## Report from Makang'wa

February 2015

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Amani Family, an amazing assortment of office staff, cooks, students, teachers, dairy farmers, pig attendants, grain and oil mill operators, vineyard workers, tree nursery and environmental workers, child care personnel, etc., etc., etc. Who have I missed? All are blessed through your care and are deeply thankful.

The wet season has failed us. We are reminded once again that this is semi-arid central Tanzania, and yet, this is the place of God's promise. At present we are busy making hay, and also expanding the spray irrigation system, attempting to save some of the maize and sorghum. We shall also overplant some failed areas of maize with sorghum. The sorghum and maize will become 'porridge' for the children. Our new spray heads are a gift from Laidley, Queensland and the spray lines and fittings a gift from the USA. This expansion of the project will be a long term blessing to many people and radically impact the agricultural aspect of Amani work.

We are also in the final stage of converting the Amani Center Grain Mill to electric power. When this is completed both Amani Grain Mills and four water wells will be on electric power. This will lead to much greater efficiency as we shall be free from the high cost of maintaining the diesel engines. Very soon power



will also be connected to the Godown (large shed) which houses the oil mill, and very soon the machinery for the Clean Stove Project which will be transferred from St. John's University, Dodoma to the Amani Center. This final work will also enable the connection of power to the Student Center building. College students doing Field Work Assignments will have power for computers and phones.

The USA Foundation is funding two drip irrigation vegetable garden projects. One will be at the Children's Home at Mahoma Makulu. It will consist of eight twenty five meter by eight meter plots. In conjunction with the chicken project the staff plans to move towards a great degree of financial independence. The second will be at the Prince of Peace School, involving the older children in the care of a drip irrigation garden – and also providing some vegetables for their lunch!

## Truly, we have much for which to be thankful.

The Prince of Peace School continues to advance. The photograph is of the Standard IV class for 2014, the top class in our District. Through the generous support received the school has a fine set of buildings. These

are now adequate for all anticipated purposes through 2016. We shall require new classrooms for the commencement of 2017. Unless there is a surge of enrolments this should complete the building of classrooms.

Although Prince of Peace is essentially a village school, drawing students from a village background similar to all other District schools, Prince of Peace is now the leading school out of a total of 120 primary schools in the Chamwino



District. This is an extraordinary achievement. The children are WONDERFUL. The teachers are DEDICATED. The school has an atmosphere of peace, purpose and kindness. If you have been involved in any way in support of the school please know that your generosity has brought joy and sound education to many children. To see the children in well equipped classrooms, with adequate text books, and enthusiastic well prepared teachers is a JOY.

After many months of waiting we have finally taken charge of six well bred heifers! They were transported from a Dairy Complex near Arusha. We had anticipated getting cows from a Government establishment but after many delays we decided to look 'north'. These animals were bred in a zero grazing environment. They are obviously pleased with the grazing freedom of the Amani Center. The restocking of the pig project has commenced. By the end of February we expect to have sixteen pigs, with a further six to eight being added each month until we reach capacity.



Lastly, we have commenced the Saturday Primary Program at Children of Peace for 2015. The average attendance is 123. This will rise week by week until early March. I spent time with the program this morning (14<sup>th</sup> Feb.). St. John's facility, Igondola is a bustling place with the buildings used every day of the week! In the photograph are some of the thirty three new Standard (Grade) One Primary children wearing their new uniforms. They are now in the Saturday program.

I am sometimes asked, "What are the current pressing needs?" Apart from donations towards **general operation** we do need Aust \$597.00 or USA\$464.00 for the maintenance of the present school bus. It now seems that, owing to lack of funds, we shall not be able to purchase the larger bus for some months. We therefore urgently need to do maintenance work on the floor of the existing bus. The figures given are exact at this date to the quote offered. The other need is for Bibles for the Children of Peace Saturday program. Approximately \$250.00US will meet the need. These are English/Swahili Children's Bibles, produced by the Bible Society.

With thanks for your love, prayers and generosity. This is a long Report, reflecting the involvement of many people.

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