



**Meet
Becca
& Braylon Hayes**

Not Just “Knowing” . . . But “Doing”

We continue in our efforts to revise and reprint the study books which we use in all our courses. Our latest book, which is due from the printer any day, is *The Books of Poetry*. As we revise our new books, we are emphasizing living the life of a follower of Jesus. We don't want students to just have head knowledge of the Bible; we want to show them how to actually implement the teachings of Christ in their own lives.

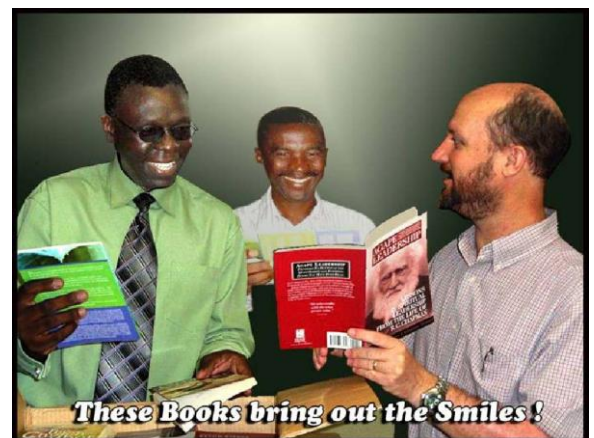
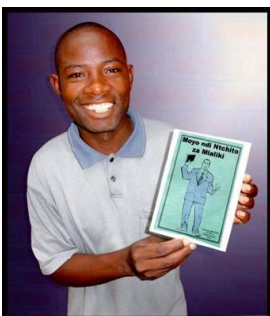
These books provide one more tool in our efforts to train servant leaders for the Kingdom. We are convinced that if a leader is a true disciple of Christ, he will be driven by love and become a faithful servant of God's. This emphasis fits well with the course on Biblical poetry and the books of wisdom in the Bible. If “wisdom” can be defined as the ability to make godly choices, then following the example of the Son of God is the wisest choice any Christian can make. This book, like all others we are producing, contains special sections to encourage students to apply the lessons to their own lives.

We are receiving great comments from the teachers and students who are using this newer material. They appreciate the insights that allow them to go deeper in the Word and closer to the heart of the Gospel.

One of our most pressing needs is to have the funds to print these books. This is our fourth book to be completed. Two thousand of these books cost \$1,500 and this is not in our regular budget, so we must appeal for special contributions for this printing. There are 24 books in all and we have 20 more to go. If you can make a special contribution toward these books it will be appreciated and it will be a blessing to many.

We are so thankful for the generosity of those who have made this project possible.

The student in the photo is Innocent Nyasulu. He is displaying one of our most recent books which we have revised – *The Life and Work of a Preacher*. The next book scheduled to be printed is *The Christian Home* and it is already in the final stages of revision. Mark

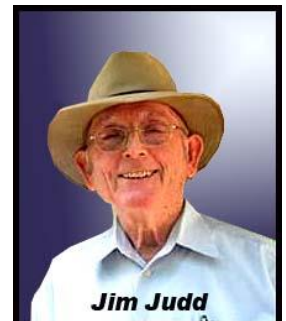


Bro. Jim Judd

We regret to announce the passing of **Brother Jim Judd**, a longtime friend of Namikango Mission and fellow missionary.

He worked for many years in the northern areas of Malawi and has left a great legacy of service. He was 85.

S. Vaughn





Ben introduces Becca and Braylon



Becca and I married in 2008. Before starting my career, we took a trip to east Africa to visit Kenya where I was born, and to Uganda where Becca did mission work.

I began my career in Houston as a Mechanical Engineer with

Cameron Intl., while Becca taught at a high school for Spring Branch ISD.

Rebecca was born and raised in Lubbock, graduated from Lubbock Christian High School in 2001, and then from Lubbock Christian University in 2005, with a degree in Secondary Education. After graduation, Becca then accepted an opportunity to serve as a teacher for a year on the mission team in Mbale, Uganda. The following year, in 2006, she returned to Mbale to teach the women in the villages, work in the Messiah Theological Institute (Mission Bible training school) Library, work with the church, and the mission school.

Upon returning to the states, Rebecca taught math at Monterey High School in Lubbock. After marrying and moving to Houston, she taught Digital Graphics computer classes at Northbrook High School in Spring Branch for a term, substituted at Memorial Church of Christ preschool, and tutored at Sylvan Learning Center.

We have been blessed to be in Houston for the last two and half years. Shortly after moving to Houston, God led us to be an active part of a wonderful church family at Memorial Church of Christ. We both share a passion for mission work and have kept our eyes open for an opportunity to serve on the mission field. Our thoughts were to be in Houston for about three years and then strongly pursue mission work.

Becca and I often talked about how time has elapsed and wondered when a mission opportunity would arise.

We had been considering Pioneer Bible Translators and the move and training that would require. Then, one evening not too much later, I received a call notifying us of Mark Thiesen's pending move back to the States, and the need for someone in Malawi. Becca and I both were curious at this news. The same day, Becca had been praying that God would open the door wide to show us His plan for our future. We felt this could be the answer we had been looking for.

After several months of discussion and prayer, we accepted the offer to move to Malawi. With such a rich heritage of godly men and women who have served the Mission, we are very humbled to have the opportunity to join with you in what God has done and is doing through Namikango, as we continue to reach the unreached of southern Africa. We would greatly appreciate your prayers and support as we prepare to make the move in a year's time. May no more and no less than God's will be done.

