

## What is it like in Malawi? by Justine Hayes

“What is it like in Malawi?” I hear the question as I lay my head back into the sink, ready for my hair to be washed. A professional hair-cut is one of my favorite ways to start a furlough, which only comes around every two years. But we hear the question more often than that. After seven years in Malawi, it can be difficult to answer. Things that once stood out as memorable no longer seem to paint a complete picture. So, what words can best describe the place that we call home?

During my college days, I was given a “three word challenge” to use upon re-entry into the United States following a short-term missions trip. The challenge was this: find three words that capture your experience, then have several versions of your story ready to share.

*The first version uses **three words** that would best describe my experience, without going into details.*

*The second is the **elevator version** which includes a few sentences to explain each word.*

*The last is the **five-minute version** which includes more detail for in-depth conversations.*

While there is no shortage of material to pull from, *My three words are these:*

**1. Beautiful!** This is always one of the first things that comes to my mind. Images of the lush, rolling hills during rainy season, the views from the top of Zomba Plateau, its waterfalls, the diversity of wildlife and the open space within a few minutes’ drive from anywhere in the country.

**2. Rural!** This helps to give an idea of what the majority of the country is like, with just a handful of cities as an exception. There is generally a *quieter* pace of life in the villages, and a *simpler* lifestyle than in big urban cities,

particularly in Thondwe (where the Mission is located) or in the small town of Zomba (where our families live).

But for the last word, how can I describe the layers of a culture that we have come to love living in - the subtleties of the verbal and non-verbal language, the high emphasis on respect, honor and hierarchy? How can I put into one word the unique challenges Malawians face economically (*in a society based on agriculture*), spiritually (*in a culture dominated by fear and superstition*), and physically (*with the prevalence of various illnesses and diseases that challenged hospitals to keep up with, even before COVID hit*)?

**3. For now, I choose **Connected!**** During these challenging times, we have gained a deeper understanding of our connectedness. We see that the actions of one individual cannot be separated from the community, despite the way our own Western culture places an emphasis on individualism. Though we are currently oceans apart from the place we call home, we are still inextricably connected with what is happening. Though many of you may never visit the Namikango campus, through your prayers and partnership with our families and the Mission, you too, are **connected**. Malawi is a place where communities and individuals depend on connecting with one another in order to survive.

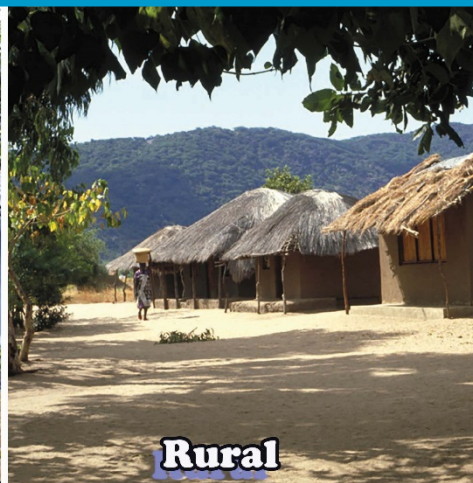
I share my three words, and the conversation moves on. These three words may not capture the entirety of a place, but hopefully they can help to give a glimpse into the people we love and the land we have come to call home.



Justine Hayes



**Beautiful**



**Rural**



**Connected**

## Namikango Takes Steps to be Protected



As the number of people infected by Coronavirus continues to rise, the government of Malawi has put different preventative measures in place to contain the spread of it.

Among other things, the government has instructed that people must:

- ▶ Wash hands thoroughly and regularly with water and soap and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer,
- ▶ Always maintain social and physical distance of at least 1.5 meters (5 feet).
- ▶ Wear face masks in public
- ▶ Cover our nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- ▶ Avoid shaking hands

I want to thank the Directors and Management of Namikango Mission for providing face masks and hand sanitizer for each employee.

At the entrance of our offices, there is a bucket of water with soap and everyone entering the office is encouraged to wash their hands.

Namikango has done this to make sure that its employees are safe both at the office and even at home.

*Thank you for protecting our lives and that of our families!*

Styford Blazio

## Meeting with Jim & Kathy Albright

We had the great blessing of getting to connect this last month with some past missionaries of Namikango - Jim and Kathy Albright. Their family served in Malawi at Namikango for 13 years (1980-1993) and lived there another 10 years while they taught in the private international schools and worked with the "Why Wait" program in Malawi.

They now live in Stillwater, Oklahoma. On their way home from a recent trip, they made a detour through Lubbock to see us. Becca hadn't ever met the Albrights, but my family's connection to them goes back quite a few years. My parents were "guardians" for a couple of their children when they attended a school in Kenya a couple years while Jim and Kathy worked at Namikango. We played together as kids and saw their family on furloughs but it has been many years since we last crossed paths.

