

New Additions Around Namikango

We've had two recent purchases this month that will be making an impact on both the Bible School side and on the Maternity Clinic side of the Mission.

Maternity Clinic's New Ambulance

On the Maternity side, we have received the long awaited ambulance, adapted specifically to serve as an ambulance. It has been 3 years since the original ambulance was in the terrible wreck which totaled it, and we have been using other Mission vehicles as a replacement. The nurses at the clinic are rejoicing at having a stretcher-bed to place pregnant mothers on inside a spacious back end, along with all the necessary items for IV hookups and other medical needs. Plus, they have comfort in knowing reliable transportation will be immediately available. And, when you are rushing to the hospital with a patient in serious condition, it is nice to have a siren and flashing lights opening the way through people walking and driving and riding bicycles. All in all a wonderful blessing for the well-recognized Clinic.

Namikango's New Special Tractor

A new V-Tractor which was donated to Namikango Mission by the Malawi Project this year has already been making its mark. This tractor is not only able to till the land, it also serves as an in-field transport. Ten acres at Namikango have been dedicated for farming. There is a great need for transportation of goods as well as taking care of the land itself and the V-tractor has provided both transport and toil.

Although planting season and the need for plowing will not come until the end of the year, harvest time in Malawi is here right now. The V-Tractor has provided efficiently and has been able to harvest the maize that we have here on our campus. This is work that otherwise would have taken weeks to finish, ferrying maize to and from the field to the storage facility, has only taken a couple of days. This grain provides food for the students at the Mission and a portion for those who come seeking food.

Furthermore, we have a coffee/macadamia orchard that is in its early stages on the far end of our property, and with the drought we have, the tractor, along with its sprayer tank, has made it possible for us to irrigate our crops more effectively during this difficult year.

While the tractor is of great value to the Mission, the plan for its use has always been to benefit the community.

Plans are being developed as to how we will best be able to do that in the coming months as we look ahead to the next planting season in November. In the meantime, we would like to convey our deep gratitude for this very generous gift and to the Malawi Project for making this possible.

New Desks

Bible Students are also enjoying a change of scenery. Our remarkable, older desks have served us well for over 30 years and have now been retired. We brought in some desk-chairs that are already getting good use. These desk-chairs are a first step toward a larger project of new classrooms that we plan to build in the next few years, as well as developing the Bible School and its curriculum as a whole.

Ben Hayes



Ben & Staff Pray for the New Ambulance



A Welcome Arrival



The Amazing "V" Tractor gets plenty of work.



The New Chairs are a Welcome Addition

Bible Schools Up and Running

The Bible School on campus has begun for another year. We have 8 returning students plus three new students. These three studied in a Village Bible Center near their home. This will be the fourth year of study for them and they wanted to finish at Namikango. This shows a serious desire to learn and we welcome them. Our two teachers at the Mission are Chitani Bakali and Samuel Tambala (one of our newest recruits from last year).

Our 23 Village Bible Schools started up last week as well. The hunger situation here continues to be a serious issue for everyone, and this will have an effect on Village Centers as they try to provide food for the students. The Bible Committees are trying to find enough food to operate their respective village study centers. We are going to give each Center some maize just to help them jumpstart the year.

At the beginning of each year our Hayes family hosts the students for a "Welcome to Namikango" event.

We shared cokes and some snacks, together with some soccer and good time getting to know each other. It's always an exciting part of the year to see the school running on campus; we look forward to what this year has in store. [Ben](#)



A Journey not soon forgotten!

We returned mid-May from our journey to South Africa. As expected when traveling by road across Southern Africa, there were many interesting events – some planned and some not. Some of the highlighted events from this season include the All Africa Missions Conference (AAMC) where we were encouraged by past colleagues plus old and new friends serving across Africa, and a real highlight as we rejoiced at the birth of our second daughter - Lily Rae Hayes. But a brief article can merely list events, and that could never tell the real journey we had.

