



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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Rox Heyns

MARCH 2017

Dearest Friends,

I have just completed a four week trip across Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, South Carolina and Florida. It was a whirlwind tour – a time to visit supporters and I had opportunity to speak in some churches along the way. It is always a delight to catch up with friends and sad that it happens so infrequently.

The churches I was with I would certainly call the remnant. Churches that still allow the gifts of the precious Holy Spirit to be in operation – where time is allowed for Him to direct the services and where God is glorified, a standard is raised in the midst of the people and that standard, Jesus Christ, brings the conviction.

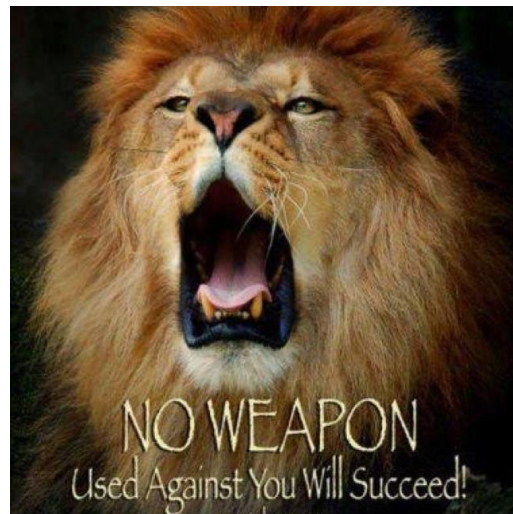
I was also horrified to hear from some people that their churches have quenched the Holy Spirit because they are concerned that the people in their congregations, especially the new people might be - “offended.” How on earth can the people that have been drawn to church by that very same Spirit be offended when He manifests during a service? It is He Who woos and draws people unto Jesus. He is the one who brings them to church so how can they be offended by Him? We have become so politically correct in the church that we fear people will be affronted by the prophetic or by tongues and interpretation. We have failed to make Jesus the Standard and so there is no conviction for those who are in sin and in some Pentecostal/Charismatic churches we overlook the fact that people are in sin and promote them to positions of leadership for the sake of expediency. Since when is it alright for a man and woman to live together for years, remain unmarried and be a part of the leadership of the church. Since when is it okay for a woman who has a number of illegitimate children all by different men to be a part of the oversight of a youth group? We wonder why the church has no power and the “gates of hell are prevailing.....”

Thank God for His remnant!

So many stepped up and insisted that they had heard from God that President Trump was God's pick as the next President. How many have called for prayer meetings specifically to cover this presidency and prayed with power and authority. The Bible tells us to pray for our leadership. I have heard many say that they prayed Trump in but now that he is in what are we doing? I attended a prayer meeting of church leadership in one area and was horrified at the pathetic and whining prayers that came forth from these men and women of God. There was no authority and if the pastors did not have it then the congregations did not either.

It is time for the church to stand up and be counted. If WICCA and the church of satan can meet once a month to hold prayer meetings against the leadership of this nation

then why is the church not moving to counteract this?



It is time for the Bride to rise up and be who she has been called to be – pure, chosen, victorious in Him and already in the Holy of Holies awaiting her groom and worshipping the Father. We are overcomers by the Blood of the Lamb and by the Word of our testimony. Our testimony is not political correctness and bowing to the world and its systems because we want to be acceptable but standing for what is Biblically correct. What was Biblically correct about the first women's march in Washington? First and foremost, it was for abortion. The profanity that came from some of the main speakers should have been enough to send anyone home. They talked about the inequality for women and totally degraded themselves all at the same time. The number of Christian women who attended.... That is called tolerating the systems of man in order to be acceptable. God has called us to be a light shining upon a hill. He has called us to be the salt of the earth because without the church there would be no savor and if the church lines up with the world how will there be any flavor of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is time for us to rise up and be the church!

CONTENT

GREATNESS OF GOD	2
FRANCIS..... WEDDINGS	3
FINANCIAL UPDATES	4

A Little Boy and the Septillion Stars

by Jim Brenneman

The speed of light is about 300,000 km/second, or 186,000 miles/second. Radio signals travel at the speed of light. A radio conversation with someone on the moon involves a time delay of about 2½ seconds, since that is the time required for light to travel to the moon and back. The distance between the earth and sun is about 93,000,000 miles, or 150,000,000 km. The nearest star to our planet is Alpha Centauri – and if you could travel at the speed of light, it would take 4.3 years to make the journey. So, how big is the whole *universe*? Astronomers calculate that the edge of the observable universe is about 46.5 billion light years away from us! That means it is about 93,000,000,000 light years in diameter! Now some sources are saying it is 156 billion light years in diameter.

