



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

MAY 2017

Dearest Friends,

Just arrived back from another whirl in Africa. We began buying for the first three days I was there. So much had to be purchased for the elderly and since there are four hundred of them it takes organization to pick everything up.

Following on from the April edition, we managed to get all of the sugar we needed while we were down in the Lower Shire but unfortunately price gouging had already begun and when we arrived at a store and ordered 400 packets they immediately raised their prices by over a dollar a bag. We started off with the Bible School and right from the beginning it seemed nothing was going well. We loaded everything onto the roof rack of the indomitable Nissan patrol and headed out on our three day journey only to be stopped by police 45 minutes out of town and told the insurance had expired and to carry on to the next police barrier to pay the fine. After doing that we began the steep descent of the escarpment and half way down I remembered we had forgotten the vegetables. There is no place in the valley that we could purchase them so had to return the hour back to Blantyre to get them. When we reached the road block the police asked what was happening and I laughed and said we had forgotten things. He asked why I was laughing and I told him if I weren't laughing I would be crying. They found that very funny and on the following three trips through that barrier they remembered us and laughed with us, letting us through with just a wave.

We finally arrived at the Bible School only to find out that somewhere the "Bush Telegraph" had gone awry and only half the students were there. School began as soon as we got there and we still managed to fit in four courses that day.

As I watched and listened (even though I do not speak the languages) I could sense that something was lacking. They went through the right motions but the FIRE was not there. That evening I asked how many were speaking in tongues and a mere handful put up their hands. What had happened? We had a teaching on that at the 1st Bible school and they had all been prayed for.

I told them that we were going to do another teaching and that none of them was going to leave until they had all received. If it took too long then Penny and I would leave but Francis, Solomon and Peter would stay until they had all received the POWER of the Holy Spirit.

That night we had a host of people, many children had come because they are always interested at what is going on in their village. A choir had come to sing to us and their parents had joined them and all of our staff were there.

The Holy Spirit made Himself know to all during the meeting and when we came to pray the people just opened their mouths and began to speak. There was an amazing anointing in the place. The easiest way is for some of the pastors to describe it to you in their own words.

PASTOR JEFFREY YALU

"It is amazing the things that God can do. I am not a learned man and I cannot read and write but somehow I do understand the Word of God and know scripture even though I cannot read. I always asked myself the question why but never really got an answer until recently.

Barely a week ago we sat at our 5th Bible School session and there was a teaching on the Holy Spirit, His anointing and speaking in tongues. As we prayed that night I felt such a presence of God. It was overwhelming yet gentle. I knew then that He had come. People spoke in tongues and some jumped up and down. I came to understand why an uneducated man like myself can teach the Word even though I cannot read the scriptures. He was always there with me but I did not know it was the Holy Spirit until somebody taught me. All of us in the Body of Christ must go and teach others of the anointing and power that is the Holy Spirit. There might be others like me out there, people who have no idea who the Holy Ghost is until someone shows them the way.

I am truly grateful to all our supporters. My prayers go out to you all. May the Almighty continue blessings you for making this Bible School possible.

I bless you in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jeffrey Yalu

PASTOR JOSEPH GUME

I send my deepest regards to you my supporter and fellow member of the body of Christ. I can only pray that you and your family are all well.

I would like to express my gratitude for the support that you give me. You have taught me a great principle and now, I have also become a giver. May the Almighty God bless you.

With love

Pastor Joseph Gume

(ed Note) Joseph is a gentle giant – towers over everyone else but incredibly shy until he was filled with the Holy Spirit at this Bible School session. What a change!! God has fashioned a stack of sticks of dynamite. He is filled with dunamis!

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FRANCIS BANDA

How shall we go to the world and preach the word of God if we neglect the Holy Spirit?

“For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even the dividing of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

(Hebrews 4:12).

We know that what the scripture in Hebrews says is that essential word was in beginning and the Word was with God and the Word is the Lord Jesus Christ. The WORD is quick; it is very active and alive in all its efforts, it is just as operational today as was in the beginning, it is energizing and effective in seizing the conscience of the sinner and cutting deep in his heart, comforting and healing the soul.