One of the biggest themes that ran throughout our trip was our lack of control over the events that happened, and the Journey of Faith it took us on. After arriving in Cape Town, our car stopped working. It took two weeks to repair. Lily's arrival was later than we had hoped, and that too, was beyond our control. Shortly after her birth we found that we had to wait a week to apply for her American passport, and then two more weeks for it to arrive. This also was beyond our control. Then the real test began - after leaving Cape Town our car shut down once again in the quaint town of George. However, throughout the process, we were consistently shown the grace and provision by God. For example, our car stopped working and then somehow started just long enough to get us to the driveway of a mechanics shop where it refused to budge another inch. The shop which, coincidentally, appears to be one of the three in South Africa that focuses on Gear Boxes, which was the cause of our problem. After realizing we were not going to

make it to our destination for the evening, we quickly found an Airbnb (a home sharing place) for the night and showed up just thirty minutes after booking. The family turned out to be believers and were a huge blessing to us, even allowing us to stay an additional few days free of charge as we waited for our car to be suitable for travel. Five days after we drove into George, we were back on the road in our 17-hour day that landed us in Johannesburg. Our travels were full of such stories that we will remember always as a part of Lily's birth story, as well as a time when the Lord taught us much about trusting Him and having grace for others. In a season of not knowing where we would sleep that night, or at one point not even having enough cash to be able to travel (There was a money crisis in Zimbabwe at this time), we reflected on our feelings about things out of our control and how they can be both debilitating and degrading.



How can we expect those we meet to want to grow in the Lord when they spend most of their waking hours finding food and just making it from day to day? We need to understand their situation. It reminded us that we are here to serve, and by serving, empower individuals not to feel in "control" of their lives, but to place their trust in God to provide for their families, churches, communities, and even outsiders. Then they can be the hands and feet of Jesus in a world where far too many factors are beyond our control, but not beyond His. We are trusting that God is with us, and that He cares about even the smallest details in our lives. [Justine Hayes](#)





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**Food Distribution
brings out the Smiles**

Hunger Relief Efforts

Our effort to bring needed food to starving families continues. We are now reaching about 3,000 families and would like to double this. There are some 6,000 or more families nearby who are still in extreme need. We hope to extend our help to all of them. The generosity of our supporters is making this look like a possibility. Thank you and praise God!

Let me share a typical food distribution visit as we drive up to the scheduled site with a load of grain. Many of the people who had previously been selected by the church leaders were ready and waiting. (We have instructed the leaders to seek out all those who were most desperate from their village and not limit it to church members only.)

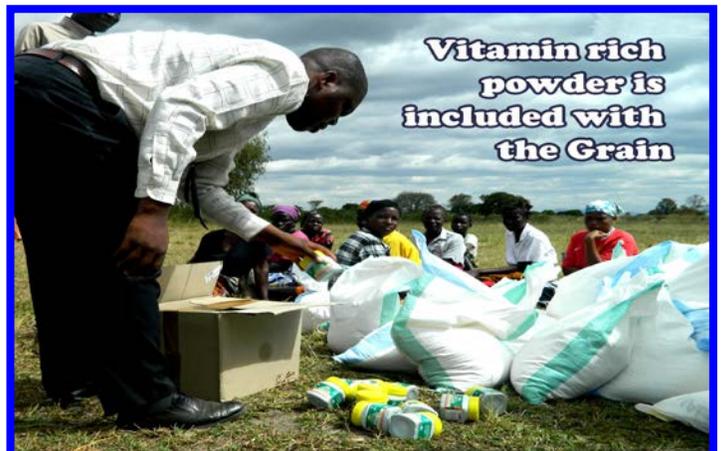
The joyful response from the people who received grain was worth all the effort. Even this small distribution **is making a difference** to people! Beyond receiving something to eat, it gives encouragement that they are not alone, that there are people who care about them.

Along with grain, we are providing a supply of **Moringa** for each family. This is a naturally-grown leaf crushed into a powder, which provides nutrients and vitamins and is better than the grain alone.

We continue to seek your support so that we can reach more people. We want to double the amount of families we've targeted so far. Thank you for what you have done. It is truly a blessing to these good people! **Ben Hayes**



Food Distribution Continues



**Vitamin rich
powder is
included with
the Grain**