

Ready for Class by Ben Hayes

It was an exciting day at Ntonda School – for the school and the entire community. It was September 16, 2019. Many have been waiting for this day for the past 8 months, following the disaster in January when a severe storm destroyed several classrooms at the school. Today, it was finally time to open and use the new block of classrooms.

A special function was held where students, Ntonda School staff, Namikango Mission staff, community leaders, and the District Commissioner's staff were all present. The guest of honor was the D.C. himself, Mr. Emmanuel Bambe. In his speech, the D.C. thanked Namikango Mission and its partners from the USA, for a magnificent classroom block. He remarked on the extremely high-quality of the building and noted that it is the first of its kind in the whole of Zomba District, and we are setting an example for other communities.

He encouraged the students to study and to work hard in class, and he even promised those in standard eight (8th Grade) that if they finish with high enough grades to be selected to a *National Secondary School* (High School), they will be given 20,000 Malawi Kwacha each. (\$27, which is about three weeks' pay at minimum wage).



It was a great day. Everyone was excited to see the new school year open with such a special event and with a new structure. We are so grateful to the individuals, to Christian Relief Fund, East Side Church, and to I.D.E.S. for the contributions towards the school block. From our end, it's been gratifying to have the support of people who trust us and who believe in the work we are doing to provide this prompt response for help. This has been an excellent project in terms of the quality of the final product. We are very grateful as we consider the number of people this project has benefited. . . And thankful those blessings will long continue.



An Humble Beginning by Symon Katete

The Ntonda Grade School had an humble beginning in a grass-thatched hut with mud walls and dirt floors. A church leader, Bro Garnett Limani, decided to have his children and a few others taught in his home. This was in the early days of Namikango Mission. A few years later, in 1967, that little class had grown and it was moved to a local church building with local volunteers.

As they continued to grow, a local Chief offered a portion of land to be used for the school. This is in Jali District, about 30 miles from Namikango, where it has been since 1973. The school first taught Grades 1 through 3.

Some years later the school was upgraded to a full primary school with Grades 1 through 7. The local teachers were gradually replaced by "Certified Teachers." When a "Certified" teacher came onboard, it meant they met federal guidelines and the government took over the responsibility for their salaries. Eventually, we had only one Mission teacher left - the Bible teacher. A Mission Bible teacher has remained at Ntonda School through the years and has had outstanding success. He also serves as a liaison between the Mission and the school

As is normal for any successful school, there are extracurricular activities such as football(soccer), band, etc. But, surprisingly, the most popular after-school activity at Ntonda School is the "Bible Club" led by the Mission teacher, Timothy Jailosi. There are 150 students who stay after school for an hour or two to participate in singing, prayer, Bible study, and personal testimony. Here Bro. Jailosi has opportunity to get close and personal with the students and help shape their spiritual lives. This activity is so popular it serves as an example which other schools are following.

In Malawi, up until 1994, parents had to pay a tuition for their children to go to school. That meant most families could not send their children to school; they simply had no money for school. But in 1994 the government decided schools should be tuition free. At that time we had

about 300 students enrolled; the following year enrollment doubled. This was the case for all schools throughout Malawi.

For the first four years, students are taught in Chichewa, the local traditional language. After Grade 4 the primary language shifts to English for the balance of the Malawian education program.

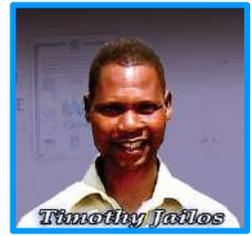
Availability of schools in Malawi is very limited and students must take their education seriously in order to stay in school. Good grades are required. Malawian students realize their education is vital to their future lives.

While grade school space is limited, high school space is even more limited. Only a few of the top students qualify to go on to high school . . . and even fewer qualify for college.

