

Camp Meetings for Thousands

Camp meetings have finished for the year, coinciding with the Bible Schools. They start in June and conclude in October, when the rains begin.

Three weekends each month, a team from Namikango goes out to a village that has requested to host a meeting. We spend the weekend with them, teaching and fellowshiping. Ryan, Eric, and I rotated visits and were able to be present at almost every one of the 18 meetings. Ten or more churches were usually present at each meeting, so we were able to minister to thousands of people over these five months.

The theme for the year was "The Prodigal God: The God Who Pursues People," focusing on the trilogy of Jesus's stories in Luke 15. The acceptance of the material taught has been wonderful. We have received many responses from people saying that they have gained new understanding of what God is like, and how Jesus

reveals Him to us. Plus, we had **69 new believers** commit their lives to Christ in baptism through these weekend visits. This has been one of the better camp meeting seasons we've ever had.

Ben Hayes



Shepherding God's People – Leadership Seminar

by Eric Gephart

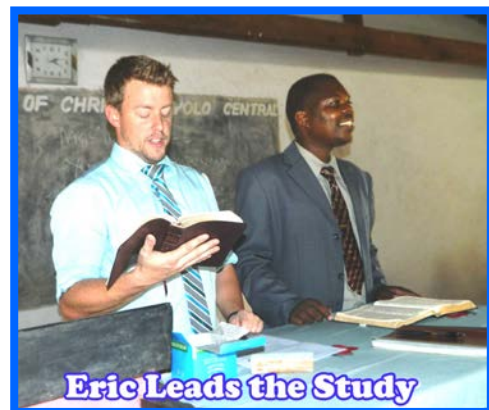
On Saturday, Namikango held a Leadership Seminar in Thyolo, an area just South of Blantyre. The seminar was held for the leaders and those who were preparing to become leaders of the churches in this area.

The event lasted all day and covered **how to be an effective and Christ-centered leader of the church**. There were 145 leaders in attendance, and it was a great day of fellowship and teaching.

I was honored to teach on Biblical leadership and on the Bible's image of shepherding. We studied from Psalm 23, Jeremiah 23 and Ezekiel 34 and looked at what it meant to shepherd the people of God, discovering along the way that God's passion lies in finding lost sheep, gathering his sheep together, and giving them life.

We moved from these Old Testament images to the images Jesus gives us of the Good Shepherd, from Mark 6, Luke 15, and John 10. Finally, we applied these images of the good shepherd to church leaders today. The image of shepherding helps us understand not only how church leaders should act, but reveals to us the heart of God and love for His people. It was an enjoyable day in Thyolo and was a great experience to meet with the churches in the region.

Like always, we left feeling very blessed to be able to encourage the churches and their leaders.



Where do we store it?

We have been considering how to find a place to store and process the upcoming coffee harvest. As you may know, we are wanting to set an example for fellow Christians by being self-supporting in farming and we have chosen to grow coffee and macadamia trees for this purpose. The processing equipment for grinding coffee is still a ways off, but we are looking at storage options now because this is an immediate need. Storage space this previous harvest season was very difficult. We just didn't have a good place for storage.

This caused us to be looking at what it would take to build a small storage facility for the next harvest. But after some research, we found that some people use a shipping container for storage of crops, and these can be much less expensive than building. They also are better at keeping rats and varmints out . . . plus, they would be more secure against theft.

The challenge we've found is that shipping containers are not that easy to find here, and when they are available, large commercial companies buy them quickly.

We were considering having one shipped from the US or getting one through The Malawi Project, one we could keep. I checked on getting one from the US and found a refurbished one in Houston for \$2,500. Then, there would be about \$2,000 import tax, plus the cost of transporting it also costing in the thousands of dollars. This would be costly and slow.

However, we've just recently come across a good opportunity to buy one through a connection we have here at a complete cost of just under \$5,000 delivered to us.



So, the \$5,000 seems to be a fairly reasonable price.

Another concern we have is the timing. We will need storage for the next harvest which should be April and May. So obtaining a local container now will meet our needs and we can be ready for harvest time.

We do need this container and we have committed to buy it; so, if some of our good supporters want to invest in a very beneficial project that will help our work, we would really appreciate it. Mark your check "Container" and it will get to us. Hopefully, if enough funds are received, we could even plan on more than one container for the future.

