

## **General Information – Amani Development Organization.**

**September 2016.**

**Grapes:** Some sections did very well this season. This income will be reflected in the next six month report. The people involved in these areas, through the self employment program, are happy. We are presently restoring several sections (Amani Centre and Makulu) where several people failed in the initial twelve month period. They have been replaced. The future for grapes in the immediate region is bright. Several of our older grape sections will be re-trenched and refreshed.

**Vegetables:** The lesson learned is that vegetable plots need to be of a size sufficient to return a profit. Also, as for everything else in farming, when one crop does very well in a particular year, everyone grows that in the next year! Sales become depressed. People are now diversifying. Onions are a dependable crop.

**Dairy Cows.** The first of the new heifers delivered a heifer calf early this afternoon – September 9th! Mother and daughter are doing well. By December/January there should be nine milking, a couple resting. In the new year we shall have three young dairy bulls for sale.

**Pigs:** There are 33 at present. We have one pregnant sow. There will be about eight for sale in maybe two months. All are healthy.

**Chickens:** This has been a testing experience, but many lessons have been learned. The initial distribution to Prince of Peace Parents resulted in disappointment. Some families did well; others failed miserably. I guess we should have understood the situation more clearly and started 'small'.

One early mistake was to bring sale size chickens bank to the center from homes as we arranged chicken sales. This move brought disease from the village areas into out sheds! We have battled this for some months. Currently we have cleared out most chickens, except for two sheds which seems to be healthy. We have disinfected and will steadily restock. We are hearing of others people who have been experiencing disease problems with chickens purchased from Iringa. Now we suspect that this may be an element in the problem. Day old chicks are now available once more from Malawi. We believe that we shall recommence with 200 improved hens from there, and also begin to incubate eggs from improved hens. We have held back while trying to get control of the disease problem. Our expert welder has also made an improved brooding warmer for the day old chicks. This is modelled on the rather expensive commercial items. We shall be testing it later in the week.

### **Children of Peace, Igondola.**

I have written to the Church, suggesting that they consider selling the Igondola Project Land. The people have become less than enthusiastic in the care of the land. I believe we should not put any further financial input there. The land will have improved value as we have dug a 22ft well, constructed two small concrete block sheds, plus a security shed and above ground water tank. The power line extends along the road side of the property. The road is scheduled to be reconstructed and sealed. The children are happy and doing well. One of the Children of Peace Secondary Students

called today to share good news. Martin Joffrey Jonas gained Division 1 in form III test. Martin is sponsored at the Diocesan Secondary School, Mvumi Mission. He is #9 in a total class of 107.

### **Prince of Peace School.**

The reconstituted Board has met, following the Annual Meeting of the Amani Board. The Prince of Peace Board will meet again on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September. A dedicated account has been established for the school. Fee payments will be made into this account by parents. Presently, on the Board, we have a retired Doctor (very good man); a recently retired primary head mistress; retired teacher and village leader, highly respected in the area; a local business man and village chairman; Godson Magawa (finance); and two more yet to be nominated. I am there ex-officio, also the Head of the school to offer required information.

Following the coming meeting the Board will send out a letter to all households, impressing upon people the absolute need to contribute towards essential fees: tuition, transport and food. We shall also be arranging a visitation of all school related households. If there is not an improvement in contributing toward bus fares the parents will be informed that the buses will probably cease until the situation improves. Academically, all is well. Grades, 3,4,5 and 6 are ENJOYING extra tuition during the two week mid semester break. They really do enjoy this.



On the 9<sup>th</sup> we were presented with the first calf of the season. 'She' is of the Boran breed, bred for both beef and milk, but really mainly a beef animal. These have a high level of resistance to disease.



Here we see some of our cattle at the extended feed trough. This was the first time they had used the extension. There was little pushing and shoving.

This student is rejoicing with good news. Martin Joffrey Jonas is one of the 'grown up' Children of Peace kids. He attends the DCT Secondary School (Anglican), with some assistance. He recently gained Division I in examinations, and is placed #9 in a class total of 107. He is in Form III. Good work!

Fr. John

