

Progress

New Administration Building is Complete

Thanks to the hard work of many overseeing the project here and thanks to many of you in the USA who have generously contributed to this project, the Administration Building is finally complete (some final touches are being applied as I write).

We will begin moving into our respective offices this month and now be fully operating from there. Of the 26 new offices, 21 of them will be put into use immediately, leaving five for future use.

With the completion of the new classroom block and now the new Admin Building, we have completed Phase One of the campus developments that were needed in order to start the new **Discipleship Training Institute** on Namikango's campus.

The old Mission House and the former offices will now be converted into a Student Study Hall, Library, Day Care, and a new Dining Hall. The completion of the Admin Building has been a crucial first step that now allows us to get ready for the on-campus Institute. We look forward to beginning our first classes in January 2021.

By completing the Admin Building, this has allowed us to beautify the campus and centralize all activity into

this beautiful part of the campus as it is situated just in front of the Mission House and opposite the new classrooms.

This building has brought a lot of excitement to all of us at Namikango. It is beautiful inside and out – providing a workplace and meeting space that is much nicer (and newer) than what we've been used to.

Words cannot adequately express how deeply grateful we are for your support in helping us to complete this building.

As many of you know, it is not just a building but evidence of what God is doing through Namikango every day, and your support is a vital part of that.

Ryan Hayes

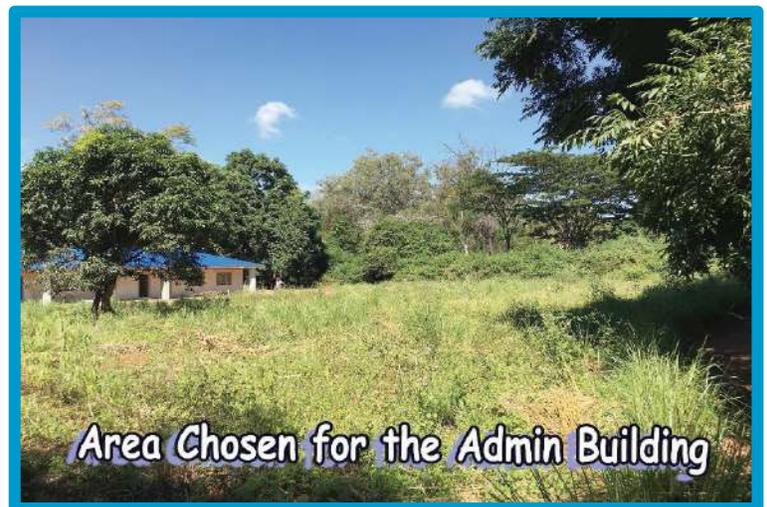


Campus Change

If you knew what the Namikango Mission campus looked like before we arrived here eight years ago, and compared it to how it looks today, you would be surprised at some of the differences. The addition of macadamia trees, coffee plants, the new soccer field, the outpatient medical center, and preparation for the Discipleship School on campus have changed the landscape of Namikango.

But in many ways, the campus remains the same. Its beauty is evident almost everywhere one stands on the premises. The old iconic structures that have come to represent the campus still stand, alongside their new counterparts.

We see this progress as a testament to what has gone before us and what is coming and are grateful to all for the support so many of you have given over the years.



We are blessed to be in the middle of this new era at Namikango.

Ben Hayes

Love is in the Hand by Justine Hayes

There's a Malawian proverb - "Love is in the hand" that means if you shake someone's hand you are showing them love and respect. When you walk up to a group of people, you take time to shake every person's hand individually, showing respect and honor to each one you meet.

Even before any cases of COVID-19 were recorded for Malawi, the President declared a national emergency and began putting restrictions in place, including instructions to stop the traditional greeting of shaking hands.

Instead of shaking hands, Namikango staff has resurrected an old custom of putting one's hands together in front and slightly bowing. This is our "new" practice of greeting and it is being used throughout Malawi. This indeed shows respect when greeting.

It is an interesting time for a culture when the meaning of shaking hands has been temporarily suspended. For now, "Love is in the hand" means refraining from potentially sharing unwanted germs by keeping one's hand pulled back. It means taking extra time to wash with soap and water more often than usual.

Virus Update

Similar to the US, where COVID-19 seems to change routines and expectations almost daily, Malawi's climate is beginning to change.

Several weeks behind the US and other parts of the world, the Malawian government has just announced that non-essential businesses will need to place their employees on shifts. Restaurants are being asked to not serve dine-in and people are encouraged to stay home as much as possible.

Since we provide health services at Namikango, we are on the front line. We are monitoring the situation and making adjustments to staff schedules as needed. By the time we are

In this way, we are caring for the hands that will be getting on a mini-bus, moving around, and taking care of the basic necessities of life, and not spreading deadly germs.

