



## A Special Journey Group

by Eric Gephart

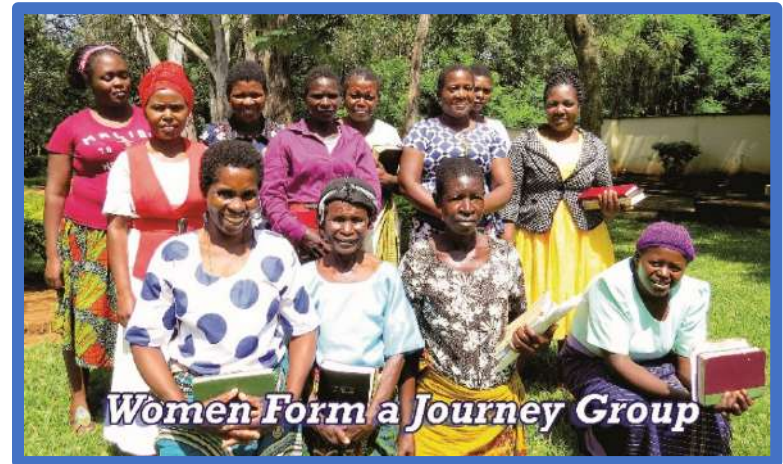
Our new Journey Group met on campus for prayer, encouragement, and Bible Study. Journey Groups are made up of small groups of disciples who are serious about their relationship with Jesus and want to become agents of change in their local communities. Journey Group 3 is particularly special as it is Namikango's first all-female discipleship group. Likewise, it is the first group held entirely in Chichewa.

Throughout his long ministry with Namikango Mission, **Chitani**, our Village Bible School Coordinator, has had the privilege of traveling across Malawi and Mozambique, visiting with churches and local communities. Along the way, he has discovered a network of women who, lacking leadership opportunities in the local churches, have taken to leadership roles in their local communities. When asked to identify local women with leadership potential, Chitani's eyes lit up as he quickly listed about thirty women who were ripe for discipleship training.



Since that time, twelve of these women have been invited to form Journey Group 3. These women meet frequently at Namikango's campus, as Chitani and Zione, Namikango's Women's Minister, lead them through Bible studies and community development conversations.

Sitting in on one of these lessons will excite you, as the women in this group eagerly dive into the problems in their communities and how to apply the Gospel to their families through daily chores, community talk, and Malawian politics. We at Namikango are proud of these women and how they continue to honor the Kingdom of God in small ways in their local communities, one brick at a time, through continuous passion and smiles.



## Where Do We Stay? Ben Hayes

Our Maternity Clinic serves a population of up to 54,000 people in our immediate area, a radius of 12 to 15 miles from the clinic.

Expectant mothers come when it is near time to deliver. They come by bus, bicycle, or even walk to get here. The government does not allow mothers to deliver babies at home, so they may arrive up to 3 weeks early in order to be at Namikango when the time for delivery comes.

It is a custom in Malawi for the expectant mothers to bring their caretakers with them. So, "where do they all stay for several weeks?"

This is where the **Guardian Shelter** comes in. The Guardian Shelter is one the structures at the Maternity Clinic which acts as a temporary home for caretakers of mothers who come to deliver at the Clinic. Whether family or friends, these caretakers will bring food, bedding, and other necessities and they will cook and provide for the expectant mother during her waiting time, her delivery and her recovery time. We may have as many as 20 or 30 people staying at any given time.

Over the last few years, we renovated this building which is on the Namikango campus near the Maternity Building. The renovations were needed because it has been in use since the

founding of the Clinic in 1974 and was showing its age. We provide some firewood and water to aid those who come.

Nearby is the A-frame cooking building. It has several open fire pits for cooking. This open-air building was rebuilt by Malawi Project a few years ago and serves us well. Namikango is noted for having a comfortable and clean place to stay, and we hope they don't miss their own homes too much while they are away.



