

## BRICKS FOR THE NEW TENGANI CHURCH



May 2018  
rozheyms.org



# ALABASTER MINISTRIES

# UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

How often do we see the glass half empty instead of half full? When I put ten easy additions on a chalk board and purposely add one incorrectly no one ever says there are nine right – we focus on the one that is wrong and we all think that we are so smart picking out the wrong one.

God always wants us to look on the positive side of things. I think of the story about the walls of Jericho or the twelve spies. We can either be as grasshoppers to be stomped upon by the enemy or we can view the Promise Land as Joshua and Caleb did – with God's eyes as a land of plenty and an enemy that could be routed by God. Of the twelve they must have been the intercessors. Remember that they had been traveling around a desert for forty years living off the same thing every day!

I think about the order that God gave to march around the city of Jericho for seven days without uttering a word. God knows His people. There had been muttering and complaining from them for forty years from the time they left Egypt. We, the church, are no different. When one begins to mutter another takes it up and before too long there is a crowd. I think that God said seven trips around the walls in silence so that there would be no questioning or complaining amongst them.

Our negativity destroys our level of faith. We can imagine them muttering and asking why are we doing this? What purpose does this serve? And for those inside the walls it must have shaken them to see this host of people walking around those impenetrable walls day after day in complete silence. There were 601,730 men alone in that procession so with women and children we are looking at approximately 2 million people. Jericho's walls were 7' thick and 17' high and it was surrounded by a ditch 27' wide and 9' deep and the Israelites had no equipment with which to break down those defenses. When you go to Jericho today a good part of the walls are intact and I often wonder if, instead of them falling down, they sank into the ground. God is able to do miracles any way He sees fit.

What an incredible host of people and how daunting for the enemy when they did it in complete silence. Instead of us jabbering about the impossibilities of things, instead of us running here, there and everywhere for a word or a prophecy let us be silent before the Lord and get our word or prophecy direct from Him.

Of course, I do not mean that when we pray we should always be silent. When we have corporate intercession at the Bible School we begin with praise which moves on to the high praises and then into worship. At the end of worship, we all begin to speak in tongues, also as a form

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"He shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meant for the master's use and prepared for every good work."



# Report from Roz

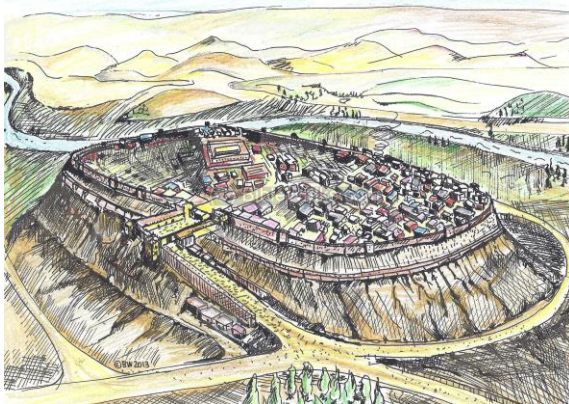
of worship, until it reaches a crescendo and as it begins to get quiet someone begins to pray in their own tongue. That prayer is picked up by someone else and built upon. How do we know what to pray when we are speaking in tongues all the time? How can there be any agreement with my brother when he is speaking in a tongue I cannot understand? The thing we believers do is to look at those defenses and believe that we can pull them down with our prayers and our warfare. WRONG!! This makes it all about us and less about God and when the results happen, if the results happen, we claim that we did it through our battle with the devil. God is explicit that no man shall take His glory. It belongs to Him and Him alone. When the children of Israel uttered a great shout accompanied by the trumpets and horns the walls came down and GOD routed the enemy.

2 Chron 20:15 *And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, thus saith the LORD unto you, be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle [is] not yours, but God's.* It is God's battle and God's victory and God's triumph, and HE gets the glory, not we. It is time for us to pound heaven with our intercession rather than pound away at some city or mountain or whatever. It was not Daniel who opened the way for Judah to return to the Promise Land but Jesus and the arch angel Michael. Daniel interceded until the Captain of the heavenly hosts stepped in and routed the prince of Persia.