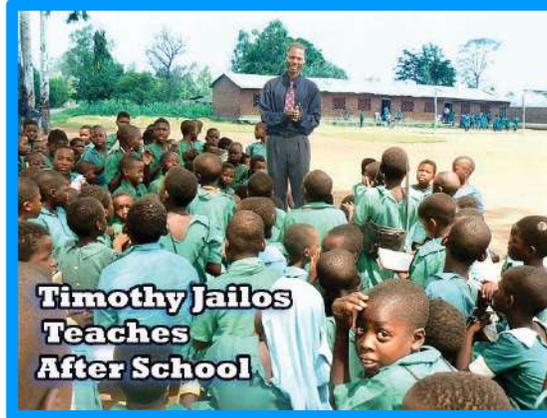
To give a picture of how Ntonda School has performed: last year, Ntonda came in with the second highest ranking among 17 school districts in our area, 13 girls and 21 boys qualified to go on to Secondary or High School. This is an honor and a high achievement indeed.

There were 1,689 students enrolled this year with 881 Girls and 808 Boys. The Ntonda School has had its challenges with classrooms and teachers' houses devastated by a severe storm. In addition to building damage, the school does not have electricity. This is a hinderance especially since we have no modern technology like computers or even lights for dark classrooms.

This is a ministry that started in the early days of Namikango and has continued to this day. With the students' performance improving, and with the recent new classroom block that was built, Ntonda School and the community around are excited about the direction things are going. We at Namikango have been participating in teaching the kids at the Bible Club and we work closely with the school. We're looking forward to the coming years.



Timothy Jailosi



Timothy Jailosi Teaches After School

Camp Meeting by Eric Gephart

Ben and I had the privilege of conducting a Camp Meeting in a remote village in Southern Malawi with the help of our interpreter, Moses. We have attended and taught at numerous Camp Meetings over the years, but always with a well-staffed team of teachers. Being on our own, this experience was bound to be quite different!

As we reached the village Friday and settled into our "home" for the next few days, we were greeted warmly with good food and conversations. After we were fed, the teaching began. Ben and I alternated teaching sessions and Moses tirelessly interpreted for both of us!

The theme for the Camp Meetings this year has been, "Living and Walking by the Spirit," taken from Galatians 5.

For many in the village churches, the idea of the Holy Spirit is a foreign concept and is often misunderstood. For this reason, the Camp Meetings have sought to provide good scriptural teachings on the Holy Spirit and the role He plays in the life of a Christian and the church. We began in Genesis then covered what Jesus and Paul taught on this subject. The weekend was filled teaching and discussing these Scriptures at every opportunity.

It is always refreshing to spend time in the villages. It helps center those of us who spend most of our days behind a computer in the office working on spreadsheets and reports.

It helps remind us of the work being done by our faithful and competent staff, when they are out in the field, and it puts us back "on the front line" of the many ministries Namikango takes part in.

Ben and I came home Sunday after the meeting, feeling excited about the way the Spirit of God is moving in the churches and villages in Malawi and how we get to be a small part of the Kingdom of God being established here.



A relaxing time at day's end



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MONTHLY REPORT • Namikango Mission

www.missionmalawi.org • Sidney Vaughn, Editor

VOLUME 55 • ISSUE No. 10 • Oct 2019



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Campus Happenings & Updates

Church Visits Camp Meetings are an ongoing part of our ministry. We try to maintain at least three weekends a month with Mission staff out in the field, sometimes with more than one Camp Meeting on the same weekend. Since June we've attended 11 Camp Meetings with 4,124 people attending, representing 247 congregations. These resulted in 57 baptisms.

