



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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Dearest Partners and Friends,

We often quote scriptures about peace but what does it really mean? *"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."* Ps 122:6. *"May the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4:7 *"Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:"* Ezek 13:10

What does it mean to pray for the peace of Jerusalem when we all know very well that there will be an ongoing fight and disharmony there until Jesus returns? Jerusalem means peace. "Pray for peace for the City of Peace." When we study the Old Testament there was never peace as long as Israel turned their backs on their Creator. I believe that He is calling us to pray that Israel return to God and worship Him. Israel needs to stop bargaining with her enemies. We should never, never bargain with the enemy because as soon as we do we show him that he has a certain amount of power over us and that is just not true because he was defeated at the Cross. When we pray according to His will then there will be harmony and blessings in our own lives. What the people of Israel need to do is acknowledge HIM. When they did that in the Old Testament and their walk with HIM was a righteous one and a just one, then there was no war with the enemy. The West is in a similar situation at present because we have strayed from God. We give Him mere lip service on a Sunday and little else during the rest of the week. Praise Him that He always has a remnant no matter where we go. The West has removed itself from the covering of His umbrella and so now we have to bargain with our enemies. Who are our enemies? Whosoever is at enmity with God our Lord Jesus Christ. I occasionally watch a game of sports on TV - prefer not to but often it is the only thing many people can discuss or even want to. I am amazed at how many players give glory to god when they win or play exceptionally well. Which god are we talking about when it is a Salim Achmed? (That is not a real name just used to make my point). Now when they give glory to the Lord Jesus Christ that is another matter. Why is embarrassing for Christians to mention His name? He says that if we do not acknowledge Him then He will not acknowledge us before the Father. Why are we embarrassed to acknowledge the glorious King of Kings?

How should we pray for the peace of Jerusalem? War is not the issue, it is the sin within. Major leadership are finally being indicted for rape and sexual abuse. There is major corruption in many areas of commerce and government. As outsiders we just look at the war situation coming against her from every border but we are not educated as to what is happening within her borders. We need to intercede that people's hearts will be changed, that they repent from their lifestyles so that God can move and bring peace. Most of all, they need to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Son of God. We can sit at a round table and bargain with our enemies until the cows come home but a true peace can only come from the Prince of Peace and it starts within each of us. It begins in you and me.

Ezekiel 13:10 says they have built up a wall and painted it with untempered mortar. That is the problem we are having with many of the houses that have been built by the elderly in Malawi. They have made brick with untempered mortar - they have covered the walls with untempered mortar. They took the short cut and the walls have fallen down and have not kept them safe and secure. There is no short cut in the Kingdom unless it is by God's design. When you apply fire to the molded brick it makes the brick hard so it will not melt when the rains come. We are bricks that God wants to use to build with and He is the chief Cornerstone. He needs to apply the fire to us so that all impurities are burned out of us. Let Him temper us fully instead of us removing ourselves from the fire before He has completed what He needs to. When we allow Him to work us and allow the Holy Spirit to completely take over in our lives we become that brick that He can use to build His Kingdom. When that brick is put in place along with all the other fired bricks and the wall is covered with the protection or plaster of the Holy Spirit instead of untempered mortar then the

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house will stand STRONG and no weapon formed it shall prosper. We will be as a strong tower to those who do not know Him just as He is a strong tower for the righteous to run into. Looking at the first part of the verse – *“they have seduced my people.”* - the more I travel the more I see the Body of Christ being seduced. We allow people into our lives who preach the profane and not the real thing. If there is one drop of poison in the pot it will poison the whole pot. If we are off one fraction of an inch when building we will be way off when the building is complete – that is why we need a plumb line and in our lives that plumb line is the Holy Spirit who is my comforter, teacher, and what we do not like to hear, He is my “corrector.” In particular we have been seduced regarding peace. We have been trained to believe that the only peace out there is a utopian type of peace. That will come one day but not until long after Jesus returns. All governments talk peace. There is finally a world-wide uproar about ISIS and as usual it has come a little late. What we need to realize is that even in the midst of these terrible situations and atrocities we can still experience peace because it is His peace that dwells inside of every believer or it should. No matter the conflict we are facing, no matter the upheavals in our lives He came 2000 years ago, vanquished our mortal enemy and brought peace to those who believe. It is that peace that passes all understanding. I have experienced many very dangerous situations and circumstances during war in Africa and I finally learned that when you rest in His peace fear cannot hold you – it slides off like the slimy toad it is. There is nothing in this world that can hold you more captive than fear. Fear of the unknown... it is not unknown to Him and if we are walking and talking with Him He will take us through to the other side. We might not come through unscathed but whatever we face with Him will make us stronger.

God has made a way for us through every situation and circumstance. The ultimate fear for most people is death. Why, when we have a mansion in that glorious place called heaven? It’s a mansion beloved, not a cottage in the corner of glory land! When we moved back to Kansas City my dear children told me that since they all lived ten minutes away it was time to think about downsizing. Who wants to downsize? I love to have people stay and I love to entertain. I have a formal dining room and they thought it would be great to make that my office. When I entertain I do it in there and I bring out my best china and glassware and I am sorry that the room isn’t bigger than it is. My office remains in the basement. When we do things here on earth we should always give of the best we have. He did and so should we. When the crisis comes the abundance of peace should be residing in us so that we can share it with whosoever. In these days it seems that wars and rumors of wars are on the upswing, plagues are baffling science and natural disasters are more and more common. People are afraid or if not now they soon will be and where are they going to turn? If we, as the Body of Christ are not there for them with an abundance of peace then it is no wonder they will turn to the anti-christ who will offer them peace but it will not be the right peace and it never will be a lasting peace. We should not allow ourselves to be deceived by the mind and in these days we should definitely be praying for God to infuse us all with great discernment. It blows my mind how many in the Body lack discernment. If Solomon came to God and asked for wisdom then we can come and ask for discernment – His discernment. It is a gift and He loves to bestow gifts upon His children.



This is what happens when we build with untempered brick and untempered mortar. The rains come and eat away at the mortar and then the bricks get wet and start to crumble. Some of our elderly have actually died when, in a rain storm, their homes have collapsed on top of them. Often these homes do not have a foundation so when the untempered bricks at the base crumble the whole wall will collapse or slide away from the other walls. This is why we are building two roomed cottages made with tempered brick covered with tempered plaster and they are built upon a firm foundation. Don’t be like the first and second little pigs – let us build on the firm foundation – Jesus the Christ and let us allow the Holy Spirit to be the tempered mortar that keeps everything together so we remain strong and steadfast.

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You can donate on line via the web.

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MALAWI

When building in Africa it seems to be that stealing bricks is considered a serious crime but once you begin to build all other materials are there for the taking. Before we begin therefore, we have to have a warehouse in which to store all building materials and any tools and equipment and a secure padlock and preferably a lockable door. Added to that another door made of steel bars. I was informed just last week that the warehouse is almost complete. We also received a quote for an electric fence to circle the property which should be installed within the next two weeks. The electric fence quote was \$4,200. Our next step is to build a three roomed cottage at \$750 for a Pastor who will also act as an overseer and a security guard. He will watch over the contractors and be a presence on the property to reduce the chance of theft and begin a church. Initially they can meet under the trees or even in his house until we build the church/center. So the building begins – one step at a time. Occasionally I get a glimpse of the completed center with all the buildings up and functioning but a lot of the time I see all the steps in between.

This place needs to be saturated with the power of God and with the love of God. It needs to be place of peace and a refuge for the lost and hurting. We are in the process of acquiring more land adjoining the property we already have. This will give us land to plant an orchard and vegetable garden.

Since electