



November 2018
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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dear Friends,

The following is written by Francis. I feel that it is very apt for any time of year but particularly this time when we celebrate the birth of He who lives and dwells in each of us. It is not the "Holiday Season" but it is a celebration of the birth of our SAVIOR and FRIEND – CHRISTMAS!!!

"I have been privileged to travel internationally at a young age and my experiences have taught me to value friends and family more than material possessions. The respect I have for people goes beyond my circle of family and friends because I have been adopted into a beautiful family in the body of Christ and I have learned to appreciate almost everyone I ever came across because they all add value to my life. The wisdom and knowledge I have acquired from my interactions is without doubt, "Priceless."

We meet people and make friends under differing circumstances, each of them is unique in their own way and even though we might make tons of acquaintances, it is the right type who really make an impact in our lives. We all need those who will encourage us to do better, to realize our dreams and go after our calling, the kind of friends who will stay by our side through the great moments in our life and remain there when the going gets tough. The type who will

not hesitate to speak truth in our lives even when it might not be what we want to hear. I know this to be true because that is exactly the kind of people I desire and am grateful that the Lord has given me some of them over the years. People build relationships because we all need a good friend to share a smile with, we need someone to love and be loved, a good community to live in, and a great family to belong to.

However, it is the right company that really has a lasting impact on our lives. Some of us have been blessed to meet that one person who really makes a difference in so many ways and under diverse circumstances. I know I have a good friend and we could stay a month without talking because we are so busy with our endeavors and we are on different time zones, but when the phone rings the conversation can go on for hours. The kind of person who brightens your day with a simple smile. It is good to be very tolerant in treating one another with respect in our interactions as friends but it is also important never to let our company corrupt our good nature. I strongly believe that our character is what makes us unique and determines the kind of people we attract into our lives. There are "toxic" relationships which can impact us negatively. Just as Adam and Eve were

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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."

Letters from the Bible School

ISAAC KAPILIPANYA

I would like to thank you for the reading glasses you gave me. I have no problems reading the bible now and for that I say thank you.

Thank for your teaching on deliverance and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. People do not teach on these and we were frightened when the devil manifested in people and we did not know what to do. Now I know how to deal with it instead of running away or ignoring it.

I am particularly happy and overjoyed by the evening meetings we had especially when we say Holy, holy, glory, glory and worthy, worthy is the Lord. I've never experienced such a gentle feeling of the presence of the Holy Spirit. I felt Him touch me. I felt Him fill the room and fill me until I could not stop weeping. I cannot wait to return to my church and have them do it there.

MAXWELL TCHAPO

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray that His goodness and mercy be upon you always.

We thank God for the work that you are doing in Chididi. We praise the Lord for the Bible School which has helped us become better men and women in society, better husbands and fathers as well as beacons of light in a dark world.

I would like to thank you for encouraging our wives and women to minister. We have never had so many women running with the Gospel and being so effective. In our society this type of thing does not happen, and a new door has opened, and it has been a wonderful door.

Please continue with the vision God has given you and I pray the next Bible School will be as blessed as we have been.

Thanks to all the teachers. Everyone has been an inspiration to us and we have enjoyed all of you.

GUTZUWA GAMBILENI

Thank you very much for this Bible School. I have seen the Kingdom of God in our midst and all this has come by because God gave Alabaster a vision.

I would like to thank you for encouraging me. I used to be a very shy and clumsy speaker, but something has changed in me because of your guidance and teaching. May God continue blessing you. I've told Francis that next time, instead of bringing bananas and a chicken you should come and collect them by my house, so you can see my village.

Ed note... We sometimes despaired that he would ever be able to preach. Suddenly one night he came alive. It was so exciting that when he finished everyone in the room rushed to hug him.



NOTICE PETER

Please receive my greetings in the name of our Lord. The Lord is keeping us well. I would like to convey my gratitude for everything you are doing in the Nsanje District and particularly at the Bible School. May the Almighty God continue blessing you and keeping you well so that you may carry on your vision.

I would like to say thank you to all the teachers at the Bible School for the wonderful job they have been doing. It has helped us to be much better Pastors now that we have a better understanding of the Word. May God bless you all and grant you even more wisdom.

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

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warned not to partake of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, we must be careful in our dealings with people that they do not try to have us partake of that fruit. So, the company we keep has a great way of deciding the kind of lifestyle we chose to maintain and a chosen generation such as we are ought to exemplify the light that Christ brings into the world. (1 Corinthians 15:33, 1 Peter 4:4-5). Nevertheless, it is also important to be mindful of what we project towards others. We like to be selfish and only put so much emphasis on the kind of people we allow into our lives but what kind of friend am I?

In this festive season let us remember we should have first learned about loving and caring relationships from our families. If you were not, then make sure that changes when you have your family. Most of our prejudices in life come from what we heard our parents say. If we are nurtured in family values and norms about our society, if we are loved, respected, taught that we are worthwhile and grow up to care for others we will form strong and healthy relationships. Having great relationships within the family is important but can also prove to be difficult. It is not strange to see families not relating to each other well because of some natural and normal emotions that we all feel or have as humans. It could be because of offence, hurt, anger, mistrust, confusion and miscommunication. Nevertheless, it is not entirely impossible to restore peace and get along if we were willing to make simple adjustments. The best way to start is to begin to accommodate and respect each other's views and philosophy of life as well as communicating better. The way we communicate with people can prove vital in establishing great value boundaries, building trust and respect, thereby determining the kind of relationship we will have.

