



# 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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## July 2014

Dearest Partners and Friends,

React or respond? What do you do? Reacting is an emotional counter whereas responding tends more to be rational or logical. We have to make time and effort before we respond and even if we feel we have exactly the right thing to say it is better to back off and ponder first.

It is so sad that even in the Church we react and render punch for punch in the verbal often causing much hurt and pain. Once those words are out there they cannot be taken back.

I remember when my daughter worked emergency room during her training she told me that Super Bowl night ranked up in the highest for spousal abuse. Perhaps because everyone got drunk at the Super Bowl parties and when their team did not win they took it out on family. She said they treated many broken bones but some of the women said those bones would heal but what their husbands said to them would remain with them for the rest of their lives. We well know, in the Kingdom, God can and will take care of this IF we allow Him, but often we want to hold onto those hurts. Years down the road we can turn around and say "but you said....."

It is no wonder that the Bible speaks strongly about the tongue. When we open our mouths we have the power to praise/applause or curse, to restore or to destroy and yet we never fully understand that power. In fact, after a verbal altercation we often think of more things we could have said. What we say in ten minutes can make an impact for ten years or a lifetime.

I grew up in a generation where parents were more on the verbally abusive side. If you failed in school or sports then you were, "useless and would never amount to anything....." A while ago I was horrified as a father announced in public that his son did not have half his (the father's) brain and he sometimes wondered if, in fact, he was his son. If you hear that kind of thing often enough why would you make any effort at all? All I wanted to do was to reach out and tell the son, "Don't do it for your father or anyone else - do it for yourself." Today the coin has flipped and even when kids fail and play a terrible game they are doing good. How will they ever do better if not encouraged to do so? There is nothing wrong with, "You did a lousy job today, let's work together and see where we can improve things?"

Our tongue can be a weapon of war and more often than not the devil is using it as his weapon rather than the

Spirit using it as His.

*Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. (Ps 34 : 12 & 13)*

1. The Bragging Tongue: How many times do we have to sit and listen while someone lauds and applauds himself and his achievements? In church we often have a sermon that praises the actions of the speaker. Listen to how many times they say "I" instead of "we." In Luke 18 the Pharisee stood and praised himself and Jesus said that *"everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased."* Why did Job have a problem? Because for a whole chapter (29) he boasted in his own achievements and in Job 32:1 the Bible says, *"So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes."*
2. The Vile/Treacherous Tongue: Jer 9:3 *"And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies; but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil and they knoweth not me, saith the Lord."* We use our tongues to destroy one another with untruths, half-truths or hearsay and it seems to happen more in the church than in the world with the exception of politics.
3. The Critical Tongue: Comes against people and ideas they believe do not line up with their own. The Bible says *"Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."* Prov 27:17 This works two ways. I have been around people with a "critical" spirit and find that within a short time I can easily be agreeing with them and I become as critical as they are. Challenge them or stay away from them. Hang out with people who sharpen you positively.

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4. Double Tongued: 1 Tim 3:8 is a deceptive tongue. You will say one thing to one person and something completely different to another. Your word is not your bond. Gone is the generation where you could negotiate on a hand shake. Even in the church we have to employ lawyers and create legal documents. The double tongue is why it is no good counseling people separately all of the time because it becomes a he said... she said scenario. Interesting that the snake (the type and shadow of satan) has a forked tongue.
5. The Immoral/Fawning Tongue: Prov 6:24 *"To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman."* How often do people flatter to get their own way or to be recognized or to lead us off the path that the Holy Spirit has set our feet upon?
6. Volatile Tongue: James 3: 8 & 9. *But the tongue can no man tame, it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God."* Our reaction in anger can be explosive and we say things we can never take back. I am amazed at how many Christians use the name of God when they are angry and if you challenge them they cannot see that it is blasphemy. I am amazed when I see an employer yell at one of his employees especially in public. That not only shows a lack of respect toward the employee but it demeans the employer in the eyes of the rest of the staff. How do you win the respect of people when you continually yell at them? I remember once seeing a son shouting and screaming at his elderly mother outside a public toilet at Sea World. I was extremely embarrassed for him and felt very protective of her even if perhaps she had been very difficult or no matter what had caused the explosion.

