



February 2019
rozheyns.org



ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dear Friends,

It has been one of the most incredible trips to Malawi I think I have ever had. So much was against us, but we continually saw God's hand at work in every situation and circumstance.

On arrival it was a crazy few days buying everything needed for distribution, but we have it down to an art now and Francis goes one way and I go another.

It is campaign time in Malawi and each party has their own day to march, sit in the middle of a main highway and, it seems, do whatever they like without interference from the police, especially the ruling party. This delayed our days for purchase. When they march, they take up the whole street and it allows traffic to proceed at snail's pace. Many businesses shut down for fear of rioting.

Monday, we headed out for the mountains for Bible School and graduation. My final week of teaching was on the Tabernacle of Moses and we put together all the furnishings so that the students had everything in front of them. We discussed the curtains along with each piece of furniture - what it represented and how it impacts our lives today and life as it will be in heaven. Most of our students did not even know that the Tabernacle existed so it was exciting for them not only to learn about it but to actually see it.

On Friday 33 students graduated and were ordained and guest speaker at the function was pastor Francis from City Pentecostal Church in Blantyre. We finished the service with a celebration of the Lord's supper and foot washing to send them out to carry the Gospel



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8514 N. Donna Ct. Kansas City, MO 64153

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

From the desk of Roz Heyns

wherever their feet would tread.

We killed two goats, and all had a feast before they dispersed for their various villages. They will be greatly missed but we look forward to the new intake which starts at the end of March.

We got back to Blantyre Friday evening to find that there was a hiccup with maize delivery. Added to that, there was a shortage of drivers so instead of leaving Monday we had to leave Sunday to get the driver back on Tuesday. Because of the maize situation we gave each money to purchase their own.

From both Peter and Francis' reports you will know about the devastation of the tornado in our area and the problems that arose on our distribution travels.

It was a different trip filled with adventure, with some incredibly high moments and some very sad times but our wonderful God was in the midst of it all. We borrowed a one-ton truck to get things up to Chididi for the graduation. It could not get up the final hill because of the slippery mud and the rock. We did not have a tow rope, so I got behind it with my vehicle, put it in four-wheel drive and we pushed the truck up the hill.



If we were more involved in what God wants us to do, we would find that every day would be an adventure. We do not have to be on some foreign mission field for adventure to happen we can have one by crossing the road to a neighbor or finding some unreached people group in the more difficult areas of our cities and towns. We can always make excuses as to why we do nothing – it's too dangerous – so where is our faith in God? I'm too busy – God can increase the hours in our day. Let us never grow weary in well-doing and make sure He is the focus of all that we do.

THE BIBLE SCHOOL:

I have gone through our curriculum and compared it to some of those of the more "elite" Bible schools, not only in Malawi but in the world in general. I picked courses that I felt would fit the "ignorant and unlearned men" Acts 4:13 speaking of Peter and John, that we would be teaching. I found that our courses far outstripped what other schools were teaching. I am proud of the caliber of men that have graduated. We are in the process of translating all our materials into the local language so that these men can go back to their churches and start their own Bible Schools. In this way we will be able to start a fire that will ignite two nations – Malawi and Mozambique. If the Gospel was carried to the four corners of the earth once by "ignorant and unlearned men" then surely God will work the same way again.

The Tabernacle of Moses – a type and shadow of what should be today and what we will find in Heaven. Some of the furnishings still needed finishing but it definitely painted a picture for the students. The Ark had a pot of gold with manna, the Ten Commandments and Aaron's rod.



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 rozheyms@gmail.com

🌐 Website: www.rozheyms.org

REPORT FROM FRANCIS

Please receive greetings from the Warm Heart of Africa. It is my hope and prayer that you, our beloved friends and partners are all well and that the Lord has been faithful to your families as well. We have had an adventurous month with its pleasant moments and sad ones too.

Most of you are aware that we decided to start a Bible School in Chididi, not because it was a distraction from our primary goal which is looking after the elderly, but the Bible School was started to change the region we operate in and in so doing effect an adjustment in the quality of life in the societies in which our elderly dwell. We conducted a survey which indicated that the standard of living and quality of life of our elderly group is greatly affected by their communities and for the most part it was the cultural and tribal nitty-gritties they were really concerned about. The only way we know how to bring about a real effective change is through the Gospel. Almost three years ago we started the Bible School with over forty students from both Malawi and Mozambique but only thirty-three have completed their course and were awarded with certificates for their participation on the fifteenth of February. It was a wonderful ceremony and emotional for all the teachers as we had established bonds over the years and now we won't be able to see our friends as often. Nevertheless, the graduates are all equipped and ready to take on their new challenge in their respective communities and have already been doing so, thus we are already seeing change in the area.

We had to make several changes to our distribution program because we do not have a truck of our own and always outsource whenever we have to take everything to Nsanje. We started distributions on a Sunday instead of Monday because of our logistical challenges, and so we had church together since we pulled people out of their respective churches. We started with the Nsanje and Tengani group as always and boy, did we have an amazing service. It is uncommon that people preach or teach on the Holy Spirit in rural Malawi or even in the city churches. In most parts of the country it almost feels like a taboo to do so as some regard it as vain when in fact it is paramount to our Christianity. A lack of knowledge on the subject is also one of the reasons most people won't go there. Nevertheless, the baptism of the Holy Spirit was the message throughout all our distribution centers this time and it was amazing to see just how many received authority after the Holy Spirit came upon them. I cannot wait to hear all the testimonies that will come as a result of their infilling and ministry one to another in their homes, at the watering wells and so forth.

