



May 2019

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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Rom. 10:14

Evangelism is not for the Pastor or for the evangelist, it is for each and every one of us. If we are serious about God and love Him, we will love people and desire to see them set free and delivered and in a relationship with the Father. Being "saved" has nothing to do with religion but has everything to do with relationship, not just between us and the Godhead, but with each other. You cannot catch fish unless you go fishing and it is our responsibility and not that of the pastor to preach to the lost. The pastor is there to train up the congregation and help disciple them so they can go out into the highways and byways and win the lost. When we are filled with His precious Holy Spirit, He gives us the POWER to be witnesses. Power to deliver, to heal and simply to speak out about who He is, what He has done for us and what He requires of us. While salvation is the biggest miracle, it is always a wondrous thing for me to see people filled with the Holy Spirit to where He actually changes lives and begins to make them bold, especially about Him. I love the Holy Spirit – He is always with me and I feel His presence in my life

all the time. We have pastors who have completed two years at the Bible school and came knowing little about the Holy Spirit. Now that they understand Him and His function there is new life in them, and their congregations are growing.

The Word says that, *"upon this rock (JESUS not Peter) will I build MY church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* So, why does it seem in so many places that the gates of hell are prevailing? In order to make things more palatable for the "pew sitters" we have dismissed the precious Holy Spirit because if we introduce Him the service may take longer, and we may offend the congregation. My question must be would I rather offend man or God? In dismissing the Holy Spirit, the church no longer has the power – we as individuals no longer have power because it is no longer being taught and people are no longer being filled.

Let us stop being spectators on a Sunday morning and become innovators who are filled with His power and His life. Let us ask God every morning upon waking up to give us just one person to witness to, one person to hug. I am finding more often that the Spirit is giving me direction to hug complete strangers. At His direction I have been up to people and asked if I can hug them. It always opens a door to pray for them and most tell me I have made their day.

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 Francis

We were able to complete one house to roofing level and I made the decision to postpone all work until after the elections were conducted with respect to rising tensions between supporters of political parties and the violence that started a week before the general elections. It has been ten days since we voted and maybe today marked the end of all the processes concerning the choosing of a new president with the inauguration ceremony finally completed in the afternoon of the 31st of May, 2019. However, tensions are still high, we still have a delicate situation at our hands, but I think everything should calm down by the time we have distributions in June. There is talk of holding national-wide demonstrations in protest to the result which had a lot of unaddressed anomalies and several opposition parties called for a re-run of the election. I hope this does not further disrupt our work and I pray that we get to move forward as a nation because I don't see anything changing despite all the efforts several parties are making. The system is still the same and those in power have a tight grip on it.

The clergy in Malawi have called for the incumbent president to step down by the 10th of July and have fresh elections in the country. In retaliation the ruling DPP through the president has made a bold statement saying that it is usually the case of the government bullying the church and not the other way around. The remarks made have raised a lot of questions as to what exactly is going on. We received a rumor that we are being targeted by some overzealous youth in the Tengani area and that some folks were planning to destroy our property just because they believe we harbor contradicting perspectives. Even though the threat might have arisen due to differences in ideology between a few people we interact with it doesn't seem to be that serious and we have taken precautions and reported the matter to the necessary authorities.

The leading opposition party MCP has today made a statement expressing dissatisfaction in the electoral process in that the Malawi Electoral commission did not consider their plea for a vote recount to address the alleged deeds of misconduct and vote rigging. They have expressed their determination to proceed with proceedings in court which really is their right, but the nation is left in dilemma. We have a sworn in president who is now in charge of all the security forces and what would happen if the courts called the election null and void in the coming weeks? That is the predicament we are in and we would like to implore all our beloved friends and partners to keep us in your prayers as we go through these trying times.

There had been several stories going around that already people who are not from the ruling party's stronghold are being kicked out of offices and transferred to the most remote areas, nepotism and segregation will not unite this country at all and we have suffered so many injustices over the years because of this malpractice. We believe that God can change our hearts to relinquish this habit of rivalry across ethnic and political divides and help us begin to see each other as one people and one nation under God. Please help us pray that we do not deteriorate into chaos and lawlessness because of the differences in our languages or place of origin. There were some cases which happened before the voter results were announced and we do not know if the recent strange transfers in the security forces are a reaction to the ethnic rows of last week. I pray that we do not see further chaos in a country that is already exhausted in every aspect. As you are well aware that we are in the top five poorest nations in the world.



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
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 Website: www.rozheyms.org

REPORT FROM PASTOR FRANCIS

Dearly beloved,

Please receive our warm greetings wherever you are. We pray that the Almighty has been true to you just as He has been faithful to us.

Several reports have indicated that Malawi is one of, if not, the poorest country in the universe despite having been a recipient of so much foreign aid since the time we gained independence. This has come about as a result of poor governance appropriation of public funds especially in the past 15 years where we have witnessed a total and general decadence in the legal, economic, and political frameworks of this nation. We are currently in the middle of one of the most highly contested elections in our history and it is our hope and prayer that there should arise some impeccable leaders to carry the torch and lead this once proud nation towards a new path.

Nevertheless, we would like to inform you that the second group of Bible School students is in and we are particularly impressed in the female members. We are investing in young people who sometimes are better suited to reach out to their peers and thereby bring about a real change.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you, our dearly beloved for the generous gift you made to Sevelia Chiyembekezo. Despite her challenges she is one of the most jovial people I have ever met. It was hard to find her shelter after her house collapsed in the storm two months ago. We made a temporal shack from timber, grass and plastic wrapping while we searched for a permanent solution. We are grateful to you our dearly beloved for making her dream come true. And now that we are fast approaching another distribution campaign, we would like to thank you for making these functions a success. We cannot wait to see our favorite group in a few weeks' time. May the Almighty God bless and Keep you all.



