

Visiting with David Giles our Newest Mission Board Member by Sidney Vaughn

David grew up in Ethiopia as a Missionary Kid.

He ministered 10 years in Ethiopia and since 1994 has served as Director at Christian Missionary Fellowship International (CMF) where he oversees church planting work in Mexico, Brazil, Ukraine, England, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, plus, he serves in mentoring our CMF missionaries serving in Malawi.

It is a rich blessing to have a man, whose heart is so passionate for worldwide church planting, as a member of

our Namikango Advisory Board.

David shared this recent photo which I thought we would all enjoy. This was from his recent trip to Kenya where he used to live . . .

David writes this; *"I visited the village of a good friend who passed away recently. I sponsored one of his sons through school (the one to my left) and am now helping his brother through nursing school. They slaughtered us a goat and showered us with these gifts (Native Wraps)."*

From left to right:

Volunteer – helped slaughter the goat

William Kuya – strong church leader and administrator in the medical work. Years ago, my wife Linda delivered his wife's baby in the back seat of our car as we did not make it to the hospital in time. They named that child Linda, after my Linda.

Linda – my wife

Megan – my daughter, born in Kenya. Now an anesthesiologist and will lead medical trips to Kenya.

David – That's me with my red kitenge.

Francis – the one I helped sponsor through school. He now works as an HIV counselor in the clinics.

Wife of Francis

Widow – of my good friend who passed away."



VBS Review Meeting by Eric Gephart

In the middle of December, the Mission hosted representatives from each of the 26 Village Bible School Centers across Malawi for the Annual Review meeting. This meeting gives each Bible School Center an opportunity to report on the last year, how their students did with the coursework, what the successes and challenges were for

their area, and to learn what the plan is for the coming year.

The meeting also gives an opportunity for all our VBS representatives to come together for fellowship and to see how other areas are doing. They can then return home encouraged and ready for another year of teaching.

The VBS meeting we held this year was a real success.

All 26 centers were represented, and the reports were positive and encouraging.

Nearly every center experienced a growth in the number of students attending. We here at Namikango are very proud of the committee members and the Bible School teachers with their willingness to serve God through education for church leaders.



Giving Glory to God

Planning for 2018

This year at Namikango will see many changes as all departments continue to use their talents and resources to minister to the people of Malawi. VSL and CHE have plans to continue ministering in new villages and new groups, while the Bible Department is preparing to move forward with plans to revise the Village Bible Schools and begin a new English Bible School here at the Mission.

Several building projects are underway at Namikango and the agricultural projects continue to transform the campus into a beautiful landscape that serves the community and **gives glory to God**.

It is going to be an exciting year and we want to make the most of our time.

Therefore, the last few weeks of December, and the first few weeks of January have seen departments engaged in planning meetings, creating strategies, goals, and timelines for how we can be the most effective this coming year. All these planning meetings will culminate in the **Annual Review Meeting** at the end of January, where all the staff will gather together to lay out how far we came in 2017, and where we plan to go in 2018.

[Eric](#)

Charity Work by VSL Group Members

The Village Savings & Loan group from Ntaja had their "Share-Out" meeting (the time at the end of the saving cycle when all the savings shares plus interest are distributed back to each member). They have 22 members, all are women. This group was formed by a Church member in the community which is made up mostly of Muslims and some are included in this group. This has proven to be a good thing. They enjoy Bible Study and Singing Hymns before the funds are distributed.

Members of this Group had saved MK298,600 (\$418.53), and shared out MK604,665 (\$847.52). It was a great achievement considering that this is their first cycle.

The group attributed the success to unity, discipline, and love, which is promoted through scriptural sharing and reading.

As part of celebrating this achievement, the group decided to reach out to 22 needy people in their area, by providing them with soap, food, kitenje (cloth wrapper) and money. The assorted items cost Mk50,000 (\$70.08) which came from both the community fund and also from individual pockets.

The local Chief Juma was present during the Share-Out and was impressed. He thanked the group for helping his subjects with things they needed and confessed that it was a first time he had seen people have such a concern for others. He encouraged them to continue this peaceful and united activity. [Tinkhani Phiri, Mission VSL Officer](#)

Well Reservoir Update

We had a water well drilled several months ago, and are now in the process of completing a reservoir for the water. This will be an added source of water for the Mission, and will be used specifically for crop irrigation. The timing is good, since we are in the middle of the rainy season which will be coming to an end next month. We expect everything to be up and running by then, allowing us to continue irrigation when the rains have ceased. [Ben Hayes](#)



Time to receive the returns . . .



AND to Share with Others.



A Reservoir for the New Water Well



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Family for the Holidays by Ben Hayes

Though we don't get a white Christmas in Malawi, we've come to enjoy another kind of weather that is associated with the Christmas season – downpours of rain and thunderstorms. And this last year, we were blessed to have family members from different states and countries come for a visit, even though they had to give up their white, cold Christmases.

First, Ty (Ryan's and my brother) came to visit from Uganda. This was his third year to spend Christmas with us here. He arrived before Christmas; we got to enjoy a short break together at an old British cottage located in the Thyolo Tea Fields.

A couple days after Christmas, Becca's family arrived. Her parents - Gary and Jane Evans - have made several visits here, but this year they came with Becca's brother Gary, Jr., his wife Melody, and their two girls Katy and Kenzy. We had been looking forward to this visit for several years as our kids have desperately wanted their cousins to visit and experience our home in Malawi. It was

a wonderful time, with many of the different cultural and landscape experiences Malawi has to offer, as well as lots of really good family time.

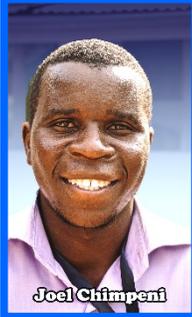
A day or two after the Evans family's arrival, Eric's cousin Corey arrived. His visit was shorter (3-4 days), but no less enjoyable. We hadn't met Corey before and learned later from Eric that while they grew up together, this was their first opportunity in many years to have a substantial amount of time together. They went around southern Malawi, visiting many of our favorite sites, as well as worshipping with a village congregation on Sunday morning.

So, even though we are thousands of miles away from some of our family, we were still blessed to be with those who were here during the Christmas holidays. This has been extra special since these visits don't occur very often.

We hope all of you had a blessed Christmas time as well and a great start to the new year!



In loving memory of Loyce Horn South Houston Bible Institute	In loving honor of Wade & Christi Aplin Nelda Aplin	In loving honor of Nelda Aplin Wade & Christi Aplin	Thank you for the Namikango Monthly Report you have sent me this past year.
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Joel Chimpeni – His laugh is contagious

Meet Joel Chimpeni. He has been working for Namikango Mission for two years as the Maintenance Foreman Assistant. He is known around campus as “the man that does it all” because he has such a wide range of talents. His tasks range anywhere from electrical work, plumbing, and carpentry to demolition plot supervisor. Joel says that his work at Namikango Mission helps people by demonstrating good character to those he comes in contact with each day. He believes that through his faith in Jesus he is able to better love the people of the community.

Joel has been married to his wife Lauryn for one year. They have one son, Joshua. Joel enjoys playing football (soccer) on the Namikango team along with being the Team Sports Manager. Like the majority of Malawians, Joel is sure to greet each person with a handshake and a big smile. He is very welcoming and has the most contagious laugh that makes it evident that he loves to be around people. Namikango is full of many great staff members and they are fortunate to have Joel as part of their team.

-Kacee Oldroyd, intern

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