



Alabaster Ministries

He shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the master's use and prepared unto every good work." 2 Tim 2:21

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Rox Heyns

APRIL 2017

Dearest Friends,

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Is 40:28-31

Why is waiting so very difficult for us all. Because we have such busy lives and we are always scurrying here and there trying to fit in as much as we can in each day. If we do not get into work way ahead of starting time the boss might think that we are not sufficiently interested or sold out to the company. If we do not stay after hours it is the same thing. How do we fit in our family and our work into each day and unfortunately we leave God until the last when He should be the first. Waiting on God is an exhortation and exhortations really should leave us with little choice. Because man is fallen we love to take matters into our own hands instead of being patient and waiting on God. His plans and purposes are perfect but in our rush to get things done we run ahead which often takes us off the path He has set before us.

There are many times in our day when we have an opportunity to wait on the Lord. How many have to sit at an airline terminal waiting for delayed flights or we sit in backed up traffic and yet we allow that time to go wasted instead of using it to wait on Him. If we did that we would not become frustrated, anxious and finally angry, none of which are a part of the fruits of the Spirit.

I was one of the most impatient people to the point where I would actually begin to cry from sheer frustration. God took me from one situation to another where I had to wait.... And wait.... And wait and finally He broke through. Now when I am stuck somewhere I can sit and reflect on Him, worship Him, praise Him and wait on Him. I get inspired when I am at peace in Him and when I am at rest in Him. We can be at rest in Him when all around is total chaos.

Waiting always involves a passage of time and when we are waiting on Him there is hope and expectation involved. Whenever the Lord is in the equation there should always be hope and expectation within and great excitement as His plan begins to unfold. Our God is an enormous God and as

I said in a previous letter, His foundation is without end so there is so much scope. Sometimes I have found that He has to rein us in. Long ago I had a friend who worked for a big ministry. She had a South African passport and in those days South Africans could not travel freely. I once asked if it was frustrating for her and she said definitely not as she believed it was one of the ways God reined her in otherwise she would jump ahead of him.

When I think of all that has still has to be accomplished – multitudes upon multitudes in the valley of decision – I wonder how it will all happen. Lord, I am willing but what is your plan? When we wait upon Him and get His plan and direction we will achieve so much more than running ahead and doing it in our own strength.

When we wait upon Him we will run and not grow weary because we have Him to give us the strength. I am always amazed at Elijah who tucked up his skirts and ran ahead of Ahab and his chariot for a distance of 17 miles. Where did his strength come from?

It is time to stop running, running, running here and there and everywhere and to rest in the Lord and wait upon Him. Let us get our orders from the Commander of the Lord's army and when we do we will mount up with wings as eagles. My brother Julian was sharing how they had just returned from a game park in South Africa and they had seen a young eagle that still could not fly attacking a very poisonous snake that was trying to kill it. Eagles are amazing birds. They are extremely intuitive and this one was not going to allow some snake to get to it. That is how we should be even as baby Christians. Full of God's discernment and as soon as approached by the devil in any form or fashion we should know how to fight him off. Eagles have the most amazing eyes and can see the smallest thing from the highest heights, as should we. The body of Christ so lacks in discernment in these days and in wisdom. All we have to do is ask God for it. If He gave it to Solomon then why would He not give it to us?

There is so much to be done in the Kingdom and time is so very short. When we wait on Him He will renew all that needs renewing so that we can be effective vessels for the Kingdom of God and He will give us His love and mercy for the lost and dying and the unlovely. We were unlovely at one time!!!!

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EASTER CONVENTION – FRANCIS BANDA

“Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience” (Hebrews 4:11). The Lord created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day and so He will cause those who believe in Him to finish their work and enjoy their rest in Him. This is a rest of grace and peace, holiness, and a rest in glory; where people of God shall enjoy their faith and fellowship with the Lord for all eternity- not just from the time we get to heaven but from this time and throughout eternity. There’s a more spiritual Sabbath than that of the seventh day - it is an activity to be lived and relived every day. Every day is the Sabbath. Those who are at rest in the Lord are those who have ceased from their labors and have entered the kingdom of God. We have seen the kingdom of God but we have not so much entered in because we are still living the worldly life instead of living Kingdom life.

We had a wonderful Easter conference where we saw firsthand evidence of the wonder working power of the word of God. There were 212 people at Tengani and 350 people attended the meetings in Chididi. In John 20 we read about Mary Magdalene going to the tomb where the Lord was laid and she discovered that the body of Christ wasn’t there. She ran to Peter and John and proclaimed the first resurrection message to Peter and John. Peter with his aged legs could not run faster than John to the Sepulcher but John stood by the door and waited for Peter. He did not enter in, until Peter came.

