

## Mission Happenings – SPECIAL REQUESTS

### Preparing To Leave

Becca and I have been wrapping things up these last few weeks as we prepare to leave on furlough. As always, it seems there are too many things to do and not enough time to finish them. We are blessed, however, to have our teammates, Ryan and Justine, who will now be here to continue on. Beyond the regular busyness of work, we are in a transitional phase here at the Mission where we are looking to the future and strategically working and praying as to where things should go from here. Thus, we continue to [request your prayers](#) for Ryan and Justine and the whole team here as they continue forward with this.

For Becca and me and our family, though we will miss the group here, we are looking forward to coming back to the States to see friends and family (not to mention Mexican food). Many of you know that Becca is expecting, with the due date in the middle of October. We plan to be in Lubbock for the birth. Before that, we hope to make the most of the time by visiting as many churches, friends, and family as possible, especially those that require some traveling.

So, we would also [appreciate your prayers](#) as we make the transition back for these few months. Thank you very much, and again, we're looking forward to seeing many of you face to face.

Blessings!

Ben, Becca, Braylon, & Brooklyn Hayes

### Stateside Needs

Over the last two years, we have served with the Namikango Mission in Malawi. We joined a work that was established by two families 51 years ago. Our work here consists mostly of a Bible School (on the Mission campus) with about 30 village extension schools in Malawi and Mozambique, an on-campus church, and a Maternity Clinic which averages 100 deliveries per month.

We also partner with a distribution organization, along with many other community involvements and ministries. We are thankful to have Ben's brother Ryan, his wife, Justine, and their 2-month-old baby girl join us in the work.

We plan to be back in the States starting this August until December, [and to deliver our new baby boy](#). During this time we are blessed by having housing provided by our families. However, we do not have a good solution for transportation for these five months.

We would like to make a request from our church family for any possible assistance with a vehicle and two toddler car seats. If you or someone you know can help us in this way, please let us know, and we would be very grateful.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Please keep us in your prayers as we make our 22-hour travels across the ocean.

Becca Hayes



### Transportation

Greetings,

Justine and I want to make [a special request](#) . . . and please note that this request comes after much thought and prayer and after having discussed this with both Ben and Dad to see if they thought our request had merit.

You may know that we are very grateful to have recently purchased a vehicle to use in our work. The cost was \$12,500. This price was negotiated down from \$19,000 so I feel we got a real bargain. This vehicle also has the capacity to carry more people than just ourselves. You may also know that we have been raising the funds for our expenses separate from Mission funds.

Now, back to the new vehicle – we had a smaller, older vehicle and we had \$6,500 in our funds which we paid toward the new vehicle. We were expecting to sell our older car for \$6,000 to pay off the balance. (This was all worked out with the previous owners beforehand).

Here is our situation – we will be living in Zomba, which is 10 miles from the Mission offices, and I will be driving there most days and will be using this vehicle for the Namikango work. And that will leave Justine home with our new daughter Amelie . . . without transportation.

My question is, would our Mission supporters be willing to help pay the \$6,000 we owe and allow us to keep the older vehicle for Justine to have to drive in the case of an emergency or for other ministry? Up until now we have worked together and one car was sufficient. But with a new baby, I am uneasy about leaving them alone. And in thinking about it we could not likely get a comparable vehicle for \$6,000.

We fully realize that our monthly support and ministry budget has been and will continue to be our responsibility, and it is raised apart from Namikango funds. And as agreed, we will continue to do everything we can to make sure our ministry budget does not burden Namikango's funds in any way. Yet, we felt that this was a reasonable, one-time request, because of the nature and use of the vehicle for the Namikango work. We will be thankful if Namikango supporters are able to help with any portion of the \$6,000.

We will understand if you do not think this a good idea, but humbly ask for your consideration.

Thanks and Blessings,  
Ryan Hayes

Ryan,

*We are so very appreciative of your being at Namikango and for the tremendous support you are to Ben and the Mission staff. Justine and*



*you honor us by being there and by supporting yourselves and for the sacrifices you have made in order to serve by our side at Namikango.*

*The answer to your question is **definitely yes**. I know the hearts of our supporters and feel I can speak for them and say we would be glad to help raise the funds needed so you do not have to sell your car.*

*I will put out the word about this and look forward to seeing what the response will be.*

*Blessings, Sidney Vaughn*

## Good Things Can Come . . . by Ann Thiesen

I had a wonderful opportunity a few months back to travel with a group of nurses and doctors that were going over to work at Blessings Hospital in central Malawi. I was excited to go since I would not have to travel alone.

I started preparing and raising funds for my travel and that went unbelievably well. It seemed I was meant to go. I started making my list of what I needed to take. I had to pack enough clothes. I packed all of my lessons and my Bible in my hand luggage just in case my suitcases did not make it.

When one travels that far they are always a bit apprehensive that their luggage may not be on the plane. We all arrived at the Lilongwe airport, including our luggage - which was a huge blessing. Dr. Bruce Smith met us and drove us to the hospital which is about five minutes away. Dr. Smith with his lovely wife Beth have been good friends of mine for some time and they have worked in Malawi for years

doctoring, teaching, and advising about the horrific disease of AIDS. It was wonderful being with them again and getting to know the surgeons and these hard-working nurses who were giving their time to help desperate people who needed medical attention. We have a wonderful hospital there that cares for many patients. There's also an orphanage there for many of the children who lost their parents to AIDS.

