



March 2019
rozheyms.org



ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

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Dearest Friends,

It has been a tough spring so far in the United States with all the flooding and my heart goes out to those who have lost so much again. In the west however, many are covered by insurance or eventually federal funding comes into play. That does not make up for personal items that have been lost and I am not being callous. Imagine the three African nations that have just experienced the worst storm to have hit the Southern Hemisphere. They estimate that by the end of it all and with those who will die as a result of diseases like cholera the number of deaths will rise to over 500,000. Over 1.5 million have been displaced. Roads, bridges and infrastructure have completely disappeared. Most individuals will never be able to build again, and the governments of these nations will never be able to assist. As it is, they have no means by which to even feed those who are displaced.

As published in our February newsletter, I was there when the equivalent of a tornado came through and blew down our new church building but worse than that, blew over numerous homes belonging to our elderly. Some of these we had already agreed to rebuild earlier in the day. We are now finding that some of them no longer have their own land on which we can build, and it is

time to start thinking of a "retirement" village for those with no land. I know that there are many international aid organizations that do this, but they cannot do it for everyone and those people who God has given to us are our responsibility.

The house above belongs to our lady who has leprosy. We gave her plastic to stop the rain, but she will not be able to build a new home, ever, and no-one wants her because of her disease.

People ask what the most important thing is that we need. Everything is critical. The borehole up the mountain it critical because we run out of water for the Bible School and if we have run out then the villagers are short too. We now have all these elderly with no homes, but we have come to realize that a truck is far more important than anything else now. We cannot get building supplies to our locations without having to hire vehicles which is becoming more and more expensive. In Tengani where we need most houses there is plenty of sand but no rock for foundations. In the mountains there is rock but no sand and in both places, we must haul in cement, timber and roofing.

The congregation in Tengani have separated all the bricks and piled them into piles of 1,000 to stop them from getting broken until we can get cement there to start rebuilding the church.

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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."

From the desk of Pastor Peter

Greetings to you all from Malawi. It is my hope and prayer that this finds you well and that you and your families have been blessed of the Lord in this month. We thank heaven for all the blessings that the Almighty showers unto us. Even now, when all the problems of Cyclone IDAI continue to disrupt our day to day endeavors we continue to see blessings from God. I strongly believe that we will come out victorious and stronger for He that is in us is mightier than anything that has ever graced this universe.

It all started with that twister/tornado back in February that ripped our church at Tengani apart and destroyed four of our old peoples' homes. Now we have cyclone IDAI destroying homes and damaging crops in the fields right before the harvest. We will not know for sure the severity of the damage until the quality and quantity of the crops in the field is harvested in April but even then, we can tell that we are likely to have another long hunger spell. Nevertheless, we count it all joy that we are alive and well. Our hearts are heavy and broken for all who have lost their homes, loved ones and others still dispersed across the nation as a result of this Cyclone. These are truly tough and trying times, but we pray that all the affected people may receive restitution and healing. It is almost easy to lose hope when you hear of the carnage left in the wake of this catastrophe. We received gentle winds and rains throughout the rainy season until this tornado hit us, twisting and sweeping through our farms and homes and leaving nothing but utter devastation behind. However, we know that our God is mightier than this, after all, He did calm the seas by a mere word out of His mouth, what more shall He do for His chosen generation. It is going to be a challenging eighteen months between this coming harvest and the next annual harvests, but we believe that where there's a will, there's a way. After all, our Master does make a way where there seems to be no way. It is in times like these, when everything seems to be going against you that we begin to witness the true manifestation of God's power, grace, and love.

The Shire valley inhabitants are accustomed to the fact that the river floods every year and deposits so many nutrients on the banks on the Mozambique side. You have people who leave the highly alkaline sandy farms in Malawi in search of better farm land and have become citizens of Mozambique by naturalization over the years. The Shire River is heavy with water and has flooded into Mozambique destroying all these farms in the process. They were fortunate enough to make their escape on dugout canoes and are now mixed up with the rest of the survivors in school blocks and in homes of sympathizers in neighboring villages. My church decided to go for an outreach in all these places and what started out as a social trip quickly turned into an evangelism meeting. A few people started to ask questions as soon as they heard I was a pastor and that open the door for us to minister to them.

We reported last month that one of the elderly from our group, Mrs. Billy, survived a few broken ribs when her house collapsed on her during the tornado but now we are very happy to report that Mrs. Billy has made a miraculous recovery and accompanied us on this evangelistic trip. We would like to thank you for all your prayers. Mrs. Billy gave her testimony and through that so many devastated people were encouraged as they realized they were not the only ones who have lost something. She mentioned that even during injury and the loss of everything we can rejoice in the Lord for each beautiful day that He gives us. This was true evidence to the gospel truth that we shall overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. I was particularly encouraged by her spirit because she did not look at her age and say I am so old and helpless so I will give up. She lost everything when her house was destroyed but she did not say I would rather go and scavenge for my next meal or focus on her suffering and pity her living standards, but she identified with the devastated people and reached out to them where they were.

This is the only bridge to the Southern area of Malawi. The waters have subsided, but they cannot allow trucks to cross until they assess the damage



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 rozheyne@gmail.com



Website: www.rozheyne.org

By sharing her testimony, they believed they could all be as happy as she was and that there's real victory in the Lord even when it tastes like a defeat. Beloved we can do anything we set our minds to, no matter our circumstances, if we forget about self for one second and step in faith believing that the Lord will meet us half way and lead us safely on. I bless you and wish you a wonderful month.

