

Namikango Mission • PO Box 21 • South Houston, TX 77587
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Passing the Torch

Serious Surgery

Symon Katete's wife Edna just recently had surgery at one of the top orthopedic hospitals in Malawi.

Edna works as a nurse at the Maternity Clinic and has dealt with a long-standing back issue. She finally decided to move forward with trying to get help with for problem.

One of the challenges with undertaking such a surgery is that while the government hospital services are free, they handle so many, many cases and serve such a large population of people, it makes proper care questionable.

Thankfully, we have a healthcare program available for Namikango employees that gives her affordable access to private hospitals and clinics, where they are assured of proper care and proper pain medication.

Furthermore, employees have a loan available from Namikango to help cover her portion of the cost. This loan is with very low interest compared to the 30% or more charged by local banks.



Edna and Symon Katete

Employees are always thankful that Namikango contributes toward employee pensions and provides other optional benefits such as transport to and from a clinic when needed.

Edna wants to encourage every staff member to join MASM (the medical plan Namikango offers) after her recent experience. She says she never realized the importance of it until she had to undergo this surgery. Some staff members don't participate because there is a small fee each month. But, for those who do participate, it can be a great blessing.

Edna is now recovering well back at home. She is one of 75 other Namikango staff members who have been able to continue working with a consistent job and security through this difficult COVID period.

Your faithful support to Namikango Mission helps provide this kind of environment for our staff members.

Ben Hayes

Financial Report for September 2020

Churches	Individual Contributors	
Anna St. Church, Amarillo, TX	Alan & Mary Ahlgrim	Rick & Sharolyn Helton
Ashlan Ave. Church, Fresno, CA	Jim & Velma Albright	Austin & Vanessa Hughes
Canyon Hills Church, Canyon, TX	Bill & Jenny Amonette	Robin Hughes
Carter Park Church, OK City, OK	Sammy & Laveta Amsler	Linda Hunt
Crescent Park Church, Littlefield, TX	Frances Baker	Bill & Cheryl Jones
Eastside Church, Petersburg, TX	Jerry & Jane Baker	Mrs. Susan Kjellgren
Evergreen Church, Evergreen, TX	James & Charlotte Bertram	Mary Krablin-Welstead
The Branch, Farmers Branch, TX	Larry & Reba Branum	David & Lisa Langford
Hwy. 44 Church, Robstown, TX	Bryan & Lana Burson	Mrs. Mack (Marsha) Lee
Hillcrest Church, Weatherford, TX	Dwayne & Janice Cockrum	A. D. & Vynoma McKinnerney
Kimberling City Church, MO	Mickey Cole	Jacob & Nancy Miller
Memorial Church, Houston, TX	Cliff & Mary K. Crumpler	Bob & Charlotte Mize
Memorial Christian Church of Greens Bayou, TX	Albert & Vera Davis	Sean & Lisa Monticello
Mt Pleasant Church, Bloomington, IN	Jonathan & Meagan Dover	Terry & Cindy Orick
New Beginnings Church, League City, TX	Matt & Kenee Dover	Phill & Mevanee Parmer
9th & Colorado Church, Chickasha, OK	Joseph Ellis	Talin Pepper
Ninth St. Church, Ballinger, TX	Gary & Jane Evans	Larry & Valerie Poage
North Side Church, Robert Lee, TX	Ricky Everett, Jr.	Quality Safety Services, Inc.
Northwest Church, Abilene, TX	Odell & LaVonne Farr	Gerardo Quiroga
Pleasant St Church, Springdale, AR	Arch L. Ferguson Foundation	James & Joy Rettmann
Quaker Ave. Church, Lubbock, TX	Lynn & Jane Fisher	Mr. & Mrs. Brent Stewart
Riverview Church, Bakersfield, CA	Darrell Fleming	Kathryn Thompson
Rock Creek Church, Silverton, TX	Roger & Judy Gomez	Nova Vaughn
S. Fulton St. Church, Denver, CO	Forrest Grant	Ronnie Vaughn
Sepulveda Church, Sepulveda, CA	Horace & Wenona Hamilton	Sidney Vaughn
South Main Church, Alex, OK	Brett & Jane Harrison	Debbie Weaks
Stanton Church, Stanton, TX	Jan L. Havins	Jimmy & Sue West
Stockton Church, Stockton, MO	Ellen Hawley	Wayne & Joy Wheeler
Welch Church, Welch, TX	Kenneth & Debra Hawley	Rob & Keva Wilkinson
White's Ferry Rd Church, W. Monroe, LA	Kirk & Susan Hayes	Doug & Mary Chris Wilks
	Truman & Mauriene Hayes	Bob & Lynne Williams

