

NAMITEMBO TIMES

ELEPHANT STAMPEDE and VISIT A SUCCESS

It's been 20 years! Our sister parish with Namitembo, Malawi has enabled St. Bridget to reach out, all the way to Africa. And what a difference we have made.

The Parish Picnic and Elephant Stampede was held on Sept. 10, 2017, with distinguished guests from Namitembo. Fr. Henry Chiwaya, pastor of Namitembo, and Robert Kapinda, administrator at Namitembo Trade School, in attendance.

Food and fun highlighted the Parish Picnic. Families were able to meet and greet in the church hall and patio on a beautiful afternoon. There was BBQ food, salads, drinks, and games for kiddos.

The event also highlighted our annual Elephant Stampede. No run, just fun! Displays in the hall showed a typical Malawian village hut, crafts, and posters with

all the progress in Namitembo over the last 20 years.

Much thanks goes to Bishop George Tambala for granting permission for Fr. Henry's visit, and for all his support.

Many of you hosted Fr. Henry and Robert either in your home or for an outing. They spent a day at ASB School and Villa Academy, hiked mountains, walked on the saltwater beach, rode a ferryboat, visited Seattle attractions, and spent time with you either at a soccer game or just relaxing. Thank you all.

Being able to say Mass was a must for Fr. Henry. He assisted Fr. Haydock and was able to substitute for Fr. Okumu in Lynnwood. Mr. Kapinda visited several schools to learn about their trade school programs.

School supply donations! We asked and you provided! New and used tools for NAMTAS such as levels, tool kits, tape measures, scissors, thread, and masonry tools came to us. We were able to send over 250 pounds of luggage filled with tools and other school supplies to Namitembo.

And a huge thank you to Brian Henling for procuring and preparing laptops to send to NAMTAS, and to ASB students for their generous donation.

14,000 PARISHIONERS/ 1 PRIEST

Fr. Henry is without an assistant. Fr. Benedict Liyao has a bad hip and subsequently transferred to another parish closer to better roads and medical help. For the time being, Fr. Henry is by himself, to guide and serve 14,000 parishioners at 8 churches, including 75 small Christian communities. He does have three wonderful catechists to make home visits and prepare communion services. Please pray for Fr. Henry, the catechists, and all the people of Namitembo.

STAMPEDE GOAL MET

St. Bridget, you did it! The goal to raise \$20,000 was met. In addition, \$5,000 was donated strictly for tuition aide for Namitembo Trade School students.

Fr. Henry thanks each and every one of you. Our gift to Namitembo is earmarked for educational purposes. One fourth of the total is wired directly prior to each calendar quarter. The Sponsor A Student aide is made in two installments.

In the most recent gift Fr. Henry was able to pay salaries and gratuities at NAMTAS, maintain teachers' houses, and buy a new water tank.



Old friends.



Donated laptops



Some of the donated tools.



PILLOWS FOR PRE-SCHOOL

The beautiful pillows, table runners, aprons, and bags that so many of you purchase for yourselves, family, and friends support the Montessori pre-school in Namitembo. Diane Calisse, the guiding light for the school reports that the school is running well with about 100 children in attendance each day.

Under the direction of Ann Nachtigal, the Embroidery ladies produce colorful hand-stitched pieces which are then transformed into the pillows, etc. The income from their sale enables the group to run a grocery business for profit, then in turn do charitable works for people suffering from HIV/AIDS, malaria, and donate half the proceeds to the nursery school.

At the nursery school some children are showing huge potential and able to read, write, and express themselves verbally.

VISIT ST. BRIDGET WEBSITE

The updated website has all the previous Namitembo Times and videos from Namitembo. Keep up on the latest news from Namitembo. Watch what it is like in a day in Namitembo, as Teresa works and cares for her daughter and niece. And view Hopes, Dreams, and Thank You from some of Namitembo's residents.

There is a link on the St. Bridget home page. Simply click, then enjoy and learn.

MR. KAPINDA LEAVES NAMTAS

It is with sadness that we must report that Mr. Robert Kapinda has left as head administrator of Namitembo Trade School. He is pursuing other opportunities at Trade School administrations.

Mr. Kapinda began at NAMTAS as a bricklaying instructor. In 2010 he became head administrator of the school. During his tenure the school continued serving young adults learning marketable trades to lift them and their families out of poverty. He also became a leader in the Namitembo community participating on several boards and active in the church.

We wish Robert and his family well and thank him for his time he dedicated to NAMTAS.

The acting head administrator is Mr. Lenard Yandira. He has been head of department and teacher for Carpentry and Joinery at NAMTAS since 2012. He has training in information technology and has been on several committees at NAMTAS.

Mr. Yandira has been the deputy principal at NAMTAS for the last two years.

The expected number of students for first and second term is 75. This number seems low because most 2nd year students are at industrial attachments. They return for third term and the enrollment will swell to 95.

PRAY FOR RAIN, BUT NOT TOO MUCH

The rains in Malawi have been sketchy, at best. Planting season is when the rain begins, the beginning of December. It began well, but then the rains did not continue regularly. Fr. Henry reports that 1500 hectares of crops (maize, pigeon peas, ground nuts, tobacco, chickpeas, sorghum, red beans) have reached permanent wilt. That's about 3700 acres! Please pray for proper rain to salvage the remaining crops and spare Namitembo from famine.

BLACKOUTS IN MALAWI

Malawi is currently experiencing blackouts. As a British colony the electrical grid was built dependent on hydroelectric power. At that time there were three million people, but now there are about 20 million, and more modern buildings and machines that need electrical power.

Because of low water levels on Lake Malawi and reduced flows on the Shire River there is inadequate hydroelectricity generated. As a result the country has a program called loadshedding, where there are rolling blackouts. Namitembo is experiencing 25 hours of blackout then 8 hours of power.

For those with electricity, such as cities, village centers, and Fr. Henry's residence, life is difficult. Food is rotting in refrigerators, phones are not charged, computers used for only short times, factories and stores shut, and banking stalled.

Fr. Henry reports that the country is affected economically and socially. He hopes the administrators can do something 2 soon.