



# 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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*Rox Heyns*

## FEBRUARY 2017

Dearest Friends,

I can say without hesitation that this last trip was the best trip I have ever had. It did not start out right as I had problems with the airline and then had to wait over an hour in Toronto for the hotel bus but once I got to Malawi it was a dream of a trip. Even our difficult areas of Marka and Chimombo were no trouble. On past trips we have had so many problems with corruption that we seriously considered shutting the area down but there are 156 elderly there and so many of them are delightful and really depend on the things we give them. Not only that, many of them have formed prayer groups and are holding Bible studies.

My theme for the elderly was Psalm 1. *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly..."* How many of us are directed by worldly opinions instead of seeking God's opinion which more often than not is totally opposite that of the world. I had a perfect example for them. The last time I was there in October I told them that the seasons were changing and they needed to be in tune with God before they planted their crops. First rains always fell in October and years ago everyone planted. First rains did fall in October but in recent years they have stopped and there is nothing more until November. Because the soil is so sandy the ground soaks it up and it gets dry very quickly. I told them to wait until the November rain BUT Ministry of Agriculture came riding in on their motorbikes and told them to plant after the October rain with the result that those who did lost their crop.

If we were in tune with the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives and did what He told us to, we may not be popular with the world but things would work out better for us.

I have been privy to men of God sitting tearing other men of God to pieces, so critical about all they were doing and how they were living when all the time there were three fingers pointing back at them. *"Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful..."* It is no wonder that we are not the church triumphant and the gates of hell are prevailing. I have two on our staff that attend the Pentecostal Assemblies of God Canada Bible School in Blantyre. They are very good students to begin with but what they are learning there is an amazing asset to this ministry because they can teach it to the Alabaster Bible School. That is what working together is all about. It is time to put aside all our pettiness in an effort to work together to extend His Kingdom here on this earth. Imagine what a mighty fighting force we would be and I am not talking about including those whose religious persuasions are totally different from ours.

*"His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night."* Africans walk for miles just as I drive for miles. Sometimes alone in which case we

are able to think about the Word for hours. If we are traveling with someone it gives wonderful opportunity to discuss the Word. When our delight is in Him and His law, He will give us the desires of His heart because our desires will be His. His law is very simple – love the Lord thy God and love one another. Does that mean just those in our church or those in the Body of Christ? No, it means mankind! How will we ever hope to win the lost, the unlovely, the sinner unless we can love them first? Man was created in the image of God and there must be some small flicker that we can blow on by the power of the Holy Spirit unless we are scornful.

*"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper."* Africans are like those whom Jesus taught. They love to see things in picture form. That is why Jesus taught in parables. I painted a picture of a wild fig by the river and even when the floods came and washed the soil from around the roots the tree still stood because their root system was so vast which is how our root system needs to be in Him and if we continually meditate on it we will develop such a root system. And when we have such a root system we will bring forth HIS fruit when He deems the time is right. When it is HIS fruit it will be perfect and delicious and not deformed and tart or tasteless. When our roots are in Him we will prosper in every aspect of our lives.



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## **REPORTS**

### **FROM FRANCIS**

Beloved in the Lord,

I bless you in the name of our master Jesus Christ and pray that you are all well.

It is amazing the power that lies in the word of God and one of the most rewarding and exciting things in the world today is to be a witness to the touching POWER of the gospel and prayer. When we step out in faith to be used of God under the direction of the blessed Holy Spirit, when we go to preach the living reality of Christ and pray over the nations, we begin to see a change in the world around us. Everything around us begins to have kingdom life and that, my dearly beloved, is one of the most beautiful things in the world. The people of Chididi are one of the most sidelined people because of the terrain of the land and the lack of infrastructure. However, there has been a wave of change and since the word of God has been flourishing among them, God has begun to open the doors for more blessings to fall on the land.

The word of God changes people and prayer touches and transforms nations. I am very excited to a part of this team and all of you, our beloved family in the body of Christ. The Nyakamera Village will now have 3 new school blocks and 3 qualified teachers to help boost the education system because this family in the body of Christ stepped out in faith to teach the gospel and intercede over that area. There will be boreholes sunk to help alleviate the water problem in the mountains and of course with all this transformation, there is the strongest probability of having power lines installed in the area. I am very grateful for all our supporters and prayer warriors out there. Whatever you do goes a long way. We are really nothing but pencils in the hands of the Creator and we ought to step out in faith and in one accord as the body of Christ and let God write the story. I bless you and pray that God continues to extend our boundaries until all the nations of this world hear and experience the touching power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Many of these children sit on these rocks for class. If it rains there is no school.



### **SOLOMON'S REPORT**

Saints, I greet you in the most wonderful name of JESUS our Lord, whose power is keeping us alive and whose love endures forever. May He alone receive endless honour and glory for the great work that He is doing in Nsanje, Malawi through Alabaster Ministries.

We had a wonderful four days of training with 26 pastors and their spouses from the 31<sup>st</sup> of January to February 3<sup>rd</sup>. I was greatly touched when I got to learn that some of the pastors came all the way from Mozambique, crossing the croc-infested Shire in dugouts just to attend our meetings. I felt truly humbled to be a part of the team that is doing their part to propel the kingdom of God forward, and to labour therein. In this four-day school, the pastors and their wives received training in Foundations of the Faith, Leadership, Christology and Creative Children's Ministry. Pastors' wives were required to attend this training because we have seen the great need for Sunday schools in most Malawian churches. Children's ministry is perhaps the most neglected area in this country, hence the need for trained teachers who will help train up our children in the fear and knowledge of God.