And this universe is estimated to be filled with quite a few stars. On any given night there are only a few more than 9000 stars visible to the unaided human eye – and that includes both hemispheres. So in either hemisphere of the night-time sky one could count about 4500 stars. But now there are very powerful telescopes that have detected millions and millions of stars! God said that the stars were innumerable – they cannot be numbered or counted! *As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured . . . (Jeremiah 33:22)*

Astronomers now understand that the universe is filled with millions of galaxies, each one with billions of stars. Estimates of the number of stars in the universe vary, but the latest calculation puts that number at as many as 300 sextillion! That is the number three followed by 23 zeros – 300,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (the number estimated by Space.com), an estimate from 2010. Now they have added another zero – one septillion! (One followed by 24 zeros.) 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

Do you know that God put those stars there in that great big universe just to let you know who He is, how awesome He is?

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. (Psalm 19:1)

And we are asked by secular minds to believe that this vast universe of zillions of stars made itself out of nothing! But we know that it did not make itself. In fact, according to Paul, everyone knows. We all know. We know that some being of some sort is the Uncaused Cause and the Originator of everything else. *“What may be known about God is plain . . . , because God has made it plain. . . . For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature [His divine Being] – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20)* The Being who is responsible for the existence of this vast universe could not have “needed” it, or anything else. This Being must be incomprehensibly limitless, boundless. All of the stars and the countless intricate molecules and atoms and electrons and particles that comprise the universe from the intricate to the immense can by no means make themselves.

My own complex being, and the psychological make-up of who I am – this reality demands that the Being who made all things be infinitely more complex than myself. Add to that the fact that about seven billion other equally complex humans share this tiny planet with me. Now here you sit reading this. Does it make you feel small? Yes?! It makes me feel small. It made David feel small too! He said, *“O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?” (Psalm 8:1, 3)*

The Being who has the capability to bring such a world into existence and to also sustain it. . . Wow! This Maker of all things must Himself be a profound personal Being who knows love perfectly. And He made all things as a place for humans, for you and me, to exist and behold His greatness and goodness – so that we would look for Him who is our Maker, to be in awe of Him!

“The God who made the cosmos and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth. . . . He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one blood He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.” (Acts 17:20-25)

Why? Why did God create everything and why did He put us here? *“God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us.” (Acts 17:26)*

He made all these things, all the vastness of the universe and the intricacies of life and the cell and DNA in order that we would be in awe of His majesty. He wants us to understand His love and goodness – so that we will come to Him to receive His intense, unstoppable love. He is not far from any one of us! Even if I feel like a speck of dust in a sea of bazillions of stars, God holds the universe in His hand and He is also aware of me, and He is intimately and personally connected to me. As vast and innumerable as the stars, so vast also are God’s thoughts toward me, toward each one of us! *“Many, LORD my God, are the wonders You have done, the things You planned for us. None can compare with You; were I to speak and tell of Your deeds, they would be too many to declare.” (Psalm 40:5) How precious to me are Your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. . . . (Psalm 139:17-18a)* We are so small, and we wonder how it is possible that God can use any of us to accomplish His great plan. But in the context of this great array of innumerable stars, God says that His strength – His praise – is perfectly expressed through babes, through little children. If we would desire to be used of God to accomplish anything, let alone great things, then we must come to Him recognizing our smallness, and bring to Him all that we are. He holds the vast universe in His hand, but He will zero in on just one individual. He will put His finger on one heart of one child, of one little boy or little girl. Such are we, and we say, “Here Jesus, take my five loaves and my two fish.”

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We’re on the Web.
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FRANCIS BANDA

I exhort therefore that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks, be made for all men: for kings and for all that are in authority: that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Paul the apostle of Christ wrote this book at the time when the Roman Emperor Nero was ruthlessly persecuting Christians. The Holy Bible emphasizes that we must be praying for those who have authority over others even though the world is full of ruthless, corrupt, and ungodly men. Today, we have some godly men and women in leadership positions all over the world in the UK & USA for instance; there are those in leadership who are truly born again and openly confess Christ. Nevertheless, there are so many that do not follow Christ. We have a duty as Christians to pray for these leaders. We can pray that God would teach their hearts and draw them closer to the throne of Jesus even when such leaders persecute Christians, we must pray even harder. Luke 6:27-28 says, *"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."* We are battling frustration after frustration with the systems this world has implemented to sustain our societies. Dysfunctional and corrupt as they may be, our solution lies in prayer to Christ our mediator. Africa has seen civil war after civil war, corruption, poor health facilities, hunger and starvation, malnourished children, and election rigging because our leaders are so corrupt. Malawi is witnessing a shameful and pitiful display of corrupt, inconsiderate, and headstrong leadership. So, what do we do as the chosen generation of God? We can pray that God will turn their hearts, that God will give us good leaders and replace the wicked with good, honest, and God fearing leaders. We have the evidence and know from the word of God that when hearts change and people begin to pray, a whole nation and the nations can and will experience a revival.

