



# 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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Dearest Partners and Friends,

"Scars remind us where we have been but they do not have to dictate where we are going." We all have scars both visible and invisible and if we allow it, many of those can be a prescription for where we go with our future.

Because of scars in our lives we tend to build up walls of protection around ourselves and do not let anyone in, even the Holy Spirit. How can we ever expect to receive healing when we keep everything and everyone shut out? We retreat behind the walls and fire our arrows from what we believe is safety. How much better when we break down those walls or never build them and we allow God to heal us, protect us and vindicate us.

As humans it is a natural reaction to protect ourselves and those we love. In the female of the species, that instinct is even more compelling than it is with males probably because they bear the babies. Watch National Geographic and see how a lioness reacts when her cubs are in danger or see how a buffalo attacks when her offspring are threatened.

I have always been very protective over anyone that I love until the Holy Spirit got hold of me one day and told me that as long as I was building walls in my own life as a self-protection mechanism or rising up to protect someone I loved, I was standing in God's way. The devil is the accuser of the brethren or the heartless "district attorney" and Jesus is the defense attorney. If we allow Jesus to do His job God will always see the Blood. You can be sure that the accuser is always around to jump in at the earliest opportunity. The problem with us is that we cannot recognize the difference between the voice of the accuser and the voice of the Holy Spirit. The accuser comes to condemn and the Holy Spirit comes to convict. When we are not doing right the blessed Holy Spirit begins to gently convict because God does not want us to continue with what we are doing. At no time does the Holy Spirit tell us how rotten we are or how God is going to send His fire from heaven to consume us. When Moses came down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments written in stone he found the Israelites worshipping a golden calf. Many repented but 3,000 refused and were blotted out. With the law came death. In Acts, the Holy Spirit fell in the upper room bringing life and 3,000 were saved and were able to look forward to eternal life.

It has been my experience while working with the "Grey

Hairs" in Malawi, that they have no self-worth. They have been cast aside on the dung heaps, not only by their children but also the government and are badly scarred. They have retreated into themselves and do not even know how to express love or affection. It is no wonder that there is a complete breakdown in the area of family and no wonder that the youth are so filled with rebellion.

The biggest miracle has not been the healings or the building of the cottages or even the feeding and clothing; it has been the reaction to the love of God. So many scars are fading and as they fade the focus of their lives change. When we allow scars to fester we become introverted and focused on self. We are unable to see or operate effectively. When those scars heal and begin to fade we are able to reach out to others. We become more effective in the Kingdom. I have watched the eyes of the elderly and the young girls. They have changed from dead and lifeless eyes to eyes that are alert and in many they have even become loving. The eyes are the window of the soul. The scripture that covers that "proverb" is Matthew 6:22 and 23: *"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness."*

I recently read an article where studies have been done by scientists in Sweden and they have discovered that the eyes are the window to the soul.

"Scientists at Orebro University in Sweden compared the eyes of 428 subjects with their personality traits to see if these structures in the iris reflected their characters. They focused on patterns in crypts - threads which radiate from the pupil - and contraction furrows - lines curving around the outer edge - which are formed when the pupils dilate.

Their findings showed those with densely packed crypts are more warmhearted, tender, trusting, and likely to sympathize with others. In comparison, those with more contraction furrows were more neurotic, impulsive and likely to give way to cravings."

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Now when we read these types of reports we put people into various camps and we never let them out. Thank God He is able to change what and who we are. Thank God that we can be healed and delivered to be His active servants in the earth. Whatever befalls us can make impact on our physical and emotional realms (our bodies and our souls) and God can fix that.

When I was in Uganda in the early 80's we were taken to some of the insane asylums in Kampala. Many were there because of the tortures they had experienced at the hands of Idi Amin and his jailors – physical, mental and emotional torture. Their eyes were dead and they were either comatose or agitated. Some of those we prayed for and prayed deliverance over were set free. God is in the fixing business and no matter how many scars or how broken we are He can fix it to where those scars will not dictate our future.

As I have taught the “Grey Hairs” and the young girls about the love and grace of God and how He sees each of them I have seen the most wonderful changes in their lives. They have become evangelists and you cannot be effective in that area unless you are free from any kind of prejudice, free from grudges, free from the scars in your own life which make you self-focused. They care about each other now whereas before it was all them and anyone else could die.

We need to learn to let go and let God do whatever it is that He wants to do in our lives. Step back and allow Jesus to be our wonderful defense attorney. The devil has no hope against the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Allow Him to heal the scars so they do not affect your future.



