

Around the Mission

· The **Bible Schools** continue to progress as we approach the midway point of the school year.

· In addition, the time for **harvest** has come. This is usually a time where many people hold celebrations, splurging a little on the first fruits of their harvest after having rationed the previous year's harvest for the last several months in eager anticipation of this time . . .

· Unfortunately, for many the forecast looks as if their harvest will not take them as far into the year as it did last year or in normal years. The **results of the floods** are continuing to show as people's crops are not producing what they had hoped. Even so, people are trying to make their food last to sustain them for the next several months.

· In the meantime, we here at the Mission along with others in Malawi are continuing to develop a plan for how we may be able to support our churches and people through the potentially **difficult months ahead**.

· On another note, the month of June will be a **month of visitors** as we have three teams from different organizations coming to visit. Following them will be a visit from family at the end of the month. We enjoy the blessing of getting to host many different people and having family come is always a highlight of the year. So we, and maybe more importantly our kids are looking forward to seeing their grandparents.

Ben Hayes



Cultural References . . . "They were eager to serve."

Over the past couple years, I have been part of several interviews for candidates applying for different positions at the Mission— ranging from Bible Teachers to Nursing Attendants, and more recently for the position of Accountant. Most of these interviews have been for positions that did not require a Bachelor's degree, though they still required a good grasp of the English language and skill in their respective discipline as well.

Recently, we looked at a couple of applicants who did not have Bachelor's degrees and we invited them in for interviews. I didn't think much about this at the time. I knew it was not often that we interviewed candidates with a degree, until one of our guys was informing the rest of the staff that we could expect a lot of people to show up in their cars for interviews the next day."

My first thought when he said this was, "What? In their Cars?" I realized at that moment how different this situation would be from previous ones. I found myself being surprised that I was surprised that interview candidates would arrive in vehicles. This would be a given in the U.S., but not here. The end result is that while some do have cars, the majority of Malawians do not, and having an auto does indicate a certain level of status within society.

Even so, the interview candidates we looked at did not act as if their "status" carried much weight, and it was a great blessing to see several of them who had come from difficult situations in their own life. I found the candidates eager to find ways to help and serve their fellow Malawians. I saw the nature of Malawi and the spirit of Christ in the interviews.

Ben Hayes

Mozambique Teachers

Recently, Ben, Ryan, Symon Katete, and Chitani Bakali made the trip to Milanje, Mozambique in order to provide a brief teachers' refresher course for the 40+ teachers of the Village Bible Schools across the border. Much like the refreshers course we had last month with the teachers in Malawi, we took two days to study the importance of the "Gospel" for every aspect of our lives. In so doing, we took time to discuss our way through several chapters of the Gospel DNA curriculum as well as providing brief overviews of the Gospel-infused letters of Galatians and 1 Corinthians. We took pains to note specifically how Paul addresses every issue – not via opinion or tradition – but through the application of the "Good News" of Christ to each issue. Though each session was very worthwhile, it was difficult to stay on schedule because of the time it took to translation from English to Chichewa to Lomwe to Portuguese! Imagine hearing every sentence repeated

three or four times over in a different language for several hours and you'll have a picture of what it took for all to understand.

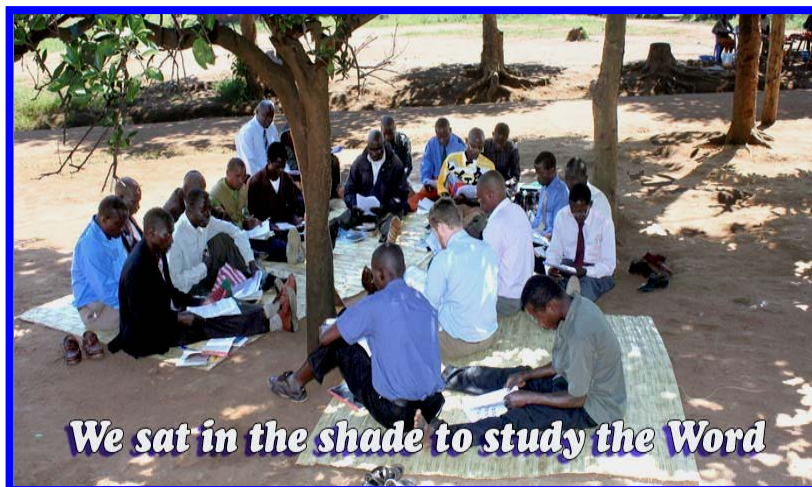
Our time was doubly blessed by the lovely foods and great fellowship we had with our brothers and sisters serving the Lord whole-heartedly in Mozambique.

Ryan Hayes

A note from Bisani after a trip he took to Mozambique in August –

While the varying languages make it difficult to communicate in Mozambique, we must never overlook these people who are hungry for the Lord. The area is still fertile ground for the Gospel with its people very eager to receive the Word.

Mozambique may remain a child of Namikango for some foreseeable future.



Namikango Past

The land where we now have the Bible School and the Maternity Clinic was at one time a tobacco farm, the Namikango Estate, owned by Thondwe Tobacco Company and later owned by a retired army officer - Major Metcalfe. Charles C. Metcalfe was born in 1880 in England. He arrived in Nyasaland (now Malawi) about 1910 with his wife Margaret. He served for some time with the Kings African Rifles (KAR), which was a collaboration of African military forces overseen by the British in southeastern Africa.

Looking ahead to his retirement, Mr. Metcalfe started planning for a place of permanent residence within Nyasaland. He found a very nice place on the road from Blantyre to Zomba at the small town of Thondwe.

The Metcalfes bought Namikango Estate on January 7, 1944, from the Thondwe Tobacco Company.

When the Second World War broke out, Charles and Margaret were unable to travel to England because it was unsafe to travel on the seas or in the air.

One of their daughters, Barbara French, managed the affairs of the estate on behalf of her aging parents.

Later, Margaret and Charles Metcalfe left Nyasaland because of Charles' ill health and went back to England. In 1961 the 90-acres estate was sold to our first/founding missionaries Bros. Rolland Hayes and B. Shelburne.

The place then became known as the Namikango Mission. The name Namikango means "place of lions" in the local language, named after a stream that runs through the property. Since that time, the Mission has become a well-known and respected place in the Thondwe area and throughout Malawi.

Symon John Katete





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Our Mission Children

Amelie, Brooklyn, Braylon, & Britain

A week of encouragement and rest in Zambia



This last week, Church of Christ missionaries from all over the South-Central parts of Africa met together at **Flat Dogs Camp**, South Luangwa, Zambia ("flat dogs", or more affectionately "flatties" are what Southern African folk call *crocodiles*).

South Luangwa is well-known as one of the better game reserves in this part of Africa, and suffice to say, it lived up to its expectations! We had a great time viewing lions, leopards, zebra, giraffe, and most importantly, the rare and oddly wonderful, Honey Badger!

More than this though, it was a time of refreshment and camaraderie for the missionaries. The whole week was put together by the wonderful folks of InterMission, based out of Edmond, Oklahoma. They provided sessions of discussions and study in which all involved could have space for talking about hard issues and needs faced in our respective work.

In all, the week provided a much needed time of encouragement and rest for all. For us, this was much needed, and we remain deeply grateful to the InterMission team.

Ryan Hayes



A Taxi Ride in Zambia