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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

I was recently honored to speak at a funeral and a week later to perform a wedding. The funeral was for one of my best friends and confidant. She was one of my prayer warriors and they are extremely hard to replace. It was a time of great sadness for all of us, but I was at her bedside when she crossed over to be with the Lord. Her husband and I and her nurse were in the room and prayed for a peaceful passing. No sooner than we had said "AMEN" she breathed her last. The peace in the room was so great we did not want to disturb it except to pray. Not a month earlier she had been diagnosed with stage four cancer – untreatable. She suffered very little and was ready to meet the Lord. I have been at several bedsides where this has happened and to me it is always a miracle when they are ready to go and just step over – no fighting, no death rattle, no more pain.

In contrast to that, less than a week later I was officiating at the wedding of friends of mine in Houston. Weddings should always remind us that one day there will be a great marriage supper with Jesus, the Lamb of God. We will be arrayed in glory and without spot or wrinkle. Wearing white for a pure bride is the closest we can come to the beautiful wedding apparel we will have at the marriage

supper of the lamb. Our apparel represents the righteous acts of the saints. The vows go on to say, *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish"* (Eph 5: 25-27).

In years past parents chose the bridegroom for their daughter and who knows us better than our parents? In this modern day and age, we have traveled far from this concept, but it is God who chooses the bride for His Son and if are born again and love the Lord we should allow Him to choose our husband here on earth. There is much preparation for a wedding just as we have much to prepare for our heavenly wedding. Having these two ceremonies is such proximity really spoke to me about how life should be a continual process of dying – first and foremost, dying to self so that the Lord takes over in our lives and we so reflect His glory in all that we do and secondly, death as the world knows it when we cross over in great triumph to a wonderful place where we are whole with no pain or sorrow. I once asked a student in China what they believed happened after death and she said nothing. It is so amazing that we, as Christians, can say with assurance that we are going to a better place.

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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 FRANCIS

It is beginning to sound like a broken record when we report on the unrest and protests that are widespread across Malawi and have been marred by several acts of violence and lawlessness from both the civilian population and the police department. We are still not sure of the outcome of this ongoing tussle for power with both the aggrieved and accused parties continuing their quests to seek justice and to consolidate power. Nevertheless, the Lord has been truly faithful to us throughout all this chaos.

We are ever passionate about reaching out to young people and sharing the gospel at every opportunity that we can get. Pastors Peter and Shadreck recently led a three-day youth seminar in the mountains of Nthondo. This world has been overly blessed with people with a unique set of gifts and abilities needless to mention the diversity in passions and calling too. It is always wonderful to see people getting on with and excelling in their career paths, yet it is so common to hear people say they happy and comfortable with what they are doing. However, many have a certain calling, gifting and passion about something they have never really attempted to pursue or invest so little time in. Instead of being innovators they are content to be spectators all their lives.

Everything happens so fast these days and it could be that sometimes we are so busy with our careers that we seldom ever have enough time for other things. Either that, or we simply gave up on our aspirations. In Luke 5:1-11 we see the Lord Jesus preaching at the Sea of Galilee and thereafter charging Peter and friends to cast their nets into the deep after they spent the previous night at sea and came back with empty nets. Peter being the experienced fisherman he was, could have easily said: "I have been out at sea all night and caught nothing so what makes you certain that we can catch something now?" He could have said, "Rabi you know more about carpentry and I know the best time to fish is at night," or that when Jesus was teaching, the noise that came from the gathering crowds scared the fish away and it would have made sense, but he did not protest. Instead Peter says, "Master we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at your word I will let down the net."

Often, we are afraid to pursue our calling because we have absolutely no idea of how that may work for us or the things we will have to endure. There's always that fear of the unknown things that creeps in and sows the seed of doubt and procrastination. Ministry is a tough choice for any young man to answer to because it is not glamorous and exciting as everyone thinks. It takes faith and even though we are so quick to preach about it we seldom walk it out in our lives. Sometimes the challenges we face like Peter coming up with empty nets, the risks and uncertainties of being called to parts of the world you did not want to be in might be more than a little overwhelming. Sleeping in a tent is not so comfortable like the unexpected rigors a fisherman would have to bear at sea. But, if we can have faith like Peter, to say though I poured my guts out, suffered a cold night at sea and came back empty handed, I will trust in the Lord to cast my net into the deep. Peter did not give up but listened in obedience and in the end their nets were bursting with fish

We are excited for the young people who are actively investing their time in ministry as well as pursuing their careers. We are so overjoyed that the remnant has boldly risen to stand in the gap and preach love to the world. We pray that they will continue to case their nets and the return will be plentiful thus changing the nature and atmosphere of an area which has always been a headquarters for witchcraft.

