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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

Life is so fragile, and we take things so much for granted. When it is about to end, we hang on even when our quality of life is no longer anything near what it should be.

We, as children of God have so much more to look forward to. "Up from the grave He arose with a mighty triumph over His foes." That is exactly what happens with us when we are lowered into the ground one day. We triumph over sickness and disease – either demonic or because we have not taken care of ourselves properly – and certainly have victory over death. We advance, are clothed in glory and graduate to a place more amazing than we can ever imagine.

This, to me is always an amazing scripture. *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)*

We are so fixated on the things of the earth be it family, friends or material things, we cannot get past it to see the things in heaven. We WERE raised with Christ same as we WERE healed. All of these

mandates of God are accomplished facts. I am reminded of my father who could not wait. He had run his race and finished his course and his body was tired. One night while sleeping he just slipped away, and he will appear one day with the Lord in glory.

Earth is a transition for all of us because we are actually citizens of heaven. While I love the United States and am so grateful for all that comes with being a citizen here my home and allegiance is still to the Kingdom of Heaven and one day, I will go there so what have I to fear?

As Christians we should have an entirely new way of living and thinking.

I have become a new creature in Christ. What I was before He took me in should have gone long ago and it is not all about sin. Is it possible not to sin? Jesus told Mary to go her way and sin NO MORE. It is about a total change in lifestyle. When we are lost in Him, we take on all of His attributes. I remember years ago I heard a pastor say, "when I look in the mirror, I see God and when He looks in the mirror, He sees me." At the time I was so offended at the statement and but over the years I have had insight into scriptures that cover that such as the refiner's fire. It is "Christ in me, the hope of glory!" He is the hope and the world need to see that shining in you and me.

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 PASTOR PETER

Please receive greetings from the heart of Nsanje and I pray that this finds you well. Elsewhere in the world we have heard people preaching the Love message, but a few seldom ever practice real love. All the hurting and confusion in the world is a clear sign that true love is rare and is what is needed the most. In my travels with Shadreck and Eric, I have heard them speak of love and visiting the weak as well as laying hands on the sick. It was a proud moment for me when I was called by the Kalumbi and Chazuka elderly group who reported that they took an initiative to travel some fifteen and others ten kilometers to go and visit their friends at Nsanje District Hospital. It is common for people to have no one helping them and eating one meal a day of sub-standard hospital food because that is all there is. The families and communities get together to provide for their friends in hospital. I was proud to see the elderly showing love for their friend who was so encouraged by their visit. It was a great lesson for others in the hospital too who saw this act of generosity and realized how much it is really lacking in our communities. I hope they go back home and dwell about love more.

In Africa we say that if you want to live under the shed, you first must plant a tree which relates to the principle of sowing and reaping. We are extremely happy with the way the younger group are performing at the Bible School and we hope that they start being a good influence in their communities now. The policy of the leadership is to leave no tree unshaken and the youth have always been an important part of our village life. We are always encouraging the elderly at every meeting to invest in the youth so that their tomorrow should be greater than today. The elderly are happy that the youth led by Gregory Tchapo have regular Bible Study meetings among other things which has kept them away from all manner of deviant conducts.

My church at Tengani is doing well and we are happy the Lord has been faithful to us. We are also excited to hear that we will soon begin rebuilding the church which was lost in the storm a few months ago. We are going to have a crusade in September after looking at the need for evangelism in my area. There is still a long way to go and I am still convinced that we were strategically positioned in Tengani to be a beacon of light and truth which really lacking in our society. I am looking forward to the distributions which will take place in a month's time. I would like to extend my gratitude to you, our beloved partners and friends. You are real champions and beacons of love in a world that needs so much of it. May the Almighty God bless you always.

REPORT FROM PASTOR JENNERFOD KANKOCHE

Please receive my humble regards at this time. The Lord is keeping us and has been faithful to us. I can only hope and pray that it is the same with you. Living in the village can be challenging for an old man but more so for an old man who is ill. I have a family get together on July 12 and I went to cut some bamboo in the forest to build a hut. No sooner had I made my way down the mountains to the forest than I got seriously sick. I forced myself up the hill and got back home some two hours later. My wife and daughter were very worried so they called Peter and Francis in the night so that they should come and take me to the hospital. It was on the 7th of July around 9pm and I told everyone who came to see me to sing praise songs and pray and I have been fine ever since.