Pastor Peter with Sevelia outside her new home. We still must plaster the outside and finish up under the eaves. Thank you for your support in this project. We have eight to build in this area. Two are already built and now we are focusing on the rebuilding of the church so we can house people there while they wait for their homes to be built. We want to let you know that during these storms all homes we have previously built withstood the winds, mudslides, rain and whatever else came against them. That is why we call them ABBA's houses – He takes care of them.

REPORT FROM PASTOR PETER



The graduating class of 2019 joined our staff for the Easter Conference, it is always wonderful to see them all together

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus and pray that you are all well. The Lord has been faithful to us and we have enjoyed our fellowship. I am completely baffled by His everlasting love and the mysterious ways in which He continues to operate.

Pastor Cephas hosted a great Easter conference in Nyandandanda on the border between Malawi and Mozambique. It was raining on the days prior to Good Friday and we were concerned that we were not going to have a good turnout at all. All our services were under the tree during the day and moonlight at night. My friend noticed that I was very worried it might rain and disrupt the entire conference and so he called the pastors together to pray in faith, believing that the hand of the Lord is not shortened that He cannot save, and neither is He deaf that He cannot hear our prayers.

We enjoyed three days of wonderful sunlight and great fellowship. (See photo first page), I was reminded that no one has ever gone through life without having established a relationship. We always try our best to nurture the relationships we have one with another and when in conflict we try to reach an understanding and reconcile. I think it is in our nature to form relationships because naturally, no one likes to be lonely and we know just how well to nurture a relationship and what not to do so we do not ruin it. God is all about relationship too. We are so good at nurturing and bettering our relationships one with another but often we turn a blind eye to our relationship with God. Of course, it sounds all too challenging to have a relationship with the grace of grace whose benevolence simply overshadows our own and maybe it sounds complex, but Christ says abide in me and I in you. He longs to have a relationship with us so that He can then begin to reveal the heart of the Father in heaven to us and in so doing bring us closer to the Father in heaven.

I have seen the chaos that is present throughout my region in the wake of the natural disasters that passed through here two months ago and through it all there were some who were greatly affected but who just seemed to have hope despite the imminent hard times that lay ahead. One may say, what is the purpose then of having a relationship with the all benevolent God if there's so much suffering in the world. It is because
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of this that having a great relationship with God is important. I strongly believe that even though we have very little and have suffered much we have every reason to rejoice for through it all the hand of the Lord has rescued us and keeps on doing so. I have witnessed it first-hand from the beloved who make every distribution possible, the saint who clothes the naked, to the helper who builds a home for the homeless. I am encouraged by the fact that He's always there, but it all starts with relationship. It is only through that relationship that we can tap into His heartbeat and grace and enjoy His endless provisions. Our relationship with the throne of God matters just as well as the way we relate to others.

Two months ago, we were concerned as to how best to help our dear friends who lost their homes to the storms that hit our region. We made a temporary shack for one, Sevelia Chiyembekezo (our lady with leprosy) while we searched for alternatives until saints reached out and provided a wonderful gift. We started building her house immediately and she's is one happy woman. She encourages me to count my blessings because despite her losses and physical challenges, she is always happy and praises the Lord through it all. Often, we feel like giving up because sometimes our challenges are so overwhelming, and it feels like we are all alone, yet we are always so close to our help. Now I have learned not to complain but rather say I am right where I need to be, "at the foot of the cross" and because I am in perfect relationship with Him, I need not worry but rejoice in His name like Sevelia does. (Ed note: Leprosy is treatable and when I return to Africa in August, we are going to attempt to get the treatments she needs. It is a barrage of antibiotics that she will have to take every day for two years. As I was at the airport waiting for my flight, I met a British doctor who specializes in infectious diseases. He is a first responder and was on his way to Uganda to take care of an outbreak of Ebola. He is based in Blantyre, Malawi).

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REPORT FROM PASTOR SHADRECK

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ and pray that you are all well. We are currently undergoing an election process in Malawi with so many people praying for change and a leader who will improve the standards of living in the nation. We pray that they are free, fair, and peaceful elections.

I recently held a meeting at Pastor Joseph's place (One of the 2019 graduates) and we are grateful for Joseph because he's always happy to let us use his church whenever we have our meetings. I taught from Deuteronomy 13 regarding true worship. I witnessed to the elderly who have lived for so long and have either seen first-hand or heard of how our ancestors worshipped spirits and were involved in acts of divination, some of which still happen today. It was very easy to make them understand the differences between true worship compared to that which isn't.

It is our African heritage that has seen the rise of hundreds of false prophets who are all about enriching themselves because they have built empires preying on the traditions of Africans to trust in vain divination and spirit worship. It sounds so easy to do rather than having faith in Jesus, taking hours to pray and an effort to establish a great relationship with Christ. Divination and spirit worship just cost money and application of instructions from whosoever gives them likewise the modern African prophet who have become overnight millionaires out of the ability to tell someone else's past and the ability to conjure someone's life pattern in the next couple of months or year. Deuteronomy warns against any such practices and James challenges us to question the spirit and see if it is of God and not one of these dreamers and vain bubblers who are deceiving so many.

Being a prophet has obviously become a lucrative business and unfortunately the rural areas are the worst compared to the cities. It is my hope and prayer that people everywhere in the world will not be easily taken by these false prophets because they have a silver tongue and their rhetoric sounds so easy to follow for there is a way that may seem right in the eyes of men but the wages of which is separation from the throne of the most high. I pray therefore, that if ever we come across any such a man, we boldly question the spirit that's speaking in him.