

"That is where the Guardian Shelter comes in."

The Maternity Clinic is a great blessing to expectant mothers in our area. But if a lady lives in a village 10 or 15 miles away it may be difficult to travel that far, especially at quick notice. That is too far to walk at 9 months pregnant and Public Transportation (bus) is irregular or may not be available in remote areas. Maybe all she can afford is transport by bicycle, known as Kabaza, but the terrain and distance may be too difficult for a bicycle ride, especially if she suddenly falls ill or is in pain.

So, what can be done??

Women are advised to stay near the Maternity Clinic when they are close to delivering since there may be complications or premature labor.

That is where the Guardian Shelter comes in.

The Guardian Shelter is a place at the Maternity Clinic which serves as a temporary home for expectant mothers where they can wait the last few days before their expected time to deliver. The Clinic is just a few feet away and is open day and night. They come here to wait until their labor begins, then they can move quickly to be checked by the midwife at the Labor Ward.

But more than just a shelter for expectant mothers, as its name infers, it is a shelter for the guardians – the sisters, aunts, and caregivers of the expectant mothers. These guardians cook, clean, and care for the mothers as they deliver. What an extraordinary benefit to the family and the expectant mothers to have a secure place to stay during this time.

While it has blessed thousands of people over these 40+ years since it was built (1974), it has grown older and run down. It got to where it did not look so good and it became our first project for renovation. We want to rebuild and

update many of the aging Mission structures, and because of the importance of this shelter, it was first. Keeping this building in good condition is important to the Mission, the Clinic, and to the community.

It has now been modernized and looks good inside and out. If a sister or cousin or grandmother has to stay here a week or so they will not miss home quite as much because of the welcoming atmosphere that this house is offering. We now look forward to other positive infrastructure improvement for other aging buildings here at the Mission.

In this photograph, you can see an A-frame building near the Guardian Shelter. This interesting structure serves as an Outdoor Kitchen for the Guardians to cook the meals for the mothers and for themselves as they wait. This structure was rebuilt a few years ago by The Malawi Project when the poles on the original building became riddled by termites. Our thanks to Malawi Project for the many ways they help us at Namikango.



Symon John Katete



Financial Stewardship (VSL) by Ryan Hayes

Recently, Namikango held a brief three day meeting with about 40 key Preachers and Elders in the surrounding communities. The purpose of the meeting was to talk through Namikango's upcoming Village Savings and Loans program. (VSL) This is a program that allows individuals to form a savings group of their own, to both save and loan funds to each other within the group. No outside or Mission funds are used.

Meeting highlights included:

- 1) Bro. Bisani's learned lecture on the current economic climate of Malawi.
- 2) Bro. Chitani's helpful talks concerning the Scriptural foundation of financial stewardship and the church's role in strengthening the local community.

3) Of note also was Bro. Tinkhani's ability to explain the basics of VSL methodology in a learned and understandable way. He also aimed at helping leaders to see how this fits into the church's overall strategy of forming Christ-centered disciples in every sphere of life.

In all - we are grateful that there was a lot of enthusiasm as most of the leaders recognized the importance of this program for church and community members.



This program is the extension of Namikango's effort to help the people around us to be blessed in all areas of their lives, physical, economical, and spiritual. Ryan Hayes is dedicated toward this end. – s vaughn

Re-Printing "CHURCH HISTORY"

We love to know our own **history**. Where did we come from? Where we are now? And what will our future be? The **History of the Church** is one of the subjects taught at Namikango Bible School and has been used in our curriculum for the past fifty years. At first it was a few pages in outline form used for teaching. Later, Bro. B. Shelburne, one of the founding patriarchs of Namikango Bible School, devoted a lot of effort and research to expand "Church History" into book form. Uncle B, as many like to call him, began his work to expand the Church History material in 1980, into a book titled "Mbiri ya Mpingo." "Church History" was completed in 1982.

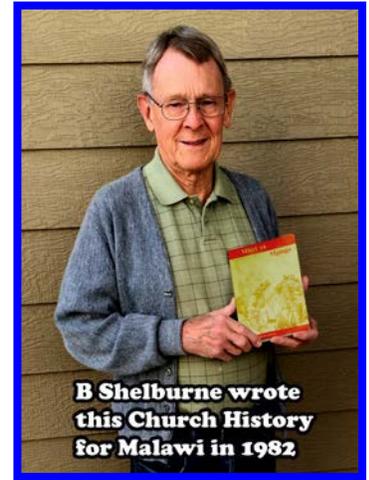
This publication was the first of its kind here in Malawi and is highly valued especially because it was written in our local Chichewa language. The book continues to enjoy high readership and is popular at our bookstore here at Namikango. It is used mostly in our Village Bible Centers as a study guide and is furnished free to our students. It is also used as resource material by other Bible teaching Institutions in Malawi; by church leaders and teachers; by farmers in the village; and used for family studies in the home.

