although it can be most demanding. I really do never know when we set out on a Sunday morning just what time we may arrive home. Frequently I am requested to preach again at the 4.00pm afternoon Service. That will mean worship at 10.00am, a meal at a home at about 1.30pm and then back to that Church or on to another. In the past year I have preached,

baptized and celebrated Holy Communion at most of the regional Anglican Churches and also at the local Evangelical Church and the Catholic Church. Everyone feels that the Amani Center is important to their lives and a blessing to their community.





Here we see the Administration of Holy Communion at Lufuto Parish, Mvumi Mission. We have developed a strong relationship with the people of Lufuto. The Youth and Young Adult Choir have come and worked at the Center, raising funds to purchase musical instruments for their Choir. They are wonderful workers!

The Women's Group (Mothers' Union) have also come and participated in the life of the Center.

Here we see them gathered at the rear of the main house following a morning's work preparing ground for planting millet. The Choir sang for us and then the entire group sang a medley of worship songs.

It was a beautiful occasion; wonderful music in a most peaceful setting. We do now have many such occasions. Groups normally come on a Saturday morning and work until about 12.30pm. It provides 'good connections' with the local communities.



The work and demands of the Center are with us daily. I am sure my life was an easy glide before I moved here. I believe that I have learned something new of the art of 'living in prayer'. I hope so. I am so deeply thankful for the support offered to this work from friends in the USA and in Australia. Without your prayer and care this work would not exist. Believe me, it is a **great** work in the understanding of the people of Makang'wa and neighboring villages. Community life is transformed because Amani is specifically a 'Christ centered, community related' ministry. Yes, we do now have a rather impressive concrete and steel entrance gate but that is there because it must be so. There are no locks and indeed no real fence in that area. We do have security but we want it to always have a friendly face. The people love it because they feel that Amani is 'one with them'.

All of that is true but it is surely demanding and continues week by week only through your assistance. There are weeks when I now there is little in the bank and perhaps \$9.00 in my pocket. Indeed one Tuesday recently I had just sufficient for the one way bus fare to Dodoma. I prayed that a transfer would have arrived into the Account. It had. I have since discovered that I can access my Billings account through the ATM at the CRDB Bank in Dodoma! That is a dangerous situation! But it does relieve the pressure! My daily pray has become, "Lord, you know" – and then keep moving on. Recently of an evening I have been reading some of the great spiritual classics. Faith is refreshed and the heart is centered in preparation for the new day.

Over the past year about \$16,000.00 has been spent on maize for the Relief Work Program, plus about \$28,000.00 per week for milling. In addition we spend on average \$80.00 per week on beans and \$40.00 per week on maize and milling for cooking the ugali, which is the staple food.



Here we see one of the cooks. We have two cooks at a time. They work for four weeks and then a new couple commence. This is arranged through the Makang'wa village office. Apart from 'our' cooking they also prepare 'breakfast' morning tea' for the workers who pay for this food. Therefore this offers a small 'business opportunity' to these women.



To the above mentioned expenses we must add the weekly pays. Amani Center presently has 50 permanent and semi-permanent workers, men and women. In addition we presently offer about nineteen households per week work opportunities to raise funds for Secondary School fees. These people normally work for three weeks (\$25.00US).

The good thing is that people come asking for a job – not just the money! Presently weekly pays average \$660.00. That represents a considerable weekly input into village life. The local shop keepers share that food sales have increased significantly, also the sale of soap, detergent, kerosene, etc. More iron roofs are appearing on homes. The people's health has improved. However malaria continues to be a dreadful problem. I had no idea of its impact upon a community until I came to live here. Deaths are all too common. As we can we do give some financial assistance to enable people to access the local Health Clinic and the Mvumi Mission Hospital. When a father comes to you and says, "I need help. My daughter has just been taken to the hospital, seriously ill, bleeding from the eyes and nose!"of course you empty your pockets if necessary.



Here is Kenneth, a young father whom I have mentioned before. Kenneth is one of God's 'best' people. He has a wonderful personality and does not have a lazy bone in his body! He was made assistant to our well operator and general plumber. In this short time Kenneth has become proficient in most of the plumbing activities required on this land. But best of all, Kenneth is now healthy. This change is clearly evident in the lives of all who work here. Your gifts have great impact upon the lives of many families

in this region.

In relation to this fact I want to make this point. It is of great benefit to the work when people give towards



particular ‘projects’ but the Center also needs the ‘open gifts’ which enable us to meet weekly operating costs and also to assist with the ‘special’ needs which arrive. These are always very moderate amounts but they do add up.

