



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

JANUARY NEWS 2015

Dearest Partners and Friends,

Happy and blest New Year to all. I pray for each that you would enlarge your borders this year.

And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested. ! Chron 4:10.

If you are still a "cock-a-doodle quack" (don't know if you are a chicken or a duck) and straddling the fence line (one foot in the Kingdom and one foot in the world) it is fast becoming the time to make a decision and stand by it. We cannot be double minded because it makes us unstable and means that others cannot depend on us because we compromise. There is so much compromise going on in the Body of Christ today. We need to have a standard, a plumb line and His name is Jesus the Christ. When He is not our plumb line then there is no true center to our lives. When the plumb is off a fraction of an inch at the bottom of the wall then it will be off by a great distance at the top. The wall will not stand when the floods come. If you compromise your standards for whatever reason in a small way the next time you do it will be for a larger situation. I see many compromise for the sake of peace because they do not want to get into an argument. I have noticed that liberals are extremely verbal, confrontive and almost always angry if anyone challenges them and everyone backs down, tolerates and compromises. If something is not right I also have a right to an opinion especially when it is backed by the Word of God.

2015 is the time to make sure that our feet are firmly planted in the Kingdom of God so that we can cry out to God to enlarge our borders.

Coming back from Africa this trip I experienced something that I have not since coming here so many years ago. When we first arrived and applied for asylum we were turned down. We received much advice from various people about staying under the radar (in other words, being one of those illegal aliens) which made us without a country for many years. I love my trips to Africa and I love being there but once I am on the plane and headed for home look forward to landing and being

with family. This trip I arrived home and had this overwhelming feeling that I did not belong. I did not belong in Africa and I did not belong here. It was that way for some weeks and was very disconcerting. All I kept hearing from the Holy Spirit was, "Earth is not your home. Do not become attached to the things of this world for it is just a fleeting moment so that you can work and labor for the increase of God's Kingdom."

And so I am asking that God will enlarge my borders during 2015. No matter the task He sets before us as long as we keep it greased and oiled with prayer and intercession then He will ensure that those wheels keep on moving. We need to be like the ox that were yoked to the plough or the settler wagons. In Malawi nearly all of the rural land preparation is done by hand because most of the "farms" are small holdings. Women and children grab a hoe and begin to turn over the soil. As we drove through Zimbabwe I noticed many oxen being used to pull the plough. Growing up we used tractors because the farms were so vast. The ox keeps moving no matter the pain, no matter the flies and discomfort and he has great HEART. As we plough for the Kingdom that is what we should be like. How are we going to enlarge our borders? One step at a time. PLOD, PLOD, PLOD. As long as we are making headway down the harvest fields we are enlarging our borders. Ignore whatever is going on around us that would seek to distract us and prevent us from reaching the goal and when and if you reach the goal then it is time to set another. We have eternity to rest so let us be about His business as long as we have breath here on this earth. It is no good for us to pray and ask God to enlarge our borders if we do not get up off our knees and put action to what we have prayed for. A couple of decades ago all people talked about was having faith. Many had the "faith"

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because it was being taught almost as a Gospel unto itself. We had to have faith for finances, faith for healing, faith for deliverance and so forth so why were there so few actual manifestations as a result of that faith? Because we never put the faith into action and it became head knowledge for many and never moved that two feet down into the spiritual man. We became dependent on the next prophet who came to town to give us a word and still we did nothing about the word we were given. Prophetic words always come with conditions and if we do not meet the conditions then how do we expect the word to come to pass in our lives. For decades we have put the cart before the ox and have tried to push our way through instead of doing it God's way and in God's order. I can have a vision and as long as I know it is from God and I build within His boundaries and parameters, He will truly bless it. Sometimes we begin to build larger and we end up in financial difficulties because we build to make a name for ourselves and it can become a work of iniquity – something that God no longer gets glory for but we do. It may not have started that way but it has ended up that way.

Every New Year we all make resolutions and promises that last perhaps until the end of January. If you make a promise to yourself about something you intend to do then you had better see it through because if you don't then there is less of a probability that the promise you make to others will ever manifest. We have downplayed the meaning of promise. A promise is a contract and we should, as Christians, be trusted to give our word without having a legal piece of paper to back it.

Let us pray that God will lengthen our tent ropes and enlarge our borders during this year but may we get off our knees and do something with the vision and provision He gives us to get the task done. The provision does not easily fall from the trees – it takes lots of plowing to see that provision stacked in the storehouse and the storehouse is only there to store for a minimum period of time before it is used for the vision to become reality.