1 Peter 1:24-25 says, *“All flesh is as grass and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers and its flower falls away, BUT the WORD of God endures forever, now this is the WORD which by the gospel was preached to you.”* The world would like us to believe the holy scriptures are written down in a historical book called the Bible and that there’s a certain group of people who believe in this book. BUT it was written by the inspiration of the Blessed Holy Spirit of God and the Word thus written gives life. Everything in this world shall pass away but the Word of God shall never pass away. Mathew 5:18, *“For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”*

We are certain of the fact that the Word shall live on until Christ shall come again but we are also certain of its power. When the Lord plants his Word in us by his blessed Holy Spirit, it convicts us powerfully, it is powerfully conceived, it converts powerfully, it comforts powerfully, and delivers powerfully. In Acts 3:6; Peter tells the cripple, silver and gold have we none but as I have I will give you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth get up and walk. Peter had the WORD in him. Not the word as we know it but the living Word in him that he was able to demonstrate the power that lies therein. The Word has the power to pull down strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4), to raise the dead, to cleanse lepers, restore the broken, give sight to the blind, make the deaf hear, and to cast out devils.

Ephesians 6: 17 says, *“And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God.”* The Word is like a two-edged sword and cuts both ways. This two-edged sword is what we see coming out of Christ’s mouth in Revelations 1:16. It is so sharp and cuts deeper than deep; it will make a more critical and precise dissection to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit. The Word makes many a proud spirit to be humble, meek and obedient. The sword cuts off those habitual sins and reconciles us with the Father in heaven. It is so powerful that it comes between the most intimate parts of the body (joints and the marrow). The word cuts off the lusts of the flesh and the mind, the pride of life, and makes us willing to undergo the baptism of fire where the Holy Spirit zeroes in on the root of the problem and purifies us.

The church has grown cold and for the most part, very lukewarm. We have neglected the Holy Spirit Who alone teaches Word. How shall we learn of that Word and teach it if we so neglect the power in it? The Spirit who plants the Word in us is a discerner of our thoughts and schemes and intentions of the heart. There’s nothing that escapes His eyes, even the most remote of thoughts or designs. The Spirit in us helps us discover our purpose and plants the living Word so much that we overflow. The problem with the church is that we do not like it when the Spirit begins to convict and points out our bad habits and corrects our sinful paths. We still want to be in our comfort zone, even if that means covering the light in us, which is the living Word of God. The Lord works by His Spirit and so the work of the Spirit is vast or limitless. Whatever God does through his Word (Christ), He does by the Spirit. We need to tap into the heartbeat of God and the baptism of His Holy Spirit who empowers, sustains, enables, and guides us through every step of the way.

SOLOMON BANDA

Greetings in the name of the Lord.

Once again, I was privileged to join the team for Bible training in Chididi. The numbers were as good as always; 25 pastors showed up eager to learn and to serve.

From the 17th to the 21st of April, I took them through "Missions to Muslims." Modern day stereotypes against Muslims have created a massive barrier between the church and people of the Islamic faith. In light of all the violence and terror that are synonymous with radical Islam, it is easy for us in the church to look upon all Muslims with spite and hate. The objective of this module was to help remove some of these stereotypes and help us understand that JESUS died for the entire world. The church should therefore look at people of the Islamic faith through the eyes of love, for *“By this will everyone know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* (John 13:35) And remembering that we have all been created in the image of God.

I believe it is the Lord's desire for all men to be saved, therefore no person should ever die without having the opportunity to hear the wonderful, most liberating gospel of JESUS. It is my hope that as these 25 pastors go back to their respective churches, they go armed with the love of JESUS for the Muslim brother.

(editor note) Solomon and Peter (our pastor to the elderly) both attend the Pentecostal Assembly of God Canada Bible School each month in Blantyre. They have made a great impression on the teachers and staff, so much that the church, City Pentecostal Church has asked Solomon to come on staff with them. We are thrilled and we are sowing Solomon as seed for the future growth of Alabaster. An agreement has been made that he be released once every six weeks for a week to teach at the Alabaster Bible School on the mountains of Chididi. Solomon, may you be an amazing blessing wherever you go. Our prayers and love go with you.

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We're on the Web.
See us at: rozheyns.org
You can donate on line.
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REPORT FROM PENNY SHELLSWELL

What an amazing visit I've had this year to Malawi. The stress for Roz is incredible - how many cabbages, onions, tomatoes would you buy to feed 380 people for 3 days? And that's minor to the huge organization of numerous other aspects to be covered in the short time she is here and then 35 people three meals for 4 days at the Bible School.

