



JULY 2018

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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

The following is a young friend of mine in Zimbabwe who has a 17-year-old daughter with an unusual type of cancer. There are many of us in crisis and when it happens we panic. Let us slow down, travel with God and realize that perfect peace that passes all understanding.

"Hello friends. I've been going from doctor to lab to CAT scan place to be told the form has the wrong stamp and the Medical Insurance must be approved AGAIN! I'm feeling as if my brain is being pushed through a meat mincer. So, as I'm dodging traffic in town I ask God for a calming picture. Just some scene to flash into my befuddled brain because by now my eyes are leaking and I can't see the crazy taxi that wants to drive in my lane! Deep breath, big sigh.... and God is faithful because I start to calm down as I see in my mind's eye a donkey cart. Lovely little donkeys trotting the dusty road, pulling their passengers in a cart. The driver completely relaxed, a blue sky stretched into an idyllic horizon and the Zimbabwean sun gently warming the donkey's backs. I hear the Spirit's voice....'Get in the cart, I'm driving.'

There was no rush, no panic, no banging heart. Just the gentle, swaying motion of the journey. The driver knew where he was

He was going. He was in control. All was well. Really well. So, if you're our family member or friend climb on the cart. We're traveling together. God will govern this journey. He knows Victoria has cancer. He knows about the stops we must make along the way. When we're tired, we'll rest. Please bring the picnic basket. We'll need nourishment for our journey. Perhaps a chocolate bar, maybe a stick of biltong (jerky). We won't forget the flask full of Tanganda tea.

Perhaps other donkey carts will join us. Let's travel together."



ALABASTER | MINISTRIES

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 on Bible School

I have always said Chididi used to be like an island, closed up and isolated from the whole of Nsanje District. The roads leading up to the mountains were really bad and it used to take Pastor Roz close to three hours to drive 17 kilometers. Things continue to change in the area and this has come about because Alabaster Ministries, through the direction of and obedience to the Holy Spirit is making its mark. We take no credit for the work we are doing for it is all made possible by the working of the Holy Spirit and thus His name should be praised forever. I thank the leadership of this ministry for the strides they are taking in training local leaders to teach our young the Word of God. The Sunday school program we have started has become a model for others in the area with several entities already adopting it and asking for training.

I was born and raised in Chididi and it was not custom that the tradition between man and wife should be where husband and wife should be equal, even among pastors. I can attest to that fact. It is common that women and children are separated from men in almost everything. For instance, husbands and wives seldom ever walk together even if they are going to the same place, let alone go to church together. If at all they do, the wife goes ahead, and he follows a few meters behind; it is not often we see husbands and wives walking together or holding hands as they do now. Some of the traditions and customs of the land promote a certain level of detachment and inferiority within the family. For example, husbands have the best of everything at the dinner table while their wives and children sit on a mat outside having second best of whatever big daddy is having in the house. It is against such culture and tradition that we have been teaching and there's been a great response to the message that we are sending out.

Our tradition and norms as a people should always display equality with one another as well as promote the tradition of heaven which is loving one another in spirit and in truth.

I thank the Lord that my church keeps growing at Tengani. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my dear friend Ellen Nix for all your prayers and support. May the almighty God continue the work that he's began here. It is all made possible by Him alone with His Holy Spirit who's positioned you our dearly beloved friends and supporters at the heart of this ministry. We truly thank you for your sacrifice and making a difference in many people's lives. God Bless you all. AMEN.



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.

☎ Telephone (636)358-4615

✉ Email alabastermin@aol.com
Email rozheyns@gmail.com

🌐 Website: www.rozheyns.org

REPORT FROM FRANCIS

Dearly Beloved,

Please receive our warm greetings from Malawi. We trust that this finds you well and that the Lord has been overly faithful to you. We have just returned from the Bible School in Chididi and we were blessed to have Solomon with us on this trip.