May our net always be full. Let us not be satisfied with one or two fish but may we ask for a full net. If Jesus did it for Peter, then He will do it for you and me and He is the One that gives increase. We just must be obedient and do the work He has called us to. He has equipped us with all that we need. Time is short and it seems that the laborers are few. Let us encourage and exhort and be instruments of His work. He has gifted each one of us so let us use what He has given.



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

PHOTOS OF ON-GOING WORK



Some of the elderly who attended the youth conference in support of their young people and because they are hungry for the Word.



Pastor Peter with the girls' basketball team

SERIOUS NEED

We have a serious need for a truck to haul distribution items and building materials. The truck we have used in the past is no longer available and it is costing an alarming amount of money to rent one. It puts up the cost of a cottage for the elderly from just over \$500 to \$600 per house. Please help us in this venture. A good 5-ton secondhand vehicle is about \$16,000. We have so far collected \$3,000.



REPORT FROM PASTOR PETER

Please receive warm greetings from the church at Tengani and the Alabaster family in Malawi. We are going through trying times with regards to the current political upheaval which has come about as a result of greed and corruption in the country. The rot in the system is beyond our comprehension and we can only pray and ask you our beloved to keep us in your prayers that we experience a breakthrough in this, our predicament.

I praise the Lord for the grace that He continues to provide for us. He has given us the greatest gift of all, the gift of life. Life to me is a wonderful journey full of a collection of great memories with our families, friends, and others we create with our environment wherever we may be. For every believer it is a wonderful journey of faith and living a kingdom life with all its attributes. It is time to live a kingdom life and overcome all our obstacles by taking them up to the courts of heaven. I am particularly excited about the youth who are passionate about the Lord and are going out into the world to share the Gospel.

The youth from seven villages came together at Nthondo for a conference to have fellowship and encourage one another in the things of the Lord. I am happy to see young ladies stepping up and their male counterparts giving them all the support they need in a predominantly male-controlled society. The strides that Alabaster has taken in sensitizing the communities to change their culture and customs towards women are bearing fruit and we cannot wait for more success stories.

One of the reasons we decided to have youth meetings was the concern that the elderly, who raised the future generations in our region had left Christ out and the youth had lost their identity and strayed far away from the living reality of Christ. We always stressed the need to foster a new culture in the young people and asked the families to take part in our meetings with the Elderly especially with our distribution campaigns. It was a joy for Shadreck when the elderly from his village attended the youth conference to offer their support and counsel whenever they could.

We praise the Lord for all His wonderful provisions and the vision that He gave the leadership of this wonderful family to reach out and change the Nsanje community. The area is now opening to a lot of development projects as well as being set on fire by the life that is our Lord Jesus. My church at Tengani continues to grow and I would like to ask you our dearly beloved to keep us in your prayers. To my dearest friend Ellen, I pray that one day you may come and be blessed by all the saints at Tengani who would cherish your presence as much as my family and I would. May the Almighty God continue to bless you all and keep you at all times; Amen.

Peter's garden. Please pray for continued good weather. Corn and sweet potatoes. They grow the best sweet potatoes I have ever eaten.



REPORT FROM PASTOR SHADRECK

Dearly beloved,

I greet you in the most wonderful and precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ and hope that this finds you well. My family and I are all well and overly blessed by your continuous praying and support.

In my village we say that a family is blessed when you receive guests on a timely basis, and I was overly blessed on the 26th of July when we hosted the three-day youth conference at my church. I would like to encourage Pastor Peter and Francis to continue teaching and supporting the youth to rise and grow up into maturity in Christ. This initiative is transforming our communities in so many ways and I praise the Lord for the work that He is doing through His people. (See photo on page 1)

Revelations 12:11 says *"They have triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and the by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."* I sent my daughter to get a few supplies from Tenganani on the 22nd of July and the only comfortable mode of transport is hired motorbikes. There are about two steep slopes on the way down which make the journey somewhat precarious if your brakes are not in good condition which is usually the case with these hired bikes. The bike lost brakes on their way down the second slope and my daughter fell of the bike first then the owner followed afterwards. The bike was badly damaged they had to carry it out of there. The owner survived serious injuries and he was rushed to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre. Our prayers are with him and we praise the Lord that my daughter survived the accident without a single scratch on her body.

On the same July 22nd, I had a Bible study with the elderly when suddenly someone noticed that we were one member short. No sooner

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REPORT FROM SHADRECK cont.



had we begun the meeting than a messenger came to report that Vizhina Benasi injured her leg and we stopped the meeting to go and pray with her. It has become a custom that the elderly take charge in laying hands on the sick including one another so we conducted our Bible study at her house and prayed with her. It was wonderful to see her attending the Youth conference last week and walking without a limp. We praise the Lord for He continues to shepherd His flock. It is my prayer that you are encouraged and begin to take up our troubles to the courts of heaven through prayer. We continue to pray for you our beloved friends and supporters and wish you the best in all your endeavors.

One of our youth football teams. We have a team for each area, and they play against the local community teams. We also have girls' basketball teams.