



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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Rox Heyns

JUNE 2017

Dearest Friends,

I am blessed to have been working with the elderly in Malawi. It is an unusual group of people because there are so many of them in a country where the average life expectancy for many years was under 40 years. Of the 400 that we work with, all are over 70 and a sizable number are over 90.

When we began working with them they were destitute and starving. There is no social security there and many of them did not have family members to take care of them as they had died from various diseases. In fact, they were trying to take care of their grandchildren who were orphaned.

The Word that God gave for them was, "They are here because I am not done with them yet!" Since then we have been feeding, clothing and teaching them – how to see themselves as God sees them – lovely, beautiful and worthwhile. It has instilled in them a reason for being and once they realized that God has a purpose and plan for them and He expects them to leave a legacy behind they have begun to fulfil what it is that God ordained for them. They are happy and joyful despite their aches and pains and all that is related to growing older. More importantly, they are changing their world and when they do go they will leave behind a legacy for the Kingdom. They have confidence in the Lord and in themselves and many have realized His potential in them.

It confounds me that as I travel in the west I meet more and more people who are just maintaining. They go to church on Sunday because it is the "right" thing to do. For the rest of the week they are often self-focused or focused on their immediate world alone. There is no attempt at outreach in any way, shape or form. Some have told me that they long to be in heaven because it is so much more wonderful there. That fact I do not dispute, but the fact that they long to be there before their time I believe is an insult to the wonderful God who created us, sent His Son to set us free and His Precious Holy Spirit to indwell us. What an incredible affront that we sit back and do nothing with what He has given us.

God is sovereign but He seldom, if ever operates sovereignly in the earth because He created us and gave what is needed to do His work here. God has made covenants with us but we do not keep our

covenants with Him or each other. Marriage is a covenant made together and before God. How often is it broken?

God made a Blood Covenant with us by the Blood of His Precious Son Jesus. That covenant was not to sit back and enjoy His benefits, doing nothing for the rest of our lives. We love to say, "All things work together for good." That is not what the scripture says. It says in Rom 8vs28, "All things work together for them **that love God**, to them who are called according to His purpose." Do you love God and are you called according to His purpose? It is easy to say I love....I was with a friend recently and we were talking about love. God wants us to love Him irrespective of what happens to us. God wants us to love each other the same way especially our husband and families. Unfortunately, most love with the filial love – when things go our way all is well.

All of us, who have made that decision to follow Him should be so in love with Him. We talk about the fact we cannot wait for heaven but what do we think we will be doing most of the time? We do not like to go to this church because of the praise and worship, or that one for some other reason but that is what heaven is all about. We will be praising and worshipping the Lamb so if you are bored here, then.....

God does not allow bad things into our lives to teach us a lesson or to get our attention. The Word tells us in James 4vs7

"SUBMIT (submit, submit submit) yourselves therefore to GOD. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." How many of us are truly submitted to God? The devil has already been conquered at the Cross and if he does not flee then our next question must be, "Am I submitted to God?"

Our walk with Christ should be so very exciting but it should also be stress free because we are at rest in Him. Every day is the Sabbath, every day we should be at total peace and rest in Him. There should be no striving in our lives and when we are carrying out His vision for us we should count it all joy and remain at peace. He took the multitudes out of Egypt so that they could find I AM and move into the promised land which was not just a place of milk and honey but it was a place where the children of Israel could find rest in Him. That's His desire for us!

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IN MEMORIUM

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the sudden death of our longtime friend, supporter and advisor Stan Newton.

He passed away unexpectedly in Orlando, Florida Sunday June 18 at the age of 63. He and my kids and I had lunch together the Sunday before and never had any indication it would be the last time we would see him. It was a peaceful day and it seemed that he did not want to leave as we chatted and laughed over a meal and throughout the afternoon.

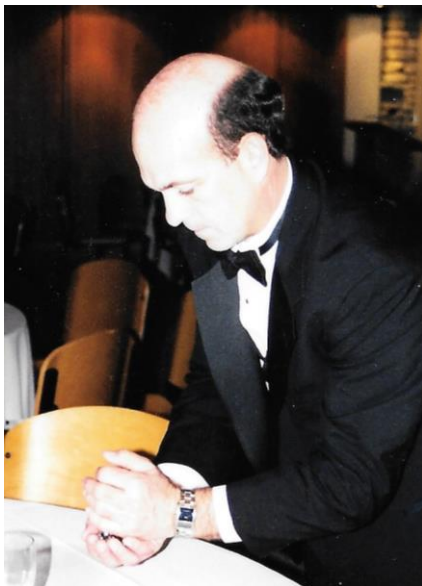
I first met Stan at a church convention in Madison WI. and this began a friendship that spanned over two decades.

