



January 2020
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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

I just arrived back from Malawi. We had some serious issues that needed taking care of but apart from those and the rains, the trip was extremely successful. The Bible School was wonderful but even more wonderful than the school were the children who went to their primary school in the mornings and then sat outside the church every afternoon to listen to the teachings. They would go home to eat and be back for the evening session. The final night we had a time of praise, worship and prayer and then celebrated communion. The meeting finished earlier than usual, and it was the children who complained that it had been too short. All very exciting for us as that is the future church of Malawi.

The following week we distributed to the elderly and it was a race against the rain as we did not want to get stuck or be unable to cross flooding rivers. Much prayer went up and the rains held off until our return journey up the escarpment to Blantyre on paved roads. I taught on "sanctification." I did not mention the word repentance once. All our elderly has heard about repentance, but sanctification is so much more than that. It happens when we put our flesh under and allow Jesus access into our lives – "Christ in me the hope of glory." I explained spirit, soul and body and then gave examples of

how we often allow our flesh to win instead of our spirit. Or, there are certain fleshly things we like to hold onto because we enjoy people feeling sorry for us or we allow people to feed our ego. I explained that we have "spiders" in us, and we allow the Holy Spirit to sweep away the cobwebs, but we hide our "spiders." Result – the webs are back a day or so later. We need to stamp on the "spiders" and kill them so there are no more webs. Many of us, if someone apologizes, say we forgive but we won't forget. God said our sin is in the sea of forgetfulness. When we allow Jesus to take over, He brings His attributes with Him. His love is pure – the agape love, whereas mine is often, "I love you because you love me," or "I love you for what you can do for me." My example is the love I have for them. It is His love shed abroad in my heart and it requires absolutely nothing from them. His forgiveness is forever, and all is completely forgotten. His joy abounds in me no matter the circumstances around me. His peace is the peace which passes all understanding and when I have it nothing is going to get me upset or riled at anything or anyone. I have always said that as Christians we do not have the right to be angry except when God's integrity is at stake. Look what happened to Moses when he became angry with the children of Israel. It cost him the promise land. "Let our light so shine before men...." He is the Light of the world and when He abides in me it is His light that drawn mankind like a moth to the flame.

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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."

REPORT FROM PASTOR SHADRECK

I am exceedingly pleased to report a general increase in attendance at our weekly Bible study meetings with the elderly. We have been trying to get the numbers growing by encouraging others within our community to come and participate regardless of whether they are a beneficiary of the Alabaster elderly project or not and no matter their denomination. The greatest thing about being a non-denominational organization is that there are no restrictions to one specific group but we cater for all who live around our communities. We have seen the numbers improve in the last quarter of 2019 and I pray that we are able to reach out to more people in this year 2020.

My village is like a little island except it is up on a hill, separated from most places in Malawi and right on the border with Mozambique. It is not easily accessible by road even though there's been some efforts to try and build a better road. Nevertheless, we are one of the lucky remote areas to get electricity through the Malawi Rural Electrification Program. Even though not all of us can afford to pay for electricity, we have come to understand better what it means to live in total darkness and to enjoy the difference that one light bulb can create. Of course, we had kerosene lanterns in the past and some had torches but that small light does an amazing job at PUSHING away darkness.

Someone once told me they can see the light shining on the hill from miles away on the Tengani side and that gave me a thought. A city set on hill is visible, but you cannot see it in the dark without a shining light and that is exactly what we should be to the rest of the world. I charged all who attended the Bible study meeting to be a pillar of light for others, be it in our homes, various places of work, church groups, and our communities. Sometimes we seldom ever bare the light we once bore when the Lord got a hold of us because maybe we have become a compromising and discontent people. The light in us is slowly fading because we are so full of iniquity that it has become so hard to see beyond our fleshly desires and pride. Let us therefore strive to have a fresh and new infilling of the Holy Spirit of God, to be so saturated by the immensity of His righteousness so that we can be effective witnesses to the world.

I praise the Lord for the vision He gave me, His purpose for my life, that I should stand in the gap for my family and be the shepherd for many in the community. It is the greatest adventure of my life and I thank everyone who has supported me with prayer and in many other ways. May the almighty God continue to bless you and I pray that this year you become a beacon of light and a pillar of hope for greater things to come. Amen.



Pastor Eric on the left and Shadreck on the right. They graduated from the Bible School in February 2019. Eric leads the elderly in the Lower Shire and Shadreck in the mountains. Shadreck also teaches in our Bible School now.