On Sunday (the day after we arrived) I had the opportunity to teach a ladies' study at the local church. I felt like I was home once again. Standing before those ladies and trying to help them made me feel so happy; they are so kind and good. They love us to come to their country. (I feel like it is my land as well.) The next day I went to the orphanage which is down the hill from the hospital and gave a lesson on "Encouragement" to the House Moms to continue on. They only have House Moms take care of the orphans. They told me they are not allowed to be married as they want them to be totally committed to that work. Most all of these ladies were older.

I had made plans before I left the States that I would travel another two hundred miles up to the north where my late husband John and I had worked for many years. I made arrangements to use my former driver that I had had while living at Namikango and who now works for Ben and Becca Hayes, the missionaries. They were very willing to let him work with me for the time I was in Malawi. Ben was also able to rent me a car and sent it up with the driver the night of the 26th so we could get an early start the next day so I could settle in before I began my ladies' studies in the north. The vehicle looked very good and was a Toyota Corolla and is made for rough roads. All went well until we were within 50 miles of our destination. All of a sudden we lost all power and were stranded for 7 hours in the beautiful Chikangawa Mountains. I love the beauty of that place but to be sitting there for a long time is no fun. My driver had a cell phone and he called Brother and Sister Harawa - the people that I was going to be staying with and whom I've known since 1969. After many hours he showed up with a new fuel pump, air filter, (the rats had eaten it off of the car) and plugs. By this time it was



dark and he could not get the car fixed. So two Elders, another man, and I traveled down a very dark trail to borrow a rope to tow the car for the next 50 miles through the mountains to Mzuzu where I would be staying. The rope kept breaking and Brother Harawa kept getting out of his car to retie the rope. By 9PM we finally made it all safe and sound.

**Good things can come** from difficult situations - I had plenty of time sitting along the road to review my lessons for the next day! Bro. Harawa loaned us his car to get to the studies and he finally got the car fixed after a couple days.

The whole Harawa family welcomed me with open arms. He and his wife and their children are an awesome family. They have prayers and songs in their home every evening with their children. They are such a good example to all around them.

The next day - May 28 - I began a two day Bible study with the ladies of the Muchenga Utuva Church of Christ (This means White Sand) I have taught here many times before with some of the most lovely ladies I have ever known. I taught them on how to have a better Christian family, and how to raise children, and about making good choices. They absolutely love to be taught. They tell me that they sometimes have problems with their

children getting involved with drinking, smoking, etc. once they get grown - a common problem that many experience here as well. I taught them it would be good to monitor their children's friends and to make sure to have regular Bible studies with them on a daily basis, as well as daily praying with them and for them.

*to be continued . . .*

*In January 1969, John and Ann Thiesen began serving as missionaries in northern Malawi. They went with their four children (Mark was 6 months old), with the goal of planting churches there. They served for almost a quarter of a century. In 1991 John had a heart attack and they returned to the States. They traveled to Namikango together before John passed away in 2006. In 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2014, Ann made trips to Malawi to conduct ladies' studies, usually for several months of each year. She went to encourage and strengthen the women she loved so much. In 2011, she stayed in the guest house at Namikango Mission where her son Mark was serving as a missionary. She returned again this May for several weeks - conducting several ladies' studies in the north and in the south. This godly lady has touched the lives of many hundreds of women of Malawi. She loves these women and that love is returned four-fold.*

*Sidney Vaughn*



**Ann Thiesen Returns to Malawi**



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**Kirk & Susan  
visit grandchildren**

## 35 Years Later . . . by Kirk Hayes

I first spent time at Namikango Mission in the Fall of 1979 when I stayed with B & Ruth Shelburne and their family. Lendal & Peggy Wilks and their children were missionaries there also. Since then, the Lord has provided me the opportunity to travel back to Namikango in 1997 while we were living in Kenya and then more recently in the summers of 2013 and 2014. Susan and I have just returned from three weeks with our sons and their families in Malawi.

It is encouraging to reflect on how the Lord continues His great work through Namikango. On one of our Sundays there, Ben, Ryan, Rodrick & his wife, and I traveled to a church in the Phalombe District near Mulanje. They were finishing up a weekend camp meeting as we arrived.

I was struck by the similarities of this outing and the one I had experienced 35 years earlier –

- The grass shelter constructed near the church building to hold the overflow crowd
- The heat
- The singing
- The length of the service
- Preaching with a translator
- Not understanding any more of the Chichewa now than I did in 1979
- And last but not least – Enjoying the food they set before us at lunch – all the same!

While there were notable similarities, even more striking were the differences – primarily, instead of being with Uncle B or Lendal, I was accompanied by two of our sons to this meeting! What an immense joy it was to hear Ben and Ryan teach and preach to those gathered there. Benjamin even preached in Chichewa since he has been there long enough to learn the language. Another difference was seeing a mature Malawian leader Symon Katete helping lead the service; Symon was young like me when we were there in 1979.

The Lord is loving and faithful. For 53 years He has been guiding and blessing the work done through Namikango. It calmed and steadied my heart to see how God continues to raise up men and women from Malawi and the U.S. to carry on this great work of His.

Jeremiah 6.16: "This is what the LORD says: Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."



**35 years ago**



**Ryan, Kirk & Ben Hayes**