I am very happy with the ministry's vision to invest in the youth when most people rarely do as well as promote and empower women in our communities. Most of the young men in my community have relocated to the city and elsewhere in search of business and job opportunities. I am particularly grateful for the vision this ministry must empower women and encourage them to be active members of our communities and churches. I am particularly grateful for the strides taken by the leadership to invest in our youth to ensure that they have a brighter future. I would like to give thanks to Pastor Roz who stands as a great role model for women in ministry so much to say that Alabaster Ministries has been a game changing catalyst in our region. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to you our beloved friends and partners who make the family that is Alabaster a great family. May the Almighty God Bless you always.

Ed Note: Pastor Jennerford has been a pastor for almost 40 years now. He was a part of the graduated class of 2019. His son, Peter taught many of the classes he sat under. It has been humbling for me to see these men of God who have served Him and ministered for many years, sit under our teachings because they are so hungry for the Word.

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
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REPORT FROM PASTOR FRANCIS

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ and I pray that the Lord has kept you well. He has been truly faithful to us in a time when we need to see His hand move in a supernatural way. I request you, our dearly beloved, to keep us in your prayers at this time when we are experiencing civil unrest in Malawi. This has perhaps been the largest shake of events we have experienced in this country since 1993 when Malawians decided to do away with a dictatorship and replaced it with a multiparty democracy through a referendum.

In the aftermath of the May 21st tripartite elections for members of parliament, ward councilors and the president, Malawi has witnessed a rise in civil disobedience and demonstrations in the cities of Mzuzu, Lilongwe and Blantyre, targeted at the nullification of the poll results, and the resignation of both the incumbent president and the chairperson of the Malawi Electoral Commission. It all began when the opposition parties voiced concerns regarding the number of irregularities and cases of tampering with election results throughout the southern region of Malawi, which is the stronghold of the incumbent president, particularly in Nsanje, Chikwawa, Thyolo and Mulanje. The electoral commission through the chairperson addressed the nation assuring us that they had sent their investigators to the said polling centers and all was in order. The commission then announced that it was ready with the final results for the presidency but the commission could not announce the results since the Malawi Congress Party, had obtained a staying order from the court, preventing the commission from doing so until all their grievances were addressed.

The electoral commission, through their lawyers, managed to lift the staying order and announced the results declaring the president incumbent as the winner in the election. The aggrieved parties, particularly the first and second runner up sought remedies from the courts claiming that the results of the election were altered. They further went on to address the nation, igniting a wave a tension and general distrust against the May 21st election results, the president and the chairperson of the electoral commission. We have since then witnessed a wave of demonstrations organized by both opposition parties and civil service commissions, clashes between police and people demonstrating, damage to property and injury in some cases, and various cases of looting. The constitutional court has since ruled in favor of the opposition arguing that the case will go on where the current leadership sought remedies by asking the court to throw out the case citing technical irregularities. The case is still in court and we have experienced some peace these last days.

If there is anything we have learned from the May 21st election, it is that we are still a nation that is propelled by our filial piety and ethnic divides. It is unbecoming for a nation that is prized to be the warm heart of Africa to have its people still maligned by cultural and ethnic allegiances. It is my prayer and plea to you our dearly beloved that we pray for brotherly love and the end of nepotistic ideologies across the nation. It is my prayer that we begin to see each other as one people despite our political differences and cultural divides. We continue to pray that the peace God has granted us as a nation for ages will endure and we continue to pray for you our dearly beloved as you pray for us. Bible school is in session this week and I will continue to teach on foundations, dwelling much on true repentance, faith in God, and baptism. On baptism, we shall continue to discuss the baptism of water for all Christians and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We shall also discuss the laying of hands and if time allows, I shall teach on the resurrection and final judgement for all. Pastor Peter Kankoché shall continue to teach on Sunday school. We continue to pray for the

guidance of the Holy Spirit as we conduct Bible school that the gospel of our Lord may spread to all those that have not heard it through these pastors, and we continue to thank you our dearly beloved for your prayers and your support.

We continue to work with our dear old people and the chaplains continue visiting them, preaching to them and praying with them. We commend the chaplains for their dedication in their work knowing that they travel long distances to reach out to these people and the various challenges they face. However, we thank the Lord because He has been faithful and has always been with us. We continue to ask for your prayers for our chaplains that their faith may never tire and that their dedication to working with these dear old people remains strong.

There shall be women's conference between 28th and 30th June, led by Martha Kankoché. The main topics of discussion will be general household etiquette and care since most of these women come from the most remote parts of the country. They shall also teach each other crochet and knitting and cookery. They will end their conference with a prayer service led by Martha Kankoché. We ask that you keep them in your prayers as we do the same.

We thank you our dearly beloved for your steadfast dedication and support to us. We pray that the Lord will remain faithful to you and bless you as you keep praying for us.



