

Rodney Hayes of Dallas passed away unexpectedly April 27 from a heart condition. He was 52 years old and leaves his wife, Artis Polk Hayes and grown children Chrystal and Randy. He was the son of the late Roland Hayes and his wife Wanda (who is now totally disabled by strokes). Rodney accompanied his family to Malawi in 1961 at the age of 3 when Namikango Mission was being established. Rodney was known for his peaceable disposition and for his godliness.

He loved his family and loved to help people and the work of the church. We thank God for his life!

*Dear Sidney,
I enjoy reading the reports from the Mission. They are doing a great work. May God bless everyone there for their dedication. I know the need is great – so will send my donations every month from now on.*

Mark, Keep up your amazing work! Lee Lampl

*Dear Brethren,
Although my beloved wife Norma suffered a stroke and is in a nursing home, she has shown some improvement. Her Medicaid on her stay in a nursing home has freed me to continue our contributions. In the Name of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Ennis N. Franklin*

We appreciate all you do! Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Wilks

*Hello 77-and-somewhat-retired Sidney from somewhat-retired Geist.
More will come during the year. Geist & Sue Seymour*

After reading the Monthly Report yesterday, I must commit \$31 a month for missionary work. God is smiling. Vivian Thane

*This check will "kick off" our support of Namikango Mission. We will send \$50 monthly hereafter. God bless.
You are all in our prayers. Dick & Connie Nichols*

God bless. Hope the needs are met. Rex & Stephanie Null

*Dear Brother Vaughn,
I hope this check helps Mark and the work in Namikango. Also, I wish to remain anonymous, as all praise belongs to God. Yours in Christ*

What a wonderful work – blessed by God. Larry & Reba Branum

I am now 84 years old. I retired from full-time ministry at age 80, having preached more than 50 years. Evelyn and I visited the Mission in Malawi when B. Shelburne and the Wilkses were there. We fell in love with the beauty and peacefulness there. Cletus & Evelyn Miller

Dear Sidney,

We at Mt Pleasant Church of Christ [Bloomington, IN] are making a one-time contribution of one thousand dollars and will increase our monthly contribution to \$200 starting this month. Hope this helps. In Christ, J P Barker

Keep up the good work. May God richly bless you. Bill Ellis

Brother Vaughn,

The bottom fell out of my life – I ended up in hospital – congested heart failure, staph infection, and Leukemia. My husband is fighting diabetes, kidney disease, and cancer. We are 80 and 84. The nice thing about knowing your days are numbered is that you will concentrate on what is important. We are really blessed by the Holy Spirit. Thank you for all you do in God's work. John & Janie Darwin



A Happy Milestone

I'm **happy** to report that the first of our books to be revised and reprinted is now back from the printer. It is the "New Testament Survey." When we ran out of the old edition, we took advantage of the opportunity to improve the new course significantly. The older version is still the foundation of the course, and it is a very well-written book. We have updated the Chichewa language with more modern speech and have added maps and illustrations to help the learning process of our students and make the whole process more enjoyable.

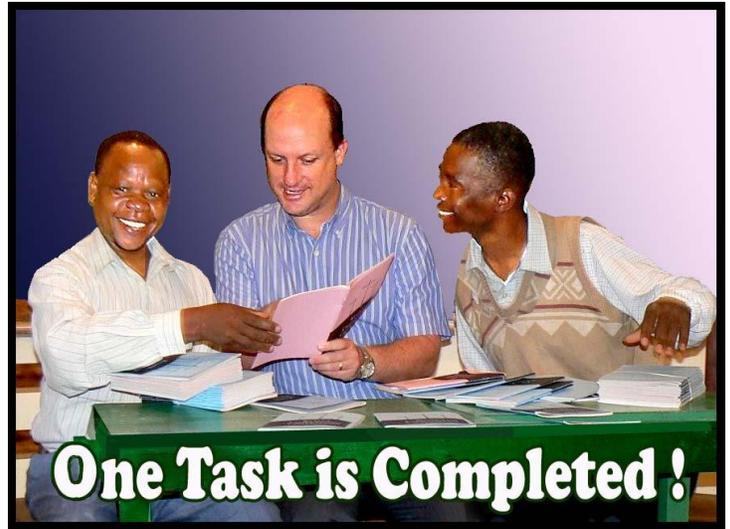
The new version also includes aids for the teachers like study questions and suggested assignments. But the most significant change is that we have included our emphasis on discipleship – mentoring and sharing what the students have learned with a neighbor . . . like today. These important insights for disciples of Christ are scattered throughout the book.

