



December 2019
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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

THE ADVENTURES ON A MISSION'S TRIP

I had so much on my mind before leaving for Africa – perhaps too much traveling last year – that I had become discombobulated. I felt I was existing outside the realm of reality. I had booked my ticket to fly one day earlier than usual and it completely threw me out. I finally found I was running out of time and everything became a last-minute rush.

The flight from Washington to Addis Ababa was completely full and when I boarded an elderly lady had taken my seat. I asked her nicely to move and she rudely refused which reminded me why, years ago I had asked the Lord please to never have me work with the elderly. Ha, ha as that is exactly what He did, and now I do love them, but it is with His love. That is the best kind of love because it is a pure love. There is nothing that they can give me and it is wonderful to love with no strings attached or without any expectations. There was a vacant seat in the row in front of me, so I moved there. Now, Ethiopian children on a fourteen-hour flight can be a nightmare because they are notoriously badly behaved, and I found myself in a row that was taken by a woman with two small children.

This is a day trip until you catch up with the time zones so there was no likelihood of them falling asleep any time soon. They had the seats next to me and Mom was sitting across the aisle from them. The four-year-old daughter screamed nonstop after take-off so after reaching ten thousand feet I moved to "Mom's" seat and ended up sitting next to a lady from Cameroon. I am not small even though I have lost a considerable amount of weight but this lady in the center seat was extremely large, so she consumed half of my seat as well. I spent the next fourteen hours with the aisle arm rest up and half a cheek on my seat and the other half in the aisle, at the mercy of every cart that was rolled up and down distributing drinks or food. Added to that I had broken a toe on my right foot which was the foot nearest the aisle, so it cringed every time a cart went past, or someone walked up and down. Flights are always a good time to study and I was teaching on deliverance at the Bible School. It amazes me that with all the witchcraft and the demonic in Africa the pastors and church leaders have no idea how to handle it and when there is a manifestation many of them actually run. I have a very good teaching manual on deliverance that I was using for some of my notes so out it came along with pen and notebook. My rotund neighbor immediately grabbed the book and asked if she could read it.

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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."

She already had it in her hand and as my position by now wasn't exactly comfortable, what was I supposed to do? She read away until we landed in Addis where we ended up exchanging email addresses. Who knows if God has a plan through all of this – He normally does but did my trip have to be quite that uncomfortable? I have never had a vision for West Africa and am busy enough with the work He has commissioned me to do, but perhaps I can hook her up someone who does want to go to Cameroon.

The trip from Addis to Blantyre was also full. Full of Chinese on their way to various Africa countries. Their hundred-year plan is to take over Africa and they are well on their way to doing it. They make promises of assistance to numerous nations as long as they can use their own labor, often emptying out their prisons to do so. They send their people to work on the roads or buildings and they never return to China except perhaps to collect their families. While describing this to someone I actually had a vision of a map of Africa covered with ants which had slanted eyes. I am not being racist – that was a vision and how I saw it and anyone who has stood on a fire ant hole knows how many and how fast these ants move. Chinese have no love for the African people whom many consider as low as the animal kingdom, but they need land for their people. They, unlike other nations do not intermarry with the local people but bring wives from China and begin to swamp the local markets with their cheap items imported from China.

As usual my feet hit the ground running and Francis and I were out early the next morning buying food and supplies for the Bible School and all of the items for distribution to the elderly. Our intention was to leave Monday morning at 6. We loaded up the "Tank" late Sunday afternoon and as we left on Monday the rain came down. The first part of the trip was uneventful but when it came to the mountain road it was obvious that they had had considerable rain storms which had



washed portions of the road away and the rivers were flowing over the road in certain areas. We had to be careful to hug the mountainside of the road because, in some areas soil had been eroded from underneath the road on the "canyon" side. One wrong move and there was the possibility of rolling down the side of the mountain. In the past we have seen this happen to trucks and we are ever aware of this as we are bringing our truck up next week with the distribution materials for the elderly. We turned off the main mountain road onto the track which leads us to the village where we hold Bible School. The soils had been washed away by the rains exposing rocks and boulders. Thank God we recently replaced all our tires and the "Tank" is four-wheel drive or we would not have made it especially with the load we were carrying. It seemed to take an eternity to climb the final mountain, but we made it to find a serious lack of students at the church. Had we made the trip for nothing? We resolved that even if one or two were there we would continue to hold school and lessons began. Finally, over the next three or four hours they began to arrive in the pouring rain, soaked to the skin with no change of clothing. Many of them walk long miles to come. They do not have umbrellas or rain coats, and some do not have a change of clothes. We took the roof coverings from the tents and wrapped three or four of them together until they warmed up. We decided to pitch the tents in the church instead of outside which was a good idea since the winds came up and we would have been blown down the mountainside. Also, sleeping