BIBLE SCHOOL STUDENT REPORTS:

JOEL KANKOCHE:

I greet you in the most wonderful name of our Lord and Savior and hope this finds you well. The Lord has been faithful to me and my family by blessing us with good health and preserving us.

I can see a great difference in my life from the first time I attended the Bible school to this very moment. I feel like I am completely saturated with the Spirit of God that my life has turned up-side-down to the glory of the kingdom of God. I have spent so much time reading the word of God like a good student should do, and in the times that I have been away from my notes, whether working in my garden or in the timber business, I have spoken to the Lord in tongues. Beloved, I now understand why it is important to speak in tongues for that is my language which I am directly in tune with the Spirit of God and I can spend a whole day in His presence.

Proverbs 27 speaks of iron sharpening iron and I have seen that this is true when I, together with Laston Joseph accompanied my father and Francis to Pastor Notice Peter's church. The Lord was with us and He, through the power of the blood of Jesus Christ did use us to cast out demons and set the tormented free. Learning from others who know more than you is not a sign of weakness but

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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.

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Email rozheyns@gmail.com



Website: www.rozheyns.org

REPORTS FROM SOME OF THE BIBLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

TELEZA CHAGAKA BANDA

I am overjoyed to be called a student of the Alabaster Ministries Chididi Bible School and to be identified with all the disciples of Christ wherever I go. I was just an ordinary church member until one day I joined a group of four other women who were chosen by our church to be cooks whenever Bible school was in session and when we have distribution for the elderly in Chididi. I used to love the praise and worship so we would join in before and after every class and in the evenings, we would sing in a choir just so we could sit in and listen to whatever was being taught or shared that evening. One day I gathered up enough courage to approach Pastor Peter and ask him for reading glasses, but I did not expect Pastor Roz to call me and ask me why I needed the glasses. At first, I thought reading glasses are meant to be used when reading so that's why I need them; I had no idea that I would get both reading glasses and a Bible. That Bible



became my best friend, twice a day I sat under my grass thatch and read it aloud for my younger daughters who are still with me at home. I began to travel and teach in the women's conferences and I felt like I needed to learn more so I can be a better teacher. I would like to thank the leadership of the ministry for giving me the opportunity to attend the Bible school and I pray that the Lord in heaven continues to preserve and guide you through the years.

KHELESI EDISON KANKOCHE

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to Pastor Roz for the privilege to attend the Bible School. I am a member of Jennerford Kankoché's church and the senior pastor is brother in law. He came to me three years ago and asked me to help cook for the Bible school students. I could not refuse him because he came with my favorite nephew, Pastor Peter Kankoché. My role was that of a cook for about 24 months until pastor Roz asked me if I wanted to attend the Bible school when the first-class graduates. Of course, I said yes with excitement until it hit me a few months later and I said to Francis, "How will this work, I cannot read or write!"

I have never felt the kind of joy I have right now. You must understand I am an old timer and I was raised in a time when girls were only prepared for marriage, so this is the first form of education I've ever received. My life has been turned upside down, I'm a completely different lady than the one that started out cooking some three years ago. I can preach, I am learning to read and write, and I have become one of the women spearheading a very vital women's empowerment campaign in my village. Thank you for awarding me the privilege to be a part of this Bible School and may the Almighty God bless and preserve you so that you can continue making a difference in our lives.



REPORT FROM FRANCIS

We have reported in the year 2019 that Malawians were still protesting the results of the elections that were held in May of the same year and now there is some headway in what seems to be a favorable outcome for most Malawians. The High Court of Malawi which was sitting as a constitutional court, ruled for the nullification of the results and a re-run to follow in June 2020. At long last there is progress so that business and a lot of things that were disrupted by current affairs can get back on track. We continue to pray for amicable and peaceful solutions throughout this process so that we can once again enjoy the peace that makes this nation the warm heart of Africa.

We had been praying for favorable rains and no flooding in the country and we thank the Lord that He has heard our prayers, may His wonderful name be praised. Most of the country has received enough rainfall and if this rain pattern continues, there will be some respite to the exhausted grain reserves. Chikwawa, Nsanje, Thyolo, Mulanje and Dowa however have reported acute food shortages. There has been reports of fracas erupting at grain reserve stores due to shortages of grain and skyrocketing prices since grain is in short supply and most people cannot afford it.

