



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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Dearest Partners and Friends,

Easter is once again upon us. What a wonderful celebration of the year. Without Easter there would be no Christianity. I was stunned recently when talking with a bunch of pre-teen children. I asked them what Easter means to them. Without hesitation they said Easter eggs and chocolate. I pressed them asking if there was anything else celebrated at Easter and they said "NO." Wow – Missouri is part of the Bible Belt of the United States!

I know that the origins of the word Easter, the Easter bunny and Easter eggs are all pagan but the Sunday of "Easter" still represents the finding of the empty tomb of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ and that is what we, as Christians should be celebrating. Without the resurrection there would be no Christianity. What is the difference between all religions and Christianity? My God was raised from the dead. He is not still in the grave like the gods of all other religions. The birds do not sit on the head of my God and defecate all over it because He is not some statue sitting in a garden somewhere but He is alive, and just as amazing, He ever lives to make intercession for you and me.

No-one is really sure about the origins of Easter except that the word came from Eostre who was a pagan goddess of fertility whose symbol was a rabbit (very apt considering how rabbits breed). The Roman emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan after he dreamed of a cross of light with the words, "in this sign, conquer." His army marched under the cross and they were victorious in their battle against Maxentius and went on to capture Rome. The Edict of Milan declared Christianity to be a legal religion throughout the Roman Empire and to some degree stopped the persecution of Christians. It was during this time that many of the old ways and the old gods and goddesses were incorporated into Christianity thus perverting it. Easter, the celebration of the goddess of fertility and Christmas, or Saturnalia when many nations allowed their people to rob

drink and murder for the week leading up to December 25 are both perversely pagan. An enemy of the State was voted in as the Lord of Misrule at the celebration of Saturnalia and on December 25 he was offered up as a sacrifice on behalf of those who were murdering, and committing all types of crimes. In the 4th Century Christians "imported" Saturnalia into Christianity in the hope of bringing the pagan masses with it. Many believe that Christianity would have been totally annihilated had some of these steps not been taken but there will ALWAYS be a faithful remnant who will not bow, will not compromise and will not be vanquished. The devil has tried for centuries to wipe out the Church of Christ and has always failed. It amazes me that Hollywood sometimes gets it right. I was flipping through channels recently and heard someone from a movie line say, "The biggest deception the devil has ever perpetrated on mankind is to make them believe that he does not exist." It is astounding to me how many in the church do not believe in a devil but the flip side of that is how many blame him for everything adverse that comes their way. He has been DEFEATED and was defeated by the Blood of the Lamb at the Cross and by the fact that Lamb rose from the dead on the day we celebrate as Easter Sunday. Without the resurrection there would be no Christianity. He comes as or like an angel of light to deceive. He is NOT an angel of light. He comes as or like a roaring lion. He has no teeth unless we allow it. He has no power unless we allow it. He was defeated at the Cross and because of the resurrection.

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What an incredible sacrifice God gave for us! "Jesus slain from the foundation of the earth!" Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and all turned out to celebrate Him. Within the week they had changed and were crying for Him to be crucified. That week was the week of Passover which is why Jesus came up to Jerusalem - to celebrate the Passover. Passover was the great feast from when the angel of death passed over the blood. Every house in Egypt that had the blood of the sacrificed Lamb anointing the doorways was passed over and no one died. For every house that was not anointed the eldest died. Jesus came to be the sacrificed lamb for all time so that we who accept that sacrifice will live eternally. This physical body may experience death but my spirit shall rise to be with Him forever...

Jesus told his disciple that just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights, so He would be in the tomb. He was taken down from the Cross just prior to the Sabbath and rose at some stage on Saturday night. There seems to be confusion amongst Christians because they look at Saturday as being the Sabbath which is correct but Matthew 19:31 says, "*The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day (for that Sabbath day was an high day)*" Let us look into the **high day** during the Feasts.

During the week of Passover there were two Sabbaths. The Messiah was sacrificed at the same time as the Passover lambs on the preparation day of the High day Sabbath known as the first day of Passover or first day of unleavened bread.

Sunset Monday Nisan 13 The room where the Last Supper is to be held is prepared.

Sunset Tuesday to sunset Wednesday Nisan 14 : Jesus celebrates the Last Supper and after dinner goes to Gethsemane to pray. He was captured by the mob and taken to the High Priest. At daybreak He was taken to Pilate who declared Him innocent and sent Him to Herod who also declared Him innocent and sent Him back to Pilate. Pilate gave into the mob and handed Him over to the soldiers who beat and tortured Him for the rest of the morning. On Wednesday afternoon He was taken

and crucified and He died around 3p.m. which was the time of the evening sacrifice in the Temple. His burial was just before sunset on Wednesday.

