



November 2019
rozheyms.org



ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

It has been a glorious year for Alabaster Ministries. We have achieved so much with so little but when God is in it, He stretches not only finances but our faith and our resolve. Grateful thanks to all of you who have supported us over the past 12 months. There are those who have faithfully given the widows mite and we appreciate that those \$10 supplied every month have been able to keep food on the "tables" of not only our elderly but also of our staff. God has so blessed me with my staff in Malawi who are not only a great spiritual bunch but who love the Lord and love the work they are doing.

We are looking forward to 2020. What does God have in store for us in the coming year, what does He have in store for you? It seems that with each year things get tougher and not easier. It has been a year of trials and tribulations, but He has been with us every step of the way. On my last trip we broke down in the middle of nowhere. In the West if you break down there is always AAA a phone call away and in no time the tow truck is there. In Africa there is no AAA, if there is no cell tower you cannot make a call to anyone and you cannot leave your vehicle because you will come back to find it missing parts or tires or whatever else is available. God is His usual

faithful way came through AND got me to my church meeting and found an interpreter. The whole trip went off with hardly a hiccup.

Who knows what is going to happen in 2020 but we need to get vision for it now. Prov 29:18a *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* Other words for vision are image or revelation. They need to be God's plan for our everyday lives and if we do not seek His plan then we are like a rudder with no helmsman. Without a helmsman boats run aground and get holed or damaged or just get stuck. Let the Father be our guide in all that we do especially in our relationships with others.

Not long ago I was with some people who said they never criticize anyone. Well, they may not talk about others, but they sure criticized me. By the time I left I felt like a pin cushion. This was not correction but criticism. There is nothing wrong with correction when it is done correctly and in love. When we are mean and speak it out, we cannot take it back.

Let 2020 be a year of vision for all of us so that we have purpose and direction. If you are sick and suffering, then begin to imagine your healing – how you would feel when the healing takes place. We expect everything in our lives to be instantaneous and sometimes it is but there are more times when we must walk things through and that takes time. Our walk with God is to be worked out, "With fear and trembling" Phil 2:12. That means with an awe and respect for God's holiness and not quaking in fear of God who loves us so much He created us in His image.

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."

REPORT FROM PASTOR SHADRECK

Please receive greatest compliments of the season and I pray that you have a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I consider myself very privileged to be chaplain to the elderly in my region. Serving the Lord in this regard has been one of the highlights of my life and I could not ask for anything more honorable than a life of servitude. I have no intention whatsoever to blow my own trumpet, but I am encouraged by the testimony of others who have been so overly blessed for their service in the Lord and I have enjoyed my better share of blessings in my service. I have seen my house, home church and family being favored and things I used to dream of materialize right before my very eyes. I am truly grateful to the Lord for His faithfulness and wonderful provisions.

I have had three meetings in three different stations in the past month which is more than I usually do. It required a great deal of discipline on my part to undertake grueling walks and cycling through challenging terrain, but it is in this experience that I found my teaching. I had to endure hardship and stress to get to my destination and if, for one second I gave in to my physical stress I would have never reached my destination or would have delivered a half-baked pie to try wrap up things quickly and make the journey back home. I decided to use my resilience as an example of faith in the Lord. Working with the elderly puts me at a great advantage to learn more about the culture and nature of people in my areas of work and I also learn a great deal from their experiences. Example - why it is so easy for people to turn to sorcery for easy and expedient solutions against trusting in the power of prayer and waiting upon the Lord. We have been so used to cutting corners that sometimes the process of having to wait for anything is not convenient enough for our liking. It reminds me of my youth when I was impatient and always looking for easy clear-cut solutions rather than enduring my hardship and working my way through it to appreciate the result more. This sort of impatience is what has given rise to the notion of replacing preachers with motivational speakers in the pulpit, and all these "prophets" and fortune tellers in the African church. We have become a people who are frustrated with the process of waiting upon the Lord and receiving what He has in store for us in His best timing as always has been His true nature.

We love to say that good things come to those who wait but sometimes we fail to embrace those words and thus we do not receive what He has in store for us. We need to adopt a new attitude altogether. Just because some things are convenient does not necessarily mean they are good for us and just because we are being fed sweet music to our ears from the pulpit doesn't mean that our greatest needs are being addressed. Often, we want so many things when in fact what we need is something different altogether.

I decided to cut my participation in the non-governmental organizations working in my area and focus on my service to the Lord. It was a crazy undertaking on my part because I used to benefit a lot from everything I was doing so I was giving up a lot. It was a lot to ask from my family, but my wife and children supported my calling and because we are at rest in the Lord, He in His due diligence has rewarded us with blessings and keeps taking us from glory to glory. Yes, a life of servitude is not a glamorous one and can sometimes get lonely, but the Lord takes care of His own regardless of who they are and whatever circumstances there may be. Sometimes it takes time for one to see the changes they want to see in their lives and so we must have the patience to endure that hardship and have faith in the Lord to deliver and lift us up from our current positions into a better place. I have seen the hand of God move in my lowly village and my house has been elevated, my kids are doing well, and my home church is fantastic.

