



I Hear Voices !

We are awakened every morning at 6 a.m. by the sound of men's voices; men singing praises to God. This wakes up the entire Mission. Those same sounds and songs return early in the evening, at 6 p.m. They remind us that this day has been dedicated to the Lord and evening is here. The students who come here to study are so filled with zeal and youthful energy, they bring new life to all who are here. These young men accompany us on all of our ministry trips including Sunday visits and evangelism. Seeing young men like these grow into strong leaders gives me great hope for the future of the church in Malawi. They stir my soul.

Teachers

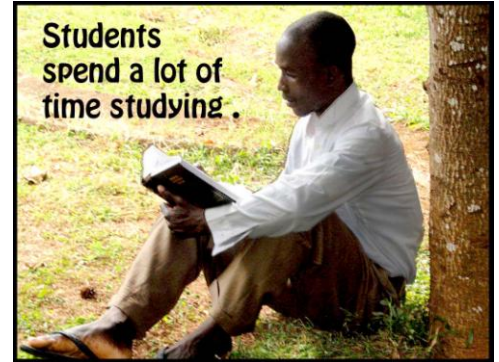
We are now in our second month of our Village Bible Studies. Teachers have been passing through the Mission, going to and from their assignments at various village areas across southern Malawi. This year, we put several new teachers into action from the group of graduates who last year finished the 24 courses that Namikango Bible School offers.

Their enthusiasm is contagious as they go out to remote areas to teach groups of students. The conditions where they teach are usually very rugged but those teachers are willing servants. They realize they are training the leaders of tomorrow.

These godly men are willing to accept every invitation to teach the Gospel wherever they can, no matter how hard the circumstances.

And they do this with joyful acceptance. Here at Thondwe we have a wonderful group of 10 young men who are studying with us. Some of these men began their studies with us last year or the year before. There are a few new faces this year including one young man from Kasungu who was baptized only this March. He has now decided to devote his life to the Lord's service and is anxious to learn. In the first term (April to June) I have enjoyed teaching these young men the books of Romans and Galatians every morning. We have also continued other discipleship activities with them, including special prayer times, times with mentors, and work assignments. It is such a joy to be roused each morning with the joyful singing of these young men. I wonder if the singing of angels could sound any sweeter?

Mark



Students spend a lot of time studying .

The many shade trees around the Mission provide a good place to study.



John Kamwendo cooks breakfast and supper for the students and staff. His home is a long walk in the dark, but he is always there with food bright and early.

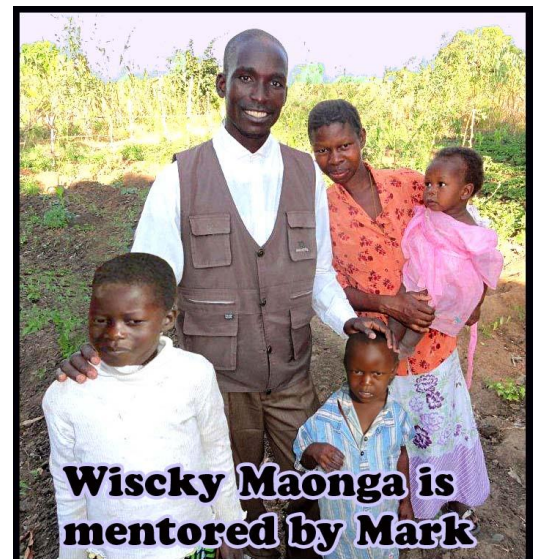
Meet Wiscky Maonga!

Each staff member has been assigned at least one student to mentor. This means we spend extra time with this particular student, getting to know him and encourage and guide him in his walk with the Lord. This year I was assigned Wiscky Maonga. This has allowed me to get well acquainted with this excellent young man. He comes from near Lake Chilwa, about 45 minutes northeast of here, and has a wife and 3 small children.

I made a trip to his home area and found that the church leaders there think very highly of him and are 100% behind his decision to study at Namikango. He is a soft-spoken and serious young man. While he doesn't always make the highest

grades in class, he is always the most attentive, sitting on the first row dead center in front of the teacher. Long after others begin to tire, Wiscky sits up straight, very alert, taking notes on every point.

His dream is to continue teaching and building up churches in his area once he completes Namikango Bible School. I believe that the Lord is going to use Wiscky Maonga in a great way to His glory.



Wiscky Maonga is mentored by Mark

Getting to know Ben Hayes

I was born in Nairobi, Kenya, Africa, and raised in a small, rural African town along with my two brothers. Our parents are Kirk and Susan Hayes, who were serving as missionaries in Kitale at the time. When I was a teenager, we moved back to the States – first to Colorado Springs because of a prospective job with “Focus on the Family” for my dad. But God had other plans, and after a month in the beauty of Colorado, God directed us back to Lubbock, Texas, where dad took a job as a professor at Lubbock Christian University. Mom worked as a Speech Therapist in surrounding schools, and the three of us boys were enrolled in Lubbock Christian Schools. I would later find out that the love of my life, Becca, was also enrolled at LCHS.