Church History ranks high in the "most wanted" category of our books, along with a few of our other popular books, "The Life of Christ," "The Christian Family," and "A Topical Index of the Bible" by Doyle Gilliam, which we re-stock periodically.

We have placed an order for the printing of 2,000 copies at a cost of \$2,982 and we hope to get them by the end of the year. In studying "Church History" we have an opportunity to evaluate ourselves to see if we measure up to the first century church of the Apostles.

Our deep appreciation goes to Bro. B. Shelburne and all who took part in the effort to make the writing of this book a reality. It has been a rich blessing to many. We are so appreciative of those who have made this printing available in the past.

And, if you want to assist in this reprinting, it will be greatly appreciated. Mark your check "printing" and it will help in this good work. We pray that God almighty will make resources available for continued printing and publishing of this and other study guides. May God richly bless you for supporting all areas of the Mission work, especially in the publication of materials for the Bible School. **Symon John Katete**



Meet our Staff Written by Taylor Castleberry, Intern

Chitani Bakali has worked at Namikango as the Evangelism Coordinator and a Bible teacher for the school on the Mission's campus for the past five years. He is married with four children and loves playing football. As a young man he traveled around with his local preacher in Blantyre, he was recommended for and attended Namikango Bible School and graduated in 2009. Shortly after completing his studies at the school, Mark Thiesen invited him to serve at the Mission as the Evangelism Coordinator. Chitani proposes areas where he feels Namikango should visit. He goes out into the surrounding communities with Namikango students to mentor them and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Much of his time is spent conversing with people and building relationships. In addition, he responds to concerns expressed by Elders from nearby villages.



Since being a part of Namikango Mission as a student and staff member, Chitani has seen enormous growth within himself. He reflects that he was once a short-tempered man, but has changed through watching and learning from godly men around him. He credits this to his mentors and the power of God's grace. His family life has also changed through the example of godly families around him. He has seen the impact of the Maternity Clinic and public wells, and hopes for Namikango's influence to move even more spiritually throughout Malawi. "The Gospel and doctrine are two different things," Chitani says, "people lean too much on doctrine rather than the Gospel. The Gospel is where God's power is." He prays that with the Gospel as the starting point, Namikango will continue to see transformed lives both within and outside the church. He also hopes that the Mission will grow into a Bible college, become self-sufficient, and form into a more comprehensive ministry.

Wilson Tembo serves as both the Maternity Clinic Administrator and Warehouse Administrator – each a very demanding and responsible position. He began working at Namikango seven years ago in the Warehouse, managing supplies donated primarily through the Malawi Project, one of Namikango Mission's partners. In 2013, He took on additional responsibilities in managing the daily operations of the Maternity Clinic. In his roles, Wilson often comes face-to-face with the immediate and pressing needs of the community.



One of the things he finds most satisfying about his position is being able to assist people who are truly in need. He often hears good reports about people being helped and these keep him encouraged in his work. One example is of a 34 year old man who had been crippled all his life. When he would fall ill, his friends would carry him a long distance to the nearest clinic. Wilson says when he delivered a wheelchair to him, the man cried tears of happiness. "He couldn't believe that he had a wheelchair and that he was now free to visit his friends and be involved in the community."

Wilson can see first-hand the impact Namikango has on the community. He prays that Christ will be honored and will continue to be the center of their work, and that all Mission employees will display the life of Christ in all they do.





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This BUV is a real workhorse!

My name is **Alex Nunu**. I am the Maintenance Foreman at Namikango Bible School. I would like to write briefly about the **Basic Utility Vehicle (BUV)** – its usage and importance. We received the BUV in 2007 at Namikango Bible School from the Malawi Project.

We have been able to use this unit in many ways. One primary use is to carry things like firewood from the Mission Forest to the Bible School . . . and this happens regularly. Another use is to distribute firewood to the Staff homes here on the Mission complex. We also use it to distribute

firewood to the Maternity Clinic and to the Guardian Shelter where it's used by the relatives of patients who are admitted at the Clinic. These ladies prepare food and wash clothes for the expectant mothers. Sometimes, we use it to ferry things like river sand, bricks and lumber for construction work at the Bible School.

We have even used the BUV as an ambulance to carry expectant mothers from the nearby villages to the Maternity Clinic.

Having this BUV helps reduce transport cost relieving us of the need to hire a vehicle for local hauling. Another common use of the BUV is to ferry maize from the field to the Bible School when we are harvesting the Mission garden.