Did that dislodge him permanently? No! The prince is back over the very same area today, but he was sent packing by the heavenly hosts so that God's people could return to the Promise Land. God specifically told His people that they would be in captivity for seventy years. What would have happened if Daniel had not begun to intercede around the seventy-year period? We talk about God moving sovereignly and we all know that He can if He wanted to but He chooses to use us to call out to Him. Behind every revival there have been men and women who have fallen on their faces before Him and cried out for Him to move and He has made the way and He has shown up.

Rom 8:28 *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose."* That includes the bad. There have been numerous times when God has turned around the wrong things in our lives and used them for His glory.

I believe for most of us, God gives glimpses of the vision at a time because if He were to show us everything we would lay down our tools and go home because we were too overwhelmed. The Promise Land was a place of rest after living in the wilderness for 40 years. Let us learn to rest in Him. He tells us that His burden is light. When we are at rest we are at peace.



## REPORT FROM PETER:

Often, we miss out on the most important things in our lives because of negligence. We have heard the saying that it is the small things that count the most in life but not many a people really look out for those nitty-gritties. If I may be so bold, I would even go further to say that sometimes we miss the mark of God and the blessings God purposed for us because we so neglect the little tasks He's set for us. My wife wanted to go and minister at Shadreck's place and we did not have fuel for the motor bike. Continued on page 4.....

**Alabaster Ministries**

## 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.

☎ Telephone (636)358-4615

✉ Email: alabastermin@aol.com

🌐 Web: rozheyns.org

You can support this exciting and vibrant ministry by sending checks to:

Alabaster Ministries

8514 N Donna Ct

Kansas City, MO 64153

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Via the web site direct to PayPal.

## FRANCIS:

Dearly beloved,

May the blessings and grace of our mighty Lord Jesus be with you. The Lord has been faithful to us by keeping us all well and we pray that you are too.

Peter and I just returned from a week and a half of field work and Bible school training for both Pastors and Sunday school teachers. There's a need to train more young people in the things of God so that they can impact others in their respective communities. I know there are usually questions when we start mentioning the youth groups and the women's meetings and often times it almost sounds like the old people are being neglected or overlooked when in reality, they are always the principle focus. There is a whole generation missing in the Nsanje community and children are often raised by their mothers but in most cases, their grand parents. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has claimed its fair share of victims but the economic situation has pushed so many able bodied young men into neighbouring Mozambique and South Africa, leaving the burden of raising children to their wives who in turn rely on the grand parents. Our aim is to try as much as possible to teach them what we can, be it agricultural skills and education with whatever resources we have. However, we do not have so much in abundance but what we have is knowledge of the Gospel with which we share whenever we have the chance to do so.

We are particularly pleased with the young group of Sunday school teachers that came through for a week's training and we are certain that out of them there will be some great leaders in their communities. We have started working on the Tengani church building so that we have proper shelter during the hot months and the rains. We are looking forward to having so many crusades in the area as well as creating new memories with the elderly in the area through this project.



This is the new group of prospective Sunday School teachers. They will be fully trained on how to run an effective Sunday School for the children in their various churches. As I have mentioned before, teaching children the things of God is sadly lacking in most rural African churches and since the children are the future of the nation we feel it is time to end this neglect and make sure there is a future generation that loves God and does His will.

## REPORT FROM TITUS BANDA

*'Give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His Deeds among the people. Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him: talk ye of all His wondrous works.'* Psalm 105 VS 1-2 (KJV)

I thank God that I was part of the team that went down to Nsanje to preach and teach the word of God. I count it a blessing that I was able to sing and dance in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Nsanje. They are delightful and jolly people and they are hungry for the things of heaven. What a joy it is to be with them as they sing praises to God and proclaim His wondrous works in their lives and the lives of their families and friends. I was with them for a whole week. I really must say that I never thought I would enjoy my stay in Nsanje but it turned out to be one of the most marvelous weeks of my life. I never really planned to go there anyway but God made sure I went along. Before I knew I would go to Nsanje, I was out helping the team with packing up all the things they would need and as it happened they needed another translator and there I was. That's how I found myself in Nsanje singing songs in Sena and dancing with the young and old pastors that came for Bible school.