*Note – the ladies have built a table outside for washing and drying pans and dishes.*

## Namikango Maternity Clinic Steps Into the Space Age by Moses Nsema

The Baobab Health Trust is a branch of the Ministry of Health and they have determined that Namikango Maternity qualifies for equipment to help us handle information for our patients, for when they first check in and when they return. Their health history information is now available for instant use.

This is a blessing to patients who no longer have to stand in a long line each time they come. Registering is now done very quickly and efficiently.

We often need a patient's health history and most health facilities cannot produce records (even for the past few years). This equipment

allows us to have an instant and permanent record with easy access.

This Ministry has also provided us with a power-backup-system to protect our patients when there is a power outage, which happens nearly every day in our area.

We are thankful that the Ministry of Health has recognized the services Namikango offers to the community and are thankful they have provided the means to help ease our work. We are blessed.



## Meet Moses Nsema – New Maternity Clinic Administrator by Ben Hayes

Moses Nsema (along with his wife and 3-year-old child, Eddie) moved to Namikango in October last year, where he has taken up the post of Administrator at the Maternity Clinic. Moses is from the local Zomba district. He was born here but did his high school education in the capital city of Lilongwe. From there he obtained a technical diploma in Mechanical Engineering. After working for some time operating on machinery at a large factory, he moved to Benoni, South Africa, where he obtained a Bachelors in Theology at Southern Africa Bible College.

Moses has easily transitioned into the work at Namikango over the last few months. He has enjoyed the challenge that managing people has posed. As someone who worked in engineering myself, and made the transition from working with machinery to managing people, I can appreciate the challenges he's facing.

We have people from different tribal and economic backgrounds at the Maternity Clinic, as well as from different Christian backgrounds. Moses's positive spirit and his love of God and people have enabled him to take on these challenges.

His studies in Theology have also enabled him to assist us on the church leadership side of our work as well, preaching on occasional Sundays and sitting in on meetings when we have a church issue to handle.

When he's not engaged in work, Moses enjoys reading and travelling. We're very thankful to have him, both as an employee and as a team member.



## Meet the Management Committee by Eric Gephart

Namikango Mission has a working staff of 70+. Because the ministries are varied, it is helpful to have committees that coordinate different areas of the Mission's work. The largest committee is the PMC (Program Management Committee) which is made up of members from every department and ministry. This committee meets to discuss things happening at Namikango, as well as other things that affect us and our ministries.

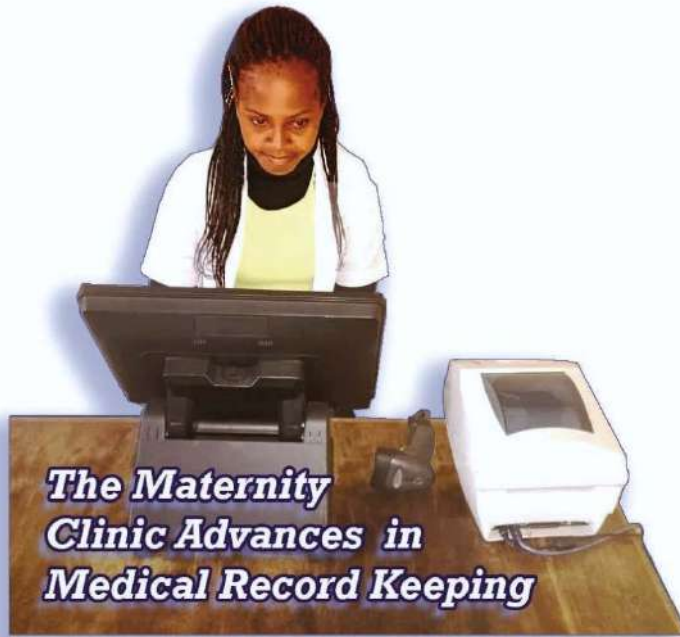
It's always good to see the faces and to know the people I talk about. The members of this committee represent the many talented and skilled leaders that Namikango is proud to call its staff. Enjoy this impromptu photo of our PMC after one of our meetings!