The following is a survey of development over the past year.

The equipping of the well and the installation of the water distribution system was a major enterprise. We have about three kilometers of 2 inch main and many more of 1 1/2 and 1 inch line. This work is not yet completed. We also hope to be able to install a comprehensive Drip Irrigation system in the vineyard areas. This will connect with our present distribution system. I do believe it will be costly however we do need to regulate closely our use of water. Every liter we use has a cost in terms of diesel fuel at the well head! The previous photograph and the following ones show the progressive construction of one of our concrete water ‘towers’.



During 2006 and early 2007 much effort has been put into the development and extension of the grape areas. This has involved the digging of many hundreds of meters of new trenches, the carting of numerous truckloads of manure and then the backfilling of the trenches in preparation for planting. This is ‘labor intensive’ stuff! The women carry the manure on their heads in buckets from the dump sites. It is quite a sight to see thirty women, in colorful dress, walking along quite casually with the multicolored buckets on their heads – full of cow manure!

We have seen the gradual development of the Drip Irrigation area. To date we have grown melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, maize, sweet corn, beans, Chinese cabbage, mchicha, passion fruit, paw paw, squash and ground nuts....and WEEDS! We see tomatoes to the right and ‘very tall maize to the left!





To the right we see the garden at Makang'wa Primary. There they have grown the largest tomatoes yet seen in the area! We see Godson Magawa, who facilitates this program, with some teachers and pupils. Apart from advice and assistance the schools are entirely responsible for the care of the gardens.



Here we see some of the buckets for the ‘bucket kits’. The system does work very well indeed. There is strong local interest. Some homes now have their own ‘bucket gardens’.

In addition we have project operating at three local Primary/Elementary Schools – Makang'wa, Mvumi Makulu and Chalulu. The garden at Mvumi Makulu is beside the main road and attracts much interest.



The first well we ‘restored’ to production was at Mvumi Makulu, in 2001. This was a ‘restoration’ using limited funds. The equipment used was ‘well used’. Last year this equipment failed completely. The pump and pipes could not be patched any further. This left a community of 12,000 people without water. For several months we arranged for

the trucking of water from our well. Needless to say the families at Mvumi Makulu suffered greatly. Through your help the well was cleaned, tested and re-equipped with a submersible pump. In that

community Amani is referred to as a ‘savior’ –life has been preserved. A delegation visited the Amani Center to express that thanks of the community and to present me with the traditional goat!



Presently we are in the midst of constructing a shed for the storage and handling of produce. We first built a 4meter sq. storage shed to hold cement, tools, etc. Then the work commenced on the covered area where workers can process produce – and shelter from sun, wind and rain. We are fortunate that we have ‘fundies’ who are well able to do this work. Yes, we are proud of it. Last week some local Government officials commented on the fine construction. They asked who the architect might be, and the contractor. We proudly said, “It is all our own work.”



Nearby we have deepened an old traditional well. In the dry season we struck good water at a depth of eighteen feet. The well has been brick lined and, in this wet season, is now FULL of water. We propose fitting it with a ‘Money Maker’ foot operated pump and using the water for drip irrigation and for water for the many banana trees to be planted nearby.

In this excessive wet season we have had a daily battle with the run off of water from the hills on the western area of the land. Fortunately we managed to roof the patio area adjacent to the kitchen before the rains commenced – with two days to spare! All cooking here is done



outdoors! In about the last six weeks we have been able to install rain guttering on the main buildings and have installed four sim tanks. One is full of beautiful sweet rain water. The others each have ‘some’. I was late in getting to this task. This work, together with the construction of rock and concrete diversion walls has given us good control of the effects of water about the buildings. It has also enables us to move ahead with the development of a vegetable garden near the housing – right background.



A wonderful group of young adults are landscaping the areas immediately behind he housing. The steps you see are just the very beginning of an extensive system which take one to two wonderful viewing points and also lead down to a new area they are developing behind the office.



This is ‘snake country’ but the snakes are of the python variety and present no danger whatever. They help to control the rest of the wildlife. It has taken some effort for me to convince the locals that they are not to be killed.

The remainder of the photographs are here to let you look into ‘early landscaping’ and a little of the beauty of this land called ‘Amani – peace! God bless you and keep you faithful in His service. Warm thanks for your love and support. Last of all – some pictures of St. Andrew’s Church.



