

ELDERLY ON THEIR WAY TO DISTRIBUTION WITH THEIR PASTOR ERIC IN THE FOREFRONT



June 2018 rozheyns.org ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

On my last trip to Africa I taught on the "gifts" at the Bible School. We are all aware of the nine gifts mentioned in 1 Cor 12 but there are many more in the Bible which, if put into action by the body of Christ, would not only benefit the Church but also make an impact on the lost and dying.

The first two of course are the most important – salvation and the in filling of the Holy Spirit. As I have made mention in the past, the Holy Spirit is not an option but a command Eph 5:18 *"Be ye filled with the Holy Spirit."* We obviously do not take that seriously because it is seldom, if ever, taught in our churches. After we taught on it at the Bible School and prayed for them then came the rushing, mighty wind but ours was the sound of voices as they began to praise in another tongue. Baptism in water is another gift – *"Repent and be baptized!"* An order! When we have held baptismal services in Africa we have seen demons manifest as they go under the water and when they come up they are set free and often speak in tongues. It is a package deal with God. Being filled with the Spirit gives us the power to be witnesses and perhaps that is why there is a lack of power in the Church today.

I have gone through the Word and have found 27 gifts not counting the three mentioned here. What about the gift of hospitality? That,

when done properly, truly is a gift that few seem to have. I have watched in Africa as pastors entertain, and poor as they are, they will kill their last chicken to feed their guest. When I went to China we were guests of a couple whose daughter was in university in North America. They put us up in a four-star hotel for a week and paid for everything while we were with them. They refused to let us pay for even one meal. We are too lazy to set a table when we have guests, or we expect them to eat off paper plates so there is no washing up, even when we have expensive dishwashers.

Exhortation is a gift. Instead of cutting people's feet out from under them, let us encourage and exhort. I am not referring to the sloppy liberal mentality that says to tell people they did good when it is obvious they didn't. Show them how they can do better.

I would greatly encourage all of us to go through God's Word and find gifts – write them down as you find them and try to put them into action. The greatest gift is that of the Son of God who operated in all the gifts. The most important gift for us is the gift that is needed at a specific time. If a blind man came to me I would need either the gift of healing or a working of miracles. Trust God instead of worrying about how you will look if nothing happens. He has more compassion for the blind man than you do.

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 from Francis

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. We have endured two months of one of the coldest winters in years and summer is around the corner. The farmers will turn to their fields yet again to start preparations for the next planting season in November. We pray that the Lord gives us gentle winds and soaking rain in the next season. We are also preparing for our September-October distribution campaign and having a great time in fellowshiping with the elderly. The previous harvest was moderately better than the past two years however, it is expected that some people will exhaust their reserves by mid-November or early December this year. The living conditions are deplorable with most people still living under a dollar per day and the elderly population is more affected since none of them are on pension and they do not have the means to generate income. There's a desperate need for a radical change in the economic dynamism of this nation so as to raise the living conditions across the board.

Believers across the universe have different opinions when it comes to political affiliation and devotion as related to their spiritual obligations and principals. We do not speak out as we should. Even as Christians we are entitled to our opinions – we just need to make sure they are Godly opinions. We often find ourselves splitting hairs over the uncompromising characters we ought to be and the reality of the compromising circumstances of the world we live in. We are currently in a situation where so many in the nation are calling for regime change after four years of corruption which never seems to be addressed. We have confidence in the fact that when a nation cries out to God for a leader God answers prayer. We know that God is not only capable of raising up charismatic leaders but people who make a difference and a real life changing impact on their subjects. I believe it is not enough for the body of Christ to look at our communities and point out all the things they see wrong and not do anything about it. We have a duty to intercede until we touch God's heart as well as to perform our civic duty by voting in the type leaders we want to represent us. We would like to implore you our beloved family in the body of Christ to keep us in your prayers so that God should raise up some leaders who represent this nation in justice and truth so that they will spearhead a new era of development and change.

