

Recent Mission Trip for Three Board Members

I just returned from an exciting visit to Namikango Mission in Malawi! B. Shelburne and Shawn Tyler joined me in representing the Mission Board in our discussions with the missionaries and staff regarding the future of Namikango Mission.

This was my first time to witness our new missionary families - Ben & Becca Hayes and Ryan & Justine Hayes - in action. I was impressed by the vision they have to take our efforts in Malawi to a new level of service beyond what we have dreamed of in days past. They are dedicated, surrounded by godly people, fully trusting God to work in new ways to make a greater difference in Malawi.

The team's enthusiasm is contagious, believing that God is mighty as He works to His glory in Malawi.

In planning for the future, the Mission Board sent three Board members to visit with the Mission Staff about what changes may need to be made to reach this major league level of service. It will require changing many of the ways we have done things – both on the American and Malawian sides.

One major change has already taken place on the U. S. side - the work is now overseen by a Board of Directors – leaders from different congregations; each with a unique perspective as we seek to lead Namikango Mission to its next level of impact. Some changes will be coming to the Malawian side of the work and the Board members led the Malawian staff in discussions about what these changes will look like.

The organizational structure that has served the Mission in the past will now be broadened to have more participation and contribution from the Malawian staff. The missionary will now be assisted by a committee of workers from different departments in making decisions and carrying out work.

Changes will affect nearly every area of our work, and staff on the ground will feel the changes more than anyone else. In several meetings, the three of us joined Ben Hayes in sharing this vision with the staff and in listening to their ideas as together we plan a new era of greatly expanded ministry. We are still in



The three visiting Board members are past missionaries.

Here they are surrounded by our present missionaries.

the very early stages of planning and I feel very optimistic about the future of this ministry which has already blessed so many over the past half century.

As we spent time with the missionaries and staff, it struck me that we have the right team of missionaries and their staff in place to begin this new phase of work. They are enthusiastic, talented, and energetic. Most importantly, these workers are people of faith who show that they will not allow the Lord's work to be limited by small thinking.

I believe that in the years ahead we will be amazed at what God is doing. I am excited thinking about how God has blessed this work in the past and for where He will lead us in the days ahead. Be patient with us and on our reporting on what is planned . . . it is all good.

Mark Thiesen for the Mission Board



Disaster Response for our area

The effects of one of the worst floods in Malawi's history continue to show up as we move through February. While there is much to do in areas beyond Thondwe (where Namikango lies), this community was in the center of the storm surge and becomes our first target for help.

We talked with local church leaders and asked them to let us know who was in most need in their communities – both church members and non-members, and specifically the orphans and widows among them.

When we asked what the most desperate need was, most often the response was “immediate shelter,” whether it was repairs needed to an existing building or the funds to be able to rent a place nearby.

The following is a report from [Alex Nunu](#), our [Agricultural Supervisor](#) who helped to oversee Namikango's response to flooding in our area.

The Thondwe area in the Zomba district suffered heavy rains that began falling late December. People here are seriously affected with continuous rains, crops are being washed away, and houses destroyed. A few days ago they were secure in a home of their own; today they are homeless. Now these victims are living in school rooms and some are renting a place away from their original homes ... if they have the money. Namikango Mission began at once to help by distributing building materials such as plastic sheets, nails, bamboo and wood poles from the Mission compound, plus providing small amounts of cash to enable victims to have a temporary shelter.

Alex Nunu

We have not only given supplies but we plan to work together with the local churches to help make the repairs alongside those who are not able to do this by themselves.

These repairs, though only temporary until a time when the rain stops and their homes can be permanently rebuilt, still provide a great help to those who have nowhere to stay. Thank you for your prayers and support for the people here in Malawi.

[Ben Hayes](#)



This Lady lost her Bedroom Wall



Crops are ruined, Homes damaged and a field of Water remains



Collecting Plastic Sheets for Shelter



Bamboo for Roofs or Walls of houses that have fallen down!

Flood Relief Fund

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Flood Relief Funded | \$15,000.00 |
| Donations Received | - \$7,949.00 |
| Assistance Needed..... | \$7,051.00 |



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3 Board Members visit Malawi

UPDATE –Ntonda School Flood Impact

I wrote about the Ntonda School devastation by the floods last month. The damage was heavy; even Timothy – our Bible teacher, had to move out of his house. The school buildings had damage but they were still in better condition than the area homes. As a result, our small school has become home to about 120 families.