The church today can be likened to this scenario. We hear the word of God being proclaimed here and there, we sit with our brothers and sisters in fellowship but we never really enter in the rest of God. Sometimes there are others among us who need a brother or sister to show them the way like John followed Peter into the sepulcher. Perhaps the church today is lacking leaders to usher others into the kingdom of God; either way, if we are not at rest, we are missing out on a much deeper and intimate relationship with our father in heaven. There could be others who are afraid to give themselves completely to Jesus because they do not know what lies ahead. The fear of the unknown creeps in and robs us of achieving that which is freely given by our Father in heaven. Our Christ defeated fear at the cross and reigns victorious for all time and so there’s no need to fear anymore.

Such was the message that we carried to Tengani and Chididi over Easter. There was a woman at Tengani who brought the crowd to tears with her testimony. She heard the Word as Pastor Peter preached and stood up before the entire congregation to confess her sin before God and the congregation. Mercy Jongololo (Jongololo means Millipede) said she was a prostitute and enjoyed breaking up other people’s marriages but now she was standing as a witness to the saving power of Christ and His Word. There is something that happens when we stand up and preach Christ to the masses. He changes the world using simple men and women and we make a difference, and much more rewarding is the fact that we get to see firsthand the things that the Lord promised his people.

Chididi was a marvel as always. It was bitterly cold and the winds were blowing all day long into the night but the songs of praise and worship did not stop except at meal times. I thought for a moment that it would be too cold for the young and elderly to sit and listen to sermons presented by all pastors present at the crusade but it wasn’t so. Such a passion for the Word makes you want to do more and more for there’s nothing more exciting than preaching to a lively crowd. Those possessed with demons were set free and the sick got healed. I had the pleasure of experiencing something new altogether. In the mountains, people gather for an all-night prayer on Easter Saturday and about 4am on Easter Sunday, they walk from village to village singing songs and proclaimed WAKE UP! The Lord is risen and alive in me and in you! The time has come for the church to let Christ be alive in our hearts now until he comes again. Amen.



Celebrating Communion Easter Sunday in the new church up in the Chididi Mountains. Thanks to all our supporters who made it possible to have Easter under a roof instead of under a tree outside in the cold. It is a beautiful building and during the Bible School – May 2nd through 5th we will be celebrating the official opening and dedication of this church.

We wish that you could all be a part of the celebrations. This church has been faithfully continuing with the work and has been growing since they were evicted from their original church by another organization. It is always God that gives the increase and we have been amazed as His Holy Spirit has drawn in the people.

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We’re on the Web.
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BACK IN AFRICA

I am back in Africa. What a difference from the last trip as far as weather is concerned. It is almost chilly in the mornings and so much more energizing to work in. It was the usual “hit the ground running” situation. Sorting finances, starting the purchasing and I found out when I arrived that Monday is “Workers Day” and a public holiday. Public holidays here are not the same here as they are in the West where everyone stays open to make the extra dollar – stores actually close here and nothing gets done.

As soon as I went to get the groceries for the Bible School students I discovered that there is a shortage of sugar – this in a sugar producing country that did not experience flooding or drought this past year!!!! I need 430 bags of sugar so visited the headquarters and they just shrugged their shoulders so I have to go from shop to shop begging!

Maize and soya pieces were ordered ahead of time and an appointment made for us to collect at 8.30. The cashier did not arrive for work until 8.45 even though they are supposed to start work at 8.00. After paying I had to drive a quarter mile to a weigh bridge and then go back to pick up the three 50kg bags of maize meal and 100 bags of soya pieces. It took a loading supervisor 15 minutes to give the authority to the loaders and then he had to pass the documents to the warehouse supervisor for him to sign. The warehouse supervisor was not in his office and another 15 minutes passed before they could locate him and it took another 15 minutes for him to sign my documents. We now had to return to the weigh bridge. After they weighed us it took another 20 minutes for them to give the documents to the barrier. By then two hours had passed and I was so frustrated that I lost my sanctification. It sure made them move though even if I had to repent afterward.

That afternoon it was to buy cups and plates and they were short on both. From there to buy the tea for the elderly but, oh dear after 10 minutes in the back room – “that packaging has been phased out!” “Well what about the next size?” Back to the warehouse – “Sorry, we no longer have anything in stock.” Malawi is a tea growing company and this is their official outlet! “When can you let me have 450 packets?” “Only next week.”

Credit card machines not working in the major supermarket despite the fact they are working perfectly in the store next door. These are just a minute amount of the dealings that go on and I begin to wonder how anything works at all. The President appears on television and describes how this nation is about to move into technology where almost everything can be done with the cell phone but they cannot have a credit card approved. On Monday 1st the market will be open and so we will leave early to get vegetables for the Bible School students and then return to pack the vehicle for a 5.00 a.m. departure on Tuesday as classes begin at 9.00. Bible school will run from Tuesday until Friday and we will return Friday to Blantyre purchasing sugar along the way.

