



March 2018
rozheyms.org
**ALABASTER
MINISTRIES**



UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

I was not able to make the February trip this year as we were having problems again with another organization and felt that we should be wise.

My team were able to handle the whole thing and apart from the fact that I was missed, all went according to plan and why not when God is in the midst and we have a well-oiled team that are saturated with the oil of the Holy Spirit and have committed themselves to a life of prayer?

There is something that bothers me a little in the body of Christ and often the world seems to have a better handle on it. It is the Matt 5:37 *"Let your yes be yes and your No, No."* As Christians our word should be our bond. If we say we are going to do something, then we need to do it no matter the cost unless of course it has become totally impossible in which case we need to apologize.

I learned long ago never to say I was going to do something in Africa in front of pastors because they take you at your word and believe that you will follow through. If you do not, then you are considered a liar. Growing up in Africa I remember my Dad and his friends seldom ever drew up documents or signed papers – when they said they were going to do something and shook hands they followed through. It should be

like that with us. If you tell someone you are going to do, give, help or whatever else, there had best be results. Our word should be important and yet we have trivialized it. God takes our word seriously and so should we. God was/is serious about His words and He expects us to be the same about ours. When we say we will do something then we had better make sure that we back it with an action. If you absolutely cannot make you commitment, then make sure you explain instead of doing nothing. It will make us think twice about telling folk we will do something unless we plan on doing exactly that.

We are the people of God and when we do not keep our word to each other and to the lost and dying why would people believe that our God is any different? We break vows made to God, to our partners and children and wonder why the youth of the nations are not interested in the church we go to or what we have to say. It is because they see a double standard. Everyone is sick of double standards.

Let us decide that we will not open our mouths without thinking first. Let whatever comes out be honoring to God and when we do follow up with actions may it show those who do not know Him that we are the people of light and TRUTH, that we take Him, ourselves and them seriously and that we prepared to follow through.

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

Please receive our blessings and love in the name of our Lord Jesus. We pray that you are all well just as the Lord is keeping us well here in the Warm Herat of Africa.

Easter is one of the most celebrated event in our Christian communities across the world and it is celebrated in different ways following our religious convictions and culture. This is a time when families and friends come together in a spirit of fellowship and perhaps to catch up on the recent developments in our lives. Easter presents us with a wonderful platform to reach out and touch so many through sharing the gospel and by the word of our testimonies.

We had a three-day Easter conference with the old people at Chazuka village in Nsanje in Shire valley area and had 350 people in attendance. We started on the 30th of March and finished on the 1st of April. I was used to going to church in the evening on Good Friday and Sunday morning but I had a different experience in Nsanje. They enact the series of events in the sermons from the time the Lord Jesus was captured up until the victory of the grave. Pastor Jennerford Kankoche preached on the Friday night calling all unto repentance and baptism in obedience to the word of God. The Lord purchased us with His blood at Calvary and thus made us a peculiar people, a royal priesthood and a chosen generation. Christ has made us co-heirs with him in the kingdom of heaven by restoring us therein through the shedding of his precious blood.

Christ died that we should live; that we should have life and that in abundance. Our greatest desire should be to thirst and hunger after righteousness, to be more like Christ and die to all that is flesh. Many came forth and gave their lives to Christ and baptism was set for early Saturday morning. I was particularly unsettled because the only source of water I was aware of was the crocodile and hippo infested waters of the Shire. Where was my faith?! Little did I know that there's a beautiful lake next to rice paddies about 350 meters away from the Shire River. Initially we had sixty-four people who gave their lives to Christ on Friday night and were ready to step out in obedience unto baptism but after Peter preached and began baptizing, sixteen more gave their lives to Christ and got baptized as well. We rejoiced and praised the Lord for turning an old people's Easter meeting into an instrument of evangelism for the Chazuka area and beyond.

(Ed note) It looks like a scene at the Jordan River when John the Baptist was baptizing prior to the ministry of the Lord. How privileged I am and honored to be able to work with the Lord in the mission fields of Africa. Simple trust, faith and obedience.