We are very excited to think of the potential for spiritual growth this course will offer, not only to our students, but to others who may want a copy of the book for their own reading. "The New Testament Survey" book has always been one of the most popular courses in our curriculum. Every student must take this course at some time during their four years of study with Namikango Bible School. It has also been one of those books that church leaders who are not enrolled in our studies may want to buy for themselves, as they study on their own.

The completion of this first book marks a **milestone** as it represents the first of a series of revisions that will ultimately affect all 24 of our course booklets. One thing that Brothers Mataka, Maluwa, and I have learned since we began this project is what a huge task it is to update even one book when there is so much other work waiting to be done.

We marvel at the amount of work it must have taken for the original editions to be written by the earlier workers at Namikango and are thankful to be able to build on their foundation and to continue the tradition of training Christ-centered leaders.

Mark



Exciting New Direction

In April we resumed this year's six-month, intense ministry training both here at Namikango and in Village Bible Centers. But this is not a typical year in our Mission studies. We are implementing changes for an **exciting new direction** of training the leaders of tomorrow. It represents the culmination of years of prayer and planning as we seek to produce Christ-centered leaders for the Kingdom of God in Malawi.

Building on our already strong academic program in Bible and ministry courses, we have begun implementing changes in our school to convert it into a training effort that does much more than offer head knowledge. We are looking to transform the whole person into a disciple of Jesus Christ. No matter how much knowledge or skill a leader has, that person will be useless to the Kingdom if he is not taking the life of Christ as his model. His own life must reflect the Master.

With this goal in mind, we have begun introducing new measures inside and outside of the classroom . . .

Continued next month . . .

Baobab, the “Upside-Down” Tree



I was intrigued with the Baobab trees when I visited Malawi. They are indeed unique. They grow about 50 miles north of the Mission. Fables about this tree flourish. It is often called the “Upside-Down” tree, because of its weirdly shaped branches that resemble roots. One fable says, “When God planted all the trees on earth, there was one left over, so He tossed it aside, and it landed upside-down, with roots showing.”

In Africa, the Baobab tree is steeped in mystique and superstition. Parts of the tree are used to make rope and fishing line. It is also used to feed goats, sheep, and cows. Even elephants like to eat the moist bark. Some older, hollow trees have even provided housing for an entire family. One of the most popular uses of the Baobab tree is for medicine. It has been used to treat everything from malaria, asthma, headaches, to toothaches. The tree’s white, powdery fruit is not very tasty, but it is rich in antioxidants, potassium and phosphorus, and has six times as much vitamin C as oranges and twice as much calcium as milk. (I think I will stick to oranges and milk). The leaves are an excellent source of iron, potassium and manganese and the seeds are packed with protein. The Baobab is high in minerals but low in taste.

There’s a growing belief that the Baobab may be the world’s newest super food. In Europe, the fruit’s dry pulp is used as an ingredient in smoothies and cereal bars.



“I saw this Baobab and elephant at a game preserve about 50 miles from the Mission.

The elephant here was protected from predators, but the trees were not protected from the elephants, who like to strip the juicy bark from the trees. This Baobab seems to survive in spite of the abuse.” sv

While the Baobab’s new popularity is exciting, it is not likely they will be planted and developed as other trees and plants are. It is very slow in growing and only has leaves about three months of the year. That is why in most photos they look like they are barren.

On one visit to Malawi I saw a small village near a Baobab tree and I took photographs as we drove by. The scene kept coming back to me so I decided to paint it.

I added the goats and the children who were supposed to be guarding the garden. Hope you enjoy it.

Blessings, Sidney Vaughn

**This is the photo of
the village scene . . .**



**. . . and
here’s my
painting
of it.**