We all go through challenging times and sometimes ask where God's victory is in all this? Sometimes we lose hope and start to despair when things seem to be too overwhelming for us to understand or too complex for us to find a permanent solution, which is why we need to develop a very good relationship with God, so we can be able to talk to Him and ask of Him anything we desire.

"One thing I desired of the LORD, that I will seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple,"

Psalm 27:4. David sings this psalm to the Lord before the temple of Solomon was built and so he cannot be speaking of dwelling or inquiring in a literal temple. He is speaking of having a closeness with God, an intimate relationship that can only be established through humble meekness and prayer. Believers, wherever they are, can find a way to the throne room of Grace through prayer. God calls us all by His Spirit. There are no specifics with Him. The call is general; "Seek ye my face," and all we have to do is apply this to ourselves and say as David says, "One thing I desire of the Lord." The psalmist shows us the way. He first desires and applies it to himself, "that I may dwell in the house of God all the days of my life." We should desire to have such a nearness with God, and prayer is the only way we can do it because prayer is talking to God. It is the same way in developing a relationship with one another.

We sat down for a chat under a beautiful canopy of stars after one evening meeting at the bible school and we were sad to hear that a certain Christian man in leadership in the church, man had abused his wife and had defiled and impregnated his daughter. This really broke our hearts because it is inhumane, foul, sinful and against the laws of God and the laws of both Mozambique and Malawi. We have always felt a great sense of responsibility as the body of Christ regarding the need to reach out and witness to such who are bound by culture and greed. Incest is believed to make you wealthy. We are devastated for the poor child whose education and future has been derailed by her own flesh and blood. Beloved, God cares about the little things; He cares about marriage, He cares about the ache of a splinter in our finger, He cares about those things and is so much greater than them all. His victory is greater than anything in this world and He will come through for that poor girl and abused mother with restitution and healing in a big way. There are institutions that have come in to help with counselling and from what we heard, the girl and her baby are fine, but it is God who gives complete healing. The day is coming when, with unbelievable speed, justice and healing will come from heaven for these two. Luke 18 gives us hope that as long as we are persistent and keep praying for justice and deliverance and healing of the soul, God shall vindicate His people.

Every great battle or great conflict that has ever occurred and had just cause behind it. Often, we turn away from the big issues and complexities in our lives and the world around us because we deem our lives to be so little in our eyes, when we ought to dive into the ocean of God's magnitude of His greatness and victory and let it saturate all the little things for these have meaning because of that.

There's a connection between our prayers and the victory of God. We would like to ask you to help us in prayer that God should heal this nation and transform it through the working of his mighty Holy Spirit. The connection here is prayer because prayer is God's appointed means by which He brings His victory. It is common for people to feel like they only pray for small victories and I think we ought to change that perspective of ourselves. It is a non sequitur to think we are little and small that we cannot be perfectly significant for the big things in this world. It just may be that because we feel small and insignificant that we are perfectly situated to be used of God.

As believers we find comfort in knowing that God's timing is always the best and that He never fails us. We know that from time immemorial, mankind was doomed to perish until Christ stood in the gap for us and purchased us by the shedding of His precious blood at Calvary and through His victory over the grave. Christ reigns victorious. He's the high priest on the throne of Melchizedek and the King who reigns on David's throne. ***"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall come the end, Matthew 24:14"***.

BUT Matthew 9:37 and 38 make a profound statement; Jesus says unto his disciples, ***"the harvest is truly plenteous, but the laborers are few, therefore PRAY earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest"***. We know that Christ is coming again and His final victory over the prince of this world is imminent, but the most exciting thing is that we are coheirs with Him and thus we have a part to play in this victory. The gospel and the triumph of God advances in our world by ordinary people praying the will of the Holy Spirit, boldly opening our mouths and teaching an irresistible living reality of Christ unto the nations.