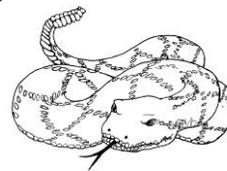
Before we open our mouths, especially in confrontational situations, we need to ponder where we are taking an altercation or more so where the Lord wants us to take it. Jeremiah 1:10 says, *"See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms. To root out and to pull down, and to destroy and to throw down, **to build and to plant.**"*

First of all make sure you have an anointing similar to Jeremiah and then make sure after the tearing down that you show how to build and what to plant. You cannot go into a church and tear things down - even if God shows you what is wrong there - unless He also gives you the

plan on how to rebuild.

The tongue can build-up and be therapeutic or tear-down and bring destruction. It can bless or curse or it can bring about discord and hurt. It is the solution to open heaven in praise, worship and prayer or the key to open up hell and build strongholds, send out curses, and bring oppression, sickness and disease of the mind, body, and spirit. It can be the most powerful weapon used, especially among Christians, to separate and divide God's children within the Kingdom of God.

*"My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the King: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer."* Ps 45:1 Let our tongues always be the pen of a ready writer.



## ISRAEL

What nation on earth warns their enemies to move out of the buildings they are about to bomb? Only Israel! With world opinion against Israel as usual, it is our responsibility to lift that nation in prayer. Despite what many say, Israel is still the apple of God's eye and God's chosen people and the land they occupy is still the land that God gave to them. Romans 11 talks about us being grafted in and we are commanded to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

While the world reacts **against** Israel they say little to nothing about what is happening to Christians in Mosul, Iraq. About ten years ago there were approximately 60,000 Christians in Mosul. Since the Islamist extremists have taken over the city they have commanded that Christians convert to Islam, pay a heavy tax which most cannot afford or die. They later revoked the tax so it was convert or die and they were given 24 hours and allowed to take only what clothes they were wearing. These are the same type of terrorists that are attacking Israel.

It reminds me of our earlier days in South Sudan when the Muslims were raiding villages and taking captives to sell on the auction blocks of Khartoum for body parts to some potentate in the Middle East. When they were burying children in the hot desert sand of the Sahara and telling parents to convert and then they could give their children a drink of water. If they did not convert the children slowly roasted to death and the parents were taken away and crucified.

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Report from the suburbs of Jerusalem.

#### INTELLIGENCE REPORT

According to US intelligence sources, advanced satellite imaging has revealed far more Hamas tunnels into the Israeli border than had been estimated, which had been prepared for a major invasion by terrorists. Most of these were created after the ceasefire agreement from the last war, and constructed with cement and steel materials allowed in from Israel for reconstruction of Gaza. Thus this operation into Gaza has turned out to be imperative, and a life-saver. Hamas' intentions are only evil and destruction, as you may read clearly in the Hamas Charter, as virulent as Hitler's *Meine Kampf*. This is no time for any "ceasefire" as is being demanded, but for Israel to finish its mission in dismantling the Hamas military infrastructure. Thus far 27 Israeli soldiers have died, and one missing, which Hamas claims to have captured. Israel is fighting this war for the entire Western civilization (especially as US forces have been withdrawn from the fronts by Mr. Obama). We have just seen the Hamas relatives, ISIS, slaughtering entire Christian families of unarmed civilians in their homes, shouting wildly to their god, "alla hu akbar!" Where is the international outrage? For more exact details of what Israel is dealing with, read Psalm 83.

#### THE CRUX OF THE MATTER IN GAZA

Rather than condemning Israel for its current war against Hamas, the West should be thanking Israel for taking on what has been designated by many nations as a *terrorist organization*. Hamas is fully akin to the organizations that threaten the West and have been themselves fighting, including Al Qaeda, the Taliban, Hizbullah, the Islamic Jihad, ISIS, Boko Haram and the Muslim Brotherhood. Though these organizations have varying affiliations and rifts with one another, they represent the same anti-western Jihad. Hamas is firing rockets into Israeli cities as I write this, hearing the explosions now, and it has been their full intent all along to kill and injure as many civilians as possible. Thank G-d for the Iron Dome systems that have proven 90% effective to prevent carnage. Israel is doing all it can to avoid Palestinian civilian casualties, sending warnings before attacking so that all may leave the areas, which is a distinct disadvantage to our war effort against Hamas, who encourages civilians to stay and become "martyrs". We are all grieved that there have been so many casualties among the Palestinians, including seven more Israeli soldiers today. It is a very difficult task, but Hamas must be disarmed to prevent yet another event like this in the future. I pray we will get international cooperation in doing this. The breaking of Hamas would also be a blessing to the Arabs of Gaza. Perhaps you can write to your senators and congressmen. Read Psalm 83 for details of this war.