Two services followed the Baptism and we had an overnight service which started at 9 pm on Saturday. We didn't have to worry about lighting because the moon was shining bright as bright can be. Songs and choruses were sung, the men whistled, and women ululated in joy, singing praises and worshipping the Father in heaven. We would stop the singing after every one-hour interval for a sermon since we had seven of our Bible school pastors present. We would like to commend Pastor Mac Peterson, his mother and church elder for making the 20-mile trip on foot to the conference. In the wee-hours of Sunday morning, around 3 o'clock in the morning to be precise, we all went around the village singing and praising the Lord and as we did we were joined up with other people from other churches along the way.

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.

This is an exciting ministry to be a part of and we so appreciate your support.

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

Web: rozheyns.org

NEEDS

We need to supply our elderly and pastors with blanket for the next distribution. Each blanket cost us \$5.

Please would you sacrifice one cup of coffee so that we can make our elderly more comfortable.

Rains are almost over, and we are starting to make bricks. Bricks are \$0,10 apiece. Are you willing to give to the brick fund? Thank you and blessings as you help.

Francis report continued from page 2

We would stop after every few hundred yards and one pastor or church elder would quote scripture and share on the resurrection of Christ and the victory of the grave after which everyone would shout praise be to the Lord God Almighty and call on those who were still sleeping in their homes to come out and join in the celebration. We closed with a sermon on Sunday and urged all present to not only go back home singing and rejoicing but that Christ should really resonate in our being and that we should grow up into maturity with Christ so that he may be alive in us. AMEN.

Ed Note: This is why building the church at Tengani is so vital because these people are more likely to come to a building rather than stay out under the heat, rain or in the wind to be disciplined. This church is to be our next project. We have already been donated money for bricks and we will begin brick-making early May when the rains have stopped. When we have a momentum going we need to make sure that it continues rather than it fades.

CHURCH AT TENGANI

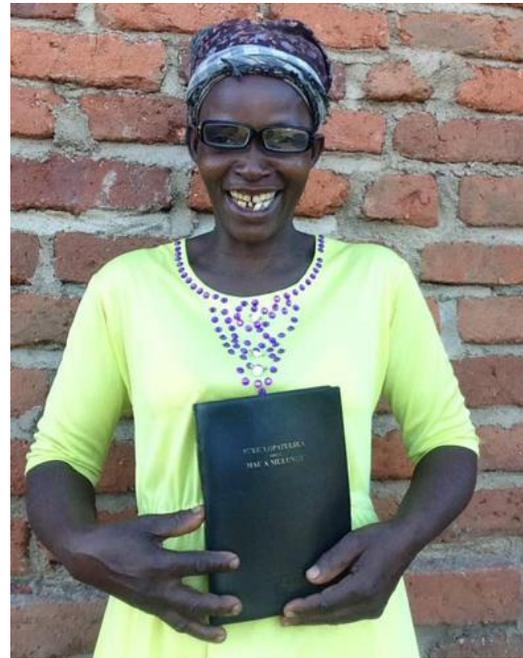


REPORT FROM PETER

Greetings from the Warm Heart of Africa. May the grace and peace of the Lord be with you all. My family and I are well and pray that you are too. We have enjoyed months of peace and we thank God that there was no flooding this year. Nsanje has been hit by a wave of earthquakes; five times last week and 4 this week. There has been some property damage but no cases where people have been in harm's way in our area. We have received news that there have been some minor cases across the Shire River but no casualties and we praise the Lord for that.

We had been out in the field for three weeks, starting with the distribution, Bible school, women's meeting and building houses for the old people in Chididi. We thank God for His goodness and grace because all the work that is being done here is made possible because he's positioned you our dearly beloved supporters in this land. We had a wonderful distribution week. We always pray for good rains at each Cont. page 4.....

