



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

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Dearest Partners,

So much going on and it is hard to believe that so many still say that we are nowhere near the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Wars and rumors of wars. We worked in South Sudan for 12 years praying and interceding that they would be freed from the Moslem north. They were and received their independence. Since then there has been the most amazing tribal conflict and the war is just as bad as it was against Khartoum. The Bible School now is part of the front line of this ongoing war. North Korea is a major threat to the world. I have had experience with them as they sent troops to Zimbabwe in the early days of independence to train part of the army which was then sent to annihilate the peoples of southern Zimbabwe. The reports we got were that they were like clones – without a soul and would carry out the worst form of tortures without flinching. Finally, the Zimbabwe 5th brigade had to be retrained by the British army because they were becoming so like the North Koreans.

We have had our own share of disasters with flood and fire but think of Asia that has been hit with typhoons where thousands have died and what about Mexico with two major earthquakes in less than a month?

The point is that is the church ready for the return of Christ? I know that the church has been saying this since He returned to the Father two thousand years ago BUT every generation should be living as if He will never return in their lifetime – in other words we should be about the Father's business – but they should also be prepared that He will return tomorrow. What account will we be able to give of ourselves should He return tomorrow? Will we be able to say that we knew Him and loved Him above all else and because of this we did all that He asked of us? Or will He say when He sees us, *"I never knew you; depart from me."*

There is the ongoing argument about the rapture – pre, mid or post. Everyone thinks they have the answer. It would be wonderful to be taken out of the tribulation and not have to face the wrath of the devil as he goes around roaring and creating havoc but when has God ever taken is children out? He has always given the grace and forbearance to see us through times of tribulation. Imagine what it was like living in the Middle Ages with the Roman Catholic Inquisition – surely that was tribulation for believers? Imagine living as a Christian in ISIS held territories?

Personally, I am prepared to go through the tribulation trust that He will be with me every step of the way, protect me when I need protecting and feed me just as He did Elijah in a time of famine.

For those who are stocking foodstuff – your neighbors know and when push comes to shove, your lives will be worth nothing when people get to the point of real starvation.

This should be the most glorious time for the church. When tragedy strikes we should be on the frontlines instead of whining because we were without power for a week. What about those who lost everything? We should be living the adage, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." If we are unable to assist physically then we should show His love in other ways.

I have friends in Houston who were untouched by the flooding but their whole family were out helping people gut their moldy homes, remove things that were waterlogged and clean up yards. It is not what we say but what we do that counts. When we do people will be more likely to listen to what we say. These disasters are a huge opportunity for the church. Let us not miss it by being comfortable in our own untouched zone but let us put ourselves in their place so that we feel as they do so that God's compassion radiates through us. Remember He is coming back as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Alpha and Omega. He is no longer the babe in the manger or gentle Jesus, meek and mild.



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REPORT FROM FRANCIS

Dearly Beloved,

We greet you in the blessed name of our savior Jesus Christ pray that you are all well and blessed. We were down in Nsanje to process some documentation at the government offices and of course nothing ever goes as planned and there is the usual frustration of having to go back and forth to get simple things done. While waiting, we decided to go and visit 5 of the pastors who attend the Bible school at Chilaphu village which is located about 16 kilometers south west of Chididi.



The challenge that we have in these remote places is the availability of Bibles. I do not exaggerate when I say that some The temperatures weren't as high as usual much to our surprise because we expected them to be at least 86°F but it was 64°F which made the long hike bearable. Five of us came from Chididi and met Pastor Yalu with 5 kilometers left from our final destination. We got there in the afternoon of the 31st of August and prayed with them until the afternoon of the 1st of September. It was amazing to see how many people were hungry for God and the opportunity that we have to preach the gospel. There was no time to for much rest as the evening prayers started at 8 pm through to 4 am the following day. Six people preached in between sessions of praise and worship and prayer throughout the night. 250 people attended the prayer meetings and 45 people got saved.

The challenge that we have in these remote places is the availability of Bibles. I do not exaggerate when I say that some churches have one Bible or none at all. We returned to our center on the 1st of September full of excitement for what we had just experienced in the Lord. We want to go back sometime this year to encourage our brothers and sisters and teach in other places we could not visit on this last trip.

We had another meeting at Chazuka with Pastor Eric Ndaluzza from the 2nd to the 3rd of September. They have a church but it is too small to accommodate everyone so those who come late sat outside the church building. Unfortunately, they are having difficulties introducing a second service which would solve the space issue because church starts late in these villages as many people have to walk great distances to get there. There were 165 people present at the meetings at Chazuka and it was exciting to see how many young people were in attendance. It is always wonderful to fellowship with the youth and exciting to see a lively children's ministry.

REPORT FROM MARTHA KANKOCHE



Proverbs 14:1 *“Every wise woman builds her house but the foolish plucks it down with her hands.”* We are living in times where our freedom is often oppressed and taken away from us only to be replaced by chains of liberal humanism and feminism. I am a proud and independent woman. I love it when my husband gives me the pulpit to preach or the freedom to do what I want to achieve. I love my husband because he respects and recognizes my right as a woman and does not look down on me just because I am a woman. I would like to achieve so much in my life but I know it will be so much easier with God's help, my husband's support and family and friends. I have shared this with you because there's a wave of ideologies which are corrupting our minds and ruining our families. The church upholds the family and does not teach confusion and destruction of the family. We decided to gather as women to share our experiences and to teach what the word of God says in contrast to what we have come to learn in our societies.