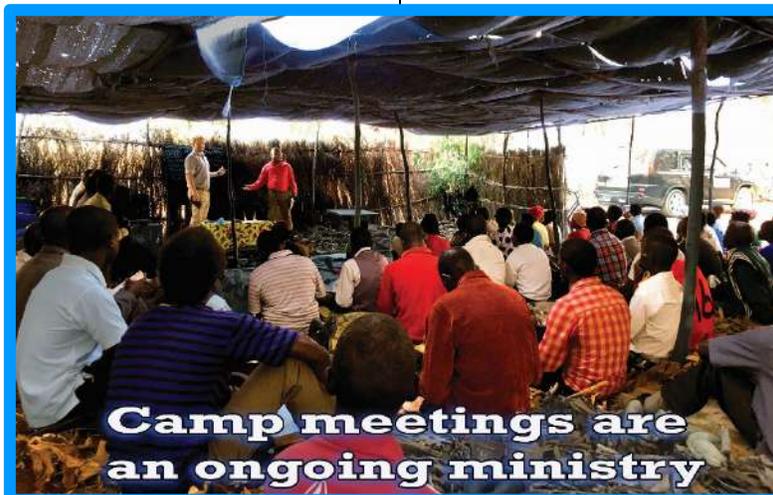
Administration Building Work has started on the inside walls and ceilings plastering and will be finishing the floors soon. The contractor who had the job has given us problems and we had to give them a deadline to finish their part of the contract. We're skeptical that they will meet the deadline, but we will continue moving forward all the same.

Out Patient Clinic All modifications to the building are scheduled to be done this month. The Clinic will include a pharmacy and we're currently installing new shelves for it, as well as a checkout counter.

Land Development Irrigation for our Coffee and Macadamia plants has reached a bump. We installed a solar pump for water and were ready to put it into operation. Unfortunately, the pump was stolen. This is why we have installed fences and security guards.

The police have been informed and are working on the case. In the meantime, we have had to conserve water, even limiting the outside villagers' water usage. We will continue by watering the coffee by hand until another solution is found.

The police have circulated the information on the theft and are waiting to see if the pump shows up for sale within their network. So, we might give it a couple weeks, then start talking about how to move forward to replace it.



Maternity Clinic There were an average of 90 mothers who came for delivery last month with 70 delivering at the Clinic and the rest were referred to Zomba Central Hospital to handle complications. An average of 400 people are being tested for HIV each month (men and women).



Sidney,

A couple of months ago our preacher (who is also our next-door neighbor) was having coffee with us one morning and saw the *Namikango Monthly Report* that had the story on the school losing its roof. He suggested we ask the congregation to donate some money for repairs.

However, at the next business meeting we did not have a quorum. Then we got the news that enough money had come in to finish rebuilding the school.

The following business meeting Lynne and I were in San Antonio for a medical check-up. In our absence, the congregation voted to send the money to Namikango to use where it was most needed. Please find a check enclosed.

Lynne and I are impressed with what Ben, Ryan, Eric, and the others are accomplishing. We will continue to pray for the Spirit to lead them and that God will bless their efforts.

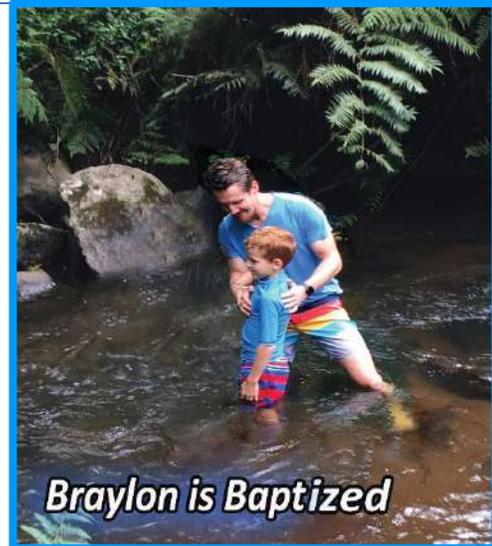
In Him, [Bob Williams](#) (Margaret Williams' son)

Braylon is Baptized

Our son Braylon was baptized last month. It was a cold day and a cold river, but a beautiful and special event and setting, shared together with our team up on the Zomba plateau.

We're so thankful for this young guy and for his heart and commitment to Christ.

Blessings, [Ben](#)



Braylon is Baptized

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