Is it worth it? Absolutely! To see how the Word of God is changing lives is truly exciting. When you see quiet, shy, reserved pastors smiling, laughing, clapping and jumping after receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues, it is truly worth all the stress and trouble of organization. The whole atmosphere changes and the transformation before one's eyes is truly glory to the Mighty God we serve.

The picture shows the sandwiches Roz and I made at 6.30 in the morning for the pastor's breakfast to go with what the porridge the cooks were making - and what a magnificent view - this was at Chididi where we had the pastor's conference.

Visiting the elderly in their different villages was very interesting with noticeably different atmosphere's. Many of the elderly are absorbing the Word of God with great joy and response but there are others who incredibly appear to be ungrateful as they haven't received exactly what they wanted in their food and gift bags - I was staggered - one key man in particular was not only very difficult but also totally unteachable. All he wanted was money for worldly promotion! I taught on the 10 lepers where only 1 comes back to glorify God and thank the Lord - but this was not received by this one man!!!



I was sad to see one dear old man who loved to dance with Roz - I have pictures of them dancing together from previous visits - now unable to walk and who was carried on the back of another lovely, tongue speaking elderly man, so that he could greet Roz. Here he is sitting on the floor looking up and talking with Roz. The children always crowd round you and here they are looking at Peter translating.

When one of the team members learned my age, he said 'oh, you are old, we ought to put you too on the list for distribution to the elderly'!!!! We had a good laugh!

There is much more I could say about the love and gratitude shown, in particular to Roz but also to me and about the joy on the faces of so many in response to the Word of God, but let me finish by saying I truly Praise the Lord for being part of such an amazing team - I have been greatly blessed.

A NOTE FROM SHADRECK KAMCHILA

I would like to extend my warm greetings to you our beloved in the Lord Jesus. I pray the Lord is keeping you and your families well. My heart is overjoyed and I do not know how to express my gratitude to you our wonderful family in the body of Christ. If you were in Africa, I should have beat the drum and danced before the Lord to praise him for positioning you in our lives to help us minister to the lost and dying and believers alike in the manner that we do. Your generosity goes a long way towards building a wonderful army for Christ our master.

We are very thankful for the iron sheets we received to protect us from the sun and the rains. Nthondo branch is beaming with pride and we would love for so many of you to come and fellowship with us some day. We did not have a church building of our own and we had been renting a school block for Sunday services for some time but now the Lord has answered our prayer. We are about 10 kilometers from Chididi and Nthondo is situated on a hill. We try to sing as loud as we can every Sunday morning so that those down below can hear us and come to hear the word of God.

I am privileged to be a part of the Bible school that is in session every six weeks at Chididi and I have watched the Lord take me from glory to glory. It is so easy for men to be abusive and to live an earthly tradition regardless of the position of a pastor because of our indigenous traditions and customs. Through this Bible school, I have watched the old man die and a new one rise up in his place - I have seen my earthly customs and traditions die and the heavenly arising in me. I am so grateful to the almighty God for providing me this opportunity and to you our dearly beloved who make every Bible school session possible. May the Almighty continue blessing and rewarding you. Amen.

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Bewitching Swazi law on broomsticks

MBABANE: Witches flying broomsticks in Swaziland above 150m will be subject to arrest and a hefty fine of R500 000, civil aviation authorities said yesterday.

Witches' broomsticks are considered similar to any heavier-than-air transportation device that is airborne. The statute also forbids toy helicopters and children's kites from ascending too high into the country's airspace.

"A witch on a broomstick should not fly above the (150m) limit," Civil Aviation Authority marketing and corporate affairs director Sabelo Dlamini said yesterday.

No penalties exist for witches flying below 150m.

How serious he was is hard to say. However, witchcraft isn't a joking matter in Swaziland. Dlamini was asked by the Swazi press to

Many countries in Africa take witchcraft very seriously and many people are killed each year because of it. People do not like to see others succeed and will often go to a witchdoctor to have spells cast with the result that someone dies.



In the meantime this is what is happening in Zimbabwe – no hoax. I wonder where the schools are supposed to keep the goats and what about banks!!!!????



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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	\$8,400
Support for girls (education and clothing)	5 x 10	50
Alabaster Bible school students	10 x 25	250
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	\$5,290

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)	2,000 four churches
Church at Tengani	12,000
Staff housing	30,000