Pastor Peter Kankoche is really doing a wonderful job at Tengani and needs our prayer support. He has been tested, tried, and proven to be a man about God's business. They have been faithful and endured worshipping under a tree for some time now. It was a challenge to conduct meetings during the rainy season and the hot-dry and dusty months and now the Lord has rewarded them with a church building to start in August 2018. God is the master of time and order - He decides when to bless and deliver. He constantly rewards the faithful and pours down His reviving spirit like a flood when He wants to move in a given area. I still believe the Lord positioned this ministry in Tengani for a purpose and has brought us all together so His work through all of us should be fulfilled. God is really doing a wonderful work in the people at Tengani and I pray that the Lord continues to expand Peter's horizons, so he can reach out to many souls in the area and beyond. We will have the church unveiling and dedication ceremony during a 3-day crusade after the distributions in September/October this year 2018 and would like to implore you to keep us in your prayers. Let me take this opportunity to ask those with prayer requests to email us and we will cover them during this period.

We are living in exciting times and there's never been a greater need to teach the spirit of togetherness and the love of Jesus Christ than now. There is so much pain and division in the world and nothing that we can do is going to heal the world more than prayer and the unconditional love of Jesus Christ taught in spirit and truth and demonstrated with real passion and sincerity to lost and dying as well as our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. Sometimes the church is so focused on the lost and dying that we forget to uphold one another in the body of Christ. We cannot teach the world how to love if we do not demonstrate love among one another. AMEN.

ED NOTE: PLEASE HELP US WITH THE BUILDING OF THIS CHURCH. THE TOTAL COST WILL BE \$12,000. HELP US BUY SOME BRICKS OR SOME ROOFING SHEETS. WE ALSO NEED WINDOWS BECAUSE OF THE WIND. IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF ONE DONATED FOR SOME BAGS OF CEMENT AND SOME FOR THE WINDOW PANES, SOME FOR BRICKS AND SOME FOR CORRUGATED IRON.

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.

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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.

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Via the web site direct to PayPal.

MISSIONS AND MINISTERING IN ANOTHER CULTURE

Many people want to do something for the Lord but regularly state that He hasn't spoken to them, so they feel that they have not been called. This is totally untrue, and it could not be more clear from Scripture that we are to GO.

Mat 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

Mar 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. This is for everyone who calls themselves a believer in Jesus Christ!* There are many ministries that will take people from 2 weeks to 3 months giving people an opportunity to explore more specifically what the Lord is calling them to. We are not all evangelists, or pastors or teachers but learning to share a testimony and some simple scriptures on the mission field helps us establish our gifting.

Jesus made it very clear that no 'prophet' is acceptable or listened to in his own area. So, going somewhere very different is essential. Maybe another continent or country has interested you, so investigate and see which missionary organizations are working there. Read their Newsletters; you will quickly get a feel for them that way - if they rarely bring scripture in you know they are more humanitarian than Biblical.

Ask the Lord to perhaps even give you a specific country. Simon Guillebaud is a good example here. He wanted to know where the Lord would have him go and he got a very clear answer – Burundi, Africa. That was 1999 and he and his wife and 3 children have lived there ever since. His book "Living Dangerously" is an excellent read!

Simon was in his 20's but age is no problem to the Lord and it should not be to us. There are many who have obeyed the call to go who are in their 60's and 70's – what a wonderful way to live out retirement years.

Hudson Taylor, 1832 - 1905, was a great British missionary to China. He is classically reported as saying that if you have not heard the call to stay home and support in prayer and finance a specific mission, then you are to go!

Hudson Taylor is a wonderful example of ministering to another culture. To the shock of his British colleagues, he decided to grow his hair as the Chinese did with a little pigtail and to wear Chinese clothes; he also moved out of the British compound and rented a small place amongst the Chinese. His identifying with the people he had come to serve led on to incredible outreach. In his 52 years there he went on to develop a ministry which had over 800 pastors, and together they won thousands of Chinese to the Lord. It is vitally important to learn something about the nation you are going to; maybe not so much about the language initially but their culture. Yes, if you can learn to say things like 'hello, thank you, please' that is good; but the main thing is that you don't want to be taking your culture into their way of life which might clash with theirs.

Understanding the culture we are going to minister in is crucial. The more we identify with those we seek to reach, the easier it is to build confidence which enables us then to share the good news of the Kingdom. Sadly, the opposite is also true. If aspects of our own culture clash with the culture of those we are seeking to minister to, then we are in danger of alienating the very people we are hoping to reach. This not only turns them away from the gospel and the Lord, but it can also bring the ministry into disrepute. Paul said, *'I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some'*. 1 Cor 9 v 22.

