



April 2019

rozheyns.org



ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dear Friends,

I am writing this over the Easter weekend. It is one of the few times of the year that all Christian denominations will agree upon everything. He died upon a cross – the most shameful way for anyone to die, and on the third day He rose from the dead and walked upon the earth until finally, He was taken up to be seated at the right hand of God. AND one day He will return to rule and reign. Whether we believe in God the Father or Jesus, His Son or not, Their legacy changed the whole world and continues to do so. Time Magazine March 2017 edition states: "Simply put, the Bible is the most influential book of all-time... The Bible has done more to shape literature, history, entertainment, and culture than any book ever written. Its influence on world history is unparalleled and shows no signs of abating. Even pop culture is deeply influenced by the Bible." Amazing coming from a liberal publication such as Time. Over 500 billion copies of the Bible have been sold with over 100 million still being sold annually.

With this in mind, there are billions of people past, present and future who have either been deceived or hoaxed into believing that Jesus the Christ is the Son of God. I would rather be on this side with the assurance that I can have a relationship here and now with the

Creator of all things and that one day I will live with Him eternally than be a "nay sayer" and have no clue what the future brings after my death. My body may return to the dust of the ground, but I have this amazing spirit being which never dies and will live forever. It is this part of my being that identifies with the Holy Spirit of God and allows me to know without a shadow of doubt that the Bible is the anointed scripture and that Jesus is the Word as He said He was and that when God spoke the Word all things were created. As I lay out on the ground in Africa and look up at the stars, I realize that my God is so amazing that only He can have created something as vast and glorious as that. When I look at a flower closely it is with wonderment as each is different and yet so very beautiful. When you plant a seed, it is a miracle that something incredible grows out of it.

I was there when my first grandson was born – how can we say that there are no miracles taking place on earth today? The birth of every baby is a complete miracle. I remember once talking with my doctor before my daughter was born. He told me: "When someone breaks a bone, I can align the bones, but I cannot make them grow back together again – only God can do that. We have become so scientifically minded that we seek out science instead of the Bible and we make that our beliefs instead of the simple Scriptures."

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8514 N. Donna Ct. Kansas City, MO 64153

"He shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meant for the master's use and prepared for every good work."

From the desk of Roz Heyns

As of yet, no one has been able to explain to me why apes are still not evolving into humans. We see *adapting* in nature, but I do not see evolving. I have a friend outside Reston in Virginia who took care of animals on a farm. Some of them were animals imported from Africa and they had lived there for some time. I noticed one winter when visiting, that the zebras had the most amazingly thick coats such as you would never see in Africa. They had adapted to the weather conditions of America. Perhaps woolly mammoths adapted and lost their fur to become elephants as the weather changed and became warmer, but they did not evolve from a speck. Now, you may have evolved from some slimy cell or fish or whatever else, but my Bible tells me that all humans were created in the image of God AND when I received Christ as my Lord and Savior and was filled with His precious Holy Spirit I became His Temple on this earth – a temple more glorious than Solomon's Temple. WOW – what an incredible revelation and honor that the Spirit of almighty God should dwell in me despite all my faults and failings.

So many excuse their lack of belief by saying that if God is all knowing then why does this evil happen. God gave each of us free will and when we submit that will to Him then we would no longer want to do wrong. Many refuse to submit because they like the way they are and some like to think they can go it alone and don't need a God because they are master of their own destiny. Some think that they are good because they are honest and do good things and therefore do not need a savior. I believe Martin Luther blew that one out of the water and brought about the Reformation.

As Easter is upon us let us reflect on all that Jesus did for us. He left His home in glory and walked upon the earth where the stench of sin must have been overwhelming. He was beaten beyond all recognition. The Romans and Jews gave 40 lashes minus 1 so that you could survive it. There are 39 known categories of disease in the earth today. He took one lash for each category and the Bible tells us that by His stripes we were healed. He redeemed us unto the Father so that we could once again have a relationship with God. His Holy Spirit remains on this earth with you and me to teach us, comfort us, deliver us and convict us and for many other reasons. Thank you, Father, for allowing your precious Son to go through all for us. Thank you, Jesus, for allowing your Spirit to live inside of us instead of being seated along with you in a place more wonderful than we can imagine.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL



IT IS FINISHED AND HE HAS CONQUERED ALL

ABOUT US

We, Alabaster Ministries

are based in the United States with a tax-deductible status under 501(c)(3).

