

## God can do wonders with a seed planted in good hearts. by Ben Hayes

Teaching the Bible with the aim of glorifying the living Word of God has been Namikango's key work from the very beginning. Over the years, this has been done in many different ways, especially through daily studies carried out through the Village Bible Schools.

The focus of this bulletin, however, will be the other ways we are sharing God's Word. We will look at different ways of teaching and disciplining that Namikango is involved in, ranging from weekend Gospel Meetings with large groups of

churches to weekly radio broadcasting, to spending concentrated time with a few individuals at a time, and, most recently, the restarting of written literature.

We all need to hear and be reminded of the Gospel every day, and these are a few of the ways we try to do that here in Malawi. We want to do all we can to share the Word of God in as many ways and to as many people as possible.

*God can do wonders with a seed planted in good hearts.*



**Young People, Eager to Hear the Gospel**



**We Get to Witness Many Baptisms**

## World Radio by Eric Gephart

For years and years, Namikango Mission has maintained a weekly radio program on the Malawian radio airwaves. During our scheduled radio time, a Mission team presents sermons and lessons to a wide-reaching audience. This means that every month or so, the team prepares their teachings and sermons and makes the trip to Blantyre to record several new sermons and programs to be heard on air during the month.

Since a good portion of Malawian villages rely on radio as their main source for news and announcements, we know that many people tune in every week to hear from Namikango!

We are thankful for the partnership with World Radio through White's Ferry Church in Louisiana. They have faithfully provided the air time for this program through the years.



**"Good News" over the Airways**

## On a Journey by Eric Gephart

While the camp meetings are an impressive ministry, with thousands of people attending to hear the Gospel and hundreds of churches affected, the staff here at Namikango are well aware that more is needed than these big events to grow a disciple; (Disciple: one of the twelve - a learner; a dedicated follower). Discipleship cannot be achieved over the course of a weekend, but rather is a life-long, daily journey with Christ and this is best in community with other followers.

Following the example of Jesus, Namikango works with small groups of church leaders who have committed to long-term discipleship and service. Currently the Education Department is working with two groups, one male and one female. These groups meet every other month for several days to learn together, to discuss life's joys and issues, to pray for each other, and to be in community with other leaders.

**The Men's Journey Group** has been together for nearly four years now and they have traveled through many issues and problems. They have encouraged each other in ministry, sympathized with setbacks, and celebrated victories. This group has been so serious about being disciples that for the first three years of meetings, they would not discuss the issues facing the churches, but rather focused on their own hearts, understanding themselves as children of God. Because they were able to open their hearts to God, the group is now able to discuss Biblical, theological, and ecclesial topics and issues from a place of humility and through the eyes of Christ. This has led to intense, meaningful conversations, deep Bible studies, and changed lives.

**The Women's Journey Group** has been together for a year and a half now and it is already evident that we can expect great things from them. Each woman is active in her community and has been through some form of Biblical training. These women actively take opportunities to evangelize and encourage the churches, and their

passion for the Gospel is obvious. This group regularly communicates outside of the group meetings, choosing special days to fast, days for prayer, and days for ministry. They are an incredible group of women and they are so grateful that Namikango provides training and discipleship for women as well as for men.



## Liu la Namikango by Stanley Mkwanda



Teaching the Word of God is the greatest work Jesus Christ commanded us to do before He ascended to heaven. ". . . go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

**The early church treated the Gospel with a sense of urgency, defying the threats which were coming from the hostile environment around them.**

Today, we here at Namikango have a number of ways where we can share the Good News of the Gospel. One of them is through Namikango's printed bulletin, the "Liu la Namikango" (translation: "The Voice of Namikango").

Namikango Bible School has been publishing a bulletin for many years; through this publication we have managed to present Bible teachings to many people across Malawi. With the growing number of churches here, it is not possible to reach and

teach all of them individually through normal church visits and camp meetings.

However, with "The Voice" we are able to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in places that we have never visited. Many people who receive it will pass it on to share with others. Plus, this publication is doing multiple tasks – in addition to spreading the Gospel, we also use it to communicate news from neighboring churches and information about the ministries and activities Namikango is carrying out.

