

Two Building Projects

For several months we have been discussing the need for improvements around the Mission and we are glad to say that we have now begun two of them. These two projects - a fence and the Bible School classroom block - will spearhead other needed revisions on Namikango campus.

A Fence

With the important agricultural projects going on, plus some building projects, we felt it was necessary to finally begin work on a fence around some of the Namikango property. This will provide safety for our workers and community members as well as guard the machinery, crops, and materials used on campus. This won't solve all the safety concerns but this is a needed start.

The Classrooms

The first block will be comprised of classrooms which will include a room for the new Bible School course to be taught in English here at the Mission. This represents a break-through for Namikango with the first course to be taught in English. Eric Gephart will be heading up the English Bible studies. We will also be able to have a classroom to train community members in the very effective Conservation Agriculture course and it will be easier to teach on campus here at Namikango.

We are very excited about each of these projects and especially so since we have found an excellent local building contractor. Thanks to our Mission Board for the "go ahead" and for all of you who have already given financially to help us begin construction . . . and for others who hopefully will join us in meeting the financial needs for the construction costs ahead.

Thank you for allowing us to begin to make these projects a reality.

Ryan Hayes



People are Listening

We want to serve the people of Malawi in a complete way. This is why Namikango Mission has developed our Agriculture Outreach program (Christian Health Evangelism – CHE) which combines with our Bible study efforts and reaches the needs of people in both the physical and spiritual, holistic way. We are presently training people from eight districts in Malawi in better living. Here is an account written by [Faith Somanje](#), one of our CHE trainers, on how God is working through Agriculture training.

I took a trip to Northern Malawi last year to see what people have done after being trained in our Agriculture Outreach program (CHE), and I was thrilled. It was exciting to see the amazing crops being grown in a conservation way. Plus, I saw how they had applied the life-skills training we had given them. They had made and were using the efficient, small, wood-stove that we had demonstrated, saving precious and scarce wood.

I was able to visit 28 fields with maize, beans, soy beans, and groundnuts. When I saw how these things were working and how they had benefited the people, I remembered the wise saying, "Give a man a fish and he will have food for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will have food for a lifetime."

In the pictures are some of the good stewards who practiced what they learned in our training. And, this in spite of a dry spell in some places that we visited. These "conservation agriculture farmers" will surely have a bumper yield this year."

So far, the program has reached out to 122 groups of people, with about 25 in each group, which includes some 3050 individuals. Namikango's efforts have been to reach the entire needs of people. This is bearing fruit and our Lord is being praised and honored.

People are listening to us when we talk about improving their lives through their farming . . . They are also listening when we talk to them about Jesus.

Ben Hayes



Dead stalks provide ground cover from the heat of the sun, keeping valuable moisture in the ground. They give the termites something to feed on instead of the live stalks and they decompose, enriching the soil.

Fire!!

I was sitting in my office having a meeting when staff members started flying by outside, headed towards the Maternity Clinic, fire extinguishers in hand. We received word that there was a fire and we saw smoke rising in the direction of the Maternity Clinic, which is 200 yards from our offices.

I hopped in the car, sped over there, and arrived to find staff members frantically pulling furniture out of the clinic, while others were entering with buckets of water. When the dust settled and the smoke stopped, we learned that the backup generator (*which is located in a central courtyard*) had caught fire, igniting a nearby can of fuel; the flames went on from there.

Thankfully, due to the quick reaction of the Namikango staff, the fire was extinguished. The local fire department from Zomba arrived in about 30 minutes and prevented the fire from spreading further. Electrical wires in the roof were burned, walls were blackened, and there was smoke damage, but not nearly as bad as it could have been.

The Maternity Clinic will be shut-down for a period of time while maintenance is done and everything is put back in proper order.



Smoke fills the Air

This closure will be felt by the community as many people depend on this clinic. We expect the down time shouldn't be long. The cost of rebuilding will be \$2,000 or more and we will need financial support to recover.

