



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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NOVEMBER 2016

Dearest Friends,

Christmas is fast approaching again. It seems as if it was just a few months ago that we were celebrating Christmas 2015. The shops have been gearing up for the season since around September and then we had Black Friday with people sleeping in tents outside stores. How much more "stuff" do we need?

I am so very grateful to you all for your wonderful support during 2016. It amazes me just how much we managed to accomplish with so little. We did three distributions this year, built a new church, bought a vehicle and a motorbike, built cottages for the elderly and started a Bible School along with starting a program to keep girls in school. As well as that we have paid for Bible School for two pastors on our staff and have upgraded one of our pastor's houses. We have paid our pastors each month and those that we give monthly gifts to get an extra month at Christmas. That is very impressive when you consider that we have less than 500 on our mailing list and less than 10% send to us on a monthly basis. I would say that God is very much in it and that it is He who stretches the finances as they come in.

We also help pastors from outside the ministry with food for their elderly and assist in times of need such as hospitalization for family members of some of our pastors. When there has been a real need we have been able to meet it.

If anyone knows of any organizations that roof churches or help to install wells please will they contact this office so we can follow it up.

We recently found out that the primary school that serves Chididi has one qualified teacher and an unqualified volunteer for almost two hundred children. To salary another qualified teacher and pay the rent on his house will cost \$40 per month. These are the type of things that we, as missionaries need to be doing in order to change the nations we are operating in. With education they can read and write. They will be able to move on to secondary school and when they graduate from there they will be better equipped to get jobs. Not only that, they will be able to read the Word and ultimately it is the Word that changes how a man views not only his own life but the lives of those around him.

We can take back nations one person at a time. If I can place something valuable in one man's spirit and he will go

out and does the same thing then we begin to have multiplication instead of addition. That is how the Kingdom works. When we all do what God has called us to do it spreads like wildfire.

We have all seen what happened in Israel and more recently in Tennessee with the wildfires there. How quickly they spread and what destruction they leave behind. Our prayers naturally, are with all of those who lost everything. Thank God we have insurance in the west because there is no such thing in Third World nations. In the Kingdom there is no destruction, except in the soulish realm, when the Gospel is spread - only life. The life and love of God is shed within when His wildfire burns in us. If we allow it to consume all that is self and let Him move in with all of His power and all of His glory and all of His attributes it will so change everything about us. When it is, *"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"* Col 1:27 WOW, WOW and WOW!!!! That all of us would so get a revelation of who we are in Him and who He is in us!



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FRANCIS

MATTHEW 17: 1-7

The transfiguration might be somewhat of a puzzle but if we look deeper into the events that unfold during this event, we begin to understand its power and connection to our salvation. It is mentioned in three of the four Gospels.

In Matthew 16 (13-16), Jesus poses the question, *“Whom do men say that I the son of man am? And they said to him, some say you are John the Baptist: some, Elias, and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He said them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.”* The Lord Jesus Christ was teaching his disciples something we fail at in our daily lives. First is IDENTIFYING Jesus Christ and second is understanding who he really is and what his kingdom is about. There was so much confusion even among the chosen 12 who were always with the Lord. They failed to recognize who Jesus really was as is evident in Matthew 16: 13-16, but Peter’s confession of the divinity of Christ in Matthew 16:16 puts that debate to bed and from then on Christ was much more explicit with the disciples in his teachings as they finally reached a complete understanding of his divine identity. Even so, we continue to read that Peter was stuck with the hopes and mindset of an earthly messianic reign as we continue with the discourse of the transfiguration. Peter’s problem is likened to our dilemma of failing to reconcile between the realities of this world and our fleshly expectations with God’s wonderful plan of salvation, his purpose for our existence and the enigma that is Jesus Christ.

