



# 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*

## **FEBRUARY 2014**

Dearest Partners and Friends,

Let us not sit down at the "Geneva" conference table with the devil and debate and then put whatever issue we are debating to the vote. We should never sit at a conference table and debate, let alone vote; on an issue with someone we know is a loser. He is the master liar and deceiver and, like some religions and people groups, the sin in lying is not that you lied but that you got caught out doing so.

I would like you to read the following with an open heart. It is not my intention to criticize but to make us aware of how very subtle the devil is and we have become so busy that we tend to go along with the latest because all those people cannot be wrong.

I have recently been challenged by some friends regarding my thoughts on manifestations that accompany moves of the Spirit. There is no doubt in my mind that we have experienced some wonderful moves of the Spirit in the past twenty years. However, with every move of the Spirit come the fruits, nuts and flakes and though they may be few, the majority are so hungry to see God move with signs and wonders that they are ready to accept the profane along with the real or they do not recognize the profane. That is all the devil needs – just a foot in the door and we go to the conference table with him. Rather than control an issue as leaders, we let it ride because we do not want to be "in control" or appear to be Jezebel. We are concerned that if we bring correction then we will offend people. What about offending the Holy Spirit when we allow things to go way off course and still call it the Holy Spirit?

I am not against laughing in the Spirit. I believe that God will use it to break through when our burdens seem too heavy to bear. When a pastor laughs through a service instead of preaching a message the Holy Spirit has given him, then we have interrupted the Holy Spirit. When people laugh throughout the message and disturb those around them then we are interrupting the Holy Spirit. You do not like to be interrupted when you are speaking to someone so why should we think it is alright to interrupt the Holy Spirit? There should always be God's order in everything or chaos ensues. God the Holy Spirit will not interrupt Himself – He is a "gentleman." I have watched in mass crusades on Holy Spirit Day when people have fallen like dominoes. No one gets hurt, even the babies on the backs of the mothers who fall on top of them. If it has rained they have even avoided the mud – not them - but He has

ensured they have not fallen in the mud or the puddles. Now for the barking like dogs and slithering like snakes! This is what demoniacs do in Africa and we deliver them. Why would my wonderful God and Savior have one of His own slither across the floor? He cursed the devil in the garden and caused him to slither across the ground. Why would He cause the apple of His eye to behave like an animal when He created us in His image? Why would He demean and debase us to the level of an animal except in judgment as in the case of Nebuchadnezzar?

When we are not listening, He might raise up an animal to talk and get our attention as in the case of the ass and Balaam but He would not drop us to the level of an animal especially when we are hungrily seeking Him.

*"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).*

As Christians we have the Word of God to go to when we need to test the spirits. The Bible says that there is nothing new under the sun. I have checked out many of these manifestations and can find no evidence that relates to them being of the Holy Spirit but can find plenty of examples of them as relates to the devil. Common sense should tell us that these types of manifestations can never be of God.

We must be aware of the fact that any Christian can be deceived if they do not weigh all spiritual teaching against the Word of God. That is why Paul holds up the Berean Christians as more noble than the Thessalonian Christians who allowed any teaching into their midst. Deception is difficult to discern as it is not blatant but subtle. Deception is so close to the real thing that it looks right and feels right and it will never come openly but always be cloaked so that it could be, maybe the right thing to those who are so hungry for a sign and a wonder. Signs and wonders are for the lost and not necessarily for the church. Matt 24:24 states, *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."*

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While on one hand we know that the devil has been defeated he still carries a substantial amount of power for those who allow him access into their lives. Can he bring signs and wonders?

Yes, Moses came up against signs and wonders that the magicians of Pharaoh performed. We have seen the witchdoctors in Africa perform healings. Beware though for there is always a price to pay and more often than not the healings do not last. In 2 Thess., Paul warns of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders. Jesus Himself warns us not to add any new revelation or to take away or change what is in the Holy Scriptures.

When we come up against something that is being taught or manifested in the church we need to ask ourselves:

1. Is it in God's Word because the Bible is to be our only guide
2. All revelation is already in the scriptures and nothing can be added or taken away
3. We, as Christians can be deceived
4. Deception is difficult to discern.

Everyone is rushing out to see the latest "Son of God" movie. Churches have bought out complete theaters so that their congregations can take them over for a showing. This movie is produced by Roma Downey and her husband Mark Burnett – the same couple who produced the Bible Miniseries that was shown on the History Channel last year. Roma appeared on Jonathan Edwards TV show, "Crossing Over" where she had a conversation with her dead mother. Isaiah 8:19 & 20

*"When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn."*

Why would we rush out to see this when it is tainted? We have a complete description of the life of Christ that we can read about and a number of movies that have been produced word for word from the scriptures that we have never bothered to watch. A number of years ago we had, "Passion of the Christ" and some Christian magazines dared to call it "Mel Gibson's Passion." Excuse me, since when was it anyone's passion but the Lord's Passion? Everyone flocked to see it no matter that the producer was a drunken, vile mouthed, adulterer.

The time has come for us to pray and ask God to give us discernment in these days.