Penny Shellswell

(Ed note) Penny comes with me once a year. She is in her mid-70's. and sleeps in a tent.

REPORT FROM PETER

Beloved friends,

I greet you in the precious name of our wonderful friend and Savior Jesus. I am always praying for you because of the kindness and support you give us year in and year out.

I am so excited, and I cannot express just how much I am grateful for the church building project that is about to start at Tengani. Pastor Roz told me that good things come to those who wait upon the Lord and I am so happy to see her words to come to materialize. We have been fellowshiping under the shade of a tree and sometimes we would build make-shift tents to shelter during the hot dusty months, but even with that it was quite a challenge. I would wake up in the morning on Sunday to go and put chairs and mats down before people came for the service. I remember sometimes feeling like maybe today is the day my church decided to go worship elsewhere because it is either so hot or windy. The dust would be blown in the air by the winds would get into your eyes and mouth and up your nose. However, they were faithful, and God has rewarded their faithfulness and longsuffering spirit. I would like to thank Pastor Roz for encouraging me, telling me to never give up and always seek after God's face. I would like to extend my gratitude to Ellen Nix who has been a great supporter for me all these years and put me through Bible School. I finally graduate in November and do so wish you could be there for it. May the almighty God bless you abundantly. A special thank you goes to you, our beloved friends and partners for everything that you do to make this ministry a success and propel it to make a life changing impact on all people we interact with.

I remember growing up in my father's church and always aspiring to be like him some day. I had such a passion for the Word of God and as such am always excited when I come across young people who are so hungry and passionate about the things of the Lord. I love teaching Sunday school, so you can imagine I was in my element when I was told we were going to accommodate some Sunday school teachers at the Bible school. I thought it was going a tough time teaching the young guys because when most of senior bible school students first attended classes their knowledge of the Bible was somewhat pitiful, but little did I know I was going to meet a young and vibrant group. I would like to pass down the torch to someone as my father did to me and it changed my life completely. Isn't that that reason why we teach the gospel? To be able to change someone's life forever by the grace and working power of the Holy Spirit? I can think of no better reason than to stand before the King one day and say, "Lord I was your mighty trumpet, preaching and teaching your Word to change lives forever that they may have life and that in abundance."

In summary, there's only two months before we have meetings with the elderly and the team in Malawi is getting ready to create more memories. We always remember Pastor Roz in our prayers and hope you are not having so much stress with your foot. We pray to God above for complete healing in the name of Jesus, and for you our dear partners and friends, may the Almighty God Bless you.

REPORT FROM MARTHA:

Please receive warm greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus. We pray that you are all well and that God is keeping you safe. I am grateful to God for keeping my family safe and giving me the strength to go on teaching His Word.

We had a three-day women's conference in Nyandanda, Mozambique and saw God heal the broken and weary, and the sick. Mozambique is a nation that has a long history of civil unrest and war for decades. Most of the countryside is broken and the remnants of the unending hostilities between the RENAMO and FRELIMO factions have left many scarred deeply and only God alone can mend and heal their broken hearts. The area still has a strong military presence with the Mozambican Army camped about ten miles due north and RENAMO 15 miles due West of the Village where they have been for over 20 years now. The customs and traditions of the region are still oppressive towards women and we went in offering love and deliverance in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. We are hoping to go back there for a crusade in a few months because there's a real hunger for the Word of God but very few come to minister to them.

I was very impressed by our elderly group from surrounding villages in neighboring Malawi who made the trip and fellowshiped with us. We had a Pastor's son who was sick and had not been able to walk for three months so the parents brought him to our shed for prayer. They were with us during all the three days of the conference and we praise the Lord that the young man walked back home with his parents. We were also blessed with a wedding of one of our Sunday school teachers. He is such a wonderful young man and we are happy for him and his wife.

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PHOTOS:



Jeffrey Mphinga could not walk for three months and the Lord healed him at the ladies conference



They are in their 90's and need cottages



Peter and Martha on their wedding day