



April 2018
rozheyms.org



ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

THE CHANGING FACE OF ALABASTER MINISTRIES

Dearest Friends,

We have almost been operational now for seven years and what started as an outreach to 250 elderly has changed significantly despite all the challenges, attacks and interruptions by the devil. When I look back it seems like something out of the early church. We have been arrested and beaten- not physically but certainly by words – people have tried to hinder us every step of the way, but God has continually been there every step of the way. He is so very faithful and when we have faced some of the hardest trials He has gone through them with us.

The whole ministry has evolved because of the elderly and as long as we continue with them the Lord will continue to open doors – one at a time.

We have five on staff in Malawi, two of whom pastor the elderly and we are looking for a third. We have women’s groups who take the initiative and reach out in their communities and are doing a real work of the Gospel. We have the Bible School and out of that has started children’s churches. It is not enough to be told simply that God loves them, but we need them to know why He does. This message of the “unconditional love of God” has been taken too far. So much so that there are many who no longer feel it necessary to preach “repent and

be baptized” anymore. Our children and youth ministries are being taught the Gospel in its entirety.

We have one church that is completed and another which has begun and we have just finished building two houses for the elderly. I visited one on my way to the Bible School. She was so excited that she lay on the floor to show me how comfortable it was compared to the mud she had been used to sleeping on and now she has a blanket to cover her.

Added to this is the work we are starting to do at the primary school and we need to build more classrooms there.

All this work has been due to the faithfulness of our supporters and I want to thank you so much for investing into the Kingdom. Please do not tire of well doing as I believe God looks down on the work and is

well pleased.

We desperately need a 5-ton truck for the work. That will not only help with distribution but also with building. In the mountains we have to haul sand and in the valley, it is rock.



ALABASTER | MINISTRIES

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.”

Report from Francis

Dearly Beloved,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray that you are all well. We have had such an exciting month in Malawi, full of adventure and laughter with the team and the old people. It is never a dull moment when the whole team comes together for distribution and the crusades and Bible School and that is exactly how things should be in the body of Christ. I always say that we can have as much fun in true fellowship with one another as those in the world who think they are having fun but are doing all the things that God doesn't want us to do.

I have great news to impart - I have known a certain Miss. Kathleen for a year and eight months now and finally gathered up enough courage to propose to this young scintillating, dynamic, wonderful, beautiful young lady and of course she said yes. I was really touched on this last trip. Kathleen came with us to the Bible School and for part of the distribution and she fit in with everything we did. She was a wonderful asset and help.

It was great to have Pastor Roz and Sister Penny back for the winter campaign and it was such a delight to work with them for a good two and half weeks. We started out with training local chaplains at the Bible School and boy did we have ball. The lessons went perfectly but our favorite time was the evenings when we have praise and worship and intersession. The villagers would join in, but I was particularly delighted to see some of our elderly women in the crowd singing and dancing before the Lord. We had wonderful testimonies of how the elderly are continuing to witness to other villagers with power and in truth. It is such a marvel to see how they are continuing to grow in the things of the Lord and to step out in faith and do the work that the Lord called them to do. I remember the first time I heard Pastor Roz teach them that it is never too late, and no one is ever too young or too old to witness to somebody. A lot of them really doubted themselves but as soon as a few stepped forth and began to do the work, others followed. Sometimes all we need to do is follow in somebody's footsteps and trust that the greatest teacher of all will come and meet us half way with a message that will witness to others.