If Solomon asked God to give him wisdom then we can ask for wisdom and discernment. Intercessors, it is time to stand in the gap on behalf of the church and ask God to make us wise. Prov 13:14 *"The law of the wise is a fountain of life, that one may depart from the snares of death."*

Let us be ever watchful. There is a big difference between being critical and being attentive and sounding the trumpet when there is danger. We are called to be watchmen on the walls so let us be alert at all times. We have the Word and the inner witness of the Holy Spirit. Don't just accept what you see and what you hear. Make sure that you check things out with the Word of God and the inner witness of the Spirit. If something is said or done that makes you feel uncomfortable then check it out and do not think that because it is some TV Evangelist or your pastor he must be right. That is what got the Church into trouble during the Dark Ages. Nobody had the Word and they had to believe all that the church told them and the church was corrupt. Now we are without excuse as every home has multiple Bibles. I have one in all of my bedrooms so that when there are guests the Word is right beside them. God has equipped us and we need to use the equipment He has given us.

Be wise dear friends and remember the signs of the times for we are living in the last days.

I have heard a number of people saying that these manifestations have caused people to go to church - those who would not otherwise attend. That is the same as saying Harry Potter got a generation of non-readers back into reading books again. I recently took my grandson to a book store to get a birthday gift and both he and I were horrified at the selection of teen books. There was not a single "normal" book on the shelves. Every book had something to do with mysticism, vampires or something similar and our younger generation is feeding their minds and spirits on this. On the way out of the store he saw a daily devotional and asked if he could get that. If we win people to church by signs and wonders or by the music we play we are winning them on quicksand. *Jesus is the way, the truth and the life* – the ONLY way and we as the church, have to present Him to a lost and dying world, not by coming up with some new gimmick but by showing people who He is reflected in us. That means we cannot be fake or flake. They want to see truth and the power of God. What is TRUTH? My Jesus – my Lord!

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## FOREVER MY FRIEND

Lena Fuller

The rain stopped falling today.  
All of the clouds seemed to have gone away.  
The sun shone bright and clear.  
The dew sparkled with glistening, radiant cheer.  
Upon each flower, a smile and a touch of laughter appeared.  
A song came singing amidst the wind so cool and calm,  
With a deep sense of security in the air.

Why then, Lord, am I feeling such great despair,  
Feeling overloaded with worldly cares?  
Why then, Lord, are my eyes filled  
With much sorrow and tears?  
My heart aches for comfort, my mind for peaceful refuge  
Through the power of prayer.

Though I have perceived all the beauty around me,  
My spirit cries out loudly,  
"Oh Lord, I am empty and bare."  
Hoping to hear His sweet voice once again,  
I plead in travail,  
"Lord cleanse me from all of my sin,  
And let Your glorious light enter in.  
Remember me as I remember You,  
For without You I have reached my end."

His sweet, forgiving love flows like a river.  
My heart is reminded that He is my forever-lasting Friend.  
The foundation which cannot be shaken,  
Now the renewal of my sleeping spirit,  
Which has been awoken,  
Knowing that in His love I can always,  
Yes always, depend.  
For He is my forever Friend-Jesus.



## MALAWI

I just purchased my tickets for Africa. WOW – what a shock when I was told the price would be \$3200. I have never paid that and my first thought was how many cottages that can buy. At first I thought that I had been quoted business class so I emailed the travel agent to make sure this was economy. Yes she said it's definitely economy.

Yesterday I got down at the computer and began to work on a ticket myself and I finally managed to get one for \$1800. What a relief and now I can start to really plan. Perhaps I should start a travel agency as well!!!

I will be leaving April 22<sup>nd</sup> and will spend a week in South Africa with Dad Howard before going on the Blantyre. It is always good to spend some time with him. He is in his late 80's and it is important to make the time or we may live to regret the fact that we didn't.

From there I will go on to Blantyre for a whirlwind week of getting supplies put together for the conference.

The price of the flight from Kansas City to Blantyre return is \$1,700 and you would require another \$500 for spending money and for the game park. It is not too late to sign up so please contact me if you are interested.

We will spend some time on the land and plan out the church/conference center so that they can begin on the foundations.

Please keep the conference in prayer. The dates are May 10<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be approximately 500 people that we have to accommodate and feed and have the facilities for bathing. Supplies required:

Hand towel, face towel, soap, blanket, bowl for eating, spoon, pail and mosquito repellent. We also need to purchase the food – a cow, beans, corn meal, bread, sugar, tea, salt, onions, tomatoes, cabbage, oil, powdered milk and fruit. I have approached Walmart and Sam's Club regarding towels and a few other items to see if they will donate or sell at cost but have not heard back from them. If you have any ideas please let me know. Towels are very expensive in Africa.

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### CONFERENCE

We have had to change the conference in Malawi from July to May. If anyone would like to come and help please contact the office as soon as possible. We would have to depart for Washington the evening of the 1st in order to make the morning flight to Africa on the 2nd. We will spend a few days putting together the supplies and then a week with the elderly from the 11th. On the return from the conference we will spend some time at a game park. The general elections are on the 20<sup>th</sup> so we need to leave by then.

We will teach the basics at the conference. None of those attending will have been baptized in water or in the Holy Spirit so this will be a great opportunity to

teach on each of these subjects and pray for all those attending to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The plan is to dig a pit with a ramp, line it with plastic and fill it with water so that we can carry out water baptism. I believe that many of the pastors attending have not been filled with the Holy Spirit so it will be a great occasion to teach them, pray for them and let them loose in their congregations. I also want to continue to teach them how to evangelize so that they can reach out to their neighbors. We will hold a foot washing ceremony after teaching them about that too. It is good for all of us to submit and kneel before one another with soap and water.

It will be cool but there will be mosquitoes. The accommodations are clean but very basic. We have not had time or the finances available to be able to build a center as yet.



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