



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

8514 N. Donna Ct. Kansas City, MO 64153 (816)503-6177

Roz Heyns

DECEMBER NEWS

Dearest Partners and Friends,

Isaiah 62:2-7

This was the Word of the Lord for the elderly for this trip and what a word it is. *"Thou shalt be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord....."* *"Thou shalt no more be termed forsaken neither shall thy land anymore be termed desolate but thou shalt be called Hephzibah (My delight is in her) and thy land Bulah (married) for the Lord delighteth in thee."*

Once again it was a pleasure for me to look out over those faces and to delight in them just as the Lord must do. What an amazing testimony they are and I would love for everyone to see them as they come to the meetings and soak up the things of God.

Malawi is once again in a drought situation and until this trip the only region that had experienced any rain at all was the area in which the elderly live but that was over a month ago. The corn was beginning to look like onions. During this trip we had teaching and then celebrated the Lord's Supper. Much like the West, the Lord's Supper is seldom celebrated. Two of the main purposes for remembering the Lord's Supper is so that we maintain a right relationship with God and that our relationship with our neighbor is in right standing because the Word commands us to make things right before we partake. People do not which is why *"many are weak and sickly among you and many sleep."*

Following that there was a time of intercession for rain. The storm clouds gathered and there was much thunder and lightning and on the evening of the third day the rain poured down. What a night we had. We moved from place to place trying to stay dry. The roof leaked, it came in through the windows, it poured in on the floor through the foundations and I realized just what a blessing the new houses have been to some of the elderly. Thanks to all who contributed to this. Upon arrival in Malawi I was told by someone that building for the elderly is a waste of money because they are going to die. Well we have been ministering to these elderly now for four years and they are still alive. Our mandate from God is to make them comfortable so that they live out their final years in dignity but also that they achieve something for the Kingdom. We all need to leave a legacy for the Kingdom.

The latter part of the scripture for them was that, *"I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem (O Malawi) which shall never hold their peace day or night: ye that make mention of the Lord keep not silence. And give him no rest until he establish, and till he make Jerusalem (Malawi) a praise in the earth."*



Let me explain why these people are unique and why the Lord has His hand upon them. There is a clinic for the elderly operating near Blantyre and during its opening week they had over 700 come to be treated. They ran tests and found that 16 out of every 100 had HIV/AIDS. Now the difference is that this clinic has a different age group and caters to 50 and older. Very few are anywhere near the age of our elderly as we take them from 65 and above. None of ours have HIV/AIDS because they have been with us for four years now and are very much alive. If you get AIDS in rural Malawi it does not take six months to die because of the poverty and lack of nourishment and because there are no drugs.

Our elderly have been called out and established to be watchmen on behalf of this nation. Just like any other nation, sin is on the increase. *"As it was in the days of Noah so it will be also in the days of the Son of man."* I don't know if it is worse here but it is rampant. We all know that God withholds His blessings because of the sin in a nation but why does the church not rise up and stand in the gap like they are supposed to? Because we are a culmination of the seven churches of Revelation but particularly the church of Laodicea – neither hot nor cold and He will spew us out. There is nothing worse than a cup of lukewarm coffee on a cold morning or when you are in the midst of great heat and looking forward to a wonderfully cold soda and it is warm. We love to be entertained but that is all. We

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are spectators but even then it has to be entertaining or it will not capture our attention. We have no intention of doing anything with what we hear and for many we are not even hearers of the Word let alone doers because we cannot remember the message 30 minutes after we heard it. God has watchmen in Southern Malawi who pray and who are beginning to evangelize because they are finally realizing that God created them for a purpose and they want to be a part of that great throng around the throne room who will hear Him say one day: "Well done my good and faithful servants." What is the role of the watchman? He is not only to warn the city about approaching danger but he also has to be able to tell the difference between friend and foe. Many times friend was being chased by the enemy and the watchmen needed to tell the gatekeepers to open the gates to allow the friend in before the enemy got hold of them. Do we even know the difference anymore between enemy and foe or are we lulled to sleep, mesmerized or are we in tolerance of the enemy? When the enemy approaches it is time to sound the alarm. We cannot wait until he has climbed the walls. This is the job of the intercessor and it is the wonderful Holy Spirit inside each of us that tells us what, when and where as long as our hearing is keen. When we see the enemy in the spirit it is time to go to prayer just as Daniel did until such time as we get the breakthrough. It is then that Michael and God's warring angels go to battle and the battle is the Lord's. So is the victory and so is the glory. None of it belongs to you or me or the elderly in Nsanje. What always bring great joy is to see them say that God answers prayer, whether it be when the rains come down or if someone is healed God always gets the glory. We did pray for one old lady for healing for her eyes and she began to see again. He is such a wonderful God and desires to do so much more for us than we can ever fathom.