We had a great Bible school session in Chididi and we are proud to report that the younger generation is showing great improvement. The consensus from all the teachers is that they are quick to grasp the material and they can put it to practice. The highlight of the session in February was of course, tag preaching which carried on for over an hour. We surely miss Penny Shellswell who hasn't been able to come out and teach recently. She would have loved tag-preaching so much. The ministry will continue to sow seeds in the next generation of leaders in Malawi so that we can leave our mark on this nation. Often people ask the question, "What do you want to be remembered for?" and we have different answers to that question. Alabaster Ministries however would like to make mark on people's lives that they can then carry on and leave a lifelong impact on someone else somewhere. We would like to ask you to continue keeping us in your prayers so that together we can continue to create a better world for everyone we come across.

We have just returned from the distributions and it was a much more wonderful trip this time around. It was fun to see all the familiar faces in one place and I particularly enjoyed the praise and worship. It was wonderful seeing people free and happy as we fellowshiped together. I take my heart off to Peter, Eric and Shadreck who continue to radically spread the word of God through their weekly Bible study meetings. The fruit of their hard work was vividly clear in this distribution campaign. We are truly grateful for the support you give us, and we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for making the recent distribution campaign a success. We were able to provide everything we usually give out plus a gift of shirts for the men and blouses for the women. We will soon be approaching winter and would like to implore you to assist us in the provision of blankets which will keep them warm through the cold nights. We want to thank you for the provision of the truck which really made transportation for the distribution easier and will come in handy when we carry building materials for the houses.

We continue to serve and diligently seek the Lord as we reach out and make a difference in Nsanje; please keep us in your prayers so that together we can create a better world.

REPORT FROM PASTOR PETER

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus and pray that this finds you well. The Lord has been so good to me and my family and continues to bring us from glory to glory. It is my hope that you have started this year 2020 on a great note and will continue to break barriers throughout the year. My wife and I have a burden to radically evangelize our community and go about winning more souls for the Kingdom.

We are going through a difficult time in our nation now and there is a lot of confusion especially in the rural areas where it very difficult to access most things. Businesses are struggling, the social-political status is quickly deteriorating, the church is struggling and sometimes overwhelmed by the demands faced by its members, the power struggle can sometimes get frightening because there's certainly no clarity in everything that is going on at the moment. We pray that the Lord shows us His mercy and grace and sheds His light so that we can see His hand moving in all these predicaments we are facing. We have taken up the burden of interceding for this Nation at the Bible School and in our Elderly meetings because we have faith that the Lord shall hear our cry and will intervene just as He came through for Lot when Abraham stood in the gap and prayed.

I am so excited to report of the growth the Bible School students are making. It is much more rewarding when you begin to see the fruits of the seeds you planted and natured. It gives you a certain feeling of accomplishment. I am privileged to be in a position where I can help others realize their calling and purpose and if I can do just a little bit to help point them in the direction the Holy Spirit (who is our greatest teacher) wants them to go then I will do it ten times over. I am waiting for the day we will have some of you come and teach at the Bible school. In Africa we say the journey to plant a thousand trees starts twenty years ago. I am happy to report that the future of this Bible School lies in the next generation who will bear the torch and go forth with the Gospel that will change Malawi and neighboring Mozambique forever.

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the right thing to do. Often, we never learn anything because we are so proud and fail to accommodate other people's opinions and instruction. I learned firsthand from my father and others who were there what to do in certain circumstances and that we ought to be full of the anointing of God in season and out of season especially if we are going to win the battle against the principalities of this world.

I used to smoke marijuana like a chimney in winter and alcohol was a part of my balanced diet back then before I had a near death experience. I was cutting timber some twenty kilometers away from my house and a huge tree fell on me. I was knocked unconscious and my partner took off running, full of fear and did not return to help me. Some good Samaritans passed me by and went and called my father and cousin (Robert) who made a stretcher and carried me out of there. It took them about six hours to bring me home and there was no sign of life. We are located too far from hospitals and three years ago we had no cell towers which meant walking another twenty kilometers to access an ambulance so that I could see a doctor if there was any at the hospital. Desperate and fearful, the women were all crying and the men quickly running out of options until my father called church members to come and sing and pray. I could hear the women singing but had no strength to even lift my eyebrows for three days. I woke from that sleep as if I was not hurt at all and I decided then to leave all vanity behind and become an instrument for the kingdom of Heaven. We all come to know the Lord through different life experiences and situations but there is only one way to get to the heart of God and that's through Jesus the Christ, the son of the Living God. No one comes to the Father except by Him and it is He, who saved me in that lonesome and dark day. He lifted me up and placed me under this Bible school now that I might learn of Him, be directed and empowered by His Holy Spirit to go forth and spread the Gospel. I would like to thank all the staff members for the diligent work they put in to teach us so that we do not return to miry clay and depths of depravity we came out of but rather go on to be a light shining in the dark and mighty trumpet blowing the life that Jesus provides.

