



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

NOVEMBER 2017

Our dear Friends,

Hard to believe that by the time you receive this we will already be in 2018 and look at what He has done this year! My October trip to Malawi was the best ever and it was so very exciting to see how people are growing in their faith. I was told years ago that if I did not train and delegate the work would never be effective. That was before we started Alabaster Ministries. One of the most remarkable things I have seen in this past year is that I have almost trained myself out of a "job." I am very excited to see our staff laboring and growing the work without me AND I do not have to call and text every day to make sure and to check up on them. Francis has pretty much been "out of action" for the past five weeks and even that has not slowed them down. They have been holding seminars and growing a youth group and have started teaching the ladies. The ladies were a part of my vision many years ago before I even moved to the States – almost 30 years ago. We are always in such a rush and when it does not happen instantly we give up. God is never in a hurry – He says, "a day is as a thousand years." We need to know that when He tells us something we need to pursue it first in our prayer life and then to begin to put it in action. Thirty years down the road I am now looking at an amazing group of lady pastors who have been set free from their hang-ups and bondages and are ministering with power and authority and they are teaching other women the same thing. We have elderly who allow the Holy Spirit to move upon them to begin singing not just in a new tongue but songs of worship in their own language. There are few churches in the West that do that or even allow it to happen in their congregations. I understand the fear that some unsaved person might not understand and walk out, but church is actually the place for fellowship and in that fellowship the praise to and worship of the Lord and the teaching of the Word. It is the business of the congregation to win people to Christ outside of the church and to bring them in for fellowship and teaching. We need to stop being selfish with our time and instead of watching TV every evening we should be holding studies for those whom we have won to the Lord.

This is what discipling is all about and the Lord called us to make disciples and not converts. I believe our new year resolution should not be to lose weight or stop this or that, but it should be to win the lost and disciple as many as we are able.

I have a friend in Florida and for years she has been taking small groups of ladies once a week and doing Bible studies with them. Some of them now go to the mission field and all of them now know the Word thoroughly and apply it to their lives and use it to minister to others.

I do not know about you but "He makes His ministers a flame of fire." We are all His ministers and we are not hereto make people comfortable where they are but to stir them always onward and upward. We are also here to comfort those who are hurting and in bondage and those who need to be set free. Jesus came to disturb those who were comfortable and had grown complacent in their way of life, but He came to comfort those who were disturbed. We should be just like Him. It is so very exciting to see or to lead people to the Lord and then to disciple them and see them grow as you and the Holy Spirit together teach them.

As we move into 2018 let us be used of God. Ask Him to give us an hunger for Him as never before and in that hunger, we will automatically reach out to the lost and dying. I remember the first time I prayed for someone to receive the Holy Spirit and they did. I was so excited – probably more than they were. It is always thrilling to pray for someone who wants to receive Jesus. Why wouldn't it be when the angels rejoice in heaven each time a sinner is saved.



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FRANCIS BANDA

Greetings to you, our beloved friends and supporters. It is our hope and prayer that we all enjoyed thanksgiving with family and friends. We had the 11th Bible school session of the two-year program a few weeks ago and we are pleased with how the students have responded to their lessons. We are particularly happy that out of the Bible school has come chaplains for the old people's prayer and Bible study groups. It has been a wonderful year and we are grateful to you our beloved friends and family in the Lord Jesus Christ. You have been such a blessing each step of the way and we are so happy for everything that you have made possible this year. The old people are ever so grateful for the gifts that you collectively make available and greatly appreciate your efforts in this initiative. We thank the Lord for Peter, Shadreck, Mandala and Martha for the work that they are doing with the Elderly, the youth, and women empowerment programs. We have such a dynamic team and the Lord has just given us the perfect group to do his work. Mandala has been busy in the Shire valley area conducting meetings and house prayer groups with the elderly and Shadreck has created a prayer powerhouse in the Chididi Mountains. Peter has been traveling with the two pastors giving them directions and support when needed. Now, both Shadreck and Mandala can head out on their own and Peter will have just three areas to oversee and to minister to.

(Ed Note) Unfortunately, Francis has been unable to operate as he normally does because he was arrested about five weeks ago and then released on bail which prevented him from traveling.

This has been the work of another ministry which is jealous of the work we are doing and the results we are achieving. Their plan is always in the hopes that we would have to shut down the work. Fortunately, the Lord has once again intervened and undertaken. However, it has set things back and we will not be able to complete two houses for the elderly before Christmas. Since the last newsletter Janet's house has completely collapsed and she has nowhere to live. Hers was the first house we were to work on and it would have been ready for her and her grandchildren two weeks before Christmas.

Please church, it is time for us to stop fighting one another and become united in the Spirit. Why is it that we are jealous when one church or mission organization is being successful and we are not? When that is the case we had better look to ourselves to find out if our hearts and motives are right instead of those that are successful. Surely any of these works are God's and not ours and if we are carrying out what He has called us to do, and to the very best of our ability, then the work will be blessed by Him?