MALAWI

I left Malawi just before Christmas and they were having wonderful rains and had begun to plant. Things seemed to be perfect. About three weeks ago the area was hit by two cyclones (the equivalent of two hurricanes). They had a month of a normal season of rain in one day. The area where the villages are that house the elderly are all low land (except Chididi up in the mountains) and one of the largest tributaries into the Zambezi River – the Shire River - flows alongside these villages. Our land is about a mile at most from the Shire River. The floods came and nothing withstood them except the cottages we built and our land was not touched by them.

Photos tell the story far better than words. There are over 300,000 displaced people in the Southern tip of Malawi alone. There will be no crops this year and it has been impossible to get into the area except by helicopter. I received one report that a helicopter tried to save a family who were standing on a little island surrounded by swirling flood waters and they refused to leave because it was their land. That is precisely the attitude we need to get rid of in the Kingdom. All that we have here is temporal. I enjoy my "things." I love to set a beautiful table BUT if it goes, it goes. We grasp and won't let go and so remain within the borders that we have set for ourselves instead of having God extend them to where we place our whole trust in Him. I am sure that family lost their lives and now the land belongs to no-one.

The following is a report put out by Reuters news agency on January 23rd:

"In Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries with a population of 16 million, 62 people have been confirmed dead and 153 registered as missing. In neighboring Mozambique, 86 people had lost their lives, the United Nations reported on Friday. Aid groups said more funding was needed to provide basics such as food, and water and sanitation to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases including diarrhea, malaria and cholera.

"There are thousands of displaced families living in camps now with no food. The needs are dire. There is no water, limited sanitation facilities as parents and children share the few toilets available," said Robert Kisyula, national director for World Vision Malawi, in a statement. "These were unprecedented floods. They have shocked all of us: from government, to donors to the people," he added.

The floods, the worst the region has ever seen, have submerged wells, washed away fields and livestock, and destroyed roads and bridges making it hard for aid groups to reach the hardest-hit areas to assess needs. Thousands of people have been trapped in remote, flooded areas, cut off from medical care and other aid. Others are staying in cramped emergency shelters, where the risk of infectious diseases is high, aid workers said.

"Water sources and latrines have been flooded and displaced people in camps do not have basic water and sanitation facilities, placing them at risk of diarrhea and malaria," said Oxfam spokeswoman Christina Corbett.

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Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said the disaster was likely to create long-term health challenges in the region where one in seven adults is HIV positive.

The UN World Food Program said up to 370 000 people in Malawi need urgent food aid. WFP said on Friday it had started distributing high-energy biscuits to people stranded by flood waters in southern Malawi's Nsanje district, and aims to deliver food to 150 000 people in Malawi by the end of the week.

However, plans to scale up the emergency response have been hindered by a lack of funding, aid groups said.

The government of Malawi has said it needs \$81m to expand its emergency response and prevent further loss of life, but faces a funding gap of \$67m. WFP said it needs \$18m to continue distributing maize, beans, vegetable oil and high-energy biscuits to survivors."

It is time to build the center so that we have a place of refuge in times like these. I remember thinking that when the elderly told us they did not want to move off their land what a relief it was because then we could build them cottages without the responsibility of having a center to take care of. However, that center was always a part of the original vision and I was shirking my responsibilities like so many of us do in favor of taking an easier route. Well, God just does not let us get away with it. We have to build wisely and without cutting any corners. The foundations will have to be well off the ground which takes additional finances but the buildings will have to be sound enough to withstand all.

I plan on making a trip back out once the roads are passable and the waters have subsided. The only way into many of the areas is by helicopter.

Please pray for the people of Malawi and especially our "cotton candies." I have named them that because when they get really old their hair looks like the cotton fields and candies because most of them are so sweet and grateful for everything that you do for them. One day you will meet them in heaven, so don't be surprised when one of them rushes up, arms open wide to hug you and thank you for all that you did for them.



This is the bridge I cross when going down to southern Malawi. The river usually runs in the area lower left where the water is darker. The river now stretches beyond the horizon. This is the Shire River which runs from Lake Malawi into the Zambezi in Mozambique and then into the Indian Ocean.

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Satellite at 08.40 on January 12 showing two cyclones



Those are terrifying flood waters. No one can survive that



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Main street Bangula. One of the bigger towns in south Malawi