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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

What a joy it was to make the trip to Malawi again. I so long for "Phillip's Airways" as the trip out and back is so long and tiring. The above photo is the new Bible School class.

The first week as usual was buying. The second week was distribution for the elderly, and it was delightful to see them all. I asked them how come so few had died over the nine years I have worked with them. Their smiling answer was, "Because you came and gave us Jesus and you take care of us." A huge thank you to all of you who have been a part of this work. These elderlies are very serious about evangelizing and take every opportunity to do so.

The third week was the Bible School. WOW! Our new intake which have attended just three one-week classes are young and so very different to the last class. We have 5 x 11/2-hour sessions during the day and an evening session where we begin with praise and worship, go on into intercession and then the students get to preach to each other. On the first night I taught on the Holy Spirit, who He is and what He does and then prayed for them to be filled and speak in tongues. All of them got Him. We then had a time of "popcorn" preaching and all, but a handful, were dynamic. We finished a little early so one of the teachers stood, read one verse from Genesis and

preached on it for 15 minutes. He turned to sit, and I called another teacher to come and continue with the message from the same verse. By the end of the evening all the students had followed one another on that same verse and almost two hours had gone. Students were laughing and crying and shouting encouragement to the preachers and the atmosphere was electrifying. Who said church is not fun to be in? It certainly was amazing every night of the week and there was no hesitation by any of them. They stood up and launched themselves into it immediately.

Our project for the Bible School is to turn an existing house on our property into a dormitory for the ladies. At present the rooms are small, the floor is dirt and the walls need to be plastered and painted because it is dark inside. There are termites so the floor needs to be treated before we put down cement. A wall has to be knocked out to make one of the rooms larger by incorporating the existing passage area. The whole project is going to cost us \$750. This will include two bunk beds in each room, so we have space for 12 women. They will also have their own living area where they can sit and talk and get to know each other. This will be like a luxury hotel. Eventually we will be doing the same thing for the men.

GREAT NEWS: After going through four different borehole companies we have finally found someone who begins drilling this week. Praise God

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

REPORT FROM PASTOR PETER - We always hope for things unseen and sometimes to go back to yesterday a relive wonderful moments long gone that were perhaps, some of the best days in our lives. Hope is the feeling of aspiring and expecting our hearts desires to happen. Faith on the other hand, is having a complete trust or confidence or strong belief that is birthed out of a deep spiritual conviction rather than proof. The wonderful preacher that is Charles Spurgeon once said, "Faith deals with all things precious; with precious promises, with precious blood, with precious redemption, and with all the preciousness of the wonderful person of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

We have often heard preachers say have faith that moves mountains. I suppose some people take those words lightly, but we have many affirmations that faith can change any situation through the testimonies of fellow believers and from the Holy Scriptures as well. Elijah was faced with a precarious decision after challenging the false prophets at Mount Carmel. It is impossible to make a fire with wet wood let alone trying make a fire without a lighter on wood that has just recently been drenched in water But all Elijah said in faith believing was, "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that you are God and that I am your servant and I have done all these things to your Word." There was a mighty flash of fire from heaven and everyone learned of the great power in the God of heaven. This was a great miracle that only happened because Elijah had faith. There was not any other secret to this because Elijah, for all his heroic deeds, was just a person like us and the secret to his greatness was the FAITH he had in the Lord.

I was telling my congregation at Tengani that there are thirty-two thousand promises in the Bible and by faith you can have whichever one your heart desires. Faith is what makes us victorious because it always wins. Faith knows no doubt and boundaries because unlike the negativity that surrounds us in the world, faith is always positive. Paul the Apostle said in second Timothy 1 *says "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."* Faith also gives us inspiration like David says in Psalm twenty-three or as we read in the book of Romans 8:28 *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that Love God, to those who are called according to hi purpose."* There is always something that moves in me when I read Psalm 23 and Romans 8. I have a certain surge of encouragement and assurance that I do not find elsewhere in a world that is not reassuring. Strong faith can also give us peace. We can take a look at the life Jesus had. He lived and walked and slept in places that most of us would not; He suffered a humiliating and shameful death, but He was at peace with the Lord.

There are difficult situations and troubles all around us. Paul the apostle suffered a thorn in the flesh but was at rest and had faith in God. Abraham, Moses, John, Joseph, David, Paul and a great many others suffered persecution and their fair share of tribulations in life, but they peace in their hearts. There can be peace in times of affliction and when the going gets tough. I love the saying, "When the going gets tough the tough get going." Strong faith in God will always bring us through no matter what the sorrow may be. Jesus said in the book of John chapter 14 that, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

My father once told me that faith moves us unto obedience to the principles and order of the Lord. Acts 1:8 says, *"Ye shall be witnesses unto me,"* and a witness must tell what he knows. We who believe have a duty to come unto obedience and proclaim the gospel to the world. People know how to show great love deeply even by our worldly standards. We love our friends, families, spouses and so on but we seldom hold a deep affection for total strangers or things we do not know and understand. The Lord Jesus says my sheep hear my words and He also said, those who love me obey my commandments.... We do not know how to truly love if we do not know Christ for our love is always limited due to our selfish nature, but the Lord loves unconditionally. We must come to the Rock, tap into His heartbeat and immerse ourselves in that great love, only can we be the witnesses He has called us to be. To be obedient is better than sacrifice and to hearken better than fat rams. It is not true to say that we love the Lord, yet we do not hearken to His will.