Ed note: If you go to the internet and type in, "The Warm Heart of Africa," all sites will agree that the country referred to is Malawi. Ever since I have worked there which is now for over 40 years, Malawi has always been called the Warm Heart of Africa because of the friendly attitude of the people, especially to strangers. It is a very small country, approximately the size of Ohio but one third of it is covered by Lake Malawi, the last of the great lakes that fill the Great Rift Valley from the Beqaa Valley in Lebanon to Mozambique, a distance of 3,700 miles and it contains some of the deepest lakes in the world such as Lake Tanganyika and Lake Malawi. Lake Victoria in Uganda also falls in the Rift Valley.

With all the water they have in the Lake there should be massive irrigation projects all along the lake so that when there is a drought crops can be irrigated and there is no shortage of food but because of the usual corruption that goes on very little of aid goes towards improving the life of the rural people. Britain alone has sent 4.5 billion pounds and the country is poorer than it has ever been. British MP Rory Stewart stated the following at Yale earlier this year,

"This struggling Southern African nation has one of the highest population densities on the planet and was for years a darling of the aid industry, with aid accounting for almost half of its budget. Even the Scottish government has chipped in £11 million. Yet it has been plagued by bad governance and corruption."

REPORT FROM PASTOR SHADRECK

Please receive greetings in the precious name of our Lord. I hope that this finds you well as we are all well in Malawi. There has been a lot of unrest in the country so much that we, in the rural areas have felt the effects of the divide that has been drawn across the country following the much-protested May 21st Elections. We have taken it upon ourselves with my elderly team to intercede for this nation for we believe that if we are unable to find solutions with our intellect and abilities, we have a perfect answer in taking whatever matters we are facing to the courts of heaven. I would like to ask you, our dearly beloved, to keep us in your thoughts as we are going through these trying times.

Malawians have come a long way as a people trying to adopt modern lifestyles by accommodating it with our indigenous ways of life and thereby eliminating the questionable cultural beliefs and practices that infringe on the rights of the underprivileged. Women and children have for a long time been treated as lesser equals to the men, but we do have in our communities, especially my elderly group those who are speaking out against injustices and promoting equality. In my village, for instance, the only place you find women or girls sitting together with men or women is at church, school, or at funerals; other than that, it is always at the beer halls and shabbiness. Gogo Vizhina Ndemanga has become a real champion in spreading both the word of God and equality and fairness between both genders of our community. It is winter in Malawi and soon we will take to our fields to harvest this years' pigeon pea crop which has done well so far. Our fears are the usual price fixing tactics which only benefits a few and leaves the poor farmers miserable. We are looking forward to welcoming Pastor Roz in a Month and we hope to have such wonderful fellowship together.

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REPORT FROM MARTHA KANKOCHE

I greet you in the wonderful name of the Lord and pray that you are all well. The Lord has been good to me and my family and for that I would like to give thanks and pray for more underserving favor from the Lord for indeed His goodness and mercy endures forever. My husband and I are currently in the middle of an irrigation farming project to complement the poor harvest of last season. We do not have land in Tengani, so the community gave us a portion to farm this year and it was so much work. I have never had to prepare barren land for farming before and Tengani has thorny bushes and a lot of spiky grass in all the parts with arable land for good farming. All that hard work has taught me that the right attitude towards any obstacle in life goes a long way.

Food shortages meant that we had to buy food and living in Rural Malawi, you quickly find out that your immediate family has to reach out to the extended family so you have to assist a few people here and there because there is very little reserves in most households. Farming was the only option and it has been a humbling experience. Having planted our field with beans, sweet potatoes and corn, you must appreciate how slow the plants grow, and you must build a fence about them to stop livestock and hippos from vandalizing your crop. All this got me to think of how God watches us in our weakness and vulnerable state. He holds us in his loving hands and always shields us. I thought of how we know so little of the Word and maybe have problems understanding everything, but He gives us the time to grow and provides all the necessary tools for us to use.

We had a great time at the women's conference in June. Those who have travelled will agree with me that at times etiquette and cooking is a challenge for most women in rural areas and so we had a little fun in between sessions where some of us taught our friends a few things to try and improve their living standards. Furthermore, the men go off to socialize with friends after a working in the fields or household chores whereas the women usually sit around and talk because they have little else to do. Some of us who have a few skills like crocheting shared with our friends. It is a great way to save money by making clothes for their children and other household things plus it can also be a great way to raise income if they were able to sell their doilies. I pray that we will have another great meeting in September and all women are welcome to attend. May the Almighty bless you always.