



## God Had Other Plans



*A surge of inflation has crashed down upon us like a great flood, pushing our overstretched budget to the breaking point. Many of our ministries have*

*suffered from skyrocketing prices and we wondered if we could even maintain our "bread and butter" activities – training Christ-centered leaders. The staff and I sat down with pencil and paper and we compared our budget with what we are trying to do. We began looking for places to cut. Cuts into our training ministry would have to be drastic just to stay afloat.*

*The advanced studies, which are held at the Mission campus, are a program of deeper training in the Word and in Discipleship. This is something we have been planning on and praying about for years, and we just started last year. But the cost for these studies, which includes feeding the students for a six month period, is \$5,000 a year. This was the first item on the chopping block. It would have to go. We had no hope and no means of keeping this work going . . . but God had other plans.*

*I notified Brother Vaughn and a few others of our predicament; that in a couple of days the Malawian staff would be told that there would be no Bible School on our main campus in 2010. One of the people who heard this news was Gene Shelburne, who serves with the Anna Street church in Amarillo, TX, a congregation that has been heavily involved in the Malawi work for many years. Within a day Gene wrote back to say that the Anna Street church would like to provide the \$5,000 to continue the Advanced Bible studies for the year ahead. We were amazed, but we should not have been surprised. God has always led faithful supporters to provide what we need. When all hope seemed to be gone and the axe was raised to chop off a major area of ministry, God used His people to provide a way out. Now because of Anna Street's sacrifice, good men will continue to receive serious training at Namikango Bible School in 2010, to the glory of God!*

*We still have a serious need to increase our budget by \$5,000 each month, just to keep up with the inflation of the past six years.*



Mark Thlesen

*We sit in amazement and wonder as we ponder who will be motivated to step forward and commit to fill this need. We thank the Lord and praise Him for working through his people the way He always does.*

Mark

## "The leaves have ears."

*That's what the Africans say . . .*

Kefa Kweyu, an evangelist in Kenya, returned home from a preaching journey. He had walked for miles and crossed a swift stream inhabited by crocodiles. He was tired and hungry. And lying right at his door he saw an egg with a powdery whiteness on it--a common way of delivering deadly medicine bought from a sorcerer. Kefa knew that whoever had placed the egg there would be in the bushes watching. He also knew he was on trial. His tribal culture was enslaved with the fear of witchcraft. In illness or trouble, the first thought was, "Who has bewitched me?"

Kefa had often preached that Christians should not be afraid of sorcery and should trust God. They should not be fearful and run to the witch doctor for protection. It was easy to

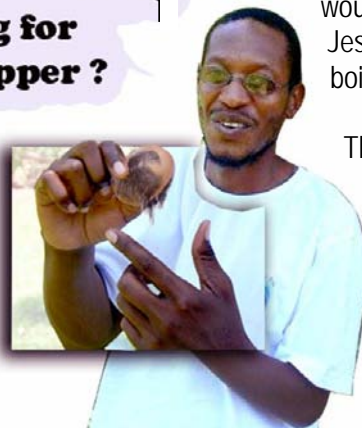
*by B. Shelburne, former Namikango missionary*

*preach this but it took great faith and courage to actually do it.*

One thing for sure: whichever way Kefa responded, everyone would know it. Kefa bent down, picked up the egg, and in a loud voice, said, "How nice! Someone knew I would be tired and hungry. I belong to Jesus and Jesus is greater than sorcerers. I am going to boil this egg and eat it." And he did.

People expected Kefa to get sick and to die. They watched day by day but nothing happened. They began to think that God really was able to protect believers from the powers of darkness. Kefa's example impressed many unbelievers and it gave Christians a new courage to step out on faith. This one act brought a breakthrough in the Gospel's battle against

**A nice hair egg for supper?**



darkness. Even the leaves have ears. You never know how many people will hear your testimony and be affected when you choose faith over fear.

## Priority - Mission Security

*Six nearby homes have suffered invasions by armed gangs in the last 8 weeks. The worst thing is that the gangs not only burglarize the homes but they rape the women and brutalize anyone who stands in their way. Whites seem to be targeted. Malawi is a nation of gentle people, but every country has its reprobates.*

*We have long felt that our security at the Mission is inadequate. I think it's by the grace of God that we haven't fallen victim to more severe situations. We do have some guards, but they are made up of untrained villagers who often go to bed before we do. We have fired several of them for sleeping on the job. We just can't find good watchmen.*

*There are professional security companies that hire out guards but we have heard that they are in league with professional criminals. All in all, I think good watch dogs are the best defense we have at the moment, but even they could not withstand armed gangs.*

***There are some measures that we need to put in place right now.***

***First*** – We are getting back on the neighborhood radio network that the Wilkses used to check in

*with the neighbors each evening and to call for help if under attack.*

***Second*** – We have been advised by the US Embassy to install a siren system on the house to scare away the type of gangs that have been terrorizing the area. But on this, we have had difficulty getting the company to come out and tell us how much this will cost. We have been waiting to hear from them for two weeks. We don't know how much this will cost nor how long it will take.