We also have representation in the United Kingdom and are covered by Stewardship Services

Our representatives there are Michael and Penny Shellswell.

Phone: +44-7780-383452 (Michael)

+44-7551974316 (Penny)

In Malawi we have Oresti and Julie Yiannakis who are a wonderful support and without whom it would be extremely difficult for us to operate.

Our staff comprise of local Malawians, and volunteer staff in the USA and UK.

It is our belief that we should train the locals to one day be able to totally run every aspect of the ministry in their nation and to train the next generation to one day take over while we support and give advice where needed.

God has blessed us with an amazing team of people who are always ready and willing no matter what comes against us. God is in charge and is faithful when we are about His business.

This is an exciting ministry to be a part of and we so appreciate your support.

CONTACT US

You can support this exciting and vibrant ministry by sending checks to:

Alabaster Ministries

8514 N Donna Ct

Kansas City, MO 64153

OR

Via the web site direct to

PayPal.

☎ Telephone (636)358-4615

✉ Email alabastermin@aol.com

Email rozheyns@gmail.com

🌐 Website: www.rozheyns.org

REPORT FROM FRANCIS

We are extremely grateful to you, our beloved friends and supporters, for your love and support and help make the wonderful family that is Alabaster Ministries. We have received good progress reports from the class of 2019 of the Alabaster Bible School who have gone out to become active members of their various communities. Every striving community has dynamic social institutions propelling it forward and to have our footprint on that fabric is an amazing testimony.

There is about eight weeks between now and the next distribution campaign, and as always, we depend on you, our dearly beloved to make this event as auspicious and wonderful as possible. As you know, our focus area is still reeling from the results of tropical Cyclone Idai and we have a real problem on our hands. Most of our beneficiaries have lost their homes, property, and have had their harvest destroyed in the fields which presents a wide range of challenges. Most Malawians only farm annually since they cannot afford irrigation agriculture which puts the next harvest in April 2020. This means we are in for a longer food shortage period since the next harvest is only going to happen another 11 or 12 months from now.

Despite the destructive cyclone, there is a consensus that the harvest will be extremely low across the nation due to heavy rains which resulted in leaching of fertilizers. This will not only affect the quantity of the harvest but its quality as well, making it hard to sustain the population for a longer period. Chididi has seen a record low in maize or corn harvest and is estimated to run out of food reserves by end of August this year. Our Shire valley area of operations, which is basically from Tengani through to Marka on the Mozambique border has seen its harvest destroyed in the field and some areas are reported to have no food now with others expected to run out of food reserves by July 2019.

Life in the region is desperate and with most people trying to fend for themselves, it is the young and aging populations that are most vulnerable. We hope that the Almighty will intervene with solutions and with your help and support we can do something to remedy the situation. We are extremely grateful to City Pentecostal Church in Blantyre for their friendship and love and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their decision to build a house for the elderly. May the almighty God bless you and reward your efforts, we do not take this lightly and we would like to invite you to visit us in Nsanje anytime.

This is Mary Liva from Kalumbi. The rain is over and now it is winter.



REPORT FROM PETER



These waters are finally beginning to recede, and the crocodiles are returning to the rivers

Please receive warm regards and blessings from my church and family. We have witnessed firsthand the carnage of cyclone Idai and are surviving by the grace of God. I believe we reported in February that my church collapsed in the aftermath of a similar storm but what came after that was much worse in tropical cyclone Idai.

