



NAMIKANGO
MISSION

AUG/SEPT
2022

DTI Training New Leaders



**Empowering African communities through
Christ-centered transformation**



Learning to Unlearn

by Jonathan Wynne

The Discipleship Training Institute (DTI) is in high gear as we find ourselves nearing the halfway milestone of the current academic term. Without question, these first few weeks have proved to be a joyful experience for everyone involved—students and teachers alike. Serving as a teacher in the DTI has provided a phenomenal context for me to enter back into the world of academia and ministry. I have loved every moment of teaching, and I hope that I am honoring my mentors and professors who instructed me along the way – reciprocating the gift that I inherited.

Overall, my expectations in coming to serve at the DTI have been shattered. Truly, this program is something else entirely. Without exaggeration, the ministerial education and formation which these students receive is without comparison. In my limited knowledge, I would claim that this DTI program, regarding curriculum, likely surpasses many of the accredited undergraduate programs here in Malawi. The work it takes to cultivate such a program is beyond challenging, so I advocate for showing great appreciation to Ben, Ryan, Eric, and all the Namikango Education Department, who, in participation with God, have built and facilitated this transformative experience.

While I have only served at Namikango for a brief two-month period, teaching in the DTI thus far has allowed me to reflect on the process of unlearning.

You might be asking, “What does that mean?”

Well, as many of you have experienced when entering higher education or deeper spiritual growth, one begins

a journey of unlearning—deconstructing many of the immature or inaccurate things that have provided foundation and subsequent formation. No doubt, a similar process of learning new ways to engage the world is sure to accompany the process of unlearning. Both processes join in a kind of dance—one leads while the other follows, and sometimes, the roles shift, but both always in rhythm with one another. A beautiful “give and take,” if you will.

Well, sometimes it can be beautiful. But for most of us, this process of unlearning can be difficult, especially initially.

Learning to unlearn is arduous work, and for these students, that is exactly what is happening. They are sifting through new discoveries, new approaches, new worlds, and having to discern what will be best to take with them as they eventually will leave Namikango, step back into reality, into their homes, their villages, and begin their work as ministers.

As is often the case with theological education, the gap of understanding between ministers and their future congregants will continue to expand. Learning how to bridge this gap, how to employ the art of contextualization, attempting to maintain postures of humility, patience, and compassion, all the while inviting others—into an imaginative and informed manner—into The Lord’s mission of reconciliation: this is both the bent and burden of ministry. **Please, pray for these future church leaders.** In fact, pray for your leaders too.

In what ways are you *learning to unlearn*?

Ben & Becca's Transition

This last year has been one of change, challenge, and transformation. A year ago, many of you know that Becca's mom suffered a brain bleed. Thereafter, we began considering a transition back to the US within the next two years. Since that time, many things have happened that have shaped where we are headed now. Most recently, Cameron Mayhill transitioned out of the US Director position, and the Board has asked me to step into a stateside role similar to what Cameron was doing, but also continuing to work with the team in Malawi.

Thus, we are writing to make you all aware of a change taking place in our family's lives at the beginning of next year. After much prayer, discussion with our Board, and with our staff and teammates, we have decided to transition our work with Namikango from being primarily in Malawi to the US. Further, we have considered where our kids, Braylon, Brooklyn and Britain, are in their growth and development, and feel it is a good time to make this transition.

By March 2023, we plan to be relocated to the US, most likely in the West Texas area. Ben will serve as the Executive Director of Namikango, stateside, and continue to visit and work with the Malawian team in order to

facilitate this organizational transition taking place over the next year.

After 10+ years in Malawi, this is a significant transition. We have loved living in Malawi and working with the Namikango staff, and it will be hard to leave. At the same time, we are excited about what this next phase of life holds. So many of you have walked with us so long on this journey, and we would like to ask that you continue walking with us, both prayerfully and financially. In the midst of all this change, we are grateful to not be leaving Namikango. And, we are grateful for where Namikango is now, both as a ministry and organization.

We feel confident that God has led us to this point, and that more of the work and Ben's present role as Mission Director (and of the other missionaries and directors) being placed in the hands of local leadership is the direction that is needed. We look forward to continuing to partner with Namikango and see where God leads from here.

We are so thankful for all of you.

In Christ,
Ben and Becca Hayes





NAMIKANGO MISSION
PO Box 16528
Lubbock, TX 79490

NONPROFIT ORG US
POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 764
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79424

connect with us

BEN HAYES – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ben@namikango.org

ROBERT LEE – PRESIDENT
720-998-2066

 namikango.org

 facebook.com/NamikangoMission/

 linkedin.com/company/namikango

 [namikango_mission](https://instagram.com/namikango_mission)

UNDER THE MANGO TREE



Camp meetings are still in progress for the year. We're averaging three weekends a month, with many congregations and people represented at each camp meeting. The teaching theme for the year is "Running Well" from Galatians 5:7.



Coffee harvesting for the year is underway. While we have other beans we source from within Malawi, it will be good to have Namikango beans in stock again.