***Third*** – I had some men from a local metal works come and measure all of our doors to put metal cages over them. I don't like to be caged in but we would feel safer locked in than exposed. The present doors can easily be kicked in. Nothing will keep a determined crook out, but if we can slow him down it will give us a chance to call for help. Plus, if word gets out that we have taken security measures, they may pass us by.

*Unfortunately security measures will take money. I am waiting to hear back on the cost of everything. The cost for the metal bars would be \$2,055. But I do feel it is urgent for the safety of my family that we go ahead at least with these.*

*Do you think there is someone who might help cover this?*

*Mark*

***Mark,***  
***Absolutely! Proceed immediately to do whatever is needed for all these security measures. The funds will be raised. Sidney***

Meet ***Tito***, a wolf-like German Shepherd and ***Sosiska*** (in Russian this means sausage). Sosiska has a vicious, alarming bark. Tito has a deep, menacing, growl sound instead of a bark. Mark said he has never bitten anyone but he has scared a few would-be thieves out of their wits. The Mission has a few large dogs and is in need of more. The dogs are fenced in during the day while they sleep. They prowl at night if the guards are awake. The dogs love to play in the front yard with the children. Here, they are helping Erik hunt for 'critters.'

**MONTHLY REPORT • Namikango Mission • [www.missionmalawi.org](http://www.missionmalawi.org)**

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**VOLUME 46 • ISSUE NO. 4 • APRIL 2010**

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***Meet our Guard Dogs Sosiska and Tito !***

## ***Fruit of Early Missionaries***

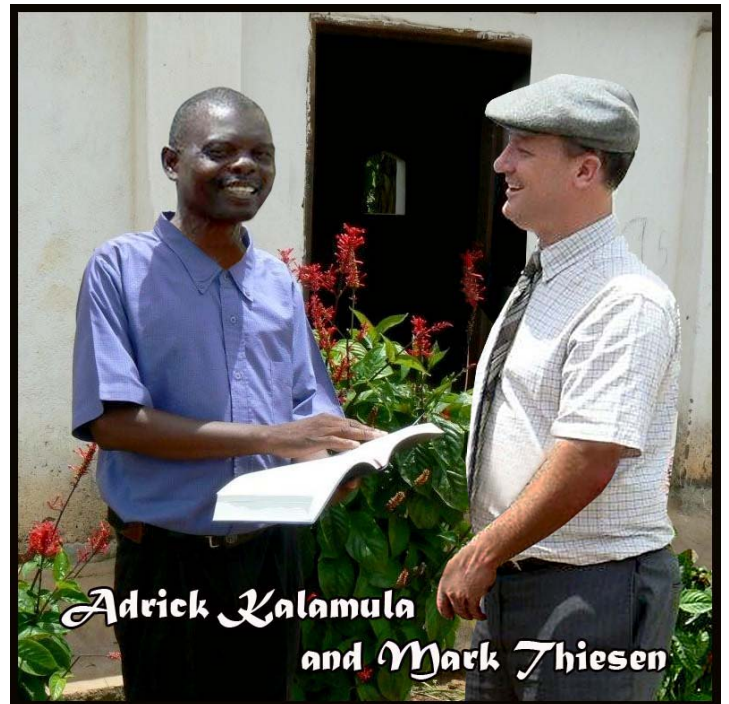
There is someone I'd like for you to meet – Adrick Kalamula. My family and I came to know Adrick soon after our arrival at Namikango Bible School six years ago because he was always coming to the Mission to take his on-line tests for the South Houston Biblical Institute program. He has almost completed every course we offer. This is a tremendous accomplishment!

I soon noticed much more about this man than his passion for learning. His gentle manner and wonderful sense of humor showed the spirit of humility that makes a great leader. As our friendship developed, so did our working relationship. Adrick joined me in several weeks of village preaching treks. Having been convinced of his love for the lost, we invited Adrick to join our campaign teams to evangelize the lower Shire valley on two occasions. We learned that not only is he a gifted leader in the church, but he is also a committed evangelist.

Yesterday we went to visit a congregation a few miles from his home. The building where the church meets is surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of rocky mountains and green corn fields. This is just one of 14 congregations that Adrick encourages as he makes a circuit from week to week, guiding the Christians on to further growth.

On this occasion, he led the congregation in a moving remembrance of Jesus' death as he presided over the Lord's Table.

I got to spend a little time with Adrick's family. He has five kids, one of whom is married. He told me that he was baptized in 1974 after hearing B. Shelburne and Jack Hutton preach at a meeting. It is good to see the fruit of our early missionaries still producing in Malawi. They would be



***Adrick Kalamula  
and Mark Thiesen***

pleased to see the work of men of like Adrick Kalamula and realize how powerfully the Lord is using them. What a legacy!

Adrick is a "tent maker" like Paul, supporting himself by working in an office at an agriculture station full time. The greatest challenge for him, he told me, is managing his time so that he will be able to do the Lord's work in the evenings and on weekends.

When we play a part in producing leaders like Adrick, we have fulfilled the mission God has sent us to do. Mark