Ben

Rains Come and Go

This year's rains have been off-and-on in some areas. We are currently experiencing a second wave of the rains this season, and thankfully our crops which were planted in December held through the small dry spell.

We are growing Maize and Soy Beans again this year for use at the Mission, for feeding the leaders meetings and visitors. We are alternating planting locations from last year. Our crops are now being grown in the middle of our coffee field in order to make current use of that land while the coffee grows and matures to an age where it can be harvested - hopefully next year.

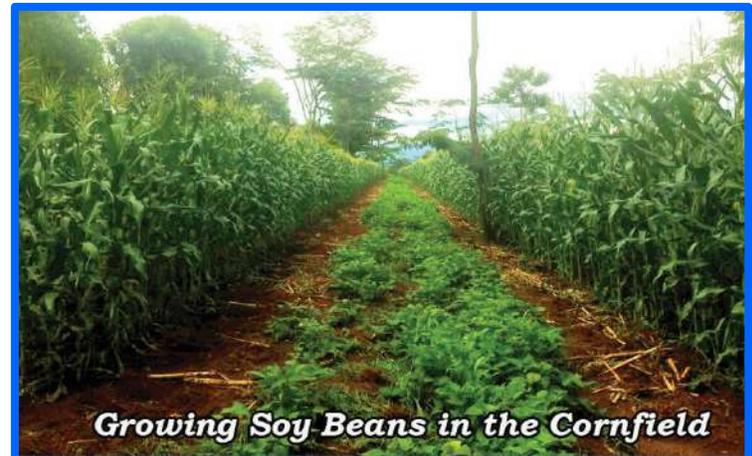
Unfortunately, not everyone has had the rains return in time. In recent weeks we have received calls from friends and Bible teachers that the crops have failed in their areas. The recent return of rains has been an answer to prayer, though for some whose fields were struggling, they may still lose up to half their crop. So we give thanks for the rains we've received as it helps us here at the Mission, but we also want to ask for prayers for others in Malawi who are struggling.

Our farming not only provides a way to feed our many visitors, the experience also helps us understand the local struggles of farming so we can better instruct others in our CHE program.

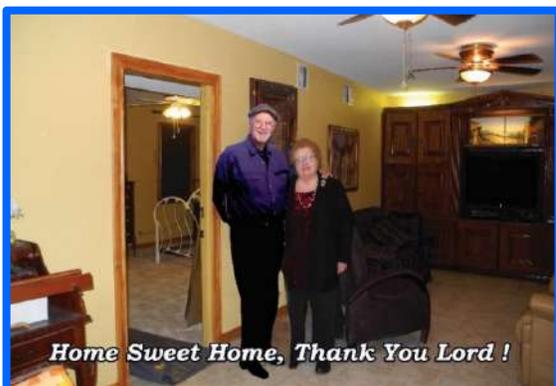
Ben



It is now Malawi's Rainy Season



Growing Soy Beans in the Cornfield



Home Sweet Home, Thank You Lord !

Six-Month Journey

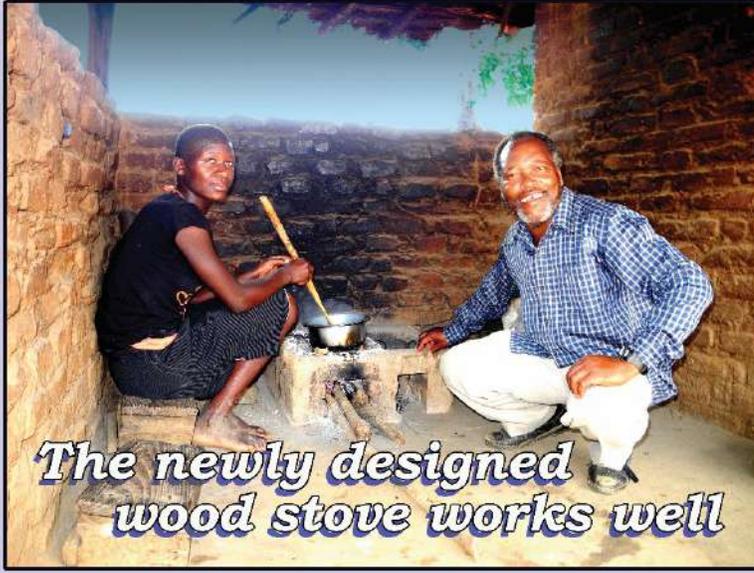
We have been on a unique journey - being flooded out of home and office. Thanks to many friends and family, the journey has been filled with nothing but good memories. So many blessings came our way that each day we looked forward with wonder at what special blessing God had planned for us today. Either with hotel accommodations or funds or work on our home, every day has been special and we are so grateful for the prayers and support. Still it is good to be home. Home never looked so good. God is good.