We had our fair share of challenges along the way, but this is expected in any working environment – more so on this trip than others. How we deal with them is however very important, first as children of God and second how we weigh in the balance before God the Father. The Lord was really good to us and we saw Him in operation on a number of occasions on this trip. We drove on punctured tires and had no problems on the road until we reached our final destination back in the city and by the time we got out of the car, down went the tire. Pastor Roz hit a cow and left a really nasty dent in our Nissan trooper but thank God neither the cow nor our dear Pastor Roz were injured. I cannot comprehend how a cow runs from the bush straight into the bull bar of a vehicle, leaves a very worrisome dent and still manages to get up and walk off into the bush after the impact, but it was God. We are yet to build our missions house in Chididi, so we still camp out when we have distribution, Bible School and crusades like we did on our recent trip. Pastor Roz was walking back to her tent in the dead of night and twisted her foot in a hole and fell. She got through the Bible School week, distribution and crusade week with some pain but could still walk. After all the work was done she went to the hospital for an X-Ray and the doctors asked how she was able to walk a fractured (two bones) foot. Our prayers go out to you for a quick recovery, but we also rejoice in the Lord for He led us through.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you our wonderful friends and family in the Lord for the gift of blankets which really came at the right time. Talk about God doing everything in his timing and order. I believe it was in February when we went to build Chanazi Makwiza's house and we saw the poor state of her blanket. There wasn't a soul that was not touched by this and we can only praise the Lord that you, our dearly beloved saw it fit to provide not only one blanket but enough for all the elderly. May the Lord continue to bless you and use you to reach out and touch someone who is in need in such a big way.

It has become custom to hold a conference/crusade at the end of the distribution for the past year and pastor Roz has been to all of them, but this was the first time that Sister Penny attended. We hope you were truly blessed and will come back for another crusade next year. The elderly enjoy these crusades because they bring the entire community together and provides such a wonderful opportunity for their families to hear the Word as well. It was wonderful to have so many teachers

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.

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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.

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

Alabaster Ministries
8514 N Donna Ct
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Via the web site direct to PayPal.

and preachers at the crusade. We are happy to see that the children's ministry is picking up and more of the youth are involved in community development programs along with ministry. We are grateful to the leadership of this ministry for promoting young people to become great leaders in the church and this nation. Our nation needs a huge turnaround of pretty much everything and we are only going to achieve that by investing the knowledge and wisdom of God into the next generation.

Francis report continued from page 2

We would like to ask all of you to keep us in your prayers as we have reached a time when there is real chaos in the political sector of this once wonderful nation. The kind of corruption and sheer malice that is witnessed here is mind boggling. It is only God who can raise up the right people to rid us of this conundrum.

We are always happy when Pastor Roz comes to the Warm heart of Africa and even though she can only manage to come three times a year, we are always blessed by her visit. We are truly grateful and cherish every moment we spend with her because it is not easy to bear the rigors of these trips especially in Nsanje where the temperatures are ever so high as compared to the west. We pray to God in heaven to restore your health and heal your foot much quicker than normal and that He would give you all that is needed for the work you do here.

PHOTOS:

BEFORE



AFTER



Last year in April I was devastated to learn that one of the elderly could no longer walk. Even though we should not have favorites we always do and he was always so dynamic. He loved to dance and sing. He came to see me carried on the back of a friend. His legs were so thin I could not believe that in four months (since my previous visit) that he could have deteriorated like that. I prayed for him and made sure that he continued to get his gifts but thought that perhaps I might not see him again. He was not there in October, but I was assured that he was still alive and in February Francis told me he was still getting his things. This trip he was at the meeting. He had walked a considerable distance to get there and although his dance has turned into a shuffle he is still a living testimony of the healing power of Jesus Christ.



REPORT FROM PENNY

What a joy to be in Malawi again. Everyone loves the Word of God and is so open to hearing more; you can have some wonderful discussion with comparative strangers.

Having pulled my back somehow the day before I left, bending down for me became far more difficult than normal. Roz kindly arranged a massage for me and the lady was delightful; we had a tremendous conversation all about the Lord and the session ended with me praying with her to receive the power of Holy Spirit with the gift of tongues. She received speaking loudly with tears of joy. A wonderful start to the 3 weeks!

I started teaching at the pastor's conference where Jesus, talking to the woman at the well says, 'God is Spirit and looks for those who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth'. Moving from the physical to the spiritual is a challenge for us all but the pastors clearly understood what I was teaching. I love having the opportunity to share with them as you almost seem them changing before your eyes! It is certainly noticeable in the time of praise and worship.