This trip was nothing short of adventure and of course low points too. It wasn't long after we completed the Tengani and Nsanje task that we got news of a destructive cyclone/tornado/twister that swept through Tengani. We were at the Lodge having coffee when Martha called to report that one of our Old ladies was rushed to the emergency room because her house fell on top of her and broke her ribs. We rushed to

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**REPORT FROM PETER**

Dearly beloved, I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and hope that you are all well. We thank the Lord for watching over us and keeping us well all the time. We had a wonderful graduation ceremony at Alabaster Bible School in on the 15th of February in Chididi. Thirty-three students completed their studies and were ordained to go and minister in different villages. It is our hope and prayer that we will begin to transform the region from within and deal with some serious cultural dilemmas through the Gospel.

We have had a lot of rain in February, so much that we were not able to reach the group in Marka on our second day of the distribution campaign. Heavy rains made it impossible for us to make a river crossing a mile from Chimombo so the Chimombo elderly group came to meet us across the river to receive their things. It rained so much we tried to wait it out but about five hours later made the decision to return to base.

All in all, this was one of the best distribution campaigns and full of adventure. I was particularly excited to see just how many people were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues. The subject is not commonly taught in Malawi and most churches don't teach on it I suppose in my region it could be because most pastors have no training and proper knowledge so they would never teach on it and so we have generations of people who do not fully comprehend about the Holy Spirit. Pastor Roz spoke on the subject and we prayed together with the people at Kalumbi and a lot of people were filled with the Holy Spirit at the end of her teaching. I was so overjoyed to see all these women now receiving power after the Holy Spirit had come upon them, now they would be able to minister to their friends in a different manner than before, with real power and authority.

Sometimes when it rains it pours heavy on you. It wasn't long after witnessing a real victory in the Kingdom when over a hundred people were filled with the Holy Ghost that we were hit with a cyclone. We had just finished dropping off people at Tengani and sat down for a cup of coffee at the Lodge in Nsanje and my wife called to break the news. Tengani had been hit by a massive storm. One of our ladies took to her house for shelter, and little did she know it would come tumbling down on her breaking her ribs in the process. We rushed down to help the victims in whatever way we could and when we arrived my heart really sank when I saw that our new Church building was also affected. The wind came and circled around it pushing three of the walls down and leaving a small section intact. It was a sad day for Tengani. We picked up a lady who had been unconscious for an hour and her son who had survived a nasty cut on his head from bricks which were being tossed around by the storm. I learned that there were four of our old people's homes which were lost in the storm and that they are all lodging at the nearest primary school. The tragic part is that most of these victims were survivors of the catastrophic floods that happened a few years ago and were just beginning to pick up their lives and are now desperate for alternatives to their predicament. I pray to the Almighty God that He intervenes in a big way for Tengani for we are all truly desperate for His supernatural touch of victory. It just seemed that the devil was so angry because so many received the Holy Spirit. Well, we will continue to preach and teach on it so that everyone in our areas receive and move out with His power and authority and the devil can repay all that he has destroyed – multiplied – so that we can build again bigger and better than before.

Tengani which is about 30 minutes from Nsanje District center and witnessed the damage caused by the cyclone - school iron roofing ripped to shreds, some house roofs blown up to 200 meters away, trees taken out from the roots and electric poles damaged. It wasn't long after we got to Tengani that we really saw just how bad it was. Unfortunately, a large number of the victims are survivors of the previous floods four years ago, so they had just begun to establish themselves and now have found themselves desperate again. Our beautiful church building at Tengani was also destroyed along with two other churches in the area. Peter and his church were excited as they only had the roofing left to complete their church building and now their hopes have turned to despair. Our prayers go out to all the victims and hope that the Lord will raise them up and console them in these desperate times. We have a church to rebuild and at least four houses belonging to the elderly. It was amazing that no-one was killed, and we give thanks to God for that.

We had to postpone our Marka trip the following day courtesy of the rains which made it impossible for the truck with all the stuff on it to go through a river which had covered the road. We went as far as Chimombo and were stuck for about five hours on the roadside waiting for a river to clear off so we could cross. We were able to cross after a grueling five hour wait and immediately after crossing, it started pouring with rain again so we had to postpone otherwise we would never have made it back that evening. We could not hire another truck to take stuff up to the mountains because we were unsure of what the road was like after the storm, so we improvised and carried stuff on a smaller vehicle African Style, which for the most part means very, very, overloaded and precarious but we made it on time and finished with the Chididi group. We will return to finish the distributions before the end of the month in Marka and assess the situation in Tengani in the aftermath of the Cyclone. We are hoping to have a couple of houses for the old people built in the next month and pray the Almighty God grants us favor. May the Lord keep you well and bless you always, AMEN

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Receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.



Crossing the flooded river. We had waited almost five hours.



Our new church after the tornado circled inside it and blew out the walls.