Thank you very much. [Ben Hayes](#)

The Maternity Clinic

Services

Many vital services are offered at the Namikango Maternity Clinic, including prenatal examinations, family planning services, checkups for children ages 0–5 years old, HIV testing and counseling, and the birthing clinic.

There are 100 babies born every month on average at the Maternity Clinic. The Clinic employs six full-time nurses. They invite nursing students who want to learn nursing skills first-hand to come to the clinic for several weeks at a time.

The Namikango Maternity Clinic was founded in 1974 and is located on the Mission property. It offers free services for women and children. Namikango owns the facility and provides food and housing for extended-stay mothers and has a good relationship with the Government who pays the nurses salaries.

One of the best things about the Maternity Clinic is that it shares the love of Jesus to women, men, and children while providing excellent medical services.

On Tuesday mornings the women come to the Clinic for their prenatal exam and are taught in a devotional before they are examined. The team of interns who were there for the Summer had the privilege of leading these devotionals. It was so awesome to see women from all different backgrounds listen to the good news about Jesus.

[Kacee Oldroyd](#), Namikango Intern
Medical Interns

Medical schools like to send medical interns to Namikango when they are nearing the end of their studies and need practical experience. The goal of this internship is to form medical practitioners who can connect their expertise with their vocation and make Malawi a healthier country.

In early November, the current group of interns came to the end of their time with us, and I was privileged to celebrate with them at their farewell party as we prepared to send them back to school. As always, there were speeches, gifts, and cokes. It was a fun afternoon, and always a joy to be a part of these celebrations.

[Eric Gephart](#)





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Cooking for the Camp Meeting

Thanksgiving

We hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving! We celebrated with a large Thanksgiving ham, and a small Thanksgiving Turkey. The turkeys here are about the size of a chicken, so there was a lot of ham on the table.

Our two ladies, Becca and Justine, had to work around a 24-hour power outage cycle to prepare

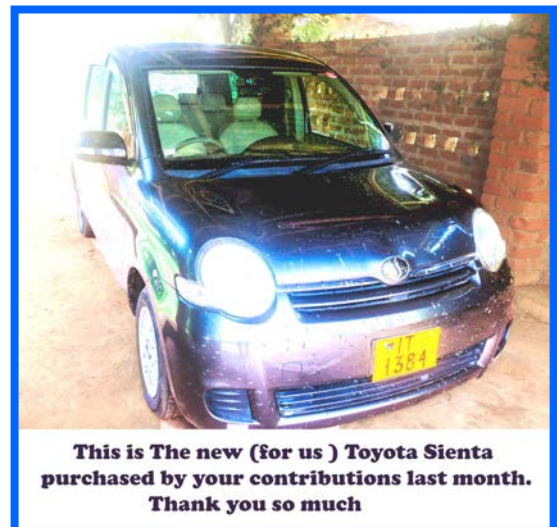
the food ahead of time, and we enjoyed a nice feast together.

We're grateful for the team and the work God has given us here. And we're grateful to all of **you** for partnering with us to allow us to be here!

Ben Hayes



Thanksgiving Day in Malawi



This is The new (for us) Toyota Sienta purchased by your contributions last month. Thank you so much



<p>We hope all is going great. Enclosed is our Mission support. God Bless you all, Melton & the congregation in Hoxie, Arkansas</p>	<p>Thank you so much for all you do for this great work! Love, Doug & Mary Chris</p>	<p>In loving memory of Memaw Wason Daniel & Rachel Wason Tyler & Lavanda Darby Wade & Christi Aplin</p>
<p>Dear Brother Vaughn, We have been praying for you and your fellow Christians. The flood was horrible and we hope it will soon be a memory. God bless Bro. Vaughn in all your efforts. The congregation where my daughter and son-in-law attend is in Hoxie, AR. This is about 120 miles East of us. In Brotherly Love, Ronald E. DeNoe</p>		

Dear Sidney,

Thank you for continuing to mail me the Mission Newsletter. I know Paul would be pleased. He was always looking forward to the Newsletters and would pour over them to read. After his "passing into God's eternity," evangelism has taken on a new meaning for me.

Please accept this contribution *in loving memory of Paul.*

Today [as I write this] is his 6th month in his "new life."
 Lovingly, Mary Vaughn



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