Yours in Christ,
Ben, Becca, and Braylon Hayes

Greetings from Malawi!

As you read this, I expect to be in Malawi spending the week with Mark, Bisani, and others -- at the Namikango Mission. Though this trip came about as an option only a few months ago, I have been eagerly looking forward to it, and have been excited about learning all I can from Mark prior to his departure in July. I expect this week to be packed full, with one-on-one time with each of the staff members, to visiting neighboring villages and churches. I also plan to spend some time getting acquainted with the nearby necessities in Zomba and Blantyre. What a blessing to be with God's people in another country and culture – different from our own. I am more excited now than ever to see what God will do through this work and I look forward to returning next year with my wife and son.

God be with you!
Ben



Message from Ann Thiesen

Dear Ones in Christ,

The month of May has been filled with blessings for me and I want to share some of them with you. I hope you will enjoy them.

The first day of May I made the "big trip" to Mozambique to teach some ladies. They had been asking me to come there for some time. I knew these ladies would be walking for miles and miles to attend our study together!

I traveled with a Mission driver who is also an elder in the church along with one of our Bible teachers, Isaac Paulos, and my interpreter, Symon Katete. It was a two-hour drive to the border and things seemed to be going just fine. But, when I crossed the Mozambique border, the officials said I did not have enough pages in my passport and he refused to stamp it. He told me, "Just go on." With a lot of uncertainty, I went on to meet with the ladies. I realized that I was there illegally and thought, "What if the police stop me and ask to see my passport?" These things do happen. The Mozambique immigration officer had my passport and told me he would give it back as I came back through. Needless to say, I was a bit worried. I called Mark and told him what had happened. His advice was, "Don't cross the border without your passport . . .," but it was too late now! So we proceeded on without a legal passport.

There were 210 ladies who greeted us, eager to study about the Lord. While teaching these ladies it was obvious how hungry they were to be taught by another woman. I quietly rejoiced that I had gone on, even though I was one scared lady. Teaching there was a very unusual experience, it was a first for me. They speak Portuguese here, so, I spoke in English, my interpreter translated into Chichewa and another translated from Chichewa into Portuguese. I wanted to talk again before they were finished translating.

After this study with the ladies, everyone met outside for worship. We were outside because we had 478 people attending and they would not fit in the building. It was obvious how hungry these good people were to hear God's Gospel. Our services lasted from morning until two that afternoon. We then went to someone's house to eat but I could not enjoy it because I was fearful about my passport. What if the man who took my passport was off duty when we returned? My lack of patience gave me a tension headache and I kind of lost my appetite. The people were so very kind to us. We said our goodbyes and headed back to the border. Sure enough, the

man who took my passport was gone. But, God was watching over us, he had left it there and I was able to cross the border. But on the Malawi side, the Immigration Officer asked me why my passport for going in to Mozambique had not been stamped. I explained what had happened and he was not happy at all, and he had to cancel the record of my leaving Malawi.

I must admit I did a lot of praying on this trip and I am so thankful that God did step in yet again and rescue me. I am glad I went and that I can now tell you about it. God is good.

Two days later it was time again for my weekly study with the ladies who come to the maternity clinic for a checkup before their babies are born. It was so packed this day that many ladies had to sit down on the floor. I don't know how they can do this but it does not seem to bother them at all. We also had several nurses and midwives in class as well. Since I had been so anxious two days before in Mozambique I decided to give a lesson on "worrying." I felt I needed this study myself. One midwife told me that they also have the problem of worrying and being anxious.

The next study at the Maternity Clinic was much smaller. I never know from week to the next how many will be there. I taught them on 1 Corinthians 13 the love chapter. This is one of my favorite studies in the New Testament. I think it is very interesting that all of the ladies and our midwives come to the class. (Unless they are busy delivering a baby at the time of our study). I never cease to marvel at the interest the people here have in spiritual matters. I guess this is why I love these people and why I love to teach.

I study with one group of ladies twice a month. They are special. They either have HIV/AIDS or are close to someone who does. Every time they come with big smiles ready to study. I am deeply touched by these ladies because some of them are still having their babies tested to see if they had the HIV virus. This makes me so sad for them because many have this through no fault of their own. When a mate has been unfaithful they will be infected. It was a good class as usual they are good listeners and never seem to be discouraged.

The 27th was another highlight of my time here as I went to a suburb of Blantyre. I had a wonderful day—a very long day. These ladies wanted me to do three classes with them . . . so I did. At the end of the lessons they made me come up to the front while they did their traditional dance. They sang and wanted me to do the dance with them. I tried and failed. They presented me with bananas and two wrap-around dresses. I felt so honored. I told them how much I learn from them in their kindness. I love these ladies so much. They are a good lesson in kindness and humility. They all escorted me to the pick-up with their singing. It was after dark when we reached home. I came home tired but very happy... A very good day for us but I was totally tired. I went to bed at 8 that evening and slept for 10 hours.

This is only a part of what has been going on in the warm heart of Africa for this past month. I feel it has been a very good one and I have enjoyed it more than I can tell you.

I wish that every one of you could experience the awesome joy that comes from sharing God's love with these hungry precious souls. Please pray for Malawi, for the Mission work and especially pray for the suffering of these poor villagers

Love, Ann