While we are all concerned with the health and wellness of loved ones and ourselves, we now also carry the weight of concern for society's most vulnerable - those who could contract the virus unknowingly. Rather than letting fear be the driving factor behind all of our precautions, let us keep this proverb in mind and let love be our motivation.

With every measure we take in these pandemic times, let us bless with love those we may cross paths with, whether physically or virtually. Love for our neighbors, love for our community, and love for God who holds us together in Christ.



writing next month's bulletin, everything may be completely different, but for now, though, precautions are being taken in the midst of still trying to provide employment and services to people for as long as we can.

Please join us as we continue praying for them. The staff there are praying for all of us in the US as well.

Blessings, [Ben](#)

Why Is This Happening?

I heard a very profound commentary on why this pandemic is happening and I would like to share it with you to consider.

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In a very short time, just like He did during the plagues of Egypt, God has taken away all the gods we worship and hold dear, the things we treasure most.

Man wants to honor and even worship athletes –  
... the stadiums are shut down.

Man wants to worship and idolize the musicians –  
... the Civic Centers and concert arenas are closed.

Man wants to memorialize actors –  
... the theaters and cinemas are closed.

Man loves and worships money –  
... the economy and the stock market are struggling and possibly collapsing.

*If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14")*

No doubt our land needs His healing and forgiveness. And no doubt our needs have been seen in heaven by a loving and merciful God.

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I felt this commentary was thought-provoking and worthy of sharing with you. We are in the middle of history. This time and what we do right now will be remembered for generations and centuries to come.

We ask you to lift up Namikango Mission in your prayers and please continue your faithful support during these difficult times.

Bowing before our Creator, let us draw energy from our Savior Jesus Christ.
Sidney Vaughn



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Let's Meet One of the Staff

Faith Lewis Somanje

Faith Somanje is 29 years old. He attended a Christian Primary school and came to Namikango Mission in 2015.

Things were tough for Faith as a young man. With the loss of his mother at an early age, it was left to him to support and care for himself as well as younger siblings.

Faith attended a Technical College where he studied 'community development' and finished at diploma level. He came to Namikango Mission in 2015 as the CHE (Christian Health Evangelism) Coordinator, focusing on teaching ways of conservative agriculture. He is currently supervising the land leveling around the new Administration Building.

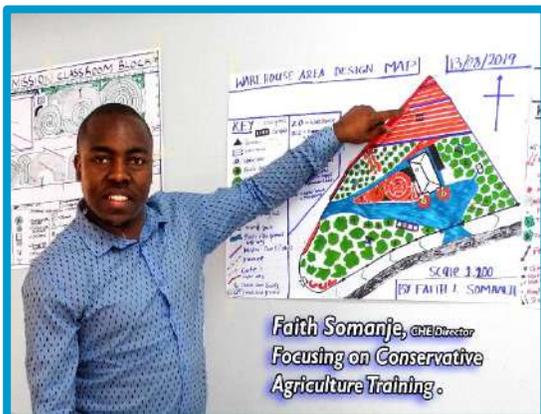
His wife, Memory, is in charge of nurses at the Maternity Clinic. They have one child, Precious, who is two years old.

Faith has acquired the skills and ability to work with people from different cultures and he excels in the spirit of teamwork. He likes teaching Biblical lessons along with teaching good ways of Agriculture. He would like to develop further in understanding permaculture designs.

His admonition to us all is that we surround ourselves with people who love God and His work and that we continue as faithful servants of Christ.

He requests prayers for his father who is sick, suffering from kidney malfunctions.

Symon Katete





We are thankful for the missionaries at Namikango! Please accept this donation in honor of **Truman Hayes' 88th birthday.**
Kalith & Vaughn Brown

Enclosed is my check for the Mission. We knew the Jim & Kathy Albright family during our years in Malawi, teaching at Chancellor College in Zomba, 1980-89. I visited the Albrights at Stillwater, OK, in 2008. My family and I visited Malawi in June 2014. Visiting as tourists in hotels, it was surprisingly expensive! We appreciate being informed of current events in Malawi via the Mission Newsletter. Regards, **Stephen Buggie**

We really enjoy the bulletin and are so thankful for the good work done in Malawi!
Love,
Doug & Mary Chris

Missionary Travel Updates

Ben, Eric, and Ryan left Malawi for their scheduled furloughs to the States on a staggered schedule.

Ben and his family were the first to arrive. They are now at Becca's parents' home in Lubbock after they self-quarantined for two weeks in Houston. Eric is in Pennsylvania at his parents' home where he self-quarantined. Ryan's family was the last to arrive and they are at his parents' home in Houston.

Currently, their return plans are unsure.

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