A prudent wife is a blessing to the family. She is industrious and considerate, and she helps the house prosper along with ensuring that the children are well educated and raised well especially in the things of God. Many families are brought to ruin by ill husbandry as well as ill housewifery. A woman who has no fear of God or regard for her husband and who is wasteful and has no respect for boundaries and limits will bring her house to ruin – she will, *“pluck it down with her hands.”* We have been teaching one another to be as prudent and chaste as we can be so as to better our marriages, elevate our families and be a blessing to our children. We have seen a great transformation of our homes through the teachings and sharing of our testimonies because we are eager to listen to the word of God and obey His commandments. Families that were broken are being restored and the lost are being drawn to Christ just by

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MARTHA'S REPORT CONTINUED....

allowing the Holy Spirit to change us instead of trying to change family members. When people see change in ourselves we will make a far greater impact on others.

The Lord Jesus said, *"ask and it shall be given thee, seek and ye shall find."* We encourage each other to pray, to study, to teach and to be a blessing wherever we go and with God's help we have begun what I believe will be a great movement for change in the church as well as the home in Nsanje. We would like to reach out and touch so many other souls in distant places but our main challenge is the availability of Bibles and the required training to do so. I believe that a continuation of these meetings will help us achieve both in the long run. I believe that we, as pastor's wives are learning so much as we are permitted to attend the Bible School alongside our husbands. We can pass on that Biblical knowledge as we lead the women in our churches

REPORT FROM PETER KANKOCHE

I studied Children's ministry at Bible school in October 2016 and we went out on a distribution campaign at Chimombo a few days after my classes were done. There were a lot of children who came to watch, some to hear the Word but the majority of the children were just running around and playing football. I gathered them together and began to teach them the Word of God. That "bug" has not left me, so much so that am addicted to it now. Pastor Roz elected me to teach all the pastor's wives at our Bible school in Chididi on how to minister to children and to start children's churches and youth groups. I love doing it and we are having major success. I have seen the progress in all 24 churches whose pastors are currently attending the Bible school. I had no idea that the children's ministry would also end up in a dynamic youth ministry. We had 404 people at the last youth meeting and we are still receiving reports of what a good initiative we have taken to nurture the youth and bring them up in the fear of God as well as encouraging them with their studies. Proverbs 10:1, *"a wise son maketh a glad father but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."* Often times the comfort of parents and guardians depends upon the behavior of all under their charge. Parents should be careful to teach their children the things of the Kingdom of God and give them a good education because the desired effect and result will not only give them comfort or good cheer but shape a great academic and spiritual future for their children. If children do not conduct themselves in a manner that is acceptable by the norms of any given society, the parents get the blame. Onlookers are always quick to judge the apple does not fall too far from the tree much to the detriment of the parents, guardians and teachers, and in this case, the church. The church today cannot afford to be caught on the back foot anymore with our youth. We need to find ways to bring them back to our homes, our churches and care, where they are less vulnerable to the influences of all that is detrimental to their lives. The children and youth are the future church, the future leaders

of our nation and it is time for churches to stop playing games in children's churches and youth centers and teach them the wisdom, knowledge and power of God so that they make upstanding citizens in our nations. The only way to stop the corruption in our nations is to ensure that we are raising a Godly generation – a God fearing generation. The problem with most Christians is that they no longer have a reverential fear of God and nor do they understand what that is because we have been lulled into a false sense of security by what we are being taught in our churches.

RETURN TO MALAWI

I am preparing to leave for Malawi in the next week. The itinerary is packed and while I was hoping for the temperatures that Francis and Peter had as they visited the villages it looks as if the "spring" temperatures are already over 100°F. Thank God that He gives us the grace in situations like this.

I arrive, change money and the buying begins. First we have to purchase the food for the Bible School which will be held the first week I am there. We have the Pastors and their wives for this session and at the end of it we have the wedding for 22 of them. Dresses have been made for the women and pants and golf shirts purchased for the men. We will sit down to a meal afterwards and have to purchase tables for that. They are heavy duty plastic tables and cost \$45 each. If anyone would consider donating to these we would be extremely grateful. We are needing 14 of them. Our distribution and teaching of the elderly begins the next week. We have managed to purchase "Rocket Cookers" for each of them. This enables them to cook with chips of wood instead of branches. This will be their big item gift along with the normal food, soap and other items we take them. Following that we are having a three-day crusade which will end with the official opening of the church we built in the mountains. The church has been named "Chididi Chidziwe Yesu" which means "Chididi will come to know Jesus."



A Rocket Cooker. The pot sits on the top and the chips of wood go underneath.



When we place our focus on Jesus – The Son – all that we should have left at the cross will diminish in size. The problem with humankind is that they tend to focus on their past instead of focusing on their future. What might have been – if I had done that.... we repent for wrongdoing and cannot leave it behind but continue to go back to the slop and vomit. The Bible says *‘As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.’* Prov 103:12. That is eternity and if God remembers it no more then why do we?

REPENT AND WALK AWAY!

Let us always remember that our actions in the next second – next minute, next hour will impact history and change lives. Let us always impact for the better. Thank God that He can turn things around for the good but when our focus is always set on Him we should be doing His will on this earth. Let us learn how to hear Him and carry our His purposes for our lives. What an amazing Savior that He can make all things new and enable the old to be passed away. I am a new creature.



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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

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
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)	1,750	four churches
Church at Tengani	12,000	
Staff housing	30,000	