On Saturday morning 6th it will entail another trip to the market for vegetables for the elderly and then back to pack everything. 8 hours of hard labor to bag everything and load onto the truck. We will leave again at 5.00 a.m. on Monday for teaching and distribution for the elderly and be there for three days.

Somehow everything gets done and so much is achieved and it can only be God redeeming the time and it is His organization of everything. Each time I come I feel so inadequate and unready but it is His precious Holy Spirit who guides, helps, and teaches through us. It is He who is there when we feel that we cannot go the distance and when we are disappointed He is the One who gives encouragement. How did we ever manage without Him in our lives?

I fly back to the States mid-May to the loving arms of my family who really do miss me when I am away. Always delightful to be greeted by those smiling, adoring faces of the grandchildren and my children who genuinely like to “hang out” with me when many children want to distance themselves from their parents.

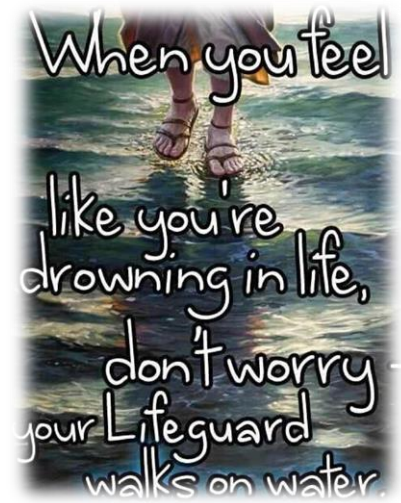
I need to spend time raising funds during the summer. I have traveled and spent time with a number of well off people who are not in relationship with the Lord but who are actually excited about the work we are doing. Even though they think it is wonderful, they are so wrapped up in the things of this world that they are thoughtless and unaware of the fact that it takes money to do the work of the Gospel. So many make the statement that salvation is free, but there is an incredible price, first of all made by the Lord who gave His life for us and secondly it takes finance to promote it. There is also a place for the “social” gospel in as far as you cannot preach the love of God without feeding a hungry stomach or clothing a naked body or setting someone who is bound free. It is one thing for us to go into a territory and give, give material assistance and another for us to teach and preach the love of God. We have to be able to do both and meet the needs, spirit, soul and body.



NO RETIREMENT

For all those who think that they are too old to be of any help, I have a friend who comes over once a year from England. She is over 70 and since I have met her (over 12 years ago) she has suffered greatly with her knees. She falls in with the program without any grumbling or complaining. The only things so far that I KNOW she cannot do is get up off the ground so we have got her a camp bed to go in the tent. The other thing which I too have difficulty with is "going potty" over a hole in the ground. That is easily fixed as we have built up bricks around the hole and put a toilet seat on the top.

We are never too old and if God wants us to do something He will make the way. The most important thing that I have learned is that if it is He that is in the midst of everything then He will give us the grace to go through any difficult or uncomfortable situation or circumstance. Just when you think you can no longer take it He comes through. What an amazingly faithful God we have. Please people, always remember that there is no retirement in the Kingdom. We keep up the work of the Kingdom until one day He just takes us home and what a glorious day that will be!!



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Permit # 522

We have received the breakdown for the Tengani church which is as follows:

The building will measure 33 x 100 feet (10m x 30m).	
Bricks 80,000	\$1,000
Roofing 85 X16 ft	\$3,800
200 bags cement	\$1,700
Transport	640
Timber	\$1,400
Window frames/doors	\$1,200
Nails, mosquito netting etc	\$1,000
Contractors	<u>700</u>
TOTAL	\$11,440

Someone donated \$250 towards the roofing for Shadreck's church (last newsletter). As soon as we get the balance we will begin the roof.

BREAKDOWN OF MONTHLY EXPENSES FOR 2017

Support for each elderly each distribution x 4	: \$20 x 420	\$2,800
Support for girls (education and clothing)	5 x 10	50
Alabaster Bible school students	10 x 52	520
Alabaster Students attending PAOC school	30 x 2	60
Salaries – 8 pastors (13 months)	15 x 8	120
2 pastors (13 months)	20 x 2	40
3 staff members total (13 months)		<u>570</u>
	Monthly	\$4,160
Building costs for 2017:		
10 houses for the elderly	\$5,000	
Upgrading pastor's homes	2,000	
Bible school dormitories	6,000	
Roofing churches (grass to corrugated iron)	2,500	five churches (One complete)
Church at Tengani	12,000	
Staff housing	30,000	