



We Need Water! by Eric Gephart

I was recently privileged to accompany the Namikango Bible team on one of the Camp Meetings they hosted in Western Malawi. These Camp Meetings are local events that bring together the churches from the area for a weekend of Bible teachings and reflections. Beginning on Friday, the team taught lessons on our theme for the year, "Loving God by Loving your Neighbor." The studies ranged from stories and parables about loving your neighbor, to the teachings of Jesus, Paul, and John exhorting the church to love your neighbor fully. As John says, "You cannot hope to love God, if you cannot even love your neighbor." (1 John 4)

While the Camp Meeting was great, another powerful challenge was presented to us . . . These people need water! We met in the hot, desert-like Western part of Malawi. The ground was sandy and the prevailing plant life consisted of dried-out thorn bushes. Temperatures soared during the day, and the village where we stayed did not have a water well. The women of the congregation made multiple trips every day to the nearest water supply, a roundtrip distance of 3 miles. Lines of women

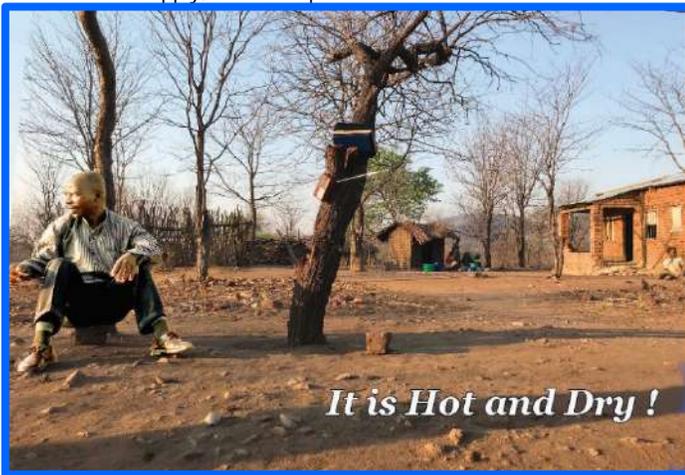


Multiple trips daily for water

carrying buckets of water on their heads were a common sight while we taught throughout the day. Saturday was especially hot, and we went through the water on hand so quickly that we had to stop the meeting to get more water.

What was incredibly striking to me was the engendered roles of work by men and women. Drawing water is specifically a woman's job. So, Saturday afternoon when the teachings paused, all the women gathered their buckets, traveled the 3-mile distance in the blazing mid-afternoon sun, and returned to fill the water reserves. These women, undaunted by the amount of physical work they just accomplished, sat back down on the ground and listened and participated in the next lesson. What an incredible testament to the strength of Malawian women, and to the continued gender inequality that women here face every day.

While I feel very happy that I was able to participate in this experience, it was a good reminder of just how much work is left to be done here in Malawi, to help secure water and to seek to empower women and strengthen churches, all for the glory of God.



It is Hot and Dry!

Composting by Ben Hayes

Of the many facets of conservation agriculture that we teach and implement, composting is one of the most beneficial. In Malawi each year, people are encouraged to purchase fertilizer for their fields, in preparation for planting their maize. Depending on the size of a field, a person can be spending \$25-\$50 for this purchase. Compare this with \$33 being about minimum wage for a month and you see what kind of an expense this is for people, especially those who don't have another job besides what they sell from their farms.

Composting can come in many forms and methods, but the basic method we teach uses natural materials (soil/water/grass/chicken manure etc.) that, combined, with some effort over a period of about 8 weeks makes an enriched soil product that can replace and improve on fertilizer. It is less expensive by far as it requires only purchasing a small amount of chicken manure (if purchasing is even needed, as many people raise chickens). And while it requires some hard work and tending too, in the end it gives you a much healthier and natural component to extend the life of the soil and improve plant quality.

This is part of the work of the lead farmers that we have trained for them to take this knowledge on and share it with their communities. We also compost on the Mission as part of our demonstration agriculture plot. It is a simple yet effective tool that can be utilized almost anywhere if it is taught well.



Building a Compost Bed

Village Savings & Loans **The Results are in . . .** by Ryan Hayes

Five months ago we sent a Mission team to Mozambique to train some church leaders in setting up some Village Savings & Loans (VS&L). This effort was so successful that other areas are asking for us to please come to their area and help them get started with a VS&L. Because of these requests, we sent another team from Namikango to see what the situation was.

