



## Earthquake Update

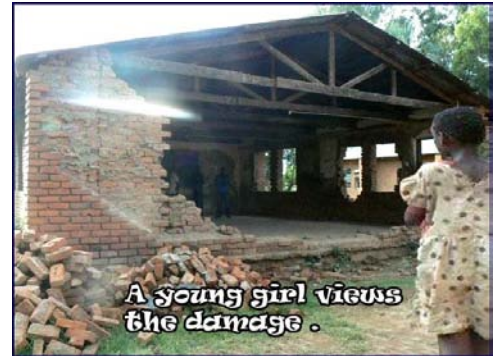
Food and clothes are sent by the Mission to earthquake victims in northern Malawi. Rebuilding will take a long time, but it will get done. Your donations help.



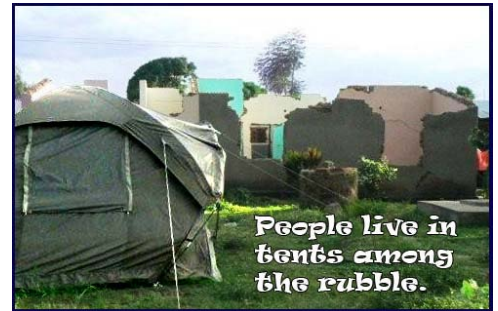
**Food for the Earthquake Victims !**



**... And Clothes !**



**A young girl views the damage .**



**People live in tents among the rubble.**

## A New Kitchen

This unique looking kitchen has served the many families who came to the Maternity Clinic very well for many years.

Ladies accompany expectant mothers to the Clinic so they can take care of them. They bathe them, wash clothes, and cook for the new mothers while they are there. The kitchen is open air and very basic, but it does the job, and is greatly appreciated.

There is, however, one problem. Like so many things, they wear out. The wood beams have attracted hungry termites over the years and the metal sheets have given in to severe rust. This structure is on the verge of collapse.

A new kitchen is now in the works and we are going to allow the old one to retire from a job well done. Mission staff is now overseeing the new construction which has been financed by "The Malawi Project." We appreciate these good people and their valuable support.

Construction of the new kitchen is underway with concrete slabs and metal beams in place. The new kitchen will have metal beams which should give the termites some resistance with their chewing. We will scrap the old kitchen because it is in a bad condition and a heavy wind could topple it at any time. It is becoming a safety hazard. We will try to update you on further progress next month.

– Sidney



**This Unique Kitchen**

**Has served well.**



**The Kitchen is rustic but effective .**



**The foundation and beams are set for the new kitchen.**

## **Namikango Faces Budget Crisis**



It is so hard for me to write this letter but I feel compelled to share these needs with you. We have held off as long as we could, but with a crisis looming before us, we must swallow our pride and ask for your help. Today, I am asking because we are pressed to cut into the very heart of our work.

In the past six years at Namikango Mission I have seen our ability to fund our work steadily decline, especially in the last year as the cost of goods and services have skyrocketed ruthlessly! The cost of local public transportation in Malawi has gone up 500% since 2004. This greatly affects us as we send our teachers all across the country by bus to teach in the Village Study Centers . . . We are really reeling.

Somehow, in spite of dwindling funds, we have managed to put together a top-notch staff of talented and godly workers, through whom I've seen God work powerfully. At our Mission campus we have begun an advanced training program designed to equip leaders for discipleship and service in their home communities. Plus, we have been able to train close to 600 students each year, at various locations.

But now our bank accounts are dry! We must plan for the unpleasant task of making drastic cuts in our ministries. **The gap between what we want to do, and what we have the resources to do, has grown so great that we are forced to contemplate eliminating whole sections of our work.** We have already made drastic cuts. The painful question now is what to cut next since all of our ministries are critical. There are no easy answers, but cut we must . . . and soon.

We realize that most of our Namikango supporters are not rich people and you sacrifice to make this work possible. You have always been more than generous when special needs came up. So it is tough to have to communicate how critical it is that we must increase our regular operating budget to keep the day-to-day ministries going.

