



Report from Makang'wa

March – April 2011

Dear Friends,

The people associated with the Amani Development Center send you their greetings. The Amani Family has grown with the opening of the Prince of Peace English Medium School at Mvumi Makulu. The statistics are encouraging but also challenging.

The school has opened with a total enrollment of 149 children. Seventy are in Standard One in the Primary School. Fifty three are in Preschool and twenty six are in Kindergarten. Of the total number 66 are girls and 87 are boys. As I type this on Saturday 26th March we are preparing for an official visit and inspection by officials of the department of Education this coming week. Many parents have been volunteering to tidy the grounds on the two campuses. *Very soon we shall be able to commence some 'landscaping'. Do pray for God's continuing blessing upon this work. The children are so very happy to be at the school and are extremely eager to learn.* The two photographs show (top) Primary children in their new uniforms with Caleb Dobogo, the Headmaster. Below are the Preschool children in their 'user friendly' uniform with teacher Doris Jackson and Aid John Leonard. We selected the sunflower as the school flower! There are thousands of them on the school property at present.



Additionally at St. John's, Igondola there are 130 in Preschool and Kindergarten. A further 160 Primary School children gather every Saturday for instruction, worship, fun and food. The new 'toilet cum wash room' will soon be completed his will be a wonderful facility for the children and hopefully for many people who will gather for seminars and celebrations.

I have been told that the new school is 'the talk of the town' in Dodoma. Actually there is nothing like these two facilities in any other villages in the region. Of course all of this development flows from the generous and much appreciated gifts received from many people. Another important aspect of the work is that of the six Preschool teachers five were sponsored through Amani for their professional training. All are local young women. Currently two more are in training.

In addition to the Prince of Peace Primary School/Preschool and the Children of Peace Preschool Amani also supports the educational and basic care of forty seven former Street Children in Dodoma. Today I learned that one of the Form Four students gained high marks in the national exam and has been granted a place in High School. That is a great achievement for a Street Child and shows the great value of this work. How does all of this happen? Again it can happen only through the love of God received

and welcomed into the hearts of people like you. There is no other explanation! Paul refers to us as being '*fellow workers together with the Lord*'! I have always considered that to be a wonderful description of the Christian life. It helps us to maintain our focus as Christians and as caring people.

Obviously the cost of maintaining this work, especially the operation of the new school, is very great. This will ease a little year by year as student numbers increase. Next year we would expect to increase by about sixty children and therefore income from fees will increase. You will understand this, that at the very beginnings we need the same number of security men as we shall need in five year's time. To this add the Secretary, Cooks, Headmaster, etc. and you will see that the initial two to three years will bring heavy burdens. As I have shared with other people involved in schools in Dodoma all tell the same story. Maybe this is what we call 'growing pains'! Note: it is growing pains.

I have listed below some ways through which assistance may be directed towards the operation of the new school. Such support would enable us to grow more easily and to provide the myriad resources which such a school requires. Parents rightly have high expectations.

SPONSOR A TEACHER PROJECT

This type of sponsorship would greatly bless the school. Each teacher positively impacts the lives of many children. Apart from individual support this would be a great project for a business or company, a fellowship group or a church. The sponsorship figures given cover the basic salary, social security plus a small amount for the teacher's classroom needs. *I must add that our teachers have all accepted salaries much lower than the national standard. They understand the local economy and are excited to be associated with the opening years of this school.*

Headmaster: \$3,036.00US sponsors the Headmaster for one year.

Deputy Headmaster: \$2,640.00US sponsors the Deputy for one year.

Primary Teacher: \$2,360.00 sponsors a Primary Teacher. At present there is one.

Preschool/Kindergarten: \$2,244,00 sponsors these teachers. There are three.

Teacher's Aid: \$960,00 sponsors one Aid. There are three.

Secretary: \$1,560.00 sponsors the Secretary of one year.

I know of private schools in Tanzania where the cost of sponsoring one child is a little over \$1,000.00. At Prince of Peace we are following a different course. I believe we are 'on course' and can develop a school which will relate meaningfully to the local community and economy and hopefully provide a 'model' for the development of other similar schools in this rather neglected region.

May God bless you richly and hold you in his care. May you know day by day the joy and peace which flows from being a blessing to others.

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