



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 2017

Dearest Friends,

2017 has opened with a bang and I am back in Africa. We ended 2016 with the vote on Israel/Palestine. It is time that we learned that Israel belongs to God. That little piece of real estate which has been in such contention over the centuries is HIS and do not mess with HIM because we do so at our own peril.

It amazes me that the hill on which the United Nations headquarters stand in Jerusalem is called the "Hill of Evil Counsel." How very apt for them.

In our own nation, we have watched as people have rioted over the election results, burning, breaking and looting, marching and spewing out their filth either on their banners or in their chanting. This was not the anti-Trump march as put out by the media. This march takes place every year around this time and is anti-everything. The most spoiled women on the face of the earth and they are still not satisfied with their lot in life.

I read this which unfortunately I did not write – would love to have been the author: -

"I am not a "disgrace to women" because I don't support the women's march. I do not feel I am a "second class citizen" because I am a woman. I do not feel my voice is "not heard" because I am a woman. I do not feel I am not provided opportunities in this life or in America because I am a woman. I do not feel that I "don't have control of my body or choices" because I am a woman. I do not feel like I am " not respected or undermined" because I am a woman.

I AM a woman.

I can make my own choices.

I can speak and be heard.

I can VOTE.

I can work if I want.

I control my body.

I can defend myself.

I can defend my family.

There is nothing stopping me doing anything in this world but MYSELF.

I do not blame my circumstances or problems on anything other than my own choices or even that sometimes in life, we don't always get what we want. I take responsibility for myself.

I am a mother, a daughter, a wife, a sister, a friend. I am not held back in life but only by the walls I choose to not

go over which is a personal choice.

Quit blaming.

Take responsibility.

If you want to speak, do so. But do not expect for me, a woman, to take you seriously wearing a pink va-jay-jay hat on your head and screaming profanities and bashing men.

If you have beliefs, and speak to me in a kind matter, I will listen. But do not expect for me to change my beliefs to suit yours. Respect goes both ways. If you want to impress me, especially in regards to women, then speak on the real injustices and tragedies that affect women in foreign countries that do not have the opportunity or means to have their voices heard.

Saudi Arabia, women can't drive, have no rights and must always be covered.

China and India, infanticide of baby girls.

Afghanistan, unequal education rights.

Democratic Republic of Congo, where rapes are brutal and women are left to die, or HIV infected and left to care for children alone.

Mali, where women cannot escape the torture of genital mutilation.

Pakistan, in tribal areas where women are gang raped to pay for men's crime.

Guatemala, the impoverished female underclass of Guatemala faces domestic violence, rape and the second-highest rate of HIV/AIDS after sub-Saharan Africa. An epidemic of gruesome unsolved murders has left hundreds of women dead, some of their bodies left with hate messages. And that's just a few examples.

So when women get together in AMERICA and whine they don't have equal rights and march in their clean clothes, after eating a hearty breakfast, it's like a vacation away that they have paid for to get there...

This WOMAN does not support it.

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REPORT FOR 2016

We thank God in heaven for the New Year and pray that he directs us in everything that we plan to achieve in 2017. Looking back into 2016, we are overwhelmed with the wonderful testimonies of the hand of God moving among us and we are overjoyed to be witnesses of the work that God continues to do in us and through us.

2016 had its highs and lows; beginning with the infamous arrest of our dear Pastor Roz to cumbersome court cases and delays in our schedule. It amazes me that men in ministry could write out arrest warrants and take the police to find Pastor Roz as well as try to get a prison sentence when there was the option of paying a fine. However, it was all thrown out of court – no prison and no fines and it was established that there was corruption ending with a high court ruling over the magistrate court. I am glad however, that that business was over soon and in a short period of time we started making progress with the work.

THE OLD PEOPLE

We faced several challenges at the beginning of the year regarding transparency and accountability in the old people's project. We had to deal with a lot of corruption in the villages and of course pastors from another ministry who again, are corrupt and who had their families and friends on the old people's lists. Not only that they had insisted that any old person who wanted to get on the list had to pay them each time or give them something from their bag of goodies. We quickly identified the culprits and dealt with all the anomalies by March 2016.

We have experienced one of the longest droughts in the country (18 months); needless to say, there has been acute food shortages across the country. The Shire Valley was severely affected and having gone through severe flooding the previous year, there was little or no food in most areas. We had to adopt to the situation and adjust our modus operandi to accommodate those who were severely affected, in this case, the elderly. We gave them more food support and medical care which really went a long way in improving their living standards.