A watchman could never be mute because when danger came he had to give the alarm. So many of us in the Church are mute because we want to be politically correct or we do not want to rock the boat.

A watchman could never be blind because he needs to see whatever is advancing towards the city walls but so many of us are blind because we lack in areas of discernment and wisdom and knowledge –not man's wisdom but God's and all we have to do is ask for it.

It is time for all of us to be watchmen on the walls – to protect and serve so that God might be lifted up in the nations of the world and His name be glorified and praised.

These are watchmen of Malawi. They pray and intercede and they take the Gospel of salvation to their neighbors. What a wonderful way to end out our days – with a bang and not a whimper.

I asked them all how many of them were afraid of dying and not one hand went up. They said they were happy at the thought of going to heaven. This is so different from the West where we want to hang on to life with all that we have. I have shared with them about heaven and I suppose the thought of what it is like as opposed to what they experience each day must be very appealing. Those that have homes already built for them think that they have their mansion. How can we ever say it is a waste of money?



ALABASTER MINISTRIES
 8514 N DONNA CT
 KANSAS CITY, MO 64153
 (636)358-4615

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School was not out for the Christmas holidays but when we arrived in the border village there were over 200 children who skipped school when they heard we were coming. This was the village where we have had so much trouble with children in the past. We have had a couple of teaching sessions with them and it is definitely making a difference. We have to keep plowing because it is only God who can change the hearts of the young people in this nation. While I was teaching the elderly James went off to teach the children 6-16 years. That night we showed the Jesus Film and there were almost 400 young people who came to watch it. As I sat there watching them I realized that this would be the only movie they will ever have the opportunity to see - no computers or computer games, no movie theaters, no shops, no electricity, but they saw a movie about the life of Christ and it will stay with them for the rest of their lives. What an impact long term for them. That is truly sowing seed and we continue to pray the seed will be well watered and bear tremendous fruit.

On my last trip, Linda and I were walking past a hut and saw what we thought was a small boy who had been eating dirt. He was lying on a dirt porch and there seemed to be no parent around anywhere. We were concerned so went over to make sure he was okay and his mother appeared. She told us that he was in fact eighteen years old even though he is about the size of a six year old. He was fine when he was born but then got sick and now his body is twisted and deformed. He cannot move or talk. What struck me at the time was how alert his eyes were and it seemed that he could comprehend everything that was going on around him. This trip we went back with a crib mattress, soap and wash cloths, cream and clothes as he did not have any. We also had a mosquito net as he was always covered with flies that would crawl in and out of his mouth. We found him covered in sores from lying in the same position all the time. One of the highlights of this trip was when he was picked up and placed on the mattress and we actually saw him smile. James went back the next day to check and he had been bathed and his sores attended to and they had put the cream on his arms and legs and dressed him. This is the type of thing that makes all of this so worthwhile. We cannot tend to the whole world but we can make a difference one person at a time.



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8514 N DONNA CT KANSAS
CITY, MO 64153 (636)358-
4615 (CELL)



These two ladies are sisters. The one in the background is now blind. They live together so that the one who can see can cook and take care of her sister. Since I was last here the "seeing" sister became very ill and almost died. The blind sister says that if she had died there would have been no-one to take care of her.

There is a real need now to build a small hostel for those elderly who have no one and are incapacitated. It would take \$10,000 to put up a hostel with six rooms and a room on the end where they could eat and fellowship together. We could employ someone to cook for them and take care of them each day.

We have also found a pastor who actually comes from the area where we are building. He speaks perfect English. He wants to go to Bible School and today I found a Pentecostal school that holds a weekly session each month. Each session is \$50 which includes lodging and his bus fare from Tengani to Blantyre and back.



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What an honor it has been to be able to serve the Lord during 2014 in the mission fields of the world. The fields are white unto harvest and there is such an air of expectancy wherever I have been. It seems that even nature realizes something is happening. Where is the tribe of Issachar that can read the signs of the times?

Once again, I pray you all have a blessed Christmas and remember that it is always more wonderful to give than to receive. He gave His best for you and me so let us make it our New Year resolution to give our very best for Him.

I will be spending Christmas in Zimbabwe with my brother and sister-in-law. We will be short one person this year and we will miss him - Dad! But he is where he wanted to be and we will see him again in eternity.

My love and blessings to you all and thank you so much for your prayers and financial support this past year.