Anyone who calls their family and friends to a feast does not do it because they have nothing better to do. When we gather together in the village in the moonlight, it is not because of the moon. Everybody can see the moon in his own back yard. We meet because it is good to do it and we value each other more than anything else. A gathering is not always the right place to reconnect because there's a lot of things that could go wrong but it is also a perfect opportunity to meet people we don't come across often. We seldom ever get a lot of opportunities to reconnect and reconcile and so let us take advantage of the holidays and meet and enjoy each other's company regardless of our differences. If we can share a smile together, it is not because we do not have problems, but because we are stronger than our problems. I wish each of you a happy festive season."

Ed Note:

Francis is a true servant as are all our pastors and staff. He has chosen to celebrate Christmas with some of the elderly instead of family.

At Christmas the ministry always tries to give everyone a gift of money so that they can celebrate. If anyone would like to help with this, the total for 25 pastors and staff is \$600. A \$10 gift would be amazing for them. They cannot celebrate as we do with decorations and a tree with gifts underneath it. This would mean that they would be able to purchase a goat and celebrate with a good meal. Please help us to make their Christmas enjoyable and memorable. They will be getting their gift at the end of January as it is difficult to get the money distributed before then. It will be a late Christmas but one nevertheless.

REPORT FROM PETER

Beloved friends and partners, I send you warm greetings from Nsanje, and hope this finds you well. I am very grateful to God for the opportunity He gave me to serve Him and minister to the old people. I am always out of words for the good work that is been done here in Nsanje. This was a forgotten place and not a lot of people want to come here let alone come to minister to these old people because it is very hot 8 months of the year and then there's the pesky mosquitoes. I am grateful to you our friends and supporters for making this great family in Christ a success story. You have no idea the difference you have made in people's lives; the memories you've created, the joy you have brought to us and the light that has begun to shine in a forgotten land which has been a stronghold of witchcraft for decades.

I remember when I started ministering to the old people, riding my bicycle from village to village, it was not an easy task. Most of them were so broken and didn't have any hope that someone could care for them. The church had really failed them because the nature of the church should be to reach out to the weak and underprivileged, the villagers had failed them because when you grow so old you are accused of witchcraft and marked for dead, and there was and still is very little help coming other entities, both government and charitable organizations. It was a challenge to even get the elderly to see the light that Christ brings and so I prayed in faith believing that God will give me the courage and strength needed to go on and far more important, to reach out to these poor souls who really needed to feel and experience a mighty touch of grace and peace, and love, that only Christ gives. The only way to do it was to show them. Sometimes all it takes to make a difference in someone's life is a small act of kindness. Helping put a roof over an old lady's house, teaching them how to pray, visiting them in their homes, sitting down to share a meal, and by and by with Pastor Roz's teaching I began to see the change. It took off like a wild fire and now we have such a vibrant group that is aware of their challenges (which are so many) but now has hope and feel alive again because of all the support that you give us to make all this possible.

I am very grateful for Eric and Shadreck who have really gone out of their way to hold weekly meetings with the elderly to continue the work that Pastor Roz started as well having a more hands on experience and helping them with their challenges. I happy to report that the Bible School we started in Chididi has helped equip some leaders who have gone out to become a beacon of light in different villages where all these old people come from. The knowledge they have acquired is not only edifying the spiritual life of believers but also changing the culture in their communities and in the process stamping out the extremes of it (early girl marriages, school drop outs, ritualism etc.). I am excited that we have captured the attention of the youth and are at an advantage to minister to them as well as instill a work ethic which is lacking as evidenced by all the old people you see going to work in the field while the grandkids play football. The only challenge with the youth is that so many quit school and run off to South Africa to work minimum wage jobs because of the ongoing economic challenges in Malawi which in turn inflicts a heavy toll on the elderly population. Continued on page 4.....

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I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to everyone who's supported me through my journey as a young pastor. My dear friend Ellen Asselmeyer Nix, I am completely grateful and will forever cherish our friendship, God bless you. On behalf of my home church at Tengani, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Penny Shellswell for your visit this year and to all our dearly beloved for the church project that is underway at Tengani. We truly appreciate your support and invite you to come and fellowship with us anytime you would love to. May the almighty God bless you abundantly, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Ed note: Peter has finished his Bible School program with City Pentecostal Church in Blantyre and receives his diploma in January. His graduation has been postponed a couple of times but due to administrative hiccups, but he has continued the work of a graduate despite all. Thank you C.P.C. for your school and the blessing it is to Malawi.



The new church for Pastor Peter and Tengani

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REPORT FROM MARTHA

It is the Christmas season and like always, it is raining several times a week. The village happily goes to tend to their fields and come back home with smiles on their faces because of the gentle rains which are growing their crops. It is amazing the satisfaction you get when you plough the ground and sow seeds, work hard to nature them by weeding, and with the blessing of rain, watch them grow to bear diverse fruits according to what you planted. The reaping is what determines the work and resources you put in regardless of risks and uncertainties.

A simple theory, but I like to apply it to the work we have done in this year 2018. We started out as a small prayer group and later incorporated a great many people across the region. We are grateful for the support and guidance we have received from everyone who reached out to us in this year and apart from the spiritual aspect, our movement has benefitted families, schools, and the general community. The women's groups have been instrumental in tackling gender-based violence in our communities, educating the girl child who's neglected and sold into marriage at a very young age according to primitive traditional customs in some areas, changing the living conditions of women in general as well as empowering each other to step out and begin to go after our dreams or calling. A lot of work has been done this year and all of it would not have been possible

without your support. We are truly grateful for that. It is too early to boast of great success with regards to dealing with gender-based violence and educating young girls because there is still a huge mountain to climb. It is my wish and prayer that someday there shall be a great reaping of all the work we keep putting in the field. The love of Christ and Him living within us is what will eventually make the impact. While we are the messengers it is He that does the final work. My family and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. God bless you.

Some of our ladies along with pastors from the Bible School.