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## Construction Updates by Eric Gephart

Construction continues here on Namikango's campus.

[Our administration building](#) continues to take shape.

**Doors** are being added to the offices, and the **staircase** is climbing towards the second floor. **Plumbing** has been added. Soon construction on the **roof** will begin. This will be just in time for a visiting team to assist us with adding **solar panels** to the roof in order to power the building during our frequent blackouts.

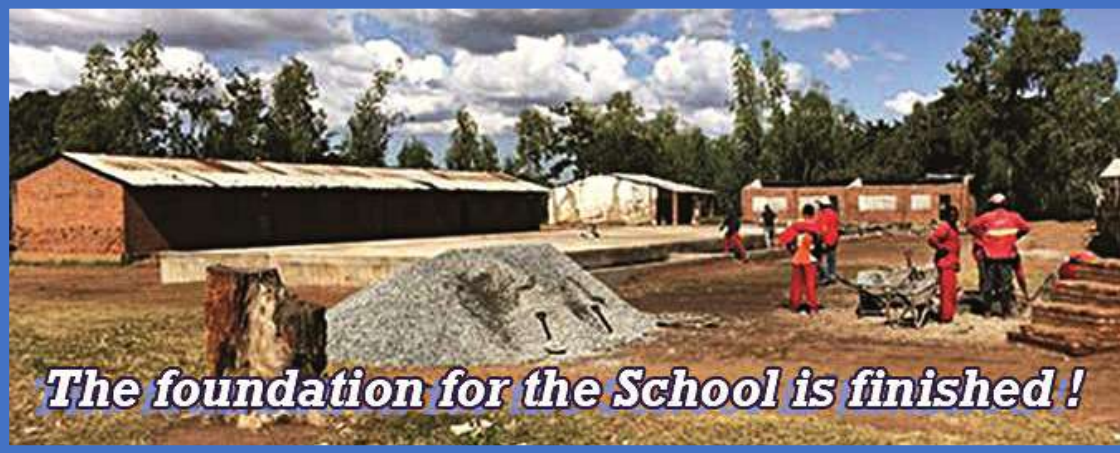
[The coffee facility building](#) continues to take shape on a really beautiful part of Namikango's campus. It is located close to the coffee fields themselves. This building will house the entire coffee preparation process, from bean to bag! The building will be completed just in time, as our coffee plants are nearly ready for harvesting.

[The Out Patient Clinic Addition](#) is nearing the end of construction, with sinks being installed in the patient rooms. Curtains were recently added to the rooms, bringing the building one step closer to being patient-ready!

The [new classroom block](#) at the Mission **has been completed** and will be officially opened during Board Member Shawn Tyler's upcoming visit to Namikango at the end of May. We look forward to using these classrooms for Namikango's various education initiatives, as well as the Bible School!

[At Ntonda School](#), the foundation has been laid for the rebuilding of the classrooms which were destroyed by the recent storms. We are grateful for the quick response of support by many which has allowed us to begin this rebuilding.





***The foundation for the School is finished!***

The good foundation for Ntonda School has been laid, replacing classrooms damaged in the storm.

The two blocks of buildings on the left are being used. The one at the end with no roof is not usable. One other group of rooms out of the picture are damaged beyond use.

We hope to have the five new rooms completed in June. Many thanks to all who have contributed and prayed for this.

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***Ongoing Prayer Requests***

**We ask for your continued prayers.**

- Pray for the team in Malawi
- Pray for the Board of Directors
- Pray for the 2019 Capital Campaign Fund Drive
- Pray that every outreach effort will result in the salvation of souls

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*Be sure to watch the amazing Mission video!*

**<https://vimeo.com/174889961>**