He was a wonderful supporter of the ministry I was working for at the time and very excited about the high school we were building. This was the hall which holds over 800 for which he was principal donor.



When I left this ministry, he came with me and was on my Board of Directors for Alabaster Ministries.

He was a very private person but loved his family and friends alike. His heart was too big for him in so many ways. I could fill a book with stories about him. We will all miss him greatly but he was one of those who was met by a multitude who gave him thanks for the part he played in getting them to heaven. He stayed behind with the stuff but had equal shares in the treasure.



Stan was always around to help clean up. He stayed on after a dinner to help wash dishes and after my daughter's wedding he was there to help clear things off the tables.

A good many of you knew him and we all loved him dearly – what was not to love? He is a great loss to us and to this ministry, but we know that he is in a better place and that one day we will see him again. What other “religion” can promise that? Because of our relationship in Christ we will all be together again one day.

What a great gift God shared with us! We miss you Stan.

REPORT FROM FRANCIS

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray that you are all well and truly blessed.

We are coming to the end of the times and have arrived at an hour when the milk must give way for some real meat in the body of Christ. It is high time the church looked to its own and began to give voice to the voiceless, empower the weak, and restore the broken through the power of the blessed Holy Spirit of God. The world needs to see a dynamic five-fold ministry in action and not the theory of it; so many hungry people are looking for some real champions, men and women of God who are on fire for the Lord to lead the way in this grave hour when most of our world is hurting and in ruins.

The world has become a cruel juggernaut with diverse complexities beyond everyone's imagination. We are witnessing a new wave of agonizing acts of tyranny all over the world under the pretext of political and religious differences. The prince of this world has unleashed his venom and has men of power and others seeking to fulfil their selfish desires dancing to his tune in a perpetual showdown for superiority and pride. Does the church have any part to play in all this, what will we do in these times when there's such a hatred of correction and reproof? What will we say to all those being persecuted and killed in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ? What message will we take to the world around us when there's so much hurting and pain?

For over two thousand years man has selfishly sought to resolve the biggest mysteries of life with his intellect but has often come short; yet the master of all mysteries has always been but a prayer away. Jesus is the greatest phenomenon to have ever graced this world and He gives us comfort in this; *“that there shall be signs in the sun and in the moon, and in the stars and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity the seas and waves roaring. The hearts of men failing them to fear and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken and then shall they see the son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory; and when these things begin to pass, then look up and lift your heads for your redemption draweth nigh.”* Luke 21: 25-28.

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Continued from page 2 ... Report from Francis Hezekiah cried out to the heavens in Isaiah 37:3, *"This is a day of trouble and of rebuke and blasphemy for the children have come to the birth and there's no strength to bring forth."* The church needs not fear the times but rather walk in power and live with the full authority of God given to us by His Blessed Holy Spirit through unwavering faith in our Lord Jesus. We should be most earnest in prayer when we are faced with great difficulties. When pains are strong let prayer be most lively, when faced with great predicaments, then is a time to stir up not ourselves only, but others also to take hold of God. We have no reason to fear those that have made God their enemy for they are marked for ruin and though they may hiss, they cannot hurt. Goliath made his threats against God's people but David boldly stood for righteousness with all the assurance that the Lord would come through for him. This is a call to prayer in the church, may the world hear us shouting from the rooftops and the hillsides, may we start today to intercede until Christ be lifted up for the world to see. This is not a call for concern over just how we seldom ever have the power to go forth and spread the gospel because we have neglected the Holy Spirit for so long, but rather a call to anguish. When God wants to move over a nation He is anguished over it, He has great sorrow over it; He was anguished over Israel in antiquity and we've seen how He came through for them. We seldom ever hear the word anguish in our sermons and our prayers. The church isn't dead and it surely isn't short of faithful servants, there's a great many of them but the church is short of servants that weep over nations, people who are not merely filled with concern over what is going around us today but filled with great sorrow and have the courage to do something about it. The enormity of whatever is happening across the world today is nothing compared to the power that lies in the precious blood of the Lamb and His Holy Spirit who gives us power to do the impossible. With that in mind all evenings at the Bible School are devoted to intercession and it has been amazing to hear the pastors pray with great power and authority.

SOLOMON BANDA

The Bible school session was a continuation of the missions to Muslims class and even though Islam is not a big force in the Lower Shire, even so there is a need to educate ministers on how to conduct missions to Muslims. They have a huge missionary program of their own and it is time that the church matched what they are doing in the nations of the earth – not with mayhem and death, hatred and violence but with the love and message of the Lord Jesus Christ. We were privileged to have pastor's wives joining their husbands during this session and the result was very encouraging. My aim was to emphasize the great commission Christ has bestowed on us to preach the gospel to every soul on earth that means ministering to Muslims too.