2 Chronicles 7: 13-14 says, *"If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* Strange as it may seem, sometimes it is God's plan for the nations to have unbelievers in leadership. God has used wicked rulers before to accomplish His purpose here on earth. On many occasions, God did this to pronounce judgement upon His nation, and sometimes to steer His nation into a certain direction but it took bad leadership for the nations to realize the path that the Lord has laid out for them. In other instances God might reveal His grand plans but this is not always the case (Isaiah 55:8). Matthew 16:18-19 says, *"And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this ROCK I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* This is all the ammunition we need. The Lord God desires that all His peoples live a free and kingdom life with kingdom principles and characteristics. We need to build our foundations on the limitless and timeless ROCK that is CHRIST JESUS and steadfastly stand in the gap praying direct and purposeful prayers to touch the heart of God our Father. We ought to be confident in this, that the word of God gives us the guarantee in Matthew 16:18-19, that Prayer works and hearts can be transformed, bodies restored, demons put to flight, governments changed and leaders rejuvenated so long as we are prepared to be God's instruments.

WEDDING

One of the most exciting things that has been happening of late especially within the Bible School is cultural change which does not come easily to any of us. In African culture women sit away from the men on the floor and the men sit on the benches. Even amongst the elderly when they come for distribution the men will always sit on the benches or chairs and the women on the ground.

In the second session of the school Pastor Peter taught on marriage and our staff insisted that husbands and wives sat together during the teaching sessions and during church.

It was delightful for us to see the change in the last session of the school especially in the cultural areas of the lives of the pastors as they applauded their wives efforts to preach and were outwardly emotional towards them and in public which is something never seen. Since there are languages that do not have a word for "love" it has made me wonder how they describe their feelings towards their wives and children and more importantly how they describe their feelings toward the Godhead.

We were absolutely thrilled when 22 of these pastors came and requested that they be allowed to renew their vows in church as they had never been married in a church but only under tradition and custom. We plan on holding the wedding at the September Bible School. If you would like to be a part we need shoes and hats for the brides and golf shirts and pants for the grooms. It would be \$20 per bride and \$25 per groom. I have managed to purchase materials for the dresses and we will have a tailor make them up in Malawi.



Some of the materials purchased

FROM THE HEART – FRANCIS BANDA

Over a year and a half ago, I sat down and asked God to point me in the direction He wanted me to go. I had no idea where that would lead but had faith in God that He would point me in the right direction. I came to a time in my life where everything was just routine and there was no real excitement and joy until the day I started working with Alabaster Ministries. Boy! Did I get a lot more than I had bargained for?

I absolutely love my job/calling; whether it is travelling through treacherous terrain and sometimes on foot, or hiking to church branches inaccessible by road, sleeping in a tent or drinking untreated water, I love it all. It is exciting to be in the ministry of Jesus Christ and the things that I have learned throughout are life changing. I will always cherish the opportunity to be a part of this ministry and under the leadership that God has ordained. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the car that has been awarded to me. It has greatly made my travels faster and much more comfortable than before. I am deeply grateful for yet another blessing upon the many blessings I've received. May the almighty God Bless you and all our beloved friends in Christ Jesus.



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Permit # 522

We have received the breakdown for the Tengani church which is as follows:

The building will measure 33 x 100 feet (10m x 30m).	
Bricks 80,000	\$1,000
Roofing 85 X16 ft	\$3,800
200 bags cement	\$1,700
Transport	640
Timber	\$1,400
Window frames/doors	\$1,200
Nails, mosquito netting etc	\$1,000
Contractors	<u>700</u>
TOTAL	\$11,440

We have found a vehicle in very good condition for \$3,000. Praise God!!!! Someone donated \$250 towards the roofing for Shadreck's church (last newsletter). As soon as we get the balance we will begin the roof.

BREAKDOWN OF MONTHLY EXPENSES FOR 2017

Support for each elderly each distribution x 4	: \$20 x 420	\$2,800
Support for girls (education and clothing)	5 x 10	50
Alabaster Bible school students	10 x 52	520
Alabaster Students attending PAOC school	30 x 2	60
Salaries – 8 pastors (13 months)	15 x 8	120
2 pastors (13 months)	20 x 2	40
3 staff members total (13 months)		<u>570</u>
	Monthly	\$4,160
Building costs for 2017:		
10 houses for the elderly	\$5,000	
Upgrading pastor's homes	2,000	
Bible school dormitories	6,000	
Roofing churches (grass to corrugated iron)	2,500	five churches (One complete)
Church at Tengani	12,000	
Staff housing	30,000	
Vehicle	3,000	(Purchased see page 4)