In times like these our colleagues from Mozambique find refuge in Malawi as is usually the case with most border regions but this time we are completely undone. We had hoped that maybe after the first storm had passed, we would have a reasonably good harvest because there was a break in the weather for about three weeks, so most crops were drying up and just about ready for harvest. Cyclone Idai happened and so all those crops got rained on or blown down, and most of the millet crop was seriously damaged. The corn crop has also suffered the same fate on both the Mozambique side and in Malawi and therefore is creating a massive shortage of food.

In the meantime, we have been busy helping in all the areas where people are camping out or have found refuge in churches and school buildings and yards. The situation in the camps is not conducive for living. I am calling them camps for a lack of a better word to describe these places. There are no proper tent materials for all the destitute people living in these places and of course there are no proper sanitary facilities which presents a threat of dysentery, cholera, and typhoid outbreaks. We have been helping dig up a couple of pit latrines in the camps to reduce the threat of diseases but with a general lack of order and far too many people you cannot be certain that the facilities are being properly used. These are desperate times and so we are aware of the security factors this presents as well. We are going into the camps preaching the Word and teaching people to stay away from crime related activities as these camps are not safe for young girls and women who are at a high risk of being raped. We are glad that there have been no such cases reported or heard of in all the camps.

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We hope to start building houses for the elderly who have lost their homes in Tengani and Kalumbi as soon as possible. Building materials have seen an increase in prices since there's a high demand now but we hope to have the first five houses done very soon. Most of these elderlies have had to sleep under trees with just a mosquito net and a blanket to cover themselves whereas many others have to brave the mosquitoes at night and endure the heat throughout the day. It is our prayer that the Almighty will see us through these difficult times and with your support help make a lifelong difference in someone's life.

On a positive note, the houses that we have built over the past six years have all remained standing despite the flooding and wind. They are built on a firm foundation which is the Lord. We will begin to build again the week after Easter. Unfortunately, because of hiring transport and the fact that building supplies have increased the homes are now costing us \$650 instead of \$500.

REPORT FROM JENNERFORD KANKOCHE

I greet you in the wonderful name of our Lord and pray that you are all well. The Lord has been faithful and so gracious to us and He continues to look after us and bring us out of unpleasant situations by His might and unending love. We have just survived two months of heavy rainfall and catastrophic winds. We do not count ourselves special but blessed in a time when many of our friends have lost so much and we can only hope and pray that the Lord shall restore and heal the land.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the leadership team both abroad and in Malawi for the work they are doing in our communities. It seems that maybe we do not say thank you enough for all the strides you take to make sure that people's lives are really transformed. There is so much that we can do to help one another as a people but if whatever we are doing is not making a real impact or difference in our lives then one must question our resolve.

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On a personal note, my life is not the same after attending the Bible School for two and half years. I have been a minister of the Lord since my early 30's (Ed note – he is now in his mid-70's) and would assume that I should know it all and have no one else teach me something new when, in fact, learning in itself is a never ending process. And so, I found myself having to be taught by my son and other younger people, which was a challenge to most of us who have been in ministry for way over 30 years, but we have benefitted a great deal from this Bible School.

One of the things I love about this ministry is that we try to touch every aspect of life to help transform our communities. The graduates from this Bible School have gone out to become important figures in their various communities, not only as ministers, but in various areas of their communities such as education, village councils, sport, advisors to chiefs and politicians. It is has been a privilege to be a part of this vision and I would like to encourage our friends and supporters because their investment in this nation is bearing fruit and with that I would like to bless you for your good heart and thank you for your perpetual support. We started out bearing the light of Christ and now we are producing torch bearers who are edifying different factions of society. I would like to encourage Alabaster to continue investing in the youth whose dynamism will ensure a strong and sound Malawi in years to come.

We had a lot of rain this year so most of our reservoirs and ponds and heavy with water but as you well know they dry up towards the end of the year. We are grateful for the borehole undertaking the ministry has embarked on and we cannot wait to have this dream fulfilled. Given the terrain of our area we know it provides a logistical challenge for heavy borehole machinery to get up here, but we hope and pray that the ministry will manage to get one up to Chididi before the dry season. May the Almighty God continue to bless you and always keep you well. Amen.

Alabaster Ministries



Jennerford and Martha Kankoché