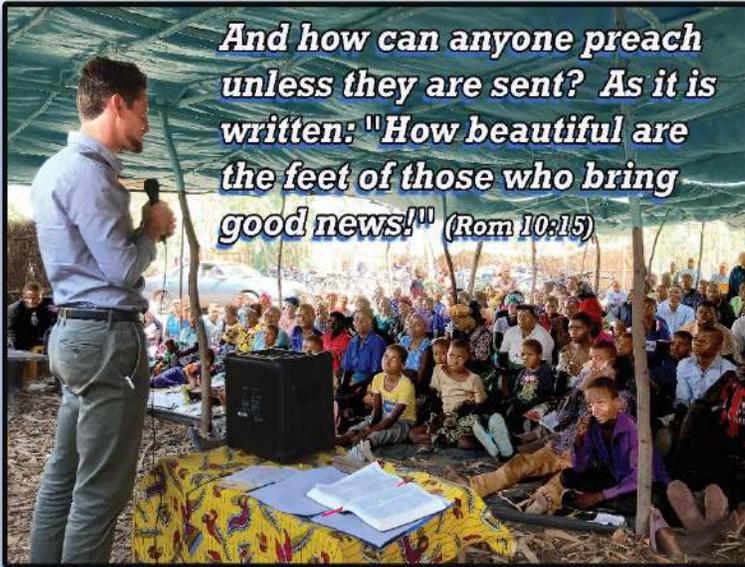
This year we have produced two volumes. The first one came out in March under the theme, "Loving God by loving your neighbour" and the second issue in October titled, "Walking and living by the Spirit" from Galatians 5:25. Each volume had 5,000 copies which were distributed to churches across Malawi, with our main target being the church leaders.

When a leader gets their bulletin, they are encouraged to read the message and share the teaching with their congregation and its members. Namikango often receives good feedback from people who receive the "Liu," signifying that this ministry is touching many souls.



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## Leading with Grace by Symon John Katete

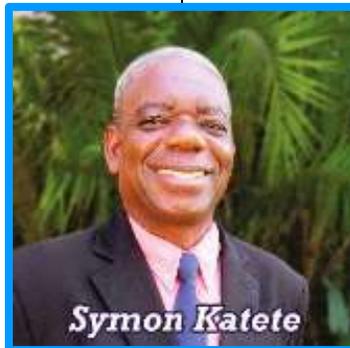
A difficult time in ministry is when we are asked to mediate on issues between brethren in the church.

Misunderstandings and differences among brethren do happen, and it requires a loving effort to mediate and resolve. I believe most differences among people are schemes by the evil one wanting to divide us and to take away time from spreading the Gospel.

For a long time, members of the church - mostly leaders in congregations - have brought issues to Namikango regarding their differences. Sometimes they just require advice and wise counseling through Scripture. In some cases, the issues are sensitive and need a lot of patience and prayer.

Our desire at Namikango is not to interfere in any church issues unless we are invited by both parties.

Even when invited, we would not handle issues that have not been tried by their leaders. We do this because we do not want to be perceived as a higher judicial authority.



We want the church leadership to handle issues of their own local congregation in a peaceful way. When people come to us to seek advice on doctrinal and church issues this provides teaching opportunities.

Much respect has been given to Namikango in its relationships with churches over the years. A major part of our work is to encourage and help

the 2,000+ churches we work with to grow spiritually.

We are honored to have this role. We continue to pray for wisdom as we serve at Namikango and as God continues to move and unite His people here in Malawi.



## Meet Towera Manda

Towera is the third born in a family of eight children and is 32 years old. After high school, Towera attended PACT college, receiving her degree in 2005; she continued her studies in advanced Business Management. She worked with Farming and Engineering Services, then she worked as a Village Savings and Loans (VSL) Officer. In September 2017, she joined Namikango Mission as VSL Officer, working with members of the church, mobilizing them to form groups. Her work has taken her to 9 districts from north to south in Malawi and two regions in Mozambique.

Towera has a passion for poor people and to see their lives transformed physically and spiritually, so working as the VSL Officer allows her to impact people's lives in both these ways.



She trains people in village savings and loans, as well as helps them in business training and how to utilize the funds that people have saved.

Coming to Namikango has impacted her life in many ways. The women's fellowship programs have helped her grow spiritually. Her interaction with people in the rural areas has helped her to understand them better and has taught her to put others before herself, to the point where she has assisted some women from her own funds enabling them to start up a small business and to begin saving.

Towera is a soccer fan, likes to sing, bake cakes and snacks, and she enjoys reading. She is currently reading a book on Revelation. Her favorite Scripture is Psalms 23: 1 – 6.

Symon J Katete

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