

Mark the date:

## Elephant Stampede and Parish Picnic

Sunday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, Magnuson Park!

Picnic starts @ 12:30 p.m., race starts @ 1:00 p.m.

# News from Namitembo

September, 2007

*Editor's Note:* This report was compiled by Erin Harvey, a US certified teacher from Seattle, who taught for a few months in Namitembo last winter. Erin went back to Namitembo this summer, in part to compile a much longer report to St. Bridget on the NAMTAS. (This report is available on our web site, under **Namitembo**). The following short report is meant to give the overall flavor of the status of the Trade School, which has been a major focus of our relationship for the last few years.

## Namitembo Trade School

### Background

NAMTAS or Namitembo Trade and Agriculture School was established in 2004 and has continued to change for the better over time. Currently there is a new administrator, **Fabiano Nkoma** who began just last month. Seven tutors and staff members are employed with two more additional assistant tutors on the way. Enrollment continues to climb with the addition of Carpentry Grade 2 which was introduced this month.

Fr. Owen has done an amazing job of establishing the foundation of a growing school. He is currently overseeing the building of 8 teacher housing units, the installation and configuration of 10 new computers and the introduction of the internet to the computer lab which will be used as an educational tool as well as communication outlet for the local community.

In the next year Fr. Owen hopes to devote the majority of his time to developing the trade school into a successful and accredited institution. He plans to add but is not limited to hostels, administration block, boreholes, 4 classrooms, flush toilets and electricity.

The new courses that will soon be introduced to NAMTAS are electrical trade, welding and fabrication, plumbing, and agriculture. Hopefully, these will be up and running as soon as new facilities are built and the current trades are successfully underway.

### Current Classes



### **Carpentry and Joinery**

- Grade 3: 3 terms or one year
- Grade 2: 1 term or 3 months
- Grade 1: to be added soon.



Mr. Fabiano Nkoma with Owen



## Bricklaying

Grade 3: 3 terms or one year  
Grade 2: soon to be offered.



## Tailoring

1 year program



## Computer skills, 1 year program

Students pictured with the old computers  
(below)



Computer lab with newly installed computers  
(above)

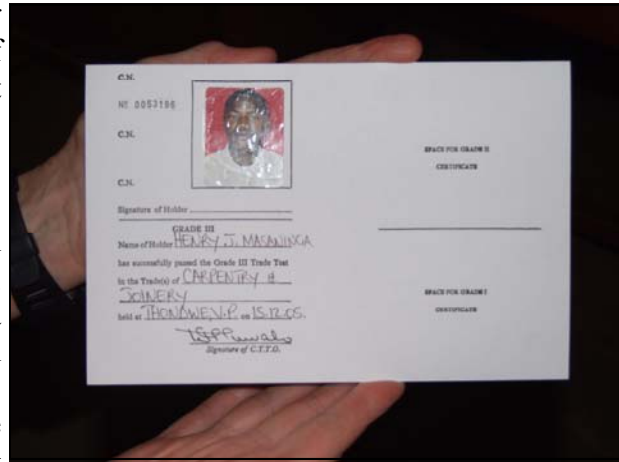
## Fees

Each term used to cost K6, 000, or K18,000 per year, or about \$135. (The per capita income of Malawi is \$160 per year) However St. Bridget is now covering half of the fee for each student

## Current Statistics of NAMTAS

**Tailoring**, 8 total students, ranging in age from 20-26; **Bricklaying Grade 3**, 4 total students, including 2 women funded by Ubwino Wa Amayi (Girls Foundation), ages ranging from 19-24; **Carpentry and Joinery Grade 3**, 8 total students, with four women, including one funded by Ubwino Wa Amayi, ages ranging from 20-29; **Carpentry and Joinery Grade 2**, 7 total students, with one woman, ages ranging from 20-29; **Computer Skills**, 4 total students, three women, ages ranging from 20-21.

## One proud student's diploma!



## The Future?

The Trade School was originally designed to accommodate students located locally in Mitumbiri village and Namitembo parish. Currently the majority of students who attend NAMTAS live far outside these boundaries, primarily because the students from Namitembo have difficulty paying the fees — hence the recent decision by St. Bridget to cover half the tuition. This announcement brought major enthusiasm from all students. However, Fr. Owen also made it clear that the school costs should

**NAMTAS Teachers' houses** not be free, based on the idea that NAMTAS should only accept those students who are themselves fully involved in furthering their education. Owens plans to build a hostel (dormitory) this year, to better accommodate students who live out of the immediate area.

The new Administrator, Mr. **Fabiano Nkoma** (picture on 1st page), has the goal of transforming this rural trade school into a full technical accredited college, with a well-educated staff that is dedicated to the education of the rural Malawian population. *(This goal is contingent upon continued future relationship with St. Bridget Parish.)* With the future support of new buildings and learning resources, NAMTAS will grow into a well established institution. He is excited that he is apart of such a wonderful and growing community.

*Please see our web site for the extended report, past reports, and plenty more pictures from Namitembo!*



What can you make with a half-million bricks?

## ST. BRIDGET CHURCH

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**Elephant Stampede,  
5K Run/Walk and Picnic  
September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.  
Magnuson Park**

### *Other Projects?*

St. Bridget has now completed its second five-year covenant with Namitembo. This year's visit with Fr. Owen visit will provide the opportunity to explore many topics. For instance, several parishioners have asked about doing something about malaria and other health initiatives. Individuals have provided scholarship money; one family purchased about 50 irrigations pumps, for a pilot project to provide water for growing crops during the dry season. And, while no one has suggested we end our relationship with our friends in Namitembo, some parishioners want to explore other possible poverty spots on the globe where we might make a difference— such as the work of Dr. David Gaus in Ecuador (see our web site under Charitable Outreach). *Stay tuned!*