They begin coming into the school rooms around 4PM, after classes have ended. They bring their food, luggage, and some come with their animals. They then depart by 6AM, leaving the classrooms open for school that day.

The kind of damage these terrible floods have done to people's lives is mind boggling to think about. It is hard to imagine what it must be like to lose your home, your crops, and your livelihood. For some, even family members have been lost – very hard to imagine. We wonder how people will get back on their feet.

Please continue praying that we receive wisdom in how best to assist people in severe need.

The school block in the photo is where the school/community started to build a classroom, but hadn't completed it. It was



Unfinished Classrooms

supposed to have full walls but was only built part-way and stopped. It is now in rough shape and needs help.

We talked about the Ntonda School situation while the three Mission Board members were here, and this is one of the areas we will soon be addressing.

Ben Hayes



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|---|---|--|--|
| <p>In loving memory of Daddy Ken Watanabe Karen Vaughn</p> | <p>In loving memory of my mother Elgie Spence Don & Linda Lipsey</p> | <p>Thanks for all you do! We are so thankful for this good work. Love, Doug & Mary Chris</p> | <p>Missionaries http://www.namikangomission.org Ben, Becca, Braylon, Brooklyn & Britain Hayes BenBecHayes@hotmail.com http://hayesmalawi.wordpress.com Ryan, Justine, & Amelie Hayes rjhayes@cmfmissionary.org http://ryandjustine.wordpress.com Editor Sidney Vaughn sidneyv@swbell.net 713-944-8484 Mail Contributions to: Namikango Mission P. O. Box 21 South Houston, TX 77587</p> |
| <p>In loving memory of June Campbell Doug & Mary Chris Wilks</p> | <p>In loving memory of Gladys Winkler Hines Lendal & Peggy Wilks</p> | <p>My parents, Murrell & Elgie Spence, gave to Namikango Mission for years. After Dad passed away in 1998, Mother gave until she moved to assisted living. This comes with prayers for this good work.</p> | |
| <p>Note: All gifts received will be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors of Namikango Mission, Inc.</p> | | | |

We are enclosing funds to help Brother Rodrick and his loss during the recent flooding. We pray these funds will help him as he begins to rebuild his dream retirement home again.

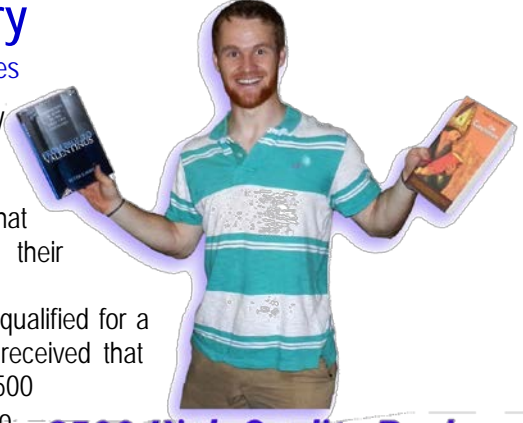
Sidney,
 Just before I left on my trip to Malawi, my home congregation – Hazel Dell Church of Christ, Vancouver, WA, along with my sister & brother-in-law – Robin & Dick Clay, took up a special collection to send toward flood relief in Malawi. They plan to send more.
 Blessings, Mark Thiesen

We now have a Mission Library
 by Ryan Hayes

In spite of the terrible flooding Malawi has recently seen, we have had some bright spots to begin the year. There is an organization called Theological Book Network – based out of Grand Rapids, Michigan – that specializes in helping overseas Bible schools build their libraries for a minimal amount of funds.

Since we now have a Mission Library, we became qualified for a shipment of books last year and we have just now received that shipment which consisted of 32 boxes, or about 2,500 high-quality theological books to add to the Namikango Mission Library. This library benefits the staff, our students, along with many other students in the area.

Namikango's Library is quickly growing to be one of the most solid libraries in the area. We are grateful to see how God has provided for us through the good folks at the Theological Book Network and look forward to seeing how God will use this selection of books to further the work of His Kingdom.



2500 High Quality Books