I for one, am tired of the attacks that are coming from within the Kingdom. The "world" is far more hospitable and sometimes even more supportive than some of the mission organizations that work in the same area as us. If people in the Kingdom do not want to come alongside and support it is fine but we should not impede or try to ruin what others have sacrificed for and are trying to achieve. Live brotherly love don't just preach it

PETER KANCOCHI

This has been a great year for my family and I and the Lord has brought us from glory to glory. There is nothing more I could ask for. I have had the pleasure of working with an impeccable team and a transformed elderly group. I have seen the elderly getting a new look in just matter of months. It is such a wonderful feeling when you see the word of God in operation not only in our lives but that of others. The Lord Jesus commanded us all to bear fruit. The fig tree cannot bear apples and thus the body of Christ must go forth with the gospel and bear good fruit in the world. We must remain pure before Him so that our fruit are reflective of Him and we will grow up disciples with the same fruit. If our fruit is ugly then no-one will want to partake and if our fruit is contaminated, then we will contaminate all those we minister to.

We have decided to increase our outreach to the elderly by adding Pastors Mandala and Shadreck in order to reduce the time it takes to rotate between centers. We have covered all our bases in a space of two months and we believe that this is a great strategy towards spending more time with the elderly and transforming Nsanje from within. Mandala Zongoloti has enjoyed a wonderful time witnessing to the elderly and has developed such a passion to the service within a short period of time.

MANDALA WITH THE CHAZUKA ELDERLY

I thank the Lord for Shadreck whose charismatic methods has impacted both the elderly and young people wherever he travels. He oversees the outreach work in Chididi and I have to say working with Shadreck is such a fantastic experience. His love for the elderly is unquestionable but far more important is the hunger that he has to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them. I have personally been present at two of the meetings he set up in Chididi and in the second meeting we had a few people who were struggling with a tobacco addiction. It is very common for women in the mountains to sniff large amounts of tobacco and most never quit this untidy and unhealthy habit even

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after they are Born Again. We rallied around them and prayed for them and there was an instant deliverance from their addictions. We praise the Lord for this; even though it has taken a long time for the group to start stepping out in faith and laying hands or praying for one another, I believe that we have finally had a major breakthrough.

PASTOR SHADRECK (SECOND FROM THE RIGHT) WITH THE OLD PEOPLE AT JOSEPH GUME'S CHURCH. THE WOMEN WERE DELIVERED FROM TOBACCO ADDICTION AND HAVE SINCE BECOME WONDERFUL MINISTERS IN THEIR VILLAGES.



YOUTH PROGRAM

This was really a brainchild of Pastor Peter Kankochi and Mandala Zongoloti who have had this desire to transform their communities starting with the youth. The idea was to find something that got their attention and would bring a large group together thereby creating a great platform for effective witnessing. The effect that this has had in Nsanje is immediate and central to transforming their communities. Sport attracts a lot of young people and when we have a brief sermon taught at any sporting event, we accomplish in one day what could have taken us months to do. We had a three-day youth meeting and we started out with 60 people. The youth are encouraged to preach and teach each other so Pastor Peter only gave the opening remarks and guidance here and there. It was amazing to hear the praise and worship go up to the heavens and young people from nearby places and churches started to come from all directions. We had 150 young people in attendance on the last day and while that may seem like a small gathering, it is a lot people in the mountain areas as homes and villages are spread out. It is amazing how God uses the little things to bring out the best testimonies ever. Please pray as we continue to reach out as they are the future church. Most of the youth are young men which makes it even more of a blessing. Can you imagine as they grow up and marry and become the spiritual heads of the household how it will impact the area? Lower Shire is steeped in witchcraft and superstition and it is long time overdue that God be uplifted and glorified in the area and the devil put to flight.

Please remember to pray for these young people who are hungry for the things of God that they will continue to grow in Him.

MARTHA KANCOCHI

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus. It is our wish that you are all well just as we are in Malawi. The rains are here and it is customary for all people to be busy working on their gardens, but we saw it fit to hold one more meeting before we entered into the festive season. I am particularly overjoyed with what the Lord is doing in my life. I never imagined that I would be blessed beyond measure through these meetings. We just finished our calendar year in style at Pastor Joseph Gume's church and he was such a wonderful host. It was great to see more that 14 Alabaster Bible School pastors in attendance who reminded us that we are all members of the same family in the body of Christ and it is imperative that we support each other in all our endeavors. Perhaps the most important thing is that we have finally incorporated the elderly in our meetings. It was a challenge to get the elderly to come to the meetings as they thought they were too old but the introduction of a new and vibrant bible study program with the elderly group by Pastors Mandele and Shadreck has brought about a new drive for the gospel as well as a willingness to associate oneself in groupings where the gospel is being taught or shared. God bless you all; have a merry Christmas and wonderful new year.