Balance Sep 1st\$2,314.34
 Sept. Contributions +\$20,649.50
 Project Funds..... +\$50,000
 World Radio Funds..... +\$1,100
 Transfer of Reserve Funds.....+\$10,000

September Expenses - \$32,245.26
 Mission Expenses & Pensions...-\$26,483.39
 Printing & Postage -\$1,137
 World Radio Broadcast.-\$1,100
 Operating Expenses.....-\$3,500
 PayPal Online Fees-\$24.87
Operating Balance Sep 30th\$1,818.58

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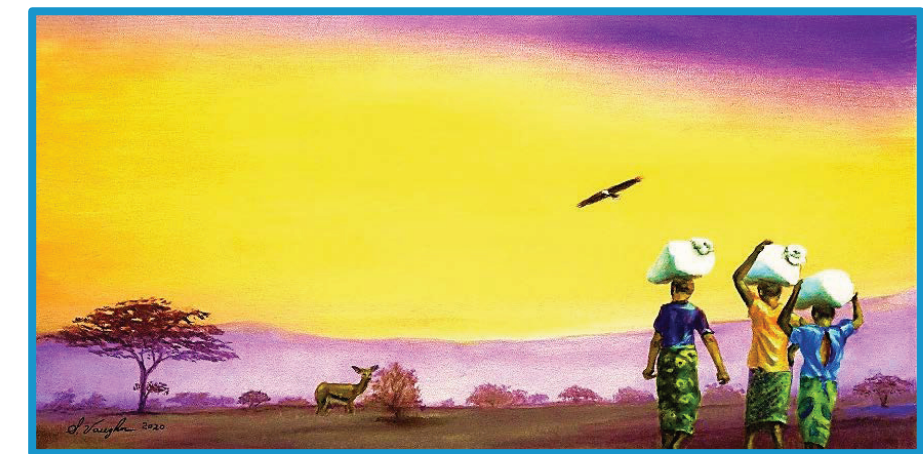
Mail Contributions to: Namikango Mission
 P. O. Box 21
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We at Evergreen Church of Christ have merged with Montague Church of Christ. The Evergreen property was sold for \$50,000. Check enclosed for that amount. Please use if needed for the new Outpatient Clinic or repairs to the school. Otherwise, use for building repairs or finishing.

Roye Gibson on behalf of Evergreen Church

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

Visit our new website in its early stages at
Namikango.org





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New Officers for the Mission Board

by Robert Lee

Monday, September 28, 2020, marks a major change in the history of the Namikango Mission. A new set of officers was selected for the Board of Directors that oversees this great work. I will be serving in the role of Executive Director of the Board as President, B Shelburne will continue as Vice-President, Ian Shelburne will now be the Secretary, and Matt Dover has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer. Sidney Vaughn will continue as a Board Director and Editor of the Mission Newsletter.

I was reticent to accept the position due to my lack of experience in this kind of work. I have a great deal to learn. But I do have a passion for Namikango Mission. My visit to Africa in 2019 was life changing. Malawi is called "The Warm Heart of Africa" because of the friendliness of its people. I felt that warmth, yet it came from citizens residing in a nation that is one of the poorest in the world. To see people able to smile and show kindness despite the hardship of their daily existence impacted me greatly.

It is wonderful to know that we have an opportunity to help people who desire to improve their physical existence. But of much greater importance is to realize that we can share spiritual life and eternal hope with the Malawians. God has

opened these doors and I believe we must do all we can to carry out His purposes.

I have big shoes to fill in following Sidney Vaughn as Executive Director and President of the Namikango Board. He has helped oversee this work for 46 years

– far longer than the Board itself has even been in existence. This work possibly would not still be here today had it not been for Sidney's tireless efforts.

Sidney has characterized his participation with Namikango as follows, *"It has been a pleasant journey and it has never been a chore. It has been like I had a ringside seat, just to sit on the sidelines and watch God win many battles."*

We are thankful that Sidney will continue to serve on the Board of Directors as a spiritual advisor. A great way to express appreciation for Sidney's work would be to make a special contribution to the Mission in his name.

Please continue praying for me and the rest of the Board, for the missionaries and their families, for the staff Stateside and in Malawi, and for the Malawian people.



Robert Lee

The passing of the torch

Change is inevitable

A changing of the guard / passing of the torch has been approaching, and I have put it off for a good while. But the time has come for change. I have served as Executive Director or President of Namikango Mission since 1974. My, how time flies! I have enjoyed every moment because I was able to watch God at work, close up. But He isn't through yet. Nor am I.