Sometimes the measure of success in our respective professions and faith does not lie on the great fits that we achieve but the smallest of things like being chaplain to an elderly population. Am sure I would have gone on to be an important figure in the nongovernmental organizations I was working in, but it was not my calling and I would have never been at rest. I had the boldness to trust in the Lord to take me to the place I need to be and endure the tests that lay ahead to be where I am today. I can sincerely testify of His goodness and lovingkindness for I have seen His hand working in my life and witnessed the presence of His Spirit firsthand. I just want to encourage you this festive season that it is not always what is convenient for us that gives rise to great success, sometimes it takes the simple things that take time and our endurance during that time to bring out the extraordinary. Do not lose faith because some things are taking so long, for the Lord hears and sees all things, His promises are true, and His answers are YES and AMEN.

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
Email rozheyns@gmail.com

 Website: www.rozheyns.org

REPORT FROM FRANCIS

I greet you in the most precious name of our Lord and Savior and pray that this finds you well. Christmas is here and perhaps it is a time to reflect on the year 2019 and get a vision for 2020. I am grateful for the privilege of having to serve others through this ministry. I have learned a great deal of humility and have come to love, trust, and appreciate the goodness in people through this wonderful and closely knitted family that is Alabaster Ministries and all who make it a thriving body. You have all made a lifelong impact on me and there is so much I can say but I will stick with love and the feeling that all are worth-while.

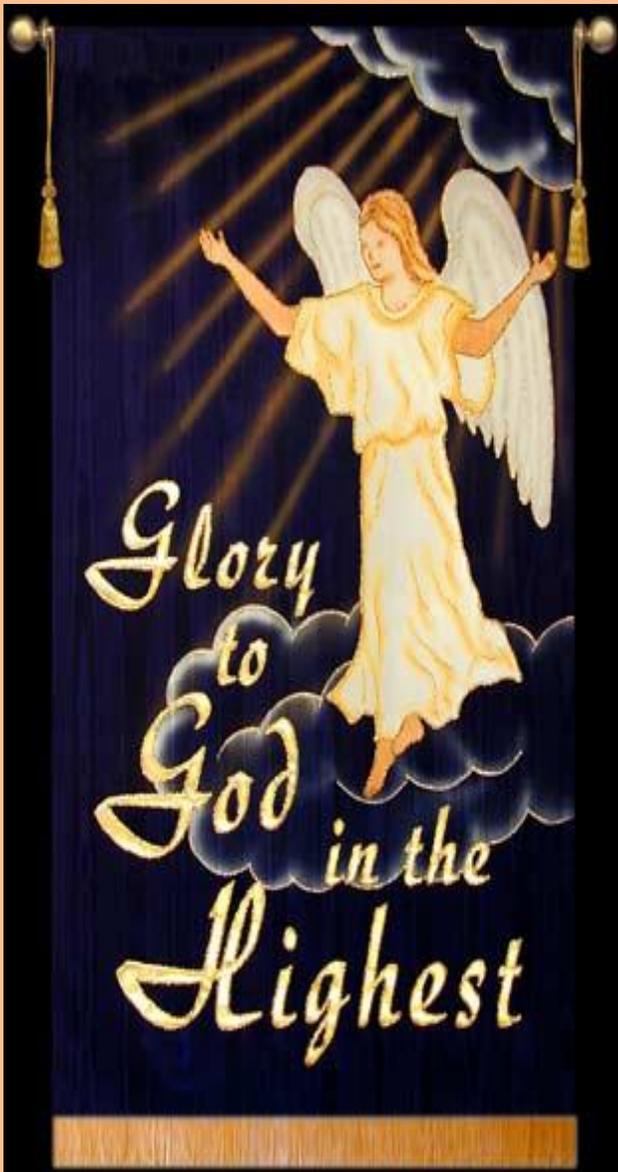
I think what makes this ministry so wonderful is that everything about it suggests love and together we try to reach out and touch the neglected in their respective communities and remind them that they are not NOBODYS but SOMEBODY. I believe that we can do so many things for each other with the abilities and gifts that we have. We can be there for one another when our family and friends need us the most, we can uplift one another, guide and protect each other, but if all our deeds are not borne out of a deeper affection in the Lord, our actions return to us void. I strongly believe pure and sincere acts of love or charity never returns to you void.

Our Lord first commanded us to love one another unconditionally then He went on to demonstrate what He meant by unconditional love when His love ran red at Calvary. We all want to be loved the same way we love others; we want to have a place to belong and to know that we are worthwhile. Everyone serving the Lord can show true love. Perhaps we have heard the love message too many times so it sounds like a broken record but maybe that is exactly why we must hear it over and over again lest we forget the impact that love has over our lives and those of everyone around us, especially those who are in most need of it. The love that you, our supporters, have displayed to this ministry has been greatly felt and the impact it has on all those folks in the Lower Shire region is without a doubt life changing.