REPORT FROM FRANCIS

There is only a month left before Malawi holds general elections and there seems to be a lot of uncertainty in the general public as to who will be the next president. We can only hope and pray that the Almighty will guide us in the right direction, and we have been teaching our elderly to pray and vote the wisdom of God rather than what they personally think. Campaign season has started, and we have had two Vice Presidential candidate debates both routing for regime change so perhaps we could see a change on the political scene come May 21st, 2019.

We are still going through severe weather in Malawi with respect to Cyclone Idai which they believe will claim over 500,000 lives in a three-country region – Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. It has been very windy with some parts of the country still receiving heavy rains which continue to render most people homeless and without food resources. A lot of families have been affected by the death toll in the hundreds and rising across the nation. Most places were hit by flush floods and mud slides in the night so people didn't have enough time to get to safety and for those who did, they could not save their property and food reserves. Schools in the southern region have become shelters to many a dispersed people which means children are not getting a proper education as well since they must share their classrooms with homeless people. Heavy rains prevented us from completing our distribution campaign in Marka and we had to wait an extra ten days for the roads to be accessible. It was still raining when we finally did the distribution but by then they had filled all the holes in the roads with gravel which made driving so much easier for our smaller vehicle which was more than slightly overloaded as we still have challenges accessing a truck.

The only challenge with these rains now is that most of the Lower Shire farmers raise millet and their crop was just about ready for harvest. Heavy rains and strong winds blowing from the Indian Ocean across Mozambique is either blowing the crops away to be picked off by flocks of birds and the rains are causing both millet and corn crops to rot in the lands which will reduce both the quality and quantity of the harvest. The metrological offices are reporting another storm coming in from Mozambique and could hit us again. The roads were badly damaged in the last storm and the main bridge leading into the Lower Shire has been declared unsafe for heavy trucks which could completely shut down the sugar supply to the whole country as well as supplies heading to Chikwawa and Nsanje. There was no flooding in the areas we work in, but the heavy rains and strong winds continued to rip apart houses and the tents brought by relief authorities. The major concern now is imminent food shortages since the harvest is expected to be at a minimum low and as always, the case, there's very little relief from national authorities since the predicament is spread across the nation. We hope to get a few houses done for the old people as soon as the weather favors building because it is a challenge accessing all the necessary supplies for the job now.

In Malawi we say when a leaf falls to the ground, the shame goes to the tree. Malawians proudly call home "The Warm Heart of Africa" because of its beauty and the warm heartedness of the people but our reputation across the globe is at stake because of a few deviant acts by officials which have gone unanswered for numerous years. It is so sad that in such modern times and with all the advancements in education and cultural changes around the continent, that we still have some primitive thinking people and

others capable of committing atrocities against fellow human beings in ritualistic practices for riches and political gain. As the race for political office is set, there has been increasing concern over the shocking statistics pointing to kidnappings of children and the murdering of people living with albinism across the nation. There have been over 160 cases of Albino deaths in the country with very little justice served to the bereaved and broken families nationwide. It is sad that often the culprits walk free which begs the question as to how over a 160 people can go missing without a trace and the proper authorities to handle the cases are either suppressed or they themselves do not provide satisfying results. There was an arrest a few weeks ago involving an anonymous young political activist who was implicated in one of these Albino murder cases and he mysteriously committed suicide in prison and no one said anything about it. There seems to be a lot of speculation in our communities as to what exactly is going on with our security and the lack of drastic and decisive action against such malpractices which has left a big scar in the confidence we have for our judicial system and our friends in high places. It is our hope and prayer that through the next election process we get some leaders who will come down hard on these despicable practices which has devastated so many families across the nation and bring about a real transformation. We are desperate to see a supernatural intervention in this regard. Please keep us in your prayers to change Malawi and neighboring Tanzania where the Albino disappearances are much higher than Malawi. We have just had World Freedom Day on the 21st of March and while the whole world is still fighting against child labor and so many things that infringe on our sovereignty as a people, please help us raise the flag in prayer for our brothers and sisters who are being targeted and murdered for their skin pigmentation.

This is the main reason we are here. It is not to feed the hungry and clothe the poor so much but rather to bring the Gospel with all its power and life changing aspect to a people living in darkness and we are beginning to see change but it is very slow. Please keep us in your prayers so that we find a permanent solution to this predicament. May the Almighty God bless you all.

These people – adults and children are being used for body parts because the witch doctors say that in the bones of an albino, there is healing for those who are sick. If they do not kill them then they take an arm or leg. The youngest victim was a two-year-old. Only the Gospel can change this way of thinking.



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I have had some people call me and tell me to walk away. How do you walk away from people you have loved and taken care of for 12 years when the situation for them is totally overwhelming? My heart breaks for them especially when I cannot get in to help. I live in a comfortable home with food in my fridge and a faucet that supplies clean, filtered water whenever I need it. Imagine having to drink the water in the photo on the left and yet hundreds of them are. Imagine wading through those crocodile infested waters. AND winter is coming!

I am asking that you remember these people – old and young alike who are in desperate need. Please help us purchase a truck for the work so that we can get back in and help to start rebuilding and we can transport food.

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These waters have crocodiles in them



These are people's homes