Sure enough, the 26 groups that began earlier were very successful and growing. The one area that was lacking was people who were trained in helping new areas to get started with their own VS&Ls. So we trained two people for this type of supervision and they were very successful and very busy helping the 26 groups. But still others were pleading for help. On this recent trip we chose 10 other leading people to be trained to fill this need. This training is intensive and solid. These 10 have been trained in all areas of leadership from start to maturity of a Village Savings & Loan.

At all the VS&L meetings we include a time to reflect on God and Jesus and how they have blessed us and our need

to follow Jesus in all we do. We include reading Scripture, singing hymns, and prayer.

These groups are located quite a distance apart and traveling there finds us driving on rocky roads for several hours without accomplishing much distance. This distance between villages is why they needed close supervision and support because it is hard to get support from each other.

The new plan of ten trainers will give the villages the help they need. Since the trainers live there, they can visit and support the different groups without waiting for Namikango to make a rare visit.

We are very happy

to see the VS&L projects assisting these churches and changing the lives of our brothers and sisters in Mozambique. It's a journey that we have just begun and we trust that God will continue to strengthen these people through this project.

In addition to the Mission VS&L team, three of the Christian Health Education teachers taught sessions on HIV prevention and how to have a happy marriage. They were well received. . . . and . . . **the Results were Good!**



Terry Vaughn

Terry was a good, godly son.

We're saddened to share the news that our son Terry lost his valiant battle with cancer and went to be with the LORD on November 6, 2018.

I think of a Scripture that says, "Jesus went about doing good." This describes Terry perfectly. He quietly went about doing good.

Even though his business suffered losses during recession years, Terry's strong Mission support continued without interruption. He never sought attention for it; he wanted all credit to go to God. He truly left the sweet smell of Jesus' love wherever he went.

We miss our precious son.

Sidney & Anita Vaughn



Terry's Eagle - painted for his birthday 8-1-2017

His favorite verse Isaiah 40:31

Terry's Celebration of Life will be 10am Saturday, December 1st at 4300 East Sam Houston Parkway So., Pasadena, TX 77505.



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We have a new fence! by Tinkhani Phiri

Thieves like to come onto the Mission property to cut down and steal the trees. And, being thieves, they would take anything else in the area that they could carry, slipping away through the darkness of the forest . . . (Incidentally, the Mission forest is one the few areas left where the trees have not all been stripped to the ground; we want to protect this oasis of growth.)

Yes, we do have guards, but 90 acres of wooded area is hard to protect. HOWEVER . . . that was a year ago. Now, we have protection all around the Mission property. **We have a new fence!**

This project was done in two phases:

- 1) The sides and back of the Mission – constructed with tall, wooden poles and barbed wire
- 2) The front and living/working areas – a beautiful, brick and steel fence. This covers a length of 800 ft. and it includes three vehicle entrances and five pedestrian entrances strategically positioned.

In addition to keeping thieves off the Mission property, the fence benefits our neighbors by preventing thieves from moving easily between villages and hiding among the trees. Our neighbors also appreciate the new fence because they got to help build it.

Namikango is now in a crucial time of building and property improvement and when you are building anything you are exposed to thieves who would carry off building materials, equipment, and tools. This fence allows us to breathe a little easier for the safety of Mission workers and it helps us to be good stewards of Mission property.



Tinkhani Phiri





Dear Sidney,

We enjoy very much the Namikango Mission Report and want to help with the efforts to bring even more medical help to the area. Please use this money where ever it is most needed in that effort. Beginning next month, you will be receiving a monthly check from our bank. Haven't decided on the exact amount but it will be the same each month so you can make plans for 2019.

Blessings, Darrel & Carole Fleming

Returning from Furlough

by Eric Gephart

I returned to Malawi in August after my three-month furlough in the United States. A furlough is always a wonderful experience. It allows time to spend with family (and, in this instance, to meet my newest nephew for the first time!) as well as time with friends.

Furloughs also provide the opportunity to travel and visit many of the individuals, families, and churches who partner with me and the ministries at Namikango. During this past furlough, I travelled from Pennsylvania to Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Utah, and Texas. In each place I was struck by the generosity of Namikango's partners and by their excitement in taking part in the Kingdom work here in Malawi.

One of the many blessings of furlough is to be reminded of just how many people are praying for the ministries at



Namikango. I have been back for a while now and am back into the rhythm of life on the ground here. I am excited to continue working with this great Mission.

**Please consider
Namikango Mission
when making your
year-end donations.**

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If you'll use smile.amazon.com and select "**Namikango**" as your **designated NGO**, whenever you make online purchases there, **Amazon will donate** a percentage of the sale **to Namikango Mission**.

Be sure to watch the amazing Mission video!

<https://vimeo.com/174889961>

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