It was a blessing to spend a few hours together, learning about their lives in Malawi – their joys along with their challenges. One point that stood out was a relief project they engaged in during a time of famine, where they partnered with several other NGOs, driving trucks full of supplies from South Africa up to Malawi. The multi-church partnership that followed the effort to distribute food left a lasting impression on the Albrights and provided a loving picture of the Kingdom of God to brothers and in sisters in Malawi. Such a venture expresses the message of unity that Namikango has always sought to display through service and teaching.



As we closed our time together, Jim shared about his technology background and his current work in that field and told a "fun fact" that I didn't know about Namikango; I am not sure many know. It seems the very first email that was ever sent out of the whole country of Malawi was sent from Namikango. A British friend of Jim's was teaching at a nearby college and needed a place to try this new communication method and came to Namikango to try it. The email was sent to South Africa. Now Namikango has a new claim to fame!

The history of Namikango is rich and it is rich because of the people - both Malawians and Americans who share in its history. We all: you, our supporters; current and previous missionaries; Namikango staff; and people living deep in a village in Malawi have the blessing of being connected to this rich history.

Blessings, Ben Hayes



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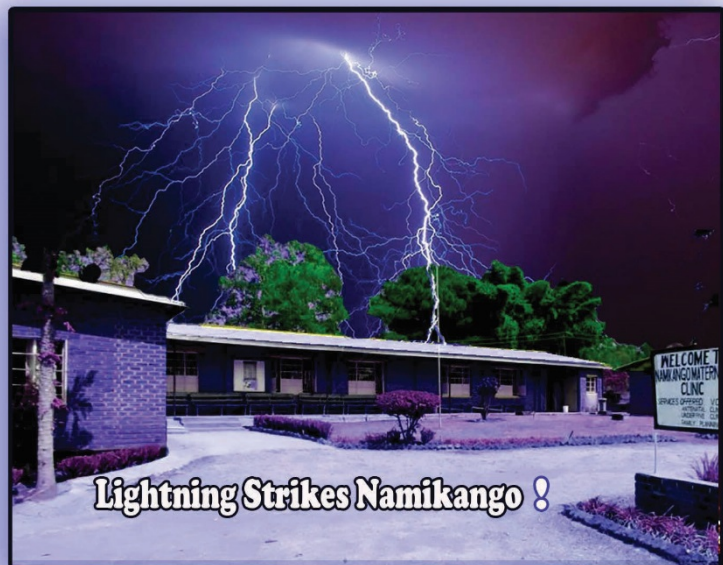
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**Lightning Strikes Namikango !**

## Lightning Strike turns into a Generous Gift and a New Partnership -by Ryan Hayes

A few months ago, a lightning strike burned (rendered unusable) both solar inverters that run the Maternity Clinic and the Mission offices. This was obviously very unfortunate since solar inverters are both expensive and necessary for keeping electricity going at these two locations.

We did not know what to do. Christian Missionary Fellowship linked me up with a solar group out of Spain called the EKI Foundation.

I sent an email to the names given to me - Antonio and Angel, and found that part of their social solar business model is to donate and setup solar projects in Africa! They quickly agreed to donate one full inverter for the Maternity Clinic.

The solar unit for the Mission offices was larger and more



expensive so they agreed to pay half of the cost for that one. Not only that, they also shipped the inverters and got them delivered near the Mission for free!

Obviously, we want to say a **big Thanks** to them for their generosity towards us and other organizations in Africa.

We have since been able to install the inverter for the Maternity Clinic and are working on getting the solar panels and inverter installed on the Admin Building which is a big task due to its size and height.

Our part of the converter cost is approx. \$1,600 plus installation. If any want to help us cover this unexpected cost and help get this job finished, it would certainly be appreciated.



