



REPORT FROM MAKANG'WA

April 2014

Greetings from the Amani Family, with thanksgiving.

We have been blessed with abundant and continuing falls of rain this season. This is a green land and, in places along the roads, is the land of red mud! It is instructive to walk down the internal path, through the thornbush scrub, and see water still seeping down the gully. It demonstrates the importance of the tree cover in retaining water from the heavy rains. The initial water table has been recharged following the previous dry years. There is an abundance of fodder for the cattle. We are looking forward to a large harvest of maize, sorghum and sunflower. When I remember that all has to be harvested by hand my heart sinks a little! The photograph was taken about five weeks ago. Today, April 11th there was more heavy rain. Do you believe that this is semi arid central Tanzania?

Our secretary/cashier, Dinna Menda, moves to Dodoma tomorrow to commence accountancy course at the Dodoma Business College. She will study part time, also working on the financial accounts at our Dodoma office. This is a three year course. As Amani continues to move ahead this is a most important step forward. I shall miss her presence here as she knows our operation so very well and knows the people. Dinna lived in the village during her school years. We do urgently need sponsorship assistance with the college fees and study needs. The annual fee is **\$1,435.00**. This is costly but it really is a **critical investment** in the future operation of Amani. Contributions towards this fee will be most welcome.



This is high anxiety time for a number of our sponsored and supported college level students. All students come from very poor backgrounds. It is a joy to see these young people progressing so well with their studies. Currently, we need **\$550.00** for a final year nursing student. Leah is highly recommended by the head of the college. She is a local young woman. Two other medical students need **\$600,00 each** to complete the final year. John Lenard needs **\$110.00** to complete his final tests at University as he completes a degree in Education. His background is 'poverty'! John speaks excellent English. When I asked him how he accomplished this he replied, "I love to read." I must point out that the colleges do not always provide all of the fee requirement information at the commencement of study! The schedule may also change. For example, Dinna was to commence in July. Six days ago the College phoned her to say that, as there were many applicants, they have divided the group and she has been placed in the first group, commencing on the 14th April! Some days I struggle to remain calm.

Two of the five agricultural college graduates have moved on to new positions but the three young women are with us until late May. They have done an effective task in training our local workers. Late May Mnasse Mwano, from Makang'wa village, will join us following his graduation from Viselle Livestock Training Institute. We have sponsored him through his course. He has done VERY well and is highly regarded





by the staff of the Institute. Through a gift from Billings we shall soon add a further six quality cows to the dairy herd, just to keep him busy. In the light of the welcome rains we would like to obtain a further six weaned beef calves @ \$150.00 each. When mature they will sell for about \$466.00 each.

Early in June the Rev. Carol Sims from Virginia, USA will spend one week with us. I knew Carol when we were both priests in the Diocese of Montana. Carol maintains an interest in Amani through these Reports and communications from the Foundation in Billings. On June 15th eight students and a tutor from ISTOM, a college in Paris, France will be joining us for nine weeks. ISTOM is a college which has a strong focus on training young adults for effective work in developing nations. Two students from ISTOM visited here last year. Their key area of involvement will be the grape industry. The photo shows Black Rose table grapes developing well for the next harvest. There are many problems but also great opportunities. This morning men from a nearby village came to the office asking that their area be included in the study program. Amani is meant to be a sign of hope!

Truly, great things are happening. On 21st May a **forty foot container** will arrive at Dar es salaam. This comes from the Rotary Club of Southport, south east Queensland. Included in the contents are fifty computers, plus school desks, stackable chairs, shelving, and many other most useful items. The container is 'ours'. It will become a most useful and badly needed storage facility at the Prince of Peace English Medium School. About ten days ago I was also informed that a friend has donated the funds to build the next double classroom building at the school! Warm thanks are due to a Rotarian friend, Lloyd Fleming, who prepared most of the computers for shipment.

Well, all of this is a limited look into the activities here. I have not mentioned the Children's Home where Italian volunteers have been advancing the development of that facility. Nor have I said anything about the Dutch couple who visited here, and have now pledged financial support for the Children's Home. We run to keep pace with the purposes and love of God. I have, for many years, had the conviction that God will supply that which he purposes. I understand that, on occasion, we are not conscious of this fact until, in retrospect, we reflect on the past and think, "Oh, I had no idea that is what was happening!" Then I believe that joy, peace and thanksgiving fill out hearts.

This Lenten season will be remembered with joy by people in several villages in the far south of Tanzania. There, in recent weeks, eighty six local Muslims have found a Saviour in Jesus and have been baptized. For them it is the **completion** of a deep desire to be in right and true relationship with God. The number will increase as these eighty six are 'on fire' to share their joy with their friends and family members. Generous people in Billings, Montana, and Toowoomba, Australia have contributed to providing Bibles for every person.

We wish you all a most blessed and joyful Easter. Do reflect on the condition of the world at this time. How urgently we need the knowledge of the Prince of Peace to guide people's hearts and actions.

Every blessing. John Naumann
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