



A Special Time by Ben Hayes

Our family arrived safely in the US near the end of June, and we want to thank you all for your prayers for us while we were traveling. We had a great trip and are glad to be back with family. We arrived in Houston at my parents' place with a full house: Ryan and his family had come in a month earlier, and my other brother, Ty, who works in Uganda, arrived a few days before.

Anytime you can have your whole family together is very special, but this time was especially so for two reasons. First, the World Cup was on TV, which is something we enjoy watching together as a family. And secondly, this was the first time in six years (since we left for Malawi) where our entire family (parents, siblings, and our children) was able to be together. Plus, adding to the excitement, as we landed in Houston, we learned that Justine and Ryan were on their way to the clinic where Riley would be born . . . one hour later. So it was a very special time in the very best sense.

We will be visiting between Lubbock and Houston during our furlough.

Planning for the future

We are looking forward to a meeting with the Namikango Mission Board the first week in August. It will be good to have our Mission team – Ryan, Eric, and myself, and the Board



together at the same time. This will be an important time as we make plans for the future of Namikango.

Soon after the meeting, Ryan and Eric will be returning to Malawi.

We appreciate your continued prayers as we are all travelling, and especially for the board meeting, that it will be refreshing and fruitful.

We look forward to meeting up with many of you over the next few months.

The Liu is Back in Print by Eric Gephart

In times past, Namikango Mission has published a quarterly bulletin for the churches, called the *Liu la Namikango*, or the *Voice of Namikango*. For several reasons involving translation, distribution and expense, the *Liu* took a small hiatus in publishing. However, this year, Namikango has been proud to renew printing new bulletins and distributing them to as many churches as possible. The four *Liu* bulletins that will be published this year are focused on Luke 15 and Jesus's **Parables of Lost Things**.

The first *Liu*, published in March, dwelt on the "Parable of the lost sheep." The second *Liu*, published in June, tells about the "Parable of the lost coin." And the last two *Liu* publications will focus on the "Parable of the Lost Son" and tells how all three parables combine to give us a picture of a God who loves to search and find His people. The *Liu* helps get Bible study materials out into the village churches so that local Christians can go deeper in their understanding of Biblical principles.



It also has a valuable Local News section, which alerts the churches to events happening in other churches throughout Malawi. We are very excited to be printing this bulletin again!

First Fruits

It is literally the season of "first fruits".

After three years of clearing land, planting, losing plants to drought, re-planting, irrigating bucket-by-bucket, waiting, and waiting some more, we have harvested Namikango's first coffee cherries. Hooray !

This has been a good learning experience as we endeavor to become more "fruitful". We currently have about four acres of coffee, now bearing fruit. We are focusing on a small area in order to ensure quality and success. We plan to expand further at a later date. The harvest has begun and will continue over the next few months. So far so good.

The cherries (coffee) show signs of good quality. When they are red and ripe the cherries are picked from the tree, the outer red skin removed, revealing the actual coffee beans. These are then fermented for a time then set out to dry for an even longer period of time. After husking, they are sent for roasting, and then to the cup.

We are still acquiring the equipment needed for processing and roasting, which we hope to have in place by the beginning of the year.

Quality Counts

We roasted and tested some of the beans from the current harvest and have received positive feedback. We have a good friend in Houston who runs a coffee business, and he was encouraging, noting good signs of acidity and flavor in this initial harvest.

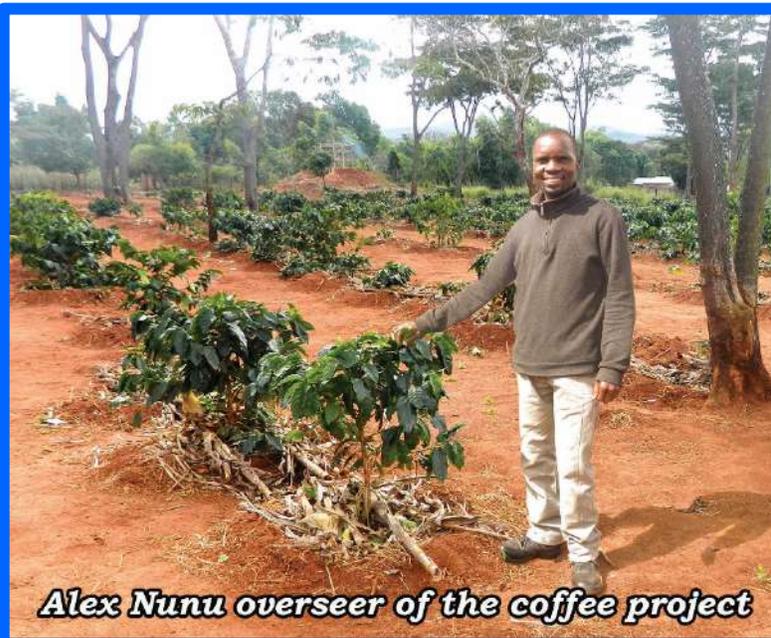
This news only adds to the excitement as we move forward with this process. We expect things will only improve as we acquire the needed equipment in the near future.

We desire to be good stewards and to be fruitful with the Mission property. In this, we not only set a good example for

our neighbors, we also raise funds to share the responsibility Mission operating expenses.