Sidney & Anita Vaughn



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Ntonda Primary School

At the end of the year we visit Ntonda Primary School - the school we oversee; it is about 40 minutes away. We take this opportunity to encourage the teachers on a job well done and to celebrate with them.

This past year was a very successful year for Ntonda as they graduated 48 Eighth Graders on to secondary schools (High School). In the U.S. we are accustomed to having every student move on from Eighth Grade to High School, but in Malawi it is a huge achievement to **qualify and to be selected** to move on. The openings in good secondary schools are limited. Since we have approximately 1,730 students in the primary school, you can get a picture of how competitive it can be.

We were able to share a few gifts with the teachers in recognition for their work and congratulations on a good year; this added a lot of fun during our visit.

We also got to celebrate what the Bible Club has done this last year. There are after-school activities that students can participate in - sports clubs, drama, etc... We learned that the Bible Club operating at Ntonda is the only group that has actively and consistently met all year long. This is due to the work of Timothy Jailos, the Bible teacher we employ to work at Ntonda. He gathers the students weekly for singing, fun, and a Bible lesson. His work is so effective that students are anxious to attend. The club this last year **averaged 172 students** ages 8 to 16. Timothy also teaches a **daily Bible Course** at the school during the week.

All in all, the teachers at Ntonda are working hard to educate the students and prepare them for the next level as well as to encourage them spiritually.

Ben



Happy Children



Symon gives a Timid Teacher her Gift



In loving memory of Dana Renee Horton Pitts & Billy E Horton Neita Horton	A Christmas gift in loving honor of Truman & Mauriene Hayes Alan & Kyla Muns	Brethren, please use this money where it is most needed. God bless you for the good works you are doing at Namikango Mission. Yours in Christ, DeLoy Smith
We found the article regarding the crop storage of interest. Coming from a farming background, we understand the storage situation and are happy to make a small contribution for that. Sorry to hear about [the flooding at] your home and office but glad you are making progress with the restoration! We're heading to Texas for several weeks and will be working with Samaritan's Purse for one of those weeks. God bless you, Merle & Elva Jean		

Break-in at the Hayes Home

Thieves came through a window at night and stole our computers, hard-drive backups, some files, my passport, and a few other electronic items. The next morning, we reported it to the police and within a few hours someone had brought in my passport (along with some of the files) which had been found along a muddy road, in a small village about 15 min. away. I took the police around that day and we went to that location, where they believe they have two suspects. One of them was recently released from prison. Up until now, there has been no further word, but they are trying to strategize how to find the thieves.

People were praying the night this happened, as I had asked for prayer for some other events at Namikango. So, we believe that God did answer prayer in that the thieves did not come into our bedroom or the kid's bedroom, but just entered the living room and left. The kids still do not know that anything happened as of yet, so there has not been much trauma to deal with, for which we're very thankful.

Ben

We think of the Malawian people as gentle, friendly, and eager to improve physically and spiritually. But in every nation there are scoundrels. It was scoundrels who, in the dead of night, broke into Ben and Becca's home in Zomba and stole their electronic equipment. We are glad that no one was hurt; things can be replaced. Their safety will continue to be in our prayers.

Sidney

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