While change in leadership is needed, I still plan to be around to help as long as God chooses to have me serve. I am stepping down as Exec. Director/President in favor of a very good choice: Robert Lee. I plan to continue as a member of the Board of Directors and as Editor of this newsletter.

Robert is an humble, godly, enthusiastic, young man and he, along with his good wife Jana, will serve Namikango well. I eagerly look forward to see what plans God still has just over the horizon. I ask you to join me in prayer for Robert and for the future of Namikango.



Looking forward

I want to mention the outstanding work Ben and Cameron have done in getting a new upgraded Mission website started. It will be very user friendly when completed.

When you visit it, you will see an introduction photo of a Malawian landscape that has inspired me to do the painting shown on the back page. I was also impressed with a photo I had seen of three ladies carrying sacks of grain on their heads. I managed to put the ladies and the Malawi landscape together in the painting.

You can visit the new website in its beginning stages at: Namikango.org.

Blessings to you,
Sidney Vaughn



"The people were waiting expectantly..." – Luke 3:15

In this passage, the people of God were waiting on the Messiah. As 2020 comes to a close Christians all around the world are waiting on Christmas to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Perhaps this year more than most, we can relate with a season of "waiting." Maybe you've waited for test results to come back, waited for job news, waited for school to resume, or waited for life to return to "normal."

In this year of waiting for things, we want to encourage you that the work of God in Malawi has continued in some wonderful ways!

- Our Malawian team has pushed forward with ministering in the midst of COVID while the missionaries were back in the US.
- The total savings in the Village Savings and Loan groups has grown to \$152,000!
- Namikango staff have continued training churches in healthy marriages, about HIV/AIDS prevention practices, and in life-skills for holistic health.
- The leadership team has continued to lead the churches towards a deeper unity through seminars and discipleship groups.
- The Maternity Center has seen 525 babies delivered into this world through August this year.
- Lives have been transformed by the Gospel!

Our Malawi staff shared some of their perspectives about different seasons of waiting on God:

Sister Zion (Women's Development Administrator) shared some of the trials of her life and then said this: "God's time, plan, and choice has been best for me. I discovered that once I have asked God to answer my prayers or solve my problems, I need to be serving actively and **expectantly**."

Brother Faith's wife became pregnant for a third time after two miscarriages. As they waited on the birth of their baby boy, many tried to convince them to abandon God and find help with traditional medicine – even witchcraft. He shared, "Each time such advice came, Psalms 23:1-6 always came to my mind and I would say to my wife: **"The Lord is our Shepherd we shall not want."** The week before the birth they were told she would need a C-section, and they pleaded with the Lord for a natural birth. The day before the scheduled surgery, their son was born naturally! Faith shared this - "These situations made us trust the Lord more and more. He was able to change **our tough moments into happiness**, and He can do it for everyone who **trusts in Him**."

We rejoice that during seasons of waiting and struggle that our friends in Malawi continue to trust God and continue to expect He will provide all that they need to bring joy into the tough moments of their lives!

Still, waiting with faith can be very hard! Things are tough in Malawi. The International Monetary Fund recently stated, **"Malawi's economic outlook has worsened (since May)...with the accelerated spread of the pandemic in the country."** Namikango Mission **employs over 75 Malawians. We provide support to over 1,500 church leaders, 2,000 school children, and over 120 village savings and loans groups** along with many others. Right now, the mission means more than ever before! We have two major steps to support our staff and leaders at this time:

- Encouraging staff by being able to pay them a livable wage during this difficult season. With all that has happened in 2020, we have held steady but are running through our financial reserves. We need to raise **an additional \$55,000 (The equivalent of 3 months of salary)** to continue to pay our team and get over this hump.
- Providing materials and local jobs for our Construction Team as they renovate campus for the new **Discipleship Training Institute (DTI)**. This will provide at least 10 families with income to take care of their family's needs in these difficult days. We **need \$100,000 to make this happen!**

Like the people of Israel waiting on the Messiah and Christians all across the world waiting on Christmas to arrive, we are waiting on the funds needed to bring hope, transformation and encouragement to the people of Malawi!

Will you join us in bringing hope during this season of waiting?

Will you make a gift of **\$100, \$200, \$500 or \$1,000 to provide for the needs** of our Malawi staff during this season of waiting? (We are including an envelope in the Newsletter for your convenience.)

In the words of Sister Zion, "I am expectantly waiting on the Lord," and I await your response to the need we have for the work in Malawi!

Blessings,

Ben Hayes Executive Director