I believe these training sessions will go a long way in transforming the lives as well as ministerial methods of these pastors. When we got to Chididi on Monday, we found pastors' wives who couldn't teach, couldn't preach, and some who couldn't even introduce themselves. Barely a day later, they preached and taught and showed everyone what transformation God can bring to a life that is willing to let Him do His work by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I truly believe in my heart that the training given to our men and women of God will strengthen their walk in the faith, as they endeavor to obey the great commissioning, by taking this gospel to every creature in their areas and beyond.

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**We're on the Web.**  
**See us at: [rozheyns.org](http://rozheyns.org)**  
**You can donate on line.**  
**Email: [alabastermin@aol.com](mailto:alabastermin@aol.com)**



This work would have never been possible if it wasn't for many selfless saints, who support the ministry with their finances and prayers. I thank you for your support. You have played your role in propelling the kingdom of God forward, transforming lives in the process. May God bless you abundantly.



Three of the teachers. Peter left who is teaching the ladies to minister to children, Francis who has been teaching on Leadership and Solomon who is teaching Christology. I call them the Three Musketeers.

### **PETER'S REPORT**

Alabaster ministries continues to help feed the elderly of Nsanje district. It is refreshing to know that Christian charity still thrives in an age where the practical side of our faith is often neglected by many. The elderly came over to their centers and received food and assorted items to help them with their day to day lives. It is shocking that the elderly have become the neglected of society; the least of the least. It is for this reason that I now extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has helped make this program possible. May the Lord richly bless you.

Our God is a God of action and His word is Alive. The last time Pastor Roz was in Nsanje, she taught that prayer must be specific and aligned with our wishes and thus we prayed for gentle rain that could soak our dry lands rich with water, rather than heavy rains which would have resulted into another flood. I give testimony to the wonders that God has done this year for He's given us a nice gentle rain. The land is flourishing with good plants and the animals have found relief. What a mighty God we serve, He never sleeps or slumbers, His yolk is light and easy with Him, and His



Our largest group – 156 from Marka and Chimombo Villages

promises are YES and AMEN.

I rejoice in the fact that the Holy Spirit in us gives us power to stay in God's word and to proclaim Jesus with boldness. There's an old lady in Chimombo who was always so hungry for God but was so shy to proclaim the gospel and she came to me for prayer. I laid hands on her and a few weeks down the line, I was thrilled to hear that she's serious serving and she's become a great soldier in the army of Jesus Christ. We had a third Bible school session with the Chididi and Mozambique pastors and I was excited to teach all the pastors wives how they can minister to children. They were terribly shy and hiding behind their husbands on the first day of class but beloved it is amazing what happens to people when they get a little dose of the Holy Spirit and are free to minister. I saw a whole group of women transformed and energized to go and teach children who for the most part fall in the neglected section of our Christian societies. May the Almighty God bless all our friends and supporters richly. May He continue to multiply and extend your foundations upon the Rock of all Ages, Amen.



Lunch at Nsanje after prayer, teaching and communion and before distribution. The lady in the foreground had leprosy.



We purchase 4.5 tonnes of maize and each person gets 10 kgs. These helpers measure the 10 kgs into woven sacks and add 1 kg sugar, 500 grams salt and 20 bags of soya. Each bag of soya equals two meals. The bags can be cut open and used to sleep on – it will prevent them from getting wet. We have 8 to 10 helpers and it takes 6 to 8 hours to finish the job with everything loaded on the truck. Inside, Francis and I have plastic bags in which we put a hair pick, six candles, a pack of matches (six boxes), 250ml cooking oil, two bars of soap, a washing sponge (Makes the soap last longer), Vaseline, and in a little drawstring bag went 40 pills to help with aches and pains and Malawi Kwacha 200 so they can have their maize ground. The big item purchase this trip was a 30-liter pail for water. Next trip the big item will be cloth for the women to wrap around themselves and shirt for the men. I found them on sale so purchased them already at \$2.50 each. Please remember to help with Dollar Store tarps. I need 400 - thanks.

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We have received the breakdown for the Tengani church which is as follows:

The building will measure 33 x 100 feet (10m x 30m).

Bricks 80,000	\$1,000
Roofing 85 X16 ft	\$3,800
200 bags cement	\$1,700
Transport	640
Timber	\$1,400
Window frames/doors	\$1,200
Nails, mosquito netting etc	\$1,000
Contractors	<u>700</u>

TOTAL \$11,440

We have found a vehicle in very good condition for \$3,000. Praise God!!!!

Someone donated \$250 towards the roofing for Shadreck's church (last newsletter). As soon as we get the balance we will begin the roof.

### **BREAKDOWN OF MONTHLY EXPENSES FOR 2017**

Support for each elderly each distribution x 4	: \$20 x 420	\$8,400
Support for girls (education and clothing)	5 x 10	50
Alabaster Bible school students	10 x 25	250
Alabaster Students attending PAOC school	30 x 2	60
Salaries – 8 pastors (13 months)	15 x 8	120
2 pastors (13 months)	20 x 2	40
3 staff members total (13 months)		<u>570</u>
	Monthly	\$5,290

#### **Building costs for 2017:**

10 houses for the elderly	\$5,000
Upgrading pastor's homes	2,000
Bible school dormitories	6,000
Roofing churches (grass to corrugated iron)	2,500 five churches
Church at Tengani	12,000
Staff housing	30,000
Vehicle	3,000