Please pray for good stewardship as we work and learn.

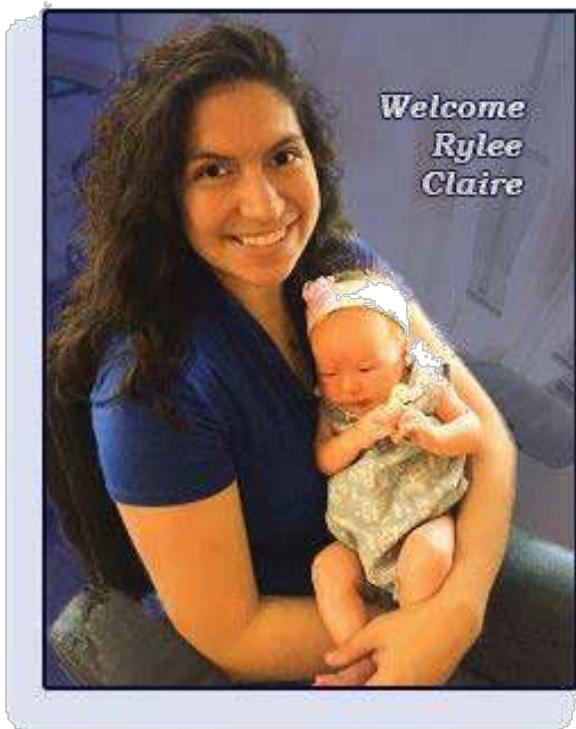
Ben





RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 764
Lubbock, Texas 79424



Deep Connections

John Katete is one of the oldest prior workers at the Mission. He came as a Bible student on campus in the early 1960s and wound up working at Namikango for many years. His love for Scripture led him to memorize most of the Bible - Old and New Testament. He is still a very influential man in his community and is respected throughout churches of Christ in the Southern Region.

Symon Katete, his son, has followed in John's footsteps. He has been working at Namikango for many years now. He currently serves as Senior Advisor and provides leadership to our various ministries and departments at Namikango.

Symon and John's home is in the Ntackha area. My family and I had the pleasure of making our first visit to the church there recently. It is a beautiful location in the Great Rift Valley and faces the back of Zomba Plateau. This is a quiet area with many indigenous trees still standing in a time where much of Malawi's forests have been cut down.

Even more than just the beautiful area, it was wonderful to visit the home of a family so dedicated and **deeply connected** with Namikango from its early days to the present. Getting to have my children sitting together with a couple several generations removed from them and from a different culture, but still closely connected



because of their love and service to Jesus was so very special. The presence of Jesus brings together different ages and cultures into sweet unity. It made me think of Jesus' words that though one can't "see" the Kingdom, and say, "there it goes," surely this picture captures something of what the Kingdom of God looks like. **Ben**



It is such a privilege to support this ministry as you share the Good News of our Redeemer Jesus with hands of LOVE extended. Please use the enclosed for the Maternity Clinic repairs or however best you decide. God bless you all – Henry & Peggy (Galvan)



Welcome Rylee Claire Hayes!

Rylee Claire Hayes was born June 28th and is healthy and already growing quickly! We chose to deliver the baby with midwives at the Bay Area Birth Center and they did a fantastic job

of caring for Justine and Rylee. While things have been quite normal since the birth, Justine has had some sickness and is trying to get back to full health. Because of this our furlough visits will be limited. We would appreciate your continued prayers. Ryan Hayes

A Visit from Geoffrey

Last month we had a visit from Geoffrey Kirima. He is a brother from Meru, Kenya, and was in Malawi working with a Bible School in the Phalombe Region, east of Blantyre. He had written to see about dropping by Namikango. I didn't know Geoffrey, but when he and his team dropped by for a few hours, we quickly realized there were several common grounds between us. Geoffrey oversees a Bible School in Meru, in connection with Rick Trull and some other missionaries that worked in Kenya during my parents' time there. He is also connected to LivingStone University in Uganda, where my brother, Ty teaches. It was an encouraging visit with Geoffrey and one of those times when one realizes that God has many people in many places doing many things, and as servants in His Kingdom, we are closer than we think. Ben



[Missionaries](#)

<http://www.NamikangoMission.org>

[Ben, Becca, Braylon, Brooklyn, & Britain Hayes](#)

BenBecHayes@hotmail.com

<http://hayesmalawi.wordpress.com>

[Ryan, Justine, Amelie, & Lily Hayes](#)

RyanHayes@cmfi.org

JustineHayes@cmfi.org

<http://ryandjustine.wordpress.com>

[Eric Gephart](#)

EricGephart@cmfi.org

[Editor](#)

[Sidney Vaughn](#)

sidneyv@swbell.net

713-944-8484

[Mail Contributions to:](#)

Namikango Mission

P. O. Box 21

South Houston, TX 77587

[Your Online Shopping Can Support Namikango at AMAZON Smile](#)

If you'll use smile.amazon.com and select "**Namikango**" as your designated **NGO**, whenever you make online purchases there, **Amazon will donate** a percentage of the sale to **Namikango Mission**.

Be sure to watch the amazing Mission video!

<https://vimeo.com/174889961>