Paul knew he couldn't minister the way he did without prayer and Paul is one of the greatest apostles that's ever walked across the face of the world. Paul is very dependent on prayer as indicated in 2 Thessalonians 3:1, Ephesians 6:18, and Colossians 4:3, where he ***says, "Withal praying also for us that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in Bonds."*** Paul is perhaps the greatest missionary that's ever lived and yet he asks ordinary people to pray for him. He sounds so humble and vulnerable in his plea for prayer. We humble ourselves before the Lord and pray to Him to grant us what we need. Let this year 2018 be the setting for a prayer life to attain a victorious living standard as God purposed for us through His mighty Holy Spirit who gives us strength.

We have hope that our prayers never go unheard, or unanswered and are surely never forgotten by our Father in heaven. In Revelations 8:3-5, ***"And another angel came and stood at the altar which was before the throne and the smoke of the incense which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angels hand. And the angel took the censor, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices and thunderings, and lighting and an earthquake."*** Not one hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven shall ever be forgotten nor go unanswered. The angel of God took the censor and filled it with fire from the altar where all these millions upon millions of prayers were burning and threw it on the earth with much lightning and thunder. The victory of God is already here, and it is up to us to tap into it and this world will be shaken by that lightning and thunder.

The word of God on its own does us no justice when we do not apply it to our lives and allow the Holy Spirit to do his work in us and not stifle Him when he begins to move. Paul humbled himself and asked the saints to pray for him because he knew it is only through prayer that God is able to lift us out of the miry clay and place us into the abundance of his light. When Hezekiah was faced with oblivion he cried out unto the Lord and God said ***"BECAUSE YOU HAVE PRAYED- I the Lord shall deliver you.*** That is effective praying. We are not at war with governments or nations, but we are at war with principalities set forth by the prince of this world. The great battle is fought with deeds of love and the spreading of gospel through our prayers. God's time to help his people is when all other helpers have failed to come in, when we are humble enough to realize that our victory comes from our weakness and the strength that lies in our prayers. Our communities, governments, the church, family and friends may fail us, but Christ never fails, He is by far, a better friend than we can ever have. We always emphasize the great need to believe in ourselves in everything we do because we know the power that has towards achieving our goals. Every parent supports their children in their dreams and encourages them to trust in themselves and believe in their dreams because they know that is the only way that child will reach in the deep and get that drive that propels him or her to realize their dreams. Nothing is as beautiful as believing in Christ, in the reality of an eternity with God our father, in the pleasures that lie in heaven, and the living reality of Christ. Christ says in John 14:1-2, ***"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."*** In other words, let your heart be kept in full trust of the Lord; do not be cast down and overwhelmed by the sorrows and troubles of these present times. Believe in Christ, the chief mediator between mankind and the father in heaven; He is the ONLY way to the Father and the pathway for our blessings from the Father above. This ought to give us clarity in our belief and reassurance in the promise that God gave us, ***"I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU"*** and His promises are always ***YES AND AMEN.***

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REPORT FROM PETER

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I pray that you are all well. The work that God has set aside for us is going on well here and am truly blessed to have Eric as my partner. We usually hold big meetings with the old people in different villages, but we decided to do it differently in August. We went door to door, fellowshiping and sharing the word of God with our dear elderly in the comfort of their homes and with their immediate family and friends. This was specifically so that we try to reach out to some in our group who are now weak to walk longer distances for meetings.

We cannot wait to have all the elderly in one place in months' time when Pastor Roz is here so as to fellowship and share Christ through the breaking of bread. I have noticed that even though we had a rainy cold season in the months of June and July, the land is quickly drying up and that most people will lose or yield little of what they have planted in their gardens. We pray to God Almighty to safeguard our elderly and come through for them as He's always done. The economic situation on the ground is quickly changing with rapid increases in the price of goods and services, the first being fuel and food which presents a challenge for us in the distribution program thus coming next month.



One of the house groups visited by our pastor on a regular basis for prayer and Bible study.