We see Jesus took the three disciples to the mountain where they are joined by Moses and Elijah in an extraordinary way and Jesus, who, up until now had taken the form of a humble servant, suddenly transforms into a deity and His countenance shines brighter than light. Peter suddenly identifies Jesus as the Messiah, and he sees the Messiah in the presence of Elijah and Moses. His thoughts quickly take him to the three tabernacles of old and says let us make three tents; he assumed that the Lord is about to launch his kingdom. (Another earthly kingdom to defeat Rome and make Israel a force to be reckoned with again). How many times do we let our presumption and ambitions get in the way of the Lord because our expectations are not in line with God’s order and our hearts are not in the right place? Peter was spokesperson for the disciples and clearly identified Jesus as the Son of the Most High God but failed to understand what His Kingdom was all about.

What is the significance of the transfiguration to the believer? What does this really mean to me? While Peter was on about building three shelters, there came a voice from Heaven just as it did at Christ’s Baptism in the river Jordan. The Word from heaven echoed three very strong and clear points; Jesus Christ is THE SON OF GOD, He is loved by THE FATHER and THE FATHER is pleased in Him, and Jesus MUST be obeyed.

Christ says those who love me hear my voice and if they do hear his voice, then everything inside them will want to obey the Lord of Hosts.

These three main features were being challenged by the religious leaders of old just as the world challenges the very existence and glory of our Lord today. The disciples knew that Christ was the Messiah and they obeyed his voice from the day that the Lord chose them and this explicit revelation of God’s glory just confirmed their faith in Him.

Our faith is under attack today. There are so many things in the world that could easily take us away from the love and glory of God just as there were so many challenges for the disciples and believers in the early days. The question that we ought to ask ourselves is where do I stand, do I really have faith, and what must I do to have faith that moves mountains? The answer is simple. Ask God to show us the way. He’s always there, He’s always listening, always waiting for that one call from a yearning soul. His arms are open wide, He does not have a busy schedule and neither do we need to follow procedures to talk to Him. He neither sleeps nor slumbers. His promises are yes and amen, and He is waiting for us to knock on His door so that He might lead us to His treasure chest.

The transfiguration is a confirmation of Peter’s confession as well as a confirmation that the Messianic Kingdom will be characterized by the glory of God. The three disciples witnessed a foretaste of the Glory of the Kingdom of God and the victory of Jesus Christ. Of course it was not long after the resurrection that the disciples came to terms with the Victory of Jesus Christ but because of the transfiguration they were now more firmly convinced that Jesus was and is the King of Kings and God’s son. While the transformation might be overwhelming for us to comprehend, God reveals himself to us to demonstrate his grace and undying love for us. The revelation confirms to us that Jesus is our Lord, our faith in Him is not in vain, we are set free by His victory, and that we should live by faith in Him. This gives us hope that no matter what we go through, no matter what we must endure here on earth, Christ will always be here waiting for us. I am reminded of His promise in the Gospel of John that he that drinks of His blood and partake of His flesh, though he might die, yet shall he live again.

Paul urges Christians in Romans 12; 1-2, to be “transformed” by renewing their minds. I am mindful of the fact that the New Testament Bible teaches believers that we shall be changed when we enter into the presence of the Lord; our corruptible bodies and being will take up incorruption with Christ and we shall be glorified.

As we enter into the festive season around the world and celebrate Jesus with our families, friends, and loved ones, let us remember that there is to be a real change in the life of the believer - a total transformation and renewing of the mind until Christ is truly born in us and we might overflow with rivers of life for the lost and dying and not for self.

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We’re on the Web.
See us at: rozheyns.org
You can donate on line.
Email: alabastermin@aol.com

UPDATE REPORT FROM MALAWI

Peter's motorbike is in, I will send you photographs on WhatsApp, and we have done all the paperwork plus the insurance on it. It is a wonderful bike Mom. We thank you very much – no more walking up to Chididi which will save us many hours. No more cycling to the various villages to meet with the elderly to hold Bible studies and prayer meetings. Thank you for your gift.



