

Report from Makang'wa

May 2020

Greetings from all at Amani.

Coronavirus! It seems that there is no escape. We are part of the world community. It is not difficult



to understand the decisions leaders have to make. Would you like to be president or prime minister of 'anywhere' at this time? We are well here in this relatively quiet part of the world. The virus is widespread in the country but it is not known how many people are really affected. Here hand washing is a norm and wearing of masks is becoming more common.

These are difficult times here as there are no 'safety nets' for the people. It is interesting to share life in this society. It gives greater significance to many of the Gospel exhortations. We are dealing with the severe reduction in donations, particularly as the virus has caused the shutdown

of the two main fundraising activities of Hearts for Africa Foundation in Australia. Here the lack of school fee income, due to the closing of schools, has magnified the problems. We share this situation with all NGO's and with all private schools in the country. The reports are that some may fail. We shall pull through, in the love of God and of many friends. We pray for God's blessing upon the special appeals being made at present in Australia. Board Chair, Canon Chibilani, chairs a Virus Staff Impact meeting.



Meetings are being held with the pastors and committees of the three preschools which come under the Children of Peace program. At the original Children of Peace Preschool we are well



under way with a three month transition plan for basic self sufficiency in financing the immediate operational costs: teachers, secretary, security, cleaner. Here we see the executive of the Children of Peace Committee, with Godson Magawa, Amani Managing Director, in the middle.

A key element in this plan is provision for the support of COP students when they

enter Secondary/High School. We are introducing a household pig program, based on the 'Cox' program introduced at the Prince of Peace School. The plan is that, in the middle of Standard VII at

primary school a household would receive a weaned pig. At sale a sum would be retained for the replacement pig and the remaining funds dedicated to the student's education. This will be a once only gift, but should provide all necessary support through High School. Standard VII students will undergo an academic review before a pig is offered. Well, in fact the Children of Peace students generally excel so there will be close to a 100% involvement. The Amani staff will be available to supervise the care of pigs. To donate: A weaned pig cost \$26.00Aud/\$17.50USD.

This plan has been received with enthusiasm by the parents. It will evidently greatly encourage the contribution of basis preschool fees as they can see the path ahead. Yes, it is important for the girls, but my experience is that the boys also need encouragement and a principled vision for life. Our next steps are the meetings with St.Andrew's, Makang'wa staff and parents and with the smaller group at St. John's, Chiwona.

Here is encouraging news. Anglican Aid Abroad, Brisbane has contacted us. The good news is that they will initially support the Pig Plan. The entire program, encompassing three Preschools, means that Amani has a large footprint in this region.

Meantime work progresses on the harvesting of Sun Flower and Millet. We have continued to clean areas overgrown with weeds during the wet season. Tomato seed has been planted in seed beds. By the middle of the first week of June melons and squash will have been planted, and passion fruit seed will have been planted in growing tubes. We need a step ladder to harvest this season! Note the weed infestation caused by the excessive rains. However the weed is a legume, now used in the making of compost.



The posts are extracted and their place becomes a 'breathing hole' for the compost. We shall build twenty three heaps.



Here a group of women relax after threshing and winnowing sunflower. There is a heavy crop, with a second crop just beginning to come into flower. There will be much oil for cooking and 'mashuda', sunflower pressing cake, for animal feed. These people are working within the Relief Work Programme.



A photo taken at the well attended meeting of parents, members of the Children of Peace Committee, and some of the general congregation at St. John's Igondola.

This was an absolutely encouraging meeting. The 'PIG PROJECT', for support through secondary/high school, sealed the support for the proposed changes.

With warm thanks to all for your prayerful support. We pray for God's blessings of health, peace and wisdom as we move ahead through these times.

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