I also set out to help remove some stereotypes we Christians hold against people of the Islamic faith so that we may become messengers of love; love for one another as well as for the lost. *"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if ye have love one to another,"* John 13:35.

The church's primary mission is to preach Jesus to all those that do not know him and we sought to emphasize this to all the ministers present. It is therefore my prayer that with this knowledge they will be able to cross the cultural divide between Christians and Muslims as they endeavor to make Christ known to everyone, everywhere, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

PASTOR PETER

Africans like teaching their children about our culture and roots as well as Bible stories and the value that is in respecting all elders regardless of filial ties. We love to tell our children to always remember that charity begins at home and that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom. I believe this to be the common custom in the west which is a great thing to do but the modern generation of youth has often rebelled and fallen so far away from the values they grew up with hence the need to emphasize on ministry to the children. I believe that we (The church) have a great responsibility to teach our children the things of the Lord regardless of our geographical positioning, social, economic and political environments. I believe that when we constantly teach our youth the things of the Lord and raise them to grow up as living epistles of Christ, they can never depart from the light no matter where they may go. I have four boys and I will be very proud to see them shining with the Word of God someday, knowing that I did my best to raise them that way. I would never trade the opportunity to be able to raise my children in the Word for anything else in the world. Parents should take pride in teaching their children and likewise elders in the church should take pride in being a model for the youth to follow.

We hosted a youth camp at Tengani and we had 120 young people from 10 branches around Nsanje. I was so excited to see young men and women leading praise and worship, preaching as well as teaching each other. It is a rare thing to find young people in church because most of them are entangled in crime, alcoholism, drugs, and prostitution. Our hope lies in these young men and women to minister to their fellow youth for they can communicate and understand each other better than we can and thus fill the gap we cannot fill. We have found that most young men love sport and soccer is the number one sport in Africa and so we will be hosting a soccer league which will start on the fourth of August 2017. We have an opportunity to attract so many young people to come to the games at which a sermon will be preached before every game.

We thank God that the women do not want to be left behind and they have organized their annual meeting to be held at Chazuka on the 28th of this month. I would like to thank my wife Martha for the good work she is doing teaching fellow women simple skills such as crochet and the Word of God is ministered while they learn.

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Beloved friends, I would like to encourage you to pray without ceasing for our families and our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord. I would like to give a testimony from what happened during our recent Bible school session. Usually we reserve the evenings for sermons and we encourage people from the nearby places to come and fellowship with us but this time we decided to have intercession for a good two hours every night for a week. Solomon led praise and worship on the first night and five minutes into praise and worship the possessed began to manifest and some walked out of the meeting. After prayer Pastor Shadreck Kamchila approached us with a prayer request for his wife who was tormented by a demon and she usually walks out of prayer gatherings during praise and worship and comes back afterwards for the sermon. We prayed with her that night and told her we would continue to pray for her until she was freed. As suspected Mrs. Kamchila disappeared on the second and third day of intercession but on the last day her husband made sure she sat next to him and held her hand when we began to worship. No sooner had the singing begun than the demons began to manifest. Her hair and fingers were contorted but the whole room began to sing and praise the Lord louder and louder and as the singing went on the presence of the Holy Spirit in the room was so powerful that you could feel Him with your figure tips. She was thrown to the ground and freed by the precious Blood of our Lord Jesus. We would like to ask you all for your prayers that the Lord should safeguard her and continue doing the work He has started with her. I bless you all in the mighty name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.



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We have received the breakdown for the Tengani church which is as follows:

The building will measure 33 x 100 feet (10m x 30m).	
Bricks 80,000	\$1,000
Roofing 85 X16 ft	\$3,800
200 bags cement	\$1,700
Transport	640
Timber	\$1,400
Window frames/doors	\$1,200
Nails, mosquito netting etc	\$1,000
Contractors	<u>700</u>
TOTAL	\$11,440

BREAKDOWN OF MONTHLY EXPENSES FOR 2017

Support for each elderly each distribution x 4	: \$20 x 420	\$8,400
Support for girls (education and clothing)	5 x 10	50
Alabaster Bible school students	10 x 25	250
Alabaster Students attending PAOC school	30 x 2	60
Support – 8 pastors (13 months)	15 x 8	120
2 pastors (13 months)	20 x 2	40
3 staff members total (13 months)		<u>570</u>
	Monthly	\$5,290
Building costs for 2017:		
10 houses for the elderly	\$5,000	
Upgrading pastor's homes	2,000	
Bible school dormitories	6,000	
Roofing churches (grass to corrugated iron)	1,750 four churches	
Church at Tengani	12,000	
Staff housing	30,000	