THE STORY OF THE COOKS



We have always had to employ cooks because when we began the work we had 250 elderly to feed. We always end our meetings with Holy Communion which is not tagged on to the service but is a service on its own. In the West we either do not celebrate it or we add it to the beginning or end of the service as if to say, "Here you are Lord we are doing what you commanded us to do – be satisfied." We all need a revelation as to the purpose of Breaking of Bread and what it really means then we would not take it so lightly.

Having celebrated the Lord's Supper together and before we hand out the food and gifts we have, we feed the people. The Gospel of Jesus is not only to bring the Word along with His gifts, and two of the greatest gifts are the gift of salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit, but also to feed them physically. Jesus did it after the Sermon on the Mount so there I have my example.

When we began the Bible School the cooks were even more important as we feed 60 people three times a day for a week. When I was not teaching I watched as they labored to cut veggies with a rusty, blunt knife. No tables or chopping boards, just cutting in their hands. I found a plate and began to help them. They thought this was very funny to see a pastor do this and a white one at that! Next Bible school I bought knives, a plastic table and chopping boards and not only did I help but Francis and Peter would help as well and now they also help to cook over the fire.

A relationship in the Lord began and we began to get to know them. As I got to know them I found that they were also hungry for God – I found the one could read so I gave her a Bible but she had difficulty because of her eyes so I gave her my glasses. Now she has started her own choir and studies along with another of the cooks and she will be attending the next Bible School. When they are not busy preparing the meals they all slip into the classes as listen avidly. Cont.....page 4

REPORT FROM PETER Cont. from page 3.....

meeting with the old people and God heard our prayer. We will have a good harvest in the Shire plains but our friends in the Chididi area will be slightly affected. They had good rains and a good crop in the beginning, but their corn or maize crop was attacked by worms which affect their yield in the end.

I went to support my wife together with Francis at the first women's meeting of the year which started after the Bible school at Dziko Church some 13 miles north of Chididi. We took turns teaching and preaching from the 2nd of the March 16, 2018 to the 4th. We thank the Elderly from Chididi for attending to the meetings. We had so many people who came for the praise and worship in the evening from the surrounding villages. There was a lady possessed of demons and was delivered on the second night of the meetings. A certain pastor's wife complained of sleepless nights and certain terrors by night but was freed after the elderly prayed for her and I was so proud to see the elderly taking charge and laying hands on people. Unfortunately, the best moments were not documented because they happened during our evening sessions and we didn't have enough lighting to film. It is amazing that there's always no camera powerful enough to document the best moments that God chooses to move.

I am proud to say that I have a vibrant church at Tengani and because I have encouraged my wife to use the gift that the Lord has given her, the women in my church are stepping up to the occasion and becoming real instruments in the kingdom. I was happy to see seven women from my father's church, two of which are beneficiaries of the elderly program. We would like to get so many more involved in the bible study and these meetings so that we can fellowship and learn from one another through testimony and studying the Word.

ALABASTER MINISTRIES 8514 N
DONNA CT KANSAS CITY, MO
64153

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Toledo, OH
Permit # 522

Return service requested

The Cooks continued.....

The everyday life of women in Africa is pretty tough. They are up at first light blowing on the embers from the night before so that they can heat water for their husbands to bathe. They walk to the well to collect water. Then they prepare a meal. After breakfast is over they are off to the fields with the children to hoe or plant, weed or reap. They come back to prepare lunch and spend their afternoons going to the well which is often a mile away to collect water again. Most of the men will spend their days sitting under a tree chatting about whatever. I am talking about rural Africa where this has been the culture for centuries. Now and again the men will take their mangy tick taxies (dogs) off to hunt. This is the culture that God wants to and is beginning to change through the Bible School. We are starting to see husbands take food to their wives at meal times instead of the other way around. We are starting to see Pastors take food to the elderly infirm. They are even collecting water from the well.

As I look at some of the elderly women I wonder how they have survived to be the age that they have. Some have born upwards of six children and have survived all of the hardships, along with the disease and other things with no medicine. They are amazing and seldom complain. Now they are sharing the Gospel. What a GOD we serve!