## NORTH DAKOTA



Why is it that so few people have any knowledge at all about the oil fields of Williston, North Dakota? I have just returned from over three weeks in Minnesota and North Dakota and am amazed at what is happening there and yet we read very little about it and it certainly has not been covered by the media. Most people I have spoken to are unaware that there is oil in North Dakota. In 2006 they were producing 53,000 gallons from 350 wells and they expect the output to reach 500,000 million barrels. Everyone we spoke to in North Dakota likened it to the gold rush of California and Alaska along with everything that comes with it. We were told that they are busing in prostitutes from Las Vegas, that bars are springing up everywhere and an hotel that would normally cost \$100 per night now costs anything from \$300 to \$500 per night. The average rent for a 700 sq. ft. one bedroomed apartment averages \$2,400 per month. In New York the average for a similar apartment is \$1,500. Many are saying that the oil boom will last for 20 years although many will only work there for a couple of years because of the weather. While we were up there temps were as low as -45° so I don't blame anyone for leaving for warmer zones. Many of them work 18 hours a day for two weeks and then they get a week off. The average salary for a truck driver is \$3,000 per week. Many unskilled workers can start at as much as \$100,000 per year and some of the waitresses say it is not uncommon to earn \$750 per day just to wait tables. They have had to build “man camps” as most workers leave their wives and children and travel up there to work for two or three years at a time. This means that

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North Dakota cont.....

the ratio of men to women is approximately 6 to 1. No wonder the call for prostitutes and bars! Strippers at some of the clubs are earning up to \$160,000 per year. The rape rate in Williston is four times the national average. They are burning off the gas because they do not have the facilities to store it. While North Dakota and Minnesota have a serious shortage of gas for heating their homes this year the Williston Oil fields are burning off or "flaring" 900,000 million cubic feet per day – a sight that can be seen from space.

Where is the church in the midst of all of this? This Oil Field has been growing since 2011 and we were told while we were in Grand Forks that there is a serious shortage of churches and "missionaries" in the area. What an opportunity for us to reach out to a people who are obviously lonely and have little to do in their spare time.



This (on the left) is an example of a "Man Camp" in Williston that houses over 800 men. All of the various oil fields in the Williston Basin have man camps that are this size. Who is reaching out to them in their loneliness and need? What an incredible mission field!! And if we do not get in there and share the love of Christ then they will fill the void with something else. It may seem hard and daunting but if it ends up being a call from God then He will open the doors, find housing for you and open the hearts of the people to where they will hear the message. Those harvest fields are not mine – they are His and all we have to be is obedient.

*Pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest.....* Let us make this a real concern for intercession - that God will raise up not just harvesters but combines that will take up the challenge and rise to the occasion. Perhaps you will be one or perhaps you will be the prayer back up for those who do go even though you might never get to meet them. We no longer have to travel across oceans to reach a mission field because there are so many of them *in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria*. Added to ministry in the oil fields, are the rich harvest fields of the Native Americans. I am ashamed to see how much prejudice there is against Native Americans and yet there is a great hunger amongst them for God. At our weekend conference in Grand Forks a young lady arrived from 150 miles away with ten young boys under the age of ten. She had heard about the meetings and brought the boys so that they could learn as she is the youth leader but she herself has only been saved for six months. There was no one else to lead the youth! Their church was experiencing difficulties because the pastor was in adultery and her concern was that these boys should not be impacted by that but rather by hearing the powerful Word of God. The boys were so hungry for Him. I gave each of them a book and they immediately began to devour them. The previous evening one of them had had a vision of heaven and was excited to share about it and draw pictures of some of the things he had seen.

There has been a lot of corruption over the purchase of land rights on which these wells are now being dug. Nevertheless there is a real need to reach out to these people. The youth pastor kept telling me to come up and help us. The same call Paul was given regarding Macedonia. Acts 16:9 *"A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'"*

Come on America and rise to your calling. More men and women have left your shores to serve as overseas missionaries than from any other nation. More financial aid has been given for overseas missions by the United States than any other nation. It is now time for you to reach out for the Lord so that He might touch this nation – that every kindred and every tribe will be touched by the glory of God. If you are not His hands and feet in this nation then who will be?

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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 15<sup>th</sup> in order to make the morning flight to Africa on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We will spend a few days putting together the supplies and then a week with the elderly. On the return from the conference we will spend some time at a game park. No one should ever go to Africa without seeing elephant and hopefully lion. They need to hear about 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

wonderful 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 a water baptismal. 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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Finally, brethren, what so ever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Phil 4:8

### TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER IN LIFE:

"Take care of your thoughts when you are alone", and  
"Take care of your words when you are with people."



Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things: behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth.  
James 3:5