Then the elderly. What a wonderful hugging welcome I received from so many - it really made me feel a part of their lives. It was a privilege to share with them and seeing the man who last year couldn't walk now walking totally unaided was a great joy. Not only him but look at this guy chopping down a

branch for us that was hitting everyone on the head - he is a mere 98. When it came to praying for the elderly to be healed, he happily joined in and was bending over far more than I can!!! Life span is 120, Gen 6 v 3, so perhaps we need to wake up a little!



Not wishing to put anyone off visiting the Warm of Heart of Africa, sleeping in a tent for 7 nights, still with a back problem, trying to unzip and close a tent quickly to prevent too many mosquitoes coming in at the same time, with no running water and no real bathroom facilities was indeed a BIG challenge but, would I do it all again? Definitely! Thank you, Roz.

REPORT FROM MARTHA

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and hope that you all doing well. We are just at the beginning of winter here and have had such a wonderful time with sister Penny a Pamela from England. I would thank Pamela for sharing her time with the children during her two-day visit at Tengani and sister Penny for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with us. You are always welcome to our house and church so please so come back next winter and share some more.

We usually have a women's conference every two months, but I meet regularly with my home group at Tengani. Our group is growing in number as more and more people come to join us in our prayer group. There has been a tremendous change in most starting with me. I was very reserved and shy to stand in the pulpit to preach but with the right motivation I' have become a *flame of fire* for others to follow. I meet once a week with my home group to continue investing in each of them as well as sharing ideas on how best to assist our community. We recently visited the Tengani Healthy Centre and cleaned the facility as part of our community outreach. It is a small facility and there is never enough staff and resources to cater for the entire community and so we took the initiative to go and help keep the grounds clean and, in the process, have had the chance to witness to others. We laid hands on the sick and one us preached the gospel to a welcoming audience. Sometimes as believers we ought to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ before we preach it so that others can better understand what exactly we are sharing with them. If there's one thing the world is short of is true love. We see chaos and hatred in our nation and hear it on the international news on the radio. People have no regard for one another let alone the truth of the Gospel. The greatest message that Christ brought was the message of love which has enabled us to once again have a relationship with God and believers need to exercise real love to heal the world around us.

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REPORT FROM SHADRECK

I have had a great time talking to the Lord as I travel from village to village on my bicycle and sometimes on foot if I have to go to places that are inaccessible by bike. I am enjoying my role as chaplain to the elderly in the mountain areas and I've had so much to learn in these past few months.

I know of many young people who have given up on life because they are broken, or nothing seems to be working in their favor, so they have taken to drink. Others who think that they are undeserving and not worthy of the saving grace of God are in lives of prostitution and on pot. (Ed note: Pot in Malawi is called "Black Gold." They say that Malawi grows the finest in the world). As I used to be one of those young people, it is very encouraging to see these elderly who have the willingness and zeal to go on living and not just living but living for Christ. About a month ago; I had a bible study at Mbangombe which about 17 kilometers east of my home and I taught from Luke 5: 27-28. I said to my usual group of 30 and others who came to hear the word that Levi was considered one of the worst people around. A tax collector like Zacchaeus and we all know the story of tax collectors but when he heard the call, he did not deem himself unworthy and underserving, he dropped everything and followed Christ. I told them that God is faithful and loves all people the same way. Paul says in Romans 13 that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. It does not matter how old or young you are, God sees all the same.

I encourage them to minister to one another and be like Levi when they hear the call. I was amazed to hear great testimonies from the young people who accompanied their grandparents to the crusade. My group is beginning to rise up and is going out to teach the Word to others. I am pleased that come the Youth conference in July, there will be more young men and women joining us from Mbangombe and beyond because they have seen first-hand just how powerful the saving grace of God is.

Ed Note: Shedreck is a young pastor. He well knows what he is talking about when it comes to youth and their problems because he was one of them. Someone tried to knife him in a drunken brawl one day and he leaned back so the knife missed his chest and hit him in the leg. He carries a nasty scar but as a result found Jesus, built a church which we roofed for him and now attends Bible School and ministers to the elderly.