## Financial Report for June 2020

Churches	Individual Contributors	
Anna St. Church, Amarillo, TX Ashlan Ave. Church, Fresno, CA Canyon Hills Church, Canyon, TX Clinton Church, Clinton, MO Cornerstone CC, Syracuse, NY Crescent Park Church, Littlefield, TX Eastside Church, Petersburg, TX The Branch, Farmers Branch, TX Hwy. 44 Church, Robstown, TX Hillcrest Church, Weatherford, TX Kimberling City Church, Kimberling City, MO Memorial Church, Houston, TX Memorial Church of Greens Bayou, Hou., TX Mt Pleasant Church, Bloomington, IN New Beginnings Church, League City, TX 9th & Colorado Church, Chickasha, OK Ninth St. Church, Ballinger, TX North Side Church, Robert Lee, TX Northwest Church, Abilene, TX Pleasant St Church, Springdale, AR Quaker Ave. Church, Lubbock, TX Riverview Church, Bakersfield, CA Rock Creek Church, Silverton, TX S. Fulton St. Church, Denver, CO Sepulveda Church, Sepulveda, CA South Main Church, Alex, OK Stanton Church, Stanton, TX Stockton Church, Stockton, MO Welch Church, Welch, TX White's Ferry Rd Church, W. Monroe, LA	Jerry & Jane Baker James & Charlotte Bertram Larry & Reba Branum Kalith & Vaughn Brown Don & Anita Burns Bryan & Lana Burson Kirk & Linda Castleman Bobby & Billie Clark Dwayne & Janice Cockrum Cliff & Mary K. Crumpler Justin & Michelle Custer Ima Lee Daniels Albert & Vera Davis Jonathan & Meagan Dover Matt & Keneé Dover Gladys Ellis Gary & Jane Evans Elwood & Billie Everett Ricky Everett, Jr. Odell & LaVonne Farr Arch L. Ferguson Foundation Lynn & Jane Fisher Darrell Fleming Danny or Donna Francis Kent & Connie Gaultney Ann Gilbreth Roger & Judy Gomez Forrest Grant Larry Harding Brett & Jane Harrison Linda Havins Ellen Hawley Kenneth & Debra Hawley Kirk & Susan Hayes Truman & Mauriene Hayes Alfonso & Gloria Hernandez Austin & Vanessa Hughes	Robin Hughes Linda Hunt Bill & Cheryl Jones Mrs. Susan Kjellgren Steve & Mary Krablin David & Lisa Langford Mrs. Mack (Marsha) Lee Dennis & Debbie McCain A.D. & Vynoma McKinnerney Andrew Midkiff Jacob & Nancy Miller Bob & Charlotte Mize Sean & Lisa Monticello Terry & Cindy Orick Phill & Mevaneé Parmer Talin Pepper Greer & Angie Pittman Larry & Valerie Poage Gerardo Quiroga Thelma Reed James & Joy Rettmann Gene & Melody Sheets Jim & Shirley Shelburn Mr. & Mrs. Brent Stewart Vivian Thane Mark & Ginger Thiesen Kathryn Thompson Mary Vaughn Nova Vaughn Ronnie Vaughn Sidney Vaughn Debbie Weaks Jimmy & Sue West Wayne & Joy Wheeler Rob & Keva Wilkinson Doug & Mary Chris Wilks Lendal & Peggy Wilks
Individuals		
Jim & Kathy Albright Bill & Jenny Amonette Sammy & Laveta Amsler Frances Baker		

Balance Jun 1<sup>st</sup> .....\$1,790.33  
 Jun Contributions..... +\$21,928.50  
 Project Funds - Covid PPE ..... +\$650  
 " " - Campus Renovations .....+\$5,000

**Jun Expenses ..... - \$26,184.44**  
 Mission Expenses & Pensions..-\$21,516.53  
 Printing & Postage .....-\$1,137  
 Operating Expenses.....-\$3,500  
 PayPal Online Fees .....-\$30.91  
**Operating Balance Jun 30<sup>th</sup>.....\$3,184.39**

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Note: All gifts received will be used at the direction of the Board of Directors of Namikango Mission, Inc.

In memory of <b>John Francis</b> Danny & Donna Francis Rock Creek Church	In loving memory of <b>Sue Seymour</b> David & Gloria Seymour	How wonderful it was to visit with Ben and Becca Hayes and the three little "Bs" on our way back from (our son) Jordan's wedding in Phoenix. We were blessed and enjoyed touching base (with them) on the work, the Message, and the people we love in Malawi. Yours for Him, <b>Kathy &amp; Jim Albright</b>
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## July Board Meeting

Our Namikango Mission Board of Directors and the missionaries had a Meeting July 9<sup>th</sup> . . . by Zoom.

We were scheduled to meet in person in Houston; but, as you know, traveling and meetings have been hampered by the virus. The missionaries are all on extended furloughs until they are able to secure travel arrangements.

During the meeting we discussed future plans and needs for Namikango.

It's still hoped we'll soon be able to begin the new English Bible school on Namikango's

campus - The Discipleship Training Institute (DTI). It's scheduled for opening the Spring Semester of 2021.

When we do begin, we'll start with a limited number of students, from 10 to 20. One area of importance for all our classes is to encourage ladies and couples to attend. We will be limited as we start because we do not have housing facilities for more than a few students.

Our hopes are to build an adequate dorm and auditorium. in the near future. We must start this journey in its infancy and grow from there. Please join us in prayer for this outreach effort for God's Kingdom.

Blessings, **Sidney Vaughn**

