



# 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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*Roz Heyns*

## DECEMBER 2013

Dearest Partners and Friends,

I know that it will be after Christmas by the time you receive this and I trust that you all had a wonderful time with family and friends. I am sure everyone ate too much and they are now vowing that their New Year resolution is to go on a diet. Me along with all the rest of you!!!! I want to talk about the original Christmas or rather the time of the birth and early years of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We all have seen a nativity or even have a nativity scene with the Babe in the manger, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and wise men along with all the various animals. Mine was made by a friend in Zimbabwe and is unique as it is made from stained glass and depicts an African scene. Rather than the shepherd bringing a sheep there is a young man bringing a chicken. If I am offered a tithe when teaching in Malawi it is either fruit or a couple of chickens. They do not have money so they give the next best thing. In my nativity one of the wise men arrives on an elephant. The trees are acacia trees and the animals are antelope, monkeys, zebra and buffalo.

I want to focus on the wise men. Who were they and where did they come from? They came from the same place as Abraham – the Chaldees. Who were they? They were astronomers just like Abraham. Why did they follow the "star?" Because they studied the stars and the heavens and anyone who really studies the stars and the vastness of the heavens has to know that there is God, the Creator of all things. Abraham was an astronomer and understood about God through his study of the stars. Even before Christ these men had such an amazing knowledge of and relationship with God. If only we would by-pass the mind when it comes to God and allow Him to speak to our spirits. There is nothing wrong with education and learning but so often it gets in the way of us being as little children in order to comprehend in the spirit. For me, it is easier to believe that there is God than to believe the confused thoughts of man.

The wise men in the great nations of those times were those who were, more often than not, responsible for recognizing, teaching and appointing leaders and kings. In other words they were "King Makers." How fitting that the Wise Men were led to the Son of God with their gifts and that they knelt before the child, acknowledging Him as a KING. Are you a King maker? Do you point the way for the rest of man-kind? There is only one King and His name is Jesus the Son of God and His Kingdom will rule forever and ever.

What about the gifts? They did not know how this child's life would end but they brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gold was needed by Joseph and Mary when they had to flee to Egypt and live there for a number of years. It was also a gift presented to Kings as a sign that they were honoring the King. The frankincense was a very expensive and fragrant gum and was used in Worship. This represented the sweetness of their worship of the King. The myrrh which is a bitter spice speaks of His suffering and was used to embalm the dead.

We have always been told that there were three kings. "We three kings of orient are,,,,," but nowhere in the Bible does it say that there were three kings. Perhaps because there were three gifts spoken of we think that there were three kings. I believe that there were a good number of them with all of their retinue. I am sure that they travelled on all types of animals – camels, horses and yes, maybe even some elephants. They were accompanied by a vast number of servants because they were exceedingly wealthy.

What about the star? They followed the star to the where it rested above the Child. Was it merely a star or was it the Shekinah of God? Jesus represented God's glory come to earth. He was in the form of man but still God the Son.

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This was not just any star but something so different and so significant that it had caught the attention of the Wise Men from over a thousand miles away. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit had always been together. When the Holy Child was born it follows that God's glory would have accompanied Him. All three were present at the baptism of Jesus. Think how much God loves us that He allowed His precious Holy Spirit to remain on the earth for our sakes and for most of the time we denigrate Him and ignore Him. How He must long to be with the Father and Son in Heaven where there is no stench of sin and where He can be seated beside the Father. That star – that glory will be the same glory cloud that will accompany Jesus on His return. It will be so vast it will look like an explosion lighting up the heavens and the whole earth will see it.

As we move on into 2014 let Him be the explosion in you that will light up not only your life but all those with whom you come in contact. It is time for us to stop being "wishy-washy" Christians who not only refuse to be the witnesses He wants us to be but often hide the fact that we know Him. How well do we know Him? If we refuse to talk about Him then we cannot know Him as our Lord and Savior. To know Him is to love Him, honor Him, worship Him and share about Him. Instead of our New Year's resolution being to lose weight or give up something, let us make it to get to love and serve Him as we never have before.



## MALAWI

What an amazing year it has been for the ministry and for the elderly in Malawi! God has been so very faithful and my thanks to all those who supported this work. You may never come to Malawi but one day when we get to heaven you will have many coming to see you with their grateful thanks for making their latter lives a lot easier. There will be the young girls too who have been rescued from a life of misery. Think of the blessings you have been to so many. Our number of elderly has increased from 350 to over 375 and we have 35 girls who are being kept in school so that they can be free from the clutches of some old man who wants them for number three or four wife. We now minister to about 400 young people who, until now had no hope and were destined to a life much like their parents who passed away at such an early age from drugs and sexually transmitted diseases. 38 is the average life expectancy in Malawi! As we have directly impacted what seems like so few, they in their turn are making an impact through prayer and being very vital witnesses. This is why we do not make converts but rather disciples and that takes time.

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**We're on the Web.**  
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1. One of twenty new homes
2. Children's Ministry
3. Young girls now in school
4. New cloth for Christmas
5. James preaching
6. We all need a hug
7. New Shirts
8. Food
9. Praise and Worship
10. My 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in Malawi
11. Malawi Board Members

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## 2014

So little time and so much to do but we have to take it just one step for if we do not the task often becomes too daunting and we tend to give up. I have so longed for a chance to get out of building. Not the homes for the elderly but building a center. What is the purpose of the land then and why did we get the additional land almost as a gift if God did not intend for us to build? So this year is going to be one of extending our borders and laying foundations. This will not just be the foundations of the Gospel but also the foundations of a church/conference center and a mission base that will be a place where people can stay in comfort when

they have work to do in the area. It is also time to build dormitories for some of these girls who need a place of refuge. We are still planning on a conference mid year. I am waiting on finalization of dates as the original dates of beginning of July did not work for the team. I am hoping that we can make it towards the end of May when air fares will be cheaper but it will still be cooler in Malawi. For those who are interested please contact the office as soon as possible so that I can keep you updated as we get a fixed date and begin to make the necessary arrangements with the airlines etc. Have a wonderful and blessed 2014. May the blessings of God overtake you as you seek His face and seek to do His will.



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These are the hands and feet that are taking the Gospel to the people of Malawi. Through them you are reaching out to that nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