The festive season guarantees a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with our kindred and peers. I hope that as we do so, we are able to ignite and strengthen our bonds through the unbreakable chords of love and where we might have not done well, reconcile one to another. This might also be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our endeavors in preparedness for the coming year and all that it holds in store for us

We know from academia and experience that there are no shortcuts through life. We understand the concept of life processes - hard work, dedication, and integrity that never go in vain and yet human nature wants to bail out of things we have been trying to achieve at the first sign of hardship. We always want to be in control of our lives and circumstances, but in the Kingdom, we must learn that He should be in control. We want clarity in our situations but with matters of faith sometimes it is not always so clear. We are not provided with guidelines all the time since we all have unique experiences with the Lord and He truly takes us through different processes. Regarding our faith, sometimes it feels things could have been better if we had a plan that we could see and make sense of because we so love to be in control when in fact the Lord takes us to the places we have to go step by step. We may have several perceptions (myself included) of what faith is but I think trusting in the Lord to point us to a deeper understanding through study and time spent with HIM is the best thing to do. Sometimes we want our lives to be a certain way, but the Lord knows what we need and takes us through the right processes. It is imperative therefore to get hold of the basic principles of life and stay true to them, going through all that is required just as gold is purified through great discomfort in fire to come out purer and stronger in the end.

Continued page 4.../



FROM ALL OF US AT ALABASTER MINISTRIES, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2019 BOTH IN YOUR PRAYERS AND IN YOUR GIVING. SO MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. CHURCHES BUILT AND ROOFED, WELLS DUG AND MAKING WATER AVAILABLE TO SO MANY, BIBLE SCHOOL STUDENTS BEING TRAINED AND AS A RESULT SO MUCH CHURCH GROWTH. WOMEN'S AND YOUTH GROUPS GROWING AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST THE ELDERLY HAVE BEEN FED AND CLOTHED, NOT ONLY IN THE PHYSICAL BUT WITH THE WORD. HOUSES HAVE BEEN BUILT FOR THEM SO THEY CAN LIVE THEIR FINAL YEARS IN DIGNITY.

REPORT FROM PASTOR PETER

Please receive kind regards from the Alabaster family at Tengani. We pray that you our dearly beloved friends will have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy a prosperous new year. The rains are finally here and again we have all taken to our fields to get busy with planting or sowing seeds into the ground and enjoy the pleasure of watching them grow into crops for the harvest. We are praying for a favorable season without flooding and hope for best possible outcome.

We journey through life achieving a great many things and we make our presence known in this world by whatever great ideas we pursue but seldom ever leave a mark on people. I once heard a man say we love to say time is money but, time is life. He said the time that we spend with people today can never be relived, it is gone and we only cherish the memories which is why it is imperative that we do not waste each other's time as that is a part of our lives wasted. When we decide to invest our lives in people, we are investing our lives in them.

It is with this understanding that I have found myself asking the questions, what seed have I planted in my children's lives, what seed have I sown in my church and our community? Is it love, peace, joy, harmony, pain, confusion, division, and deceit or just a quagmire of epic proportions that will never yield to any good? Having said that I am terrified for I am aware that we reap what we sow and after sharing my life with others, I can only expect to get the same amount of returns as I put in, so if I get a negative response it could be because of my input and the same is the case with a favorable outcome.

The world around us is reeling from all kinds of problems that may be beyond our control. There are so many things that are beyond our abilities but that which we can do now we must take up and it done. This advent season let us therefore plant seeds of love, peace, and joy

ALABASTER MINISTRIES
8514 N DONNA CT
KANSAS CITY, MO 64153

Return service requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Toledo, OH
Permit # 522

REPORT FROM PETER cont.

and so on in people, let us celebrate with our families and better our relationships by investing in them the same kind of life we expect to receive. Let us learn to take that seed and water it with deeds of kindness and togetherness until such a time when we can all enjoy the fruits of our wonderful coexistence.

I am extremely humbled by the initiative that you our dearly beloved take every year to support this ministry. You go out of your way to touch a life that is thousands of miles away, a face you have never seen, and voices you have never heard through this platform. You have sown a seed that is so precious, and you continue to nature it with your endless love. I salute you and say thank you for your sharing your lives with us in the Warm Heart of Africa. Have a wonderful Christmas season a Happy New Year.

REPORT FROM FRANCIS CONTINUED....

When we go through the purification people see us and they want to be just like us because they see the Jesus in us, but that refinement is a continual process because human nature always tries to take over. We begin to take our eye off the mark and eventually lose the plot. This reminds me of King Asah who ruled Judah between 911-870 BCE. He came to power and made so many changes in the kingdom, he did so well and started rebuilding the city walls and knew no wars because, "*the Lord gave him REST*" (2 Chron 14-15). Somewhere Asah lost the Plot, got comfortable and began to do things in his own way and thus his downfall was inevitable. To put it in the words of my high school economics teacher, "human wants are insatiable, that is to say we are never satisfied and always want more." It is difficult achieve REST out of comfort, but our goal should be to enter GOD'S REST. There is absolutely nothing wrong with ambition and success but the REST that is found in the Lord is so much greater an achievement than all the comfort this vain world has to offer. Perhaps if we begin to seek the Lord with the same passion as we do our ambitions, we would find out what His rest feels like.