

Christmas Report from Akang'wa

Dear Friends,

Christmas greetings from the staff and community here at the Amani Center and Amani Schools. May you be blessed with joy and peace this Christmas and experience a New Year lived in the peace and purpose of god.

The time spent in Montana was greatly blessed. It was encouraging to have the companionship of many old friends and to meet new ones. The receiving of the Jeanette Rankin Peace Award, and the publicity surrounding it, provided an opportunity to share the Amani story with many people. The media in Billings have been consistently supportive of this work. Before leaving for Billings I was asking for cold weather and some snow. Amazingly, on the first Saturday in Montana I was driving on an icy road in the northern entrance to Yellowstone Park! The next day I was to preach at the Gardiner Baptist Church.

Much of the time in Billings was spent in correcting the manuscript of a book I am writing. Three most patient and hard working friends did the editing and I typed in the corrections'. This proved to be, for me, an extended lesson in English grammar! Hopefully, the book will be published within this coming year. All proceeds will be dedicated to Amani.

One week after returning to Tanzania the first significant rains arrived. This was soaking rain, greatly welcomed by all in the region. We are in a time of acute shortage of maize, the basic staple of the village people. About twelve months ago a sack of maize cost 8,000/= a tin (six tins to a sack). Now it is 13,000/= to 14,000/= a tin. Many people are struggling. This also adds greatly to the cost of our care for children.

Therefore this Christmas, if anyone wishes to give a special gift for the children, I suggest a gift towards the cost of maize. This would break down to \$9.00 for a tin; or \$54.00 per sack.

Once again there is good news from the Children of Peace Preschool at Igondola. Forty one children were tested for entry to Standard One, Primary School and FORTY ONE passed. We are so very proud of the children but even more proud of the teachers. These are all local young women who have been sponsored through teacher training by Amani. Now practically every village in the district wants a similar school. The key to having an effective preschool is in the training of teachers. This year two young village women graduated as preschool teachers. Currently we have two young village women who need sponsorship to access this training. One is from a village which has commenced a small preschool however without a trained teacher they will surely fail in this intention.

Teacher training for preschool is now a two year course at the Provincial Teacher Training College to the east of Dodoma. The fee is now 2,100,000/= per year. All gifts towards this need will be greatly appreciated.

Hopefully, this Friday afternoon we shall welcome our first five dairy cows to the center. There has been a great flurry of activity to prepare the shelter and the yard. We have planted sorghum for green fodder but will need to feed with hay for about two months. All are pregnant therefore we shall have the joy of some calves. Milking of the first cow will commence in about two months.

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Was there a cow in the stable? I have heard there was an ox so maybe there was a cow somewhere in the scene.



Every blessing for this Christmas and the coming New Year.

John Naumann and the Amani Family in Tanzania.

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