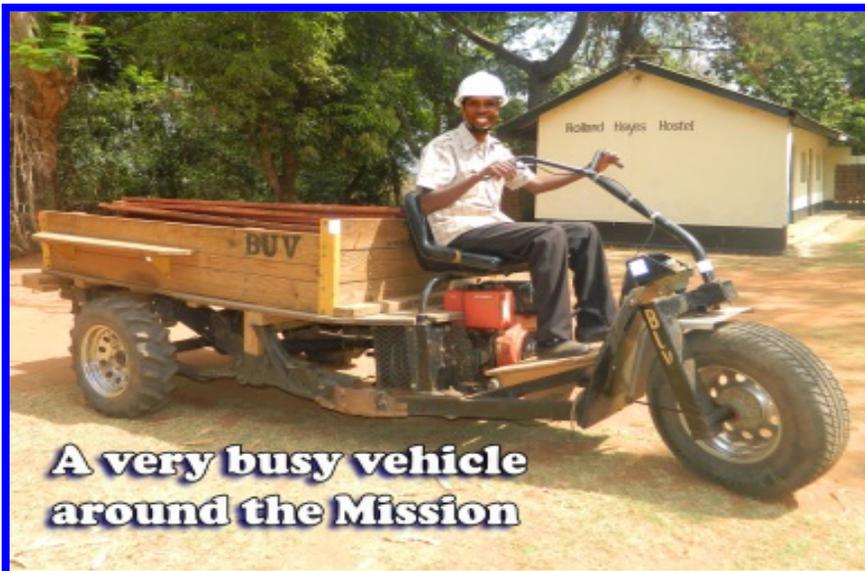
On the maintenance side, it is durable and we service it regularly. The only challenge is that it is sometimes difficult to find parts for repairs locally.

Overall, it plays a big role at the Bible School and is helpful making work more efficient.

I want to thank the Malawi Project for providing us with this Basic Utility Vehicle. May the Lord bless them abundantly for all their generosity.

The BUVs are manufactured in Indianapolis, Indiana by the Institute of Affordable Transportation. These units are the brainchild of Will Austin and have been in production since 1998.

Alex





<p>In loving memory of our dear sister-in-law</p> <p>Christine Vaughn</p> <p>Sidney & Anita Vaughn</p> <hr/> <p>Dear Brother & Sister in Christ,</p> <p>Thank you for your work. We really enjoy the newsletter we receive monthly.</p> <p>Love in Christ, Ralph & Lee Phillips</p>	<p>Sidney,</p> <p>Thank you for continuing to send the Namikango Mission newsletter, even though we have not contributed for a while. I was hoping to visit the Mission again during my planned visit to Malawi in August. Unfortunately, I had to cancel my travel plans because of health problems.</p> <p>I note that you have had special needs at the Maternity Clinic/Hospital during the past few months, first with the Immunization Fridge and then with the Water Pump. I will mail a check this week to cover the cost of the pump. If this has already been met by others, please use our funds for other needs at the Clinic.</p> <p>Yours in Christ's Service, Norman & Jackie Bardsley</p> <p>Lafayette Christian Church – California</p>	<p>Missionaries</p> <p>http://www.NamikangoMission.org</p> <p>Ben, Becca, Braylon, Brooklyn & Britain Hayes</p> <p>BenBecHayes@hotmail.com http://hayesmalawi.wordpress.com</p> <p>Ryan, Justine, & Amelie Hayes</p> <p>rjhayes@cmfmissionary.org http://ryandjustine.wordpress.com</p> <p>Editor</p> <p>Sidney Vaughn sidneyv@swbell.net 713-944-8484</p> <p>Mail Contributions to: Namikango Mission P. O. Box 21 South Houston, TX 77587</p>
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Time for an upgrade !

For several months now we have been sending our office printers out to be serviced.

They are very old and these repairs have had very little long-lasting success. In addition, we have had to outsource most of our photocopying, which caused delays and expense.

A photocopier of our own is really, *really* needed, especially in light of the larger staff we now have.

So, after several years of struggling to keep these machines working we are finally facing the fact that they need to be replaced, It is time for an upgrade. We are proposing to purchase new ones.

The four printers and one photocopier we need for now will cost \$1,230. *[Editor's Note – This is a bargain! - sv]*

This would be a good project for a generous person or church to take on. If you would like to purchase these for us, it would be such a blessing. Just show "Printing" on your check and we will apply it to this.

We are also considering the possibility of getting printing equipment for larger scale work where we could print our own bulletins/articles/outlines and what not. If we receive more than the \$1,230 needed for the present copiers it can be used toward a larger printer in the near future. We can find good brand equipment here in Malawi, we just have to pay more than we would in the States.

We're looking forward to the improved efficiency and reduced frustration levels this equipment will bring.

Ben Hayes

