

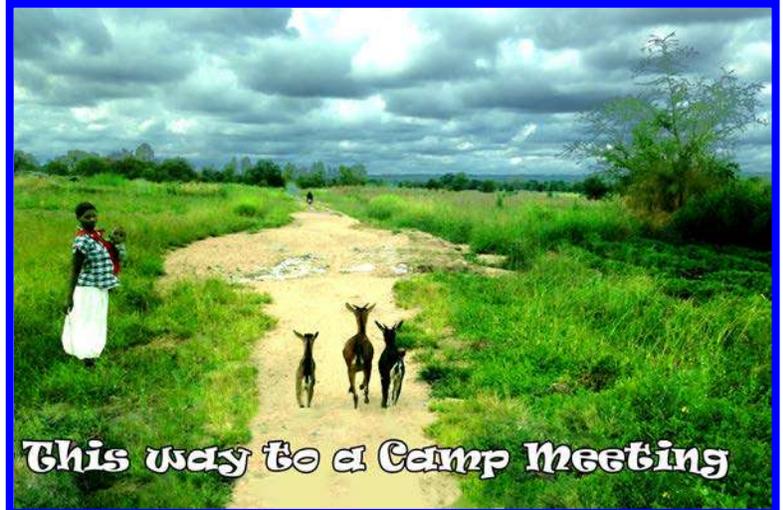
Learning from Others by Ben Hayes



We recently participated in a Camp Meeting in an area about two hours from the Mission. There were 400+ people gathered from many different congregations for a weekend of worship and learning God's Word. Two Namikango staff members were there to do the teaching beginning Saturday. I showed up to be with them for the Sunday worship service. At the end of the service, the visitors were asked to stand and be recognized. One church after another stood up, making it evident that people had sacrificed time and energy to make the trip to this meeting.

The last man to stand up was introduced as the Baptist preacher from a church nearby. I understood part of what he said, but later asked for clarification. He had explained how it was well known that Namikango and the local churches of Christ were going to have a Gospel meeting. Their Baptist church decided to not hold services at their building that Sunday and rather, for those who wanted, to join the large service we were holding. He said, "Why should we have separate worship services when our Brothers and Sisters have arranged this large meeting?"

We discussed this later as a staff at the Mission and were impressed by the spirit of humility this Brother had shown, and the leadership shown for him to encourage his congregation to meet with us. We were asking ourselves, "What if the Baptist church had been the ones holding the large meeting? Would we have encouraged our congregation to do what this man encouraged his to do?" Maybe not. All the same, everyone at the camp meeting learned something that day. We learned humility and the willingness to give encouragement to others without prejudice and overlooking preconceived barriers. This spoke very loudly to us. May God help us to grow humble in Christ and to encourage believers wherever they are.



Blessings of Rain by Ben Hayes

People are praising God as the rains continue to come. During my five years in Malawi, rains continuing into March have only happened one other time. People are still struggling to hang on from last year's drought but are hopeful as harvest will finally come next month, and the harvest forecast looks promising.

It is also a blessing for us here at the Mission as we planted another five acres of Coffee and Macadamia, along with our maize(corn). The wonderful rainy season has helped to insure that the Mission's crops will also produce a good harvest, and that the new coffee/mac plants will make it through the dry season coming up. Great news for all!!!



Students get results

by Symon John Katete

The year 2016 had many success stories including the planting of the Mussa church. This is one of the most exciting stories that came from last year! It began with a group of Bible students from the Namikango Bible School. They came from the Village Bible Schools to Namikango to finish their studies. Their last lesson was about taking the Good News out to the people in the form of *Door-to-Door Evangelism*. So, putting the lesson into practice, the group went to Mussa village, five miles to the west of the Mission, to share the Gospel.

The first visit was on a Thursday and the result was immediately rewarding in that two people accepted Christ and were baptized the same day. On the second visit the following week, another was baptized. As there was no congregation in the area, these new "Jesus followers" formed a congregation and began meeting in the house of one of the recently converted women.

The congregation is now growing gradually, with around 13 people attending worship on Sunday. The group began looking for a piece of land for a meeting place because the house was becoming too small. A place was found, and even approved for use as a church by the local Chief.

The members built a small grass shelter and plan to work towards a more stable building later.

Our hope is that this congregation will be an encouragement to other students and that the members will grow to know Jesus more and live a life worthy of His calling. We (Namikango staff, together with leaders from nearby congregations) are continuing to visit and help nurture these Brothers and Sisters. We earnestly seek your prayers for this newly formed body in Christ.