Our aim is to produce Christ-centered leaders as we direct the Bible School and serve the churches. This is the effort that we believe will change the world in the long run. These ministries may not make a big splash or produce much drama, but we are convinced that they are the ones that will make the biggest difference long term.

### **The bottom line is this -**

We need to increase our operating budget by \$5,000 each month. This is necessary to continue our work. Inflation and increased outreach have produced a huge hole. We hesitate to ask, but the time has come to be bold and ask you – our faithful supporters – to increase your support in order to meet these needs. Would you consider doubling your contribution? Would your congregation commit to \$500 or \$1,000 per month?

Please, please, consider joining our support team if you are not already onboard. We cannot be content to enjoy what others are doing. You are needed. And as you send your support, please send a prayer and a note stating what you are able to commit. Will you become a part of the answer to our prayers?

– Mark Thiesen



### **Elder's note:**

*We have not adjusted the Mission Operating Budget in the six years that Mark has been in Malawi. We have met other needs and special appeals- for a vehicle, a new roof, and for feeding the hungry. But we have not adjusted the funds the Mission staff needs to do their work every day. Their operating funds have declined because of inflation and yet their ministry has increased greatly. They have made adjustments with wise diligence and kept on going. They did not complain. But now, they are at rock bottom. You and I need to step up our contributions for this worthy work. I know Anita and I plan to increase our contribution*

by \$50 per month. This is a stretch for a 77 year old somewhat retired guy. But God has blessed us and we intend to do this. Will you join us? If enough of us

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*share this load, we can meet the need. God will be honored and thousands of people in darkness will see the light of the Gospel. – SV*



*The Light of the Gospel Shines Brightly*

## *I Really Do Believe In Miracles!*

I recently said I believe in miracles. I really do. Not miracles done at my bidding, but the kind God wants to produce, whenever and wherever He chooses. His timing is perfect. I witnessed a miracle today – a clear answer to prayer!

At the time we are struggling with the most severe Mission budget crisis ever, we were told we owe \$7,290 for severance pay for the Maternity Head Mid-wife because she is now retiring. We knew that we are now responsible for paying the severance pay for the maternity nurses. But the timing could not have been worse. And what's more, by law we have two weeks to make this payment.

We don't pay the nurses' salaries, the government does, but we are obligated to pay their severance. We can't even spread the payments out over 3 or 6 months. (I know, I already asked.)

The Head Midwife now retiring is Mrs. Wane. She has been a valuable servant at the Maternity Clinic for many years. The amount of her severance, which is set by the government, is **\$7,290**. This is a huge amount heaped on our Mission budget. This amount of money wasn't available.

Now for the miracle . . . My wife Anita, who handles the Mission contributions, walked into my office in tears, and could not speak. I was alarmed and asked what was wrong. She showed me a letter with a contribution from the Robstown Church, for **\$7,500**, with the comment, "to be used as you see fit." And this was in addition to their regular monthly contribution. Wow! We had just been in prayer about this, that very day, and I am sure the Mission staff has been praying fervently. God does hear His children, and He does answer!

The Namikango Mission is, and always has been, in the hands of a loving God. He is in control. He will provide. He knows our every need. His timing is perfect. What an awesome God we serve!

Our special thanks to Brother Doug Wilks and the Robstown church for being so closely in tune with the heart of God that they would respond when He nudged them. You good folks are a blessing.

Sidney Vaughn



*Dear Brother Sidney,*

*Hope this finds you all doing well. I just want you to know that we are thankful for the good reports on the Malawi work. It is thrilling to hear that the Gospel is making a difference in the lives of those folks. The Highway 44 congregation in Robstown sends the Mission this*

*check for \$7,500 to be used as you see fit. It's a joy to have been a part of this work since it's beginning. May God continue to bless you and the work in Malawi.*

*Yours in Christ, Doug Wilks*