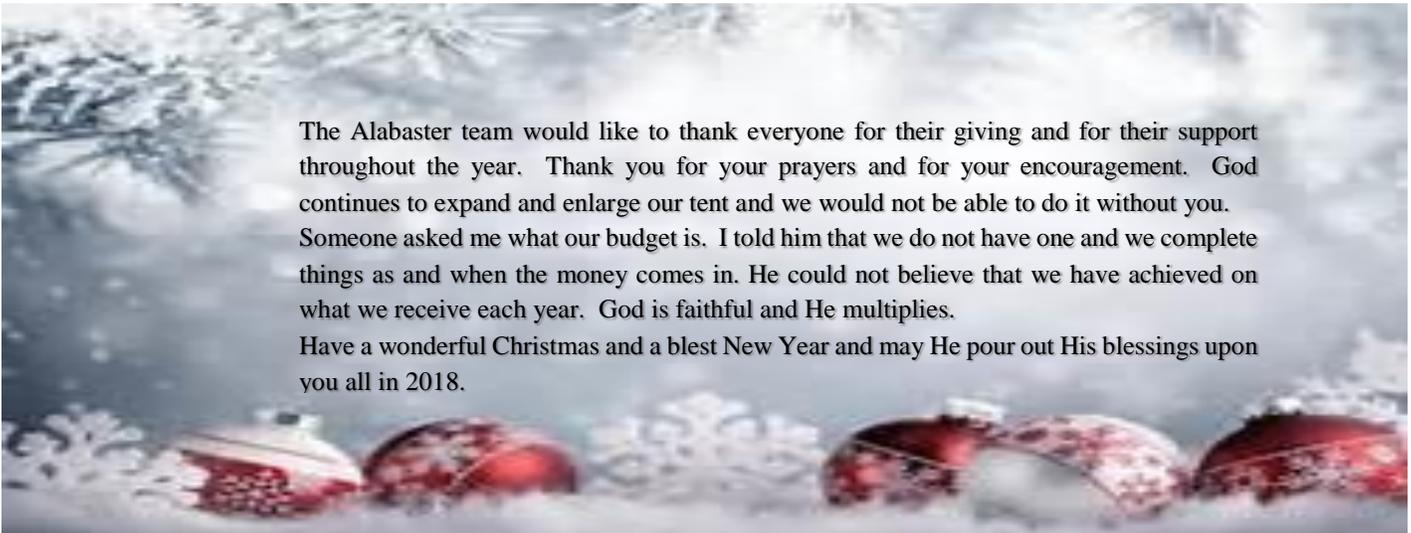
Dear pastor Roz,

We thank God that He cares for our family Mum. The work of our Lord Jesus is going on well here at Nsanje. At the women's meeting we saw the hands of our Lord Jesus doing a great miracle during those days. We taught on fasting and spent our three days fasting and in prayer. The theme of the fasting was setting Francis free, Alabaster ministry and you Pastor Roz to ask God to open windows to the people who have a heart to support this work of God. And, we prayed for the rain. Mum we prayed to God to defeat those coming against us. This ministry coming against us is not happy with what we are doing. When you read 1Samuel 17:37-46 it says David did not worry because He knew that God was with Him. At the end He won the battle Mum. What you should know is God uses you, so you better face the enemy and just stand on prayer. We prayed for the rain and that afternoon the rain came and it was a good rain. You have been asking old people to pray for gentle rain without soil erosion. When you read Isaiah 59:1 it says "*BEHOLD, the Lords hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.*" We have seen women pastors preaching like Mrs. Gume, Mrs. Shadreck powerful messages.

Lastly thank you for the bicycle, money and clothes for my husband, sons and myself. We ask God to give you a long life and strong body. Warm and tender greetings to you ...yours Martha. Love to you when you read my report

(Ed note) Before we brought the Pastor's wives into the Bible school most of them could not preach a word. Mrs. Gume was extremely shy and would not open her mouth. Mrs. Shadreck manifested during praise and worship at the October Bible School and was gloriously set free and now is preaching. Martha wrote two reports. God is WONDERFUL!

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The Alabaster team would like to thank everyone for their giving and for their support throughout the year. Thank you for your prayers and for your encouragement. God continues to expand and enlarge our tent and we would not be able to do it without you. Someone asked me what our budget is. I told him that we do not have one and we complete things as and when the money comes in. He could not believe that we have achieved on what we receive each year. God is faithful and He multiplies.
 Have a wonderful Christmas and a blest New Year and may He pour out His blessings upon you all in 2018.



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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 being made	\$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

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
Support – 8 pastors (13 months)	15 x 8	120
2 pastors (13 months)	20 x 2	40
6 staff members total (13 months)		<u>660</u>
	Monthly	\$6,380
Building costs for 2017:		
10 houses for the elderly	\$5,000	
Upgrading pastor's homes	2,000	
Bible school dormitories	6,000 land purchased	
Roofing churches (grass to corrugated iron)	1,750 four churches – 2 done	
Church at Tengani	12,000 bricks being made	
Staff housing	30,000 land purchased	