UPDATES ON CHURCH AND BIBLE SCHOOL

We will start the Bible school on Tuesday 6th and finish on Friday so that those Pastors from 50 miles or more can get back to their churches in good time to prepare for their services on Sunday. Many of them will be bringing their wives to this school and the wives will be having classes on Children's Church. In Africa the children spend their time playing outside while their parents/grandparents are in church. We want to see all of the churches have a vibrant Children's Church since this is the future of the nation. It is no wonder that there is little or no progression when the children are ignored. The cost of this school which includes feeding 3 meals a day will be \$300. They will be held every six weeks. The church in Chididi has passed the window level now. I spoke to Peter this evening and he confirmed that all the windows have been installed and they are raising the walls to roof level.

I do not have all the information as to how much money we have spent on the church building with me at the moment. I photocopied some receipts and they are with Peter at Chididi just in case Police got too curious as to where we got our stuff. Being so close to the border Police get too excited as they assume people are getting stuff from the boarder and avoiding tax. However, I do have all the cash records that have been transacted since we started working on the church.

This church replaces the one that the senior pastor in Chididi lost when he left his previous ministry to join us, despite the fact the building was built by the church on their land and at their cost. The only thing his previous ministry did was roof the building. In order to do that the ministry had him sign over his land and the building to them. Please remember when you ask yourself why would he sign it over that he trusted them and despite the fact he is a powerful minister of the Gospel he is still an "ignorant and unlearned man" much like many of the disciples of the New Testament.

Costs so far on the church:

Steel windows and doors:	\$1,750
Sand	\$ 775
Gravel	\$ 375
Transport of materials	\$ 150
Contractor salaries	\$ 500
Incidentals	<u>\$ 250</u>
TOTAL	\$3,800

We still have the lumber for trusses. Wire and netting for mosquitoes, corrugated iron for roofing and cement for the floors. That will bring the final cost of the church to approximately \$6,000.

When Pastor Komkochi lost his church and told the people in Chididi that we would build him another everyone laughed at him. It has been about six months and we are praying that they will be in their new building by the New Year. They have been holding church outside under the trees.

BOARD MEETING

We recently held a board meeting to discuss the past, present and future of this ministry. It is always exciting to get together with the members and not one of them are “yes” people. For me a Board denotes checks and balances and when major decisions are made they are very definitely a part. It is always great, when you are facing a difficult situation, to say the Board says..... it seems to give more clout to the situation. We have a very effective Board in Malawi and will be holding a meeting when I am there this next trip.

I would like to remind those who are faithful supporters that minutes of Board meetings along with Federal tax returns are public record. When you give to any ministry or cause you should expect a return on your gift. That is not just a world view but a Kingdom view as well. If I invest in the world I want a return or I will fire my broker. If I invest in the Kingdom I want to see spiritual growth in those in whom I am investing. I want to see souls coming into the Kingdom- I want to see this scripture fulfilled both spiritually and physically:

³⁵ For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in :³⁶ Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. ³⁷ Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? ³⁸ When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? ³⁹ Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? ⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”
Matthew 25



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These costs seem overwhelming but the Lord has always proven Himself faithful. We may not get everything done this year but this is what is projected. The staff housing is very important because our staff need somewhere comfortable to stay when we are down in the Lower Shire and they have been in the field all day.

It is a big item expense because the house will have a septic tank and flush toilets. Last trip I gave myself a urinary tract infection because I quit drinking and eating so that I did not have to use the pit latrines. None of us mind sleeping in tents although in the summer the heat is unbearable but we all dislike squatting over a hole in the ground. Sorry to be so explicit. We cannot take visitors from the west and expect them to do the same thing. It was 106° when I left the last trip and that was the beginning of summer.

BREAKDOWN OF MONTHLY EXPENSES FOR 2017

Support for each elderly with four distributions an year:\$10 x 420		\$4,200
Support for girls (education and clothing)	5 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)		570
	Monthly	\$5,290

Building costs for 2017:

10 houses for the elderly	\$5,000
Upgrading pastors homes	2,000
Bible school dormitories	6,000
Roofing churches (grass to corrugated iron)	2,500
Church at Tengani	10,000
Staff housing	30,000
Vehicle	5,000