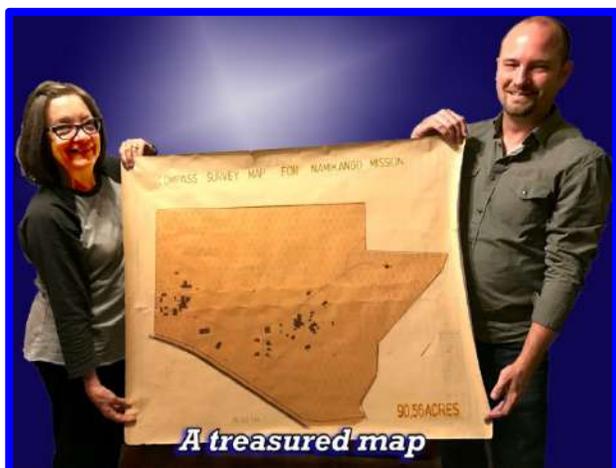
Generations

by Ryan Hayes

Ben and I are often called Roland Hayes's grandsons even though he's our Uncle Roland. But last month we had the privilege of hosting one of his actual grandsons- Ricky Lewis, along with his wife Allison. It was a delight to get to show Ricky and Allison around the Mission property, taking note of the good work Uncle Roland had done 55 years ago in finding and purchasing this excellent piece of property. An additional blessing was Ricky's getting to talk with several individuals here who personally knew Roland. One was our fellow co-worker, Symon Katete, whose father was one of the original students at Namikango. In short, this opportunity allowed us to see how good God is to



allow all of us the honor of participating in Kingdom work which continues to bless others long after we have finished the small part we have been given.



Best souvenir gift ever!

Look what [Ricky](#) and [Allison Lewis](#) brought me from Africa! 😊 This is the land survey of the 90 acres of land that God helped my Daddy find 55 years ago for the still thriving Namikango Mission in Malawi, Africa. Thank you!

We serve an awesome God!
[Sharon](#) (Roland's daughter)

Pictured: Ricky and his mother Sharon



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The Best Week Ever by Eric Gephart

Last week Namikango Mission hosted the annual **Teacher Refresher Course** on campus. This week-long course brought over 100 Village Bible teachers and church leaders to Namikango to fellowship, study the Bible, and attend training sessions that covered the courses to be taught this year. Some of the sessions taught were Church History, The Prophets (emphasizing Jonah), The Book of Revelation, and The Christian Family.

The theme that kept surfacing in every session revolved around Jesus' answer to the lawyer's question concerning "the greatest commandment." In Matthew 22:34-40 Jesus affirms that the greatest commandment is to "love God," and the second greatest commandment is to "love your neighbor."

Jesus further claims that "All the law and the prophets hang on these two commands."

Whether the session was reviewing the needs of the church, or how to understand the message of Revelation and Jonah, each teacher reaffirmed the teaching of Jesus, that God desires above all things that we are in communion with Him and with our neighbor. We also saw this applied in practical ways throughout the week, with teachers from various regions around the country coming together and sharing unity in fellowship.

As the week ended, the group was encouraged to take the unity they had formed at the gathering back to their congregations. Many brothers left the meeting commenting



Eric Gephart



that this was one of the **best weeks ever** of Teacher Refresher Courses they had been to. They were excited to continue building the Kingdom of God through the bonds of peace in their communities.



Enclosed is a check which represents a percentage from **Irene Steele's** Trust Estate.

Per her wishes, we did everything we could to save money and preserve the assets from unnecessary expenses (so there would be more to pass along). LVP, Trustee

This is an offering for printing copies of books used in teaching in the Chichewa language.

Carlos & Nuny Pagan

The **Alex Main St. Church of Christ** will be increasing our donation \$100 a month.

Bro. Sidney, Sorry I have been so tardy – am hoping to improve. Love to your wife!
In our Savior's name, **Lee Phillips**

From the three of us – to help where most needed. God's Blessings,
Ellen Keele, Elicia Webb, & Paul Keele

Journey Groups (Mentoring) by Eric Gephart

I recently had the privilege of sitting in on a Journey Group here at Namikango. These small groups of twelve to fifteen members meet on a semi-regular basis to fellowship together, do Bible studies, pray for each other, and encourage each other in ministry.

The conversation was insightful. Each participant brought out new insights and new understandings of the *Sermon on the Mount* and I left the group feeling blessed and refreshed, seeing several familiar passages in a new light. It was a wonderful weekend full of new teachings and understandings, and I am so grateful that I can be in a place where these conversations take place. I am also grateful for my Malawian brothers and sisters, who bring new light to familiar passages, as we all strive to be more like Christ.



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