I met fantastic people. Old people that are eager to learn and share the word of God, young people that are so passionate about teaching and sharing the word of God, and children that are eager to sing and dance for the Lord. A few old pastors showed me that one can never be too old to serve the Lord and a few children, particularly one very little girl, showed me that one can never be too small to love, dance and sing for the Lord. The evenings were outstanding. It was wonderful to see our brothers and sisters stand and preach the word of God with authority and joy. They prayed for one another and prayed for Malawi every evening. During the day they eagerly learnt how best they can minister to their brethren. It was wonderful to see the joy on their faces when they learnt the difference between the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

One thing about Chididi is that once you are there you lose track of time and a week goes by so fast. That is how I found myself bidding farewell to them. I still find myself singing Sena songs of praise to God sometimes. Thus, I sing unto Him and I remember how delightfully our brethren in Nsanje proclaim His wondrous works. They really are called out to serve and they do so with joy.

Ed note: This is Francis' brother. Titus was such a blessing on this last trip. We were short on translators so asked him to come and help. Like his brother, Solomon, he translates and does not interpret. When we are preaching or teaching we need people who do not add or take away from the message or the teaching being given.

At times some things get lost or the impact is not there when we try to interpret.



## REPORT FROM MARTHA:

One of the most taught subjects in our Christian communities is the constant call for all partakers of the body of Christ to get involved or to do something about spreading the gospel either directly or through other people. I remember when my husband first asked me to say a prayer in church, it was like someone was pouring a gallon of water in my mouth as the words came out, let alone the first time I ever hosted a bible study. I was like Jonah trapped in the belly of the fish. I wanted to do something for God, but I was trapped in my traditions and fear. And so, Pastor Roz and Penny came around continuously asking me when I was going to break out of my shell and stop hiding behind Peter who is my husband and my greatest supporter. There are many women in Nsanje who were or still are just like me - trapped behind all that we love and in the fear of the unknown. Once we step out and begin to do what the Lord has called us to do our lives are changed. We are both called of Him to serve in whatever capacity He wants us to; whether it is to minister to children, or the elderly, or in prisons and missions in different parts of the world, we all ought to break out the belly of the fish and fulfil that which we feel the Lord has called us to do.

I've just returned from Nthondo village which is about 16 kilometers North East of our house and we had a wonderful time sharing the gospel and teaching children at Pastor Shadreck's Sunday school. This ministry is still devoted to helping the elderly population in Nsanje and out of that has come the teaching of their children in the basic knowledge of the gospel as well. It was such a wonderful trip and I cannot wait for the women's conference starting on the 29<sup>th</sup> June through to the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Please keep us in your prayers and may God bless you always.

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## REPORT FROM PETER:

because the gas stations in our area were out for about five days and I wasn't in the mood for a 16 kilometer walk through mountains. Somehow, she convinced me to go. I had so much fun teaching Sunday school at Shadreck's church than I would have had sitting in my backyard all day. Negligence has become one of the greatest weapons the enemy has been deploying on us and sadly most of the church is asleep in their comfort zone. We cannot do tomorrow the tasks we can do today. The Lord has purposed each one of us to function in some capacity and if it means making long trips on foot and away from my comfort zone, I will gladly do it.



We joined with Shadreck at Matekesa village, a few kilometers east of Chididi, at yet another gathering with the elderly. It is such a wonderful thing to see how these constant bible studies are coming up from an administrative point of view, but the real joy lies in the total transformation that I have seen in these people. We can come once every three or four months for distributions and go back home having done a very good thing, but this touches their soul and gives them hope. That is why we are grateful to you our supporters who make all this possible, you are real heroes and I salute you. God Bless you always.