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

in the tents keeps the bugs off us. This is one of the reasons I am reluctant to build a staff house. Bugs cannot get into our tents whereas they can get into a house along with snakes, centipedes and scorpions.



God has blessed, and the classes have been great. As much as I enjoyed our graduated class, this is a class of young men and women – more women than men – which is a miracle for this region. Husbands do not like their wives to have a better education than them whether it be school, or the Bible and they do not like them to be away from home at night as many think they are off having an affair somewhere. Such a dark ages concept! It is a much smaller class than our graduated class, but they are better educated and most can read and write.

Malawi is in a real mess at present with corruption reigning supreme both in the church and amongst the unsaved. The only salvation for this land is when men and women from every walk of life will embrace the teachings of Jesus AND live them. It is as if the umbrella of God has been lifted from the nation and that is allowing Satan to move in and do whatever he wills. Prov. 14:34 *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”* What to do when even many of the churches are corrupt? God has called us to stand in the gap as we are part of the priesthood. Just as the prophets of old stood in the gap on behalf of the children of Israel so we are to stand in the gap on behalf of nations and peoples when God calls us to do so. It is apparent that the unusual weather patterns they are having here are not natural just as is happening all over the world, but God expects us to repent on behalf of wicked people or governments and even the church for their wrongdoings:

“If my people (MY people – not the heathen or the government or wrongdoers) which are called by MY name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven; and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chron. 7:14.

That has been the focus every morning and evening during prayer.

The subjects being taught this session are Deliverance, Church Leadership, 1 Corinthians and Homiletics. During class yesterday, I found that not one of them knew about the armor of God. As I quickly went through it I could see a light go off as they grasped it. Not only do they have the power and authority of God they are also protected against the fiery darts of the devil. It also helps for them to learn that the battle is not ours but God's and even though it may take time as in the case of Daniel 11, God always comes through. Pulling down strongholds as in the case of mountains or cities is not our business. Where does the enemy go? The Prince of Persia was dislodged for a season to accomplish that which God wanted for the children of Israel held in captivity, but he is back in control over the same area today and although I do not have any Biblical proof I believe that he is perhaps, Allah.

We finish up the school tomorrow – Friday and go back to Blantyre to pack and load the truck with goods for the elderly, leaving to come back down again on Sunday. The rain is supposed to start again on Tuesday. Last year we were stuck at a swollen river for hours and I do not want the same thing to happen again. We will complete two villages on Sunday and two on Monday and the final two on our way back to Blantyre on Tuesday.

We are praying about opening another Bible School in a different area which has nothing. We would greatly appreciate your prayers and any input you may have over this project. It is something that cannot be taken lightly. It would mean me staying an extra week when I am here plus it is added financial overheads. I would also like our supporters and prayer partners to ask the Lord for new sources of income for this work. Of our 44 graduates from last February only four have been a failure. That is a pretty good percentage.

This is our future. They come after school every day and attend the evening meetings. Last night we had praise and worship, prayer and communion and we finished early. The kids all complained, “That was too short.”

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Two of the houses built for the elderly this

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FOR 2020:

We pray that the Lord will bless and prosper each of you in this coming year. We ask that He gives you new vision and the will to carry it out. Our prayer is that instead of being spectators in the Kingdom, you will become innovators, excited and ready to do whatsoever.

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. Ps 118:24

This is what I woke up to this morning as we began to pack and get ready to leave. How glorious to look out of your tent and see this? Every morning is a miracle if we would but see it. When we see this we can do nothing but wonder at His glorious majesty as he paints the vastness of the skies with such amazing color.