#### THE TELLTALE HEART

The telltale fact in the long list of passionate worldwide reactions (see below) to Israel defending itself from *years* of indiscriminate rocket attacks against its population, is that with the massive daily slaughter of Muslim Arabs by Muslim Arabs in Syria and Iraq (mostly civilians), Yemen, Libya, with Muslim terrorists murdering thousands in Sudan and other African nations, destroying churches and brutally killing Christians, not a single demonstration of outrage is seen anywhere. Is this called a *double standard*- or the age-old virus of Jew-hatred lurking in the hearts of men? Even our few supporters are insisting on a nice clean little war where everything goes right and only the guilty are prosecuted, but war is not a game of checkers. Israel is fighting a very wicked enemy whose value for life is low and is secondary to its objective of destroying the Jewish state and people, and we are fighting in the very difficult circumstances of urban warfare. "The only way for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing"- so do something.

#### WORLD REACTION.

Now there are anti-Israel demonstrations from Dublin to Edinburgh to London to Paris to Vienna to Brussels to Istanbul to Amman to Berlin to Florida to Los Angeles, accusing Israel of "war crimes" and "massacres" and threatening more sanctions and even arms embargos. A group of Nobel Prize laureates has condemned Israel (such notable anti-Israel voices as Tutu and Chomsky). Many of the world's news media are giving incredibly one-sided and distorted pro-Palestinian reports and commentaries, to which I am writing day and night to counter in their pages. The US senate has, thus far, stood with us. Eighteen of our soldiers have now been killed and many more wounded, and many tunnels passing underground into Israel, filled with weaponry and explosives ready for attacks on communities, have been discovered and destroyed. Unfortunately, it is a very necessary and dangerous operation, which continues as I write.

#### UNDERSTANDING JIHAD.

*Jihad* knows no rules. Its savage brutality knows no limits, nor does it play by international rules of warfare, but aims its suicidal attacks at civilian targets as busses, cafes, hotels, pizza parlors and the World Trade Center (3000 deaths). Jihad is performed as a religious obligation for the pleasure of a god named Allah, and thus its barbarity is justified to its followers. The higher the casualty count the better it is for Jihad. The Western world's naivety seems incapable of believing that such a worldview exists on any grand scale, and that is the grave danger. Dealing effectively with Jihadi mentality cannot be done with mere good will, or with the Marquis of Queenberry's etiquette. The Jihad uses such tactics of deception and lies as the *Hudna*- a ceasefire when they feel they are at a disadvantage, until they can re-arm and attack at a later and more advantageous time. Much of its policy is performed with a smile, and the use of such key words as "peace, justice, equality". That is what we are seeing today from Hamas in Gaza.

## THE GROUND WAR.

Hamas is an expert at embedding itself in the midst of the Palestinian civilian population and using it as human shields, to seek immunity from the army. In recent days, IDF sources reported spotting Hamas gunmen boarding ambulances in Gaza filled with children. Hamas urged residents of northern Gaza to remain in their homes, and provide cover for its concentration of rocket launch squads in that area. These tactics are designed to provide the terrorist organization with protection from the IDF. I have been hearing the roar of combat most of the night, even as I now write. Two more Israeli soldiers have died. "I don't think the international community should create any kind of symmetry between a democracy, legitimately acting in its own self-defense trying to avoid civilian casualties and a terrorist organization that deliberately targets millions of innocent civilians," Netanyahu told the French foreign minister, where in France there are violent anti-Israel demonstrations, as there are in England, Germany, Belgium, Ireland, and the USA. Now is not a time to be silent and I hope some of you will raise your voices intelligently and effectively, as this is not but a local matter, I assure you. Israel is on the front line of the war for western freedom, and silence is not golden.



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**When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us. Alexander Graham Bell**

**Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. Thomas Edison**

**The secret of getting ahead is getting started.**

**Keep away from people who try to belittle your dreams. Small people always do that, but the really great ones make you feel that you, too, can become great. Mark Twain**

**If you can dream you can do it. Walt Disney**

**Always remember that you are totally unique, just like everyone else. Margaret Mead**

**If you want to test a man's character give him power. Abraham Lincoln**

**A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over  
Never ruin an apology with an excuse. Benjamin Franklin**