The transition back to America was relatively smooth, which is attributed to God’s goodness, because not all returning MKs (missionary kids) find it so. There were not many dramatic differences between school life in Kenya and in Lubbock. Looking back, the only real culture shock I recall came through the avenue of sports. My brothers and I had spent our time in Kenya playing that beloved sport – soccer. Once in Lubbock, I was encouraged to play America’s pastime – baseball. I sat in the dugout through most of the first summer league game. When I did get to bat in the second game, I just happened to get a hit. I was quickly given the nick-name “Benya from Kenya.” This was announced over the speaker as I strolled up to the plate for my second at-bat. Word had apparently traveled fast! This nickname, along with the hours spent standing in the outfield with no action, aided my decision to remove myself from the game while still on top. I retired from baseball with a batting average of .500.

Two-a-days football was next as my Freshman year began. The intensity of spending two weeks prior to the start of school, being run into the ground with a bunch of people I didn’t know, all the while fumbling around trying to get my chin strap buckled, was quite intimidating to say the least. I had played backyard football, basketball, track, and soccer competitively growing up, but being yelled at for no other reason than that’s what you do in football, what was that all about!? I was as fast as the next guy. Thus I was introduced to another American way of life, Football. Though, I must say, by the end of my Freshman year, I was starting to love the game.

At Lubbock Christian University, I obtained a minor in Missions before transferring to Texas Tech to finish my degree in Mechanical Engineering. During my Sophomore year at LCU, I took a semester off to travel back to East Africa, Russia, and Western Europe. The sole purpose of the trip was to explore the options of using my ME degree in a vocational mission opportunity in the future. Working with

God’s people across the globe was a rich experience. More on this later...

In the fall of my Senior year, 2008, I married one beautiful Rebecca Evans. We had been dating for

just over a year and were preparing to move to Houston in February where I would work as an engineer with Cameron Intl. and Becca would pursue a high school teaching position.

Following our honeymoon and my college graduation, we traveled back to East Africa as a newly-wed couple for a month, visiting my homeland and surveying mission opportunities that might develop for us later. I was able to show Becca all the places in Kenya I had known growing up, and she was able to show me places and introduce me to friends she had made during her time in Uganda. We also had the opportunity to visit mutual friends in Rwanda and Tanzania. It was a very significant trip for both of us. We were excited about all the work being done in East Africa, but did not feel that God was opening any specific door for us at the time.

So, here we are today. After several months of discussion and prayer, Becca and I have accepted the offer to move to Malawi. We are very humbled to have the opportunity to join the rich heritage of godly men and women who have served the Namikango Mission and to be a part of what God has done and is doing in reaching the unreached in this area of Africa. We are scheduled to move to Malawi in April or May next year. Plus, I will be going to Malawi at the end of June 2011 to spend a little time with Mark and the staff and to become more acquainted with the work before Mark and his family returns to the States the end of July. I would greatly appreciate your prayers and support as I prepare for this short trip, as well as for our transition to Malawi next year.

Ben Hayes



We will get to know more about Becca next month.

Becca and Braylon Hayes



**Student Kapito pets one
of our Mission dogs, Emily**

Brother Silver Bernard

Sidney, here is an appeal for a brother from Mozambique, a faithful servant – Brother Silver Bernard.

He is one of the Mozambican workers who serves with our Bible schools in Mozambique. He is in serious need. Brother Silver Bernard has a serious illness and is facing a hospital bill of \$6600 and it keeps growing. In January of this year, an infection suddenly started spreading down one leg and moved to other parts of his body. His skin in those areas looked like a burn victim and the infection went deep - all the way to the bone, destroying flesh as it went along. He was admitted to a hospital in Malawi because medical care in Mozambique is very poor. Brother Silver has endured the last several months in a basic hospital bed with daily washings and treatments that cause him great pain. He has had a skin graft and his condition has now begun to improve.

But even as he improves physically, his hospital bill continues to grow by the day, it has now reached \$6600. All the Christians of his area together cannot gather this much money. They are appealing for help. We would appreciate it if someone could help brother Silver with this bill. He has been a faithful brother coordinating our Bible schools in Mozambique on a volunteer basis with no pay because he wants to see his people come to Christ. If he does not find the funds to repay his bill, the hospital will not release him.

The policy here is to hold a patient until payment is made. Could anyone make a contribution to release this brother from his financial (and possibly physical) bondage? Mark

Mark,

Since you are convinced of the need to help this good brother, go ahead and send \$1000 to him from the Mission operating funds. This will surely help. I will also share this need with our brotherhood. I am sure others may want to help.

Sidney



A Brother in great need