Sunset Wednesday to sunset Thursday was the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread and the high day Sabbath.

Sunset Thursday to sunset Friday the 2nd Day of Unleavened Bread

Sunset Friday to sunset Saturday the 3rd Day of Unleavened Bread and normal Sabbath.

Sunset Saturday to sunset Sunday the 4th Day of Unleavened Bread. When the women went to the tomb before sunrise on the 4th day the tomb was empty. Jesus rose sometime early Saturday evening. Three days and three nights in the tomb.

Without the resurrection there would be no Christianity.

The word of God always confirms itself if we will spend time studying it. Everything prophesied regarding the wonderful Savior came to pass even though they were given centuries before Jesus ever walked upon the earth. Isaiah prophesied that his face would be unrecognizable which it was because he was so badly beaten but not a bone was broken Psalm 34:20.

*A tomb so cold, no fitting place
for one whom death could never hold.
You broke the chains, defeated sin,
and glorified you rose again,
and you're reigning*

*Risen and victorious,
radiant and glorious,
Jesus, Jesus, you reign!
Lifted to the highest place,
name above all other names,
Jesus, Jesus, you reign!*

That says it all.

Have a glorious "Easter" celebrating the death and resurrection of our Lord. Remember all that He willingly sacrificed for us so that we will one day be with Him for eternity.

MALAWI

I leave April 22nd for Africa and am so looking forward to it. Please remember to pray while I am away. May is election time for Malawi and they say that they are expecting trouble. I am believing that things will change with the new government and with prayer and intercession there is no reason why that should not happen. The weeks leading up to my departure are always exciting as I start to collect gifts and things to take with me. This time, instead of taking masses of heavy luggage and paying for the extra bags I have shipped two boxes ahead and the cost has been much the same as if I had taken suitcases but without the hassles of handling heavy bags. Normally it is cheaper to purchase everything over there but the cost of a hand towel is almost the same price as we pay for a blanket.



I also purchased sponges as they take very little soap to lather so the bar of soap we distribute will last longer and the zip lock bags in the foreground contain 12,000 Ibuprofen which we will package into 400 small zip lock bags so they each get 30 tablets for their aches and pains. The rulers are for our young girls. We will feed the elderly at the conference. We will kill a cow which we will make a stew out off and they will eat that for three main meals along with cabbage and corn meal. They love sausage so that will make for another meal and in the evening they will have bean stew with corn meal. For breakfasts they get rice porridge and tea. I am praying that there will be enough money to purchase 10 kgs of corn meal for each to take home,

If anyone would like to help the cow costs almost \$1,000 and the meal for them to take home costs almost \$2,000. They will be getting a blanket, soap, a hand towel, sponge two plates and a spoon, and a 5 gallon pail.

This is a huge undertaking to move 400 old people for four days to an area they are totally unfamiliar with. Please remember and pray that God will move and touch hearts and that they will all receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Please pray that the weather remains cooler than usual and that the mosquitoes are few.

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VILLAGE GIRLS

We will be meeting with the girls that we are keeping in school and hopefully we will have a counselor come with us so that they can receive some counseling sessions while we are there.

I have put together a pack for them that contains crayons, eraser, pencils and a ruler. (See photo) It is possible they will now be the only children in school with crayons.

Thanks to those who are supporting these girls. You are making their lives a lot easier even though they still face rape and being molested in the home. Continued lower page 4



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Village girls continued:

I want you to imagine what it must be like for these girls. If you have a daughter or granddaughter of about ten years how would you feel if they were placed in the same position? It is enough to make your heart ache. Every time a male visitor shows up at their home they do not know if they will have to go out back and "service" them for want of a better word. So what if it is their uncle, cousin or a total stranger. How would it feel if your ten year old granddaughter was sold into a marriage with some fifty year old man?

This is not emotional "blackmail" but I want you to feel compassion enough to pray and cry out to God and travail before Him for these girls. Jesus never operated out of pity but always out of compassion. Let us ask God to give us the compassion of Christ.

This year I want to begin building the center so that we can take these girls and give them a safe haven where they can study in peace and go to school and learn in peace.

If there is anyone who knows of any grants that will cover this type of thing and also knows how to grant write please contact me. The center will cost about \$150,000 to \$175,000,

Let us work together to make this vision come to pass.