In general, the old people's project went really well. We are satisfied with the strides we took in 2016 and happy with what we have achieved so far. Can we do more? I believe we can because there are just so many people who need to experience the love and care that God has shown others. We are all in desperate need of that mighty touch of God which he's shown the 420 old people already on support. The love and prayers that we receive from all our supporters and brothers and sisters in Christ is priceless and it is our wish that that love and support would be extended to others.

CHURCH

We are happy with the team of pastors that we have so far and we are not looking to expand further than the 26 branches that we already have. (When we mention {branches} we need to

define exactly what we mean. We have 26 independent pastors in Malawi and Mozambique who wish to work with us. We are not starting some new denomination and nor do we insist that they change their church names to Alabaster but we are there when they need advice or counseling and many of them come to the Bible School). We would like to monitor how we run with the 26 before we begin to expand. Of course, there is the question of why would we wish not to go further and open more branches. We have set a high standard and our goal is to preach the gospel to the ends of the world as the Lord commanded us. Not only that, we are not prepared to take on pastors who are in adultery or have more than one wife. We teach them at the School on the family – Christian family - something, because of their culture is so foreign to them. We already see results with some of the pastors now going to the well to collect water instead of their wives. When congregations see that, they will follow suit. We are confident in our resolve and strongly believe that there will be room for expansion further into Mozambique and the Lower Shire soon. We were recently visited by seven pastors from Morrumbala, Mozambique which is over a hundred miles away, asking if they can be a part of what we are doing.

Our challenge has been getting enough Bibles and bicycles for the pastors and their congregations. The other issue of course, is the polygamy. It is still the culture for a man to marry two or more wives in the region in which we operate. I have to say that after teaching the pastors what the book of Timothy says about the subject with regards to Deacons, Bishops, wives, etc. there have been changes across the board. Unfortunately, it has never been taught and so we have very effective pastors who can no longer hold positions of leadership in the church. They cannot put their excess wives aside for obvious reasons but nor can they continue as pastors.



This is a church built by its congregation that needs a roof. It will cost about \$500 for iron sheets.

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We're on the Web.
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2016 REPORT CONTINUED....

This is one of the many reasons we have felt led to start the Bible School, so that they are taught the Word and how it pertains to everything in life.

We finished building a church in Chididi in December 2016. This will be our Centre of operation in the mountains and we will soon begin to build Bible School lodgings next to the church. The Bible school was the highlight of the festive season. We have received a lot of positive feedback on the initiative and from what we gather, nothing of this sort has ever been done before. The pastors who attend are really grateful for this once in a lifetime experience. We are glad to say that societies will be changed and not through some political initiative, but by the living reality of Christ being taught by men and women who have received training and been given the right tools to go and preach the gospel.

We have also started working on adding a new teacher to the existing primary school in Chididi. We will pay his salary each month since the local people cannot afford it and Chididi has been forgotten by the rest of Malawi. Hopefully this will not take too much time to bring to fruition. A primary school teacher in the rural areas earns \$30 per month!!!! This will also entail purchasing land near the school and building some two roomed cottages like we build for the elderly so that the teachers will have housing.

So much was achieved last year by a small ministry but when God is in it and we are building on His foundation it is not the same as building on the foundation of a house whereby your house can only be the size of its foundation. God's foundation is limitless. We continue to trust in His provision and His direction. Always so exciting to be working with Him and see what He brings about.



Children we are trying to reach. We are training pastor's wives to start Children's Churches.

THE CHILDREN

For years we have been very concerned regarding the children in the rural areas of Malawi. Children do not have Sunday School in most churches and are left outside to play and get up to mischief during church services. This is the future generation of Malawians and if we want to see change in the nation we have to reach out to these children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In many areas there are government schools but they are understaffed, under salaried and under qualified. In some areas that are hard to reach such as Chididi I have found one primary school with one teacher and a volunteer. It is all very well to teach them Jesus but what are they going to do without an education?

I remember two young boys from a rural school being given a scholarship to attend one of the better high schools (Christian High school) in the nation. They were so badly treated by staff and students alike because they were almost considered "outcasts" that they both ran away. Not even the amazing education they would have received could induce them to stay and see it through.

This is a school similar to the one we are trying to assist in Chididi.



Most classes are outside. There are over 200 students at this school. Imagine if we could employ five qualified teachers, build cottages for each and build classrooms which would keep them out of the rain? We would be able to change that whole area for the better. Not only that, when they finished they could be taught a trade of some kind that would keep them from child marriages and out of the sex trade. HIV/AIDS numbers would be reduced and if they all learned English they would have a better chance of a high school education. If they learned to read and write properly they would have a much better chance at life.

One elderly at a time – one child at a time – one pastor at a time. When they see it works they will get involved.

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