It is also true that faith in the Lord gives compassion. Scripture shows us that God is so compassionate from the book of Genesis to Revelations. We see the great Theme of unconditional love from the beginning of time stretching far into eternity. We can say in confidence that no man cared enough for our souls, But He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him shall have everlasting life. Most people are suffering and not at rest in communities around us today because there is no true love and compassion among us. We are always a little selfish in our resolve and by neglecting others we have strayed so far away from that Love which He so profusely poured out from His cross. It is our mandate under heaven to not only proclaim that love but live and share it with our dearly beloved and friends every day of our lives.

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)
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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.

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



Gifts for Bible School students. We have 23 of them. Each got a Bible and a cap, towel, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste and razor.



An extremely harrowing journey of what seemed eternity, getting to Pastor Shadreck's church to preach at their Sunday morning service after our vehicle broke down in the middle of the mountains.



Some of our beloved elderly getting ready for the service before they have their lunch and collected their packs of "goodies."

REPORT FROM PASTOR FRANCIS

Please receive kindest regards from our hearts to you. It is our hope and prayer that the Lord has preserved you and blessed you with His unwavering love and protection. He has been truly faithful to us and thus we bless His holy name forever.

I would like to report that we had a successful distribution campaign and extend my deepest gratitude to the entire Malawi team for all the strides and sacrifices put into making the distribution a wonderful celebration of faith and love. We say thank you our dearest friends and supporters for your faithfulness and generosity. May the almighty God reward, bless and preserve both you and your family always. I praise the Lord for your sacrifice and I hope you understand that God continues to pour more of Himself into your lives otherwise I could not be able to understand how else would you be able to bear such a great cost as this. We have in your sacrifice the affirmation that your life flows through you to touch others even in a continent that lies far and across many waters.

I am reminded of a known truth that any gift without love has no deep meaning at all. The higher costs of the sizes in which gifts come does not determine the worth of any gift, but Love, the greatest gift of all, care and concern make a great gift. The book of John perhaps reminds us of how important giving is and God is the Word which reveals His heart. The word planted Himself in the hearts of men thereby propagating His love, forgiveness, light, and reconciliation. The purpose is to let Him flow through one individual to another as we share this precious life He so wonderfully gave us. I am sure most of us have a philosophy of life which differs from person to person and all this comes from our way of thinking, education, and interactions with others. We also owe a certain achievement or experience in our life to someone else. Sometimes we have heard people attribute their success to someone else in saying, "I would not be here if it wasn't for my mother," or this person and that person. In this we have the affirmation that when our life and all that we have does not flow to others through us then there is no giving. It is when we begin to pour out our life that God fills us more with His life just as He gracefully planted Himself in us from the beginning of time. This is why I usually have very little to say in my thanksgiving to you our dearly beloved for all the support you give us; may the almighty God pour his grace into you just as you faithfully and perpetually share your life with us.

Growth is an important principle of life so much so that I can boldly say that it is not an option. We must grow in everything we are doing and Hebrews 5:12-14 shows us why it is imperative to do so. We were wonderfully and fearfully made and called to a certain purpose in life. Growth is not an option in the body of Christ but a vital requirement. It is not just something that the church as one community expects from the believer but a command from God. We are overjoyed to report that Shadreck Kamchira and Eric Ndaluza who graduated from the Bible School in Chididi have now joined the teaching staff due to the level of progress and maturity they have shown. We pray that the Almighty continues to preserve them as he raises up another chosen generation; AMEN.

REPORT FROM PASTOR SHADRECK

I am so grateful to all of you our dearly beloved friends for all the support you give us and for your lovingkindness. Your generosity can never be repaid and great is your reward from the Throne of Grace. I have seen first-hand the fruit of your support and the immediate impact it has on all the souls you reach out to in Malawi. We have just returned home from the distributions and fellowship with all the old people in Nsanje District. I have learned a lot about appreciating the little that I have in my humble village as well as the blessing that lies in giving because it is only in giving that we receive more than we could ever know. I have all the confidence and this I believe with all my heart, that the Lord will truly bless everyone who is involved in making the distributions a success. People will never cry out to you for help if they have enough just as we always go to the Lord with our petitions because we know He is our provider. There is great need in the most southern parts of Malawi, and you make it possible that some old lady and old man can have a little basket of his own to take home and share with his family. We thank you very much and may they Lord take you from glory to glory.

We had been waiting for Pastor Roz to grace us at our church with a visit for over a year and a half and she finally came through this year. Unfortunately, she had a little taste of our fast motorbike transportation in the Nthondo Mountains due car problems but in the end, she managed to preach and blessed us with her presence. We would like to have you again in future and may the Lord continue blessing you abundantly. (Ed note My gift from the church was a fine cockerel and then one of our elderly gave me a hen. Wonderful breeding pair. Peter arrived on his motorbike and I asked what he was planning for dinner - answer – chicken. I threatened him if he touched them, he would be in big trouble and that he should take them home and breed especially since he has a really nice chicken house now. His kids threaten to tell the "Uzunau" – white person – me - if their Dad ever eats them).

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REPORT FROM SHADRECK cont.

Most of you are aware that I am one of the three chaplains ministering to the elderly in Nsanje, but I am also a graduate of the Alabaster Ministries Bible School in Chididi. I was surprised and overjoyed to be called to the Bible School and this time as a teacher. I thank the Lord for this opportunity. I just completed my first teaching session and I have to say it was both wonderful and challenging but I enjoyed every moment. There is nothing that gives me more joy than to serve, and if I can be of any assistance to the family that helped me understand the scriptures and my purpose more I will gladly do it. I would like to ask you our dearly beloved friends and family in the body of Christ to keep me in your prayers as I begin this new chapter in my life. May the Almighty God Bless you always.

Shadreck preparing for his first teaching sessions at the Bible School. He did very well – interacted with the students and they loved him.

