

Relief Work Continues

Earlier this month, Namikango helped those in the area by providing goods needed to help build temporary shelters for people whose homes had been damaged, targeting specifically the widows in the community. This was a great boost for these people, giving them hope as they wait the coming harvest and the end of the rainy season so that they can turn attention towards rebuilding their homes. For many though, especially in Southern Malawi where the rains fell hardest, the crop they receive will be much less than in previous years. While we wait for the coming harvest to see what the situation is, Namikango is receiving information from our churches and communities to see how best to respond.

Meanwhile, we are looking at a project that involves Ntonda Primary School. Several staff houses have been damaged due to the rains, so that is the first area that needs targeting. Due to the work of the community in the past, some 70,000 bricks were molded for use at the school, which can now be put towards the building of another staff house. Namikango will partner with the school and community to help in the building of this structure. This will be an encouragement to this school, which has continued to be a place of shelter from many displaced people. For some time, families were coming and going each day to take shelter at the school. Since then, a temporary shelter has been put up in the school yard to accommodate those who had previously traveled every day.

It's amazing to see how people respond in times like this. The school, even in the midst of its own troubles, is making an impact in the area.

Ben Hayes



Fields were flooded



Some crops were saved - others were lost

Flood and Hunger Relief *To our Mission support family,*

We are so appreciative of the generous support during the time of a national disaster in Malawi. The Mission staff is busy with help as it is needed and as they are able with help for flood victims. If we have unused funds they will be held in reserve for the long months ahead when the hunger situation will become worse each month.

*Our Mission team (Ben, Ryan, Bisani, and Mission staff) will be helping to oversee the reconstruction of Rodrick's house, paying receipts for supplies etc, until it is in a livable condition. We hope and pray for good things to come for Rodrick. And . . . Rodrick is overjoyed at the outpouring of support and the prospect of having his house rebuilt after the storm damage. **Sidney Vaughn***

Ntonda Primary School's Success

This "little" school began in the living room of a church leader, Brother Garnett Limani, with a few local children. It has now grown to over 1,400 students.

Each year the goal of many primary schools (grades 1-8) is to get their kids qualified to attend a secondary school (high school) so they can further their education. Those who aren't selected return home to work on the family farm or business. Children are selected for secondary school based on their performance. There are three categories of secondary schools that students may qualify for: Community Day Schools being the most common,

District Schools a little more prestigious, and National Schools. If even one child in an area is selected for a National Secondary School, it is a great achievement.

For each of the last four years, Ntonda Primary School, the primary school overseen by Namikango Mission, has finished as the top school in their zone. This means that out of approx. 10 schools, Ntonda has had the largest number of their kids selected for Secondary. In 2014, one of these students was chosen for a National Secondary School, with a couple chosen for District Schools and others for Community Day Schools.

Interestingly, 70% of those chosen were girls. I was visiting with a colleague about why this was so and he mentioned how the government has recognized the lack of attention women have received in education over the past years, as culturally women are often overlooked. Whether girls or boys though, these results are encouraging to see as this means a brighter future for more kids in Malawi, both male and female.

We have a full-time Bible teacher at Ntonda School, Brother Timothy Jailos. He also leads an after-school Bible Club for kids

who want to learn more of the Bible. He vacated his house when he saw signs of danger in the recent storm, and sure enough, the wall caved in. Timothy has moved into another house on campus, which is not in great condition but is livable for now. Other teachers who occupied damaged homes are now renting or staying with family in the nearby town. Rebuilding and restoring will take a while, but for now – *school is in session*.

Ben Hayes

Refreshed from the inside out!

A very important annual event at Namikango Bible School is the **Teacher's Refresher Course**. This is for the purpose of bringing our teachers who will be teaching in the various Village locations together for one week in order to prepare them for the subjects being taught this year in their respective locations.

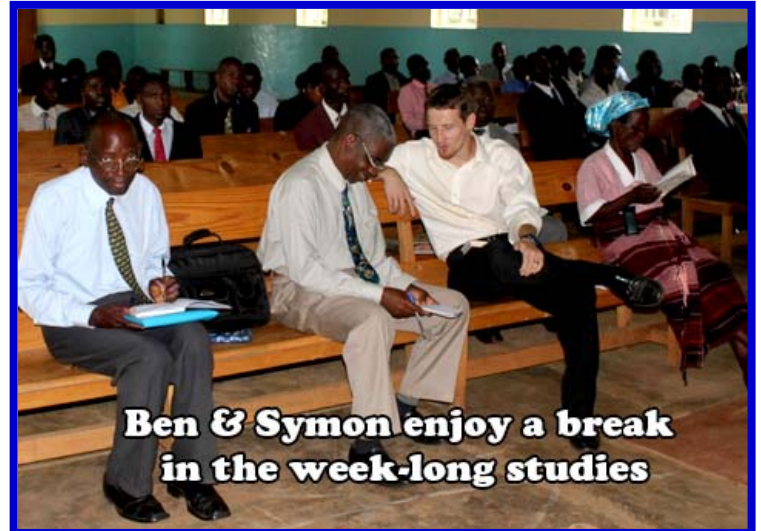
This year, we had 50 teachers who came from 23 centers across Malawi. Because this year's courses include the Letters to the Romans, Galatians and Corinthians, we thought it good to spend much of the week focusing on what the "Gospel" actually is and how it changes us from the inside out. Ben, Chitani, Moses, Alex, and I taught during the week with the aim of looking at the 'Gospel' all week. We had access to some excellent resource material for the studies by the Soma Tacoma community. This is easily some of the best material available for Bible study and for

small groups in that it walks us through how we never 'get beyond the Gospel' to something more 'advanced.'

The basis of the Gospel and who God is and what God has done through Jesus is the A to Z of Christianity and is the means through which the Spirit is able to shape our lives, our motivations, and desires into the image of Jesus Christ. Throughout the week, we were able to see how many personal and church issues generally stem from a failure to apply the Gospel to every part of our lives. It was a refreshing week that (we pray) provided the necessary space for the Holy Spirit to do His work by leading us into a deeper love for God.

The courses were held at Thondwe Church on the Mission campus. After a week of serious study, the teachers got a well-deserved break with a trip to Zomba Mountain where we enjoyed the beautiful scenery.

Ryan Hayes



Ben & Symon enjoy a break in the week-long studies



Village Teachers get Refreshed

Fireflies

Growing up, I remember riding along with my family on a road trip from Texas to Mississippi to visit our relatives. I loved visiting our family there. I remember catching fireflies/lightning bugs and watching how brightly they would shine through a jar.

The other night, our power was out here in Malawi. It was a very dark night with the storm clouds covering the stars, but the brightest little lights were flying all around. There were so many fireflies! It was amazing to see how bright they were against a sea of black night.

As we turned out our flashlights and headlamps to go to bed, we noticed a firefly had entered our room and was flying around outside the mosquito net. I was mesmerized by the little fella and how much light he was putting out. He literally lit up half the room.

I can't help but refer to Matthew 5 when Jesus talks about being the light of the world. Just like this little bug, we can be the light for Jesus and bring Him to dark places.

Becca Hayes





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A Bird's Eye View of the Mission



Flying High – A Bird's Eye View of the Mission

This April, Namikango had the privilege of hosting Jerrod Shelton, his sister Carly Shelton, and Donovan Bennett as they began the work on a promotional video for Namikango Mission. Based out of Lubbock, Texas, the three are part of a filming company called Contract Cre8ive (contractcre8ive.com).

They worked tirelessly to obtain interviews with staff, capture footage of Malawian and Namikango life, and even pick up some of the local language. But they may likely be best remembered in the area by what they call, "The Drone" – a remote controlled helicopter camera which can capture aerial footage up to a mile away in any direction.

We enjoyed witnessing their filming and are terribly excited to see how they'll bring the footage together into a final video.

Ryan Hayes

I too, am anxious to see the results from this top-notch team. We have wanted a video of the Mission work for a long time. It looks like this will be a reality soon.

Sidney

