

# REPORT FROM MAKANG'WA –

## July / August 2013



Dear Friends,

I am preparing this report during the last few days prior to flying to Australia for a 'August' celebration of the work of Amani in Tanzania. Friends on the hearts for Africa Board have prepared a schedule of preaching and presentations in many venues. Do pray for God's blessing on this weeks in August. I arrive back here on September 1<sup>st</sup>, in time for the final preparations for the Annual Meeting of the Board here in Tanzania.

This week two people from Dar es salaam are conducting a Charcoal Making Seminar at the Amani Center. We have ten local people learning how to make charcoal from dry grass, sawdust and wood shavings, maize cobs and stalks, sunflower trash, and any dry weed which can be found. There is much excitement. The trainers are impressed by the abilities of the local people. Our hope is that the income from the sale of charcoal will assist with the care of children at Children of Peace Preschool and Primary program.



The first photograph shows the 'kiln', made from two large oil drums. The second displays the contents, now ready to be mixed with a small amount of prepared cassava flour and then put through an 'extruder', a converted meat grinder! This method produces excellent quality charcoal. The group has a vision of six kilns, operating at maximum production!



We recently visited the Children's Home at the Mahoma Makulu site. About forty one former street children and guardians gathered together in a wonderfully happy atmosphere. I was particularly impressed by the character and dedication of the guardians. Knitted beanies and white baseball caps, brought by three visitors from Australia, were distributed to the children and secondary students. We are in the process of arranging for water to be brought to the site. A plan has now been finalized. I am hopeful of commencing this work shortly after I arrive back in Tanzania. It is difficult to

realize that these were once little guys, being sheltered in a partly built house in Dodoma. One of these young fellows has this week been notified that he has been granted a Form IV pass and has a place in a Government High School, however we need \$360.00 to enable that to happen. These are orphans. I mention him later in the report. He is second from the right in the photo.

Work is progressing with the construction of the first two elevated water tanks at the Prince of Peace Preschool. Presently water is pumped into the existing 2,000ltr tank and is then used by the school, and also by a multitude of local people coming to access the sweet clean water. Everyone pays the national water contribution of ten cents per 20ltr container. The people are most thankful to have a plentiful supply of clean and sweet water. Very soon similar work will commence at Chalula, providing water for about 6,000 people.



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The drip irrigation system is working well. The 'winter' maize is growing very well indeed. An experimental area of wheat has been planted. This will be cattle fodder. While I am away two cows will deliver their calves, with others following along, month by month.



Additionally, in August our secretary/cashier, Dinna Menda, will present her first child. The wife of the Staff Assistant, Godson Magawa, will have her first child in September. There will be many little ones about. Life will never be the same again at the Amani Center.

We recently welcomed a visit from Ian Donaldson, President of Hearts for Africa, and Jo Stansfield, an expert in using the MYOB accounting program. The accounting system here was refreshed and hopefully all will be much more readily managed in the future, especially the preparation of the six monthly and annual reports. My driver, James Juma, stands between Ian and Jo. They enjoyed an overnight at Mikumi National Park.

My sister, Daphne Merritt, from Bundaberg accompanied them and will travel back to Brisbane with me when I fly out from Dar. Pictured below are Daphne, Jo, Caleb (POP Headmaster), and Ian.

Thank you to all who have responded to the needs of students at this time. Secondary, High and some College level schools are commencing the new study year. There is great anguish over High School entry this year. The Government delayed the announcement of the Form IV results until about one week before students are expected to report to High School. This has meant that many families are struggling to gather together the funds needed to enable their son or daughter to respond to this opportunity. Students are frequently sent to far distant schools, which greatly increases the costs. One of our Children of Peace Students, Steven, has been sent to Tanga, in the north east of Tanzania. Another, Martin, has been sent to Tarime, in the Lake Victoria region.



Clean water and education are two of the most important necessities of life in Tanzania. It is gratifying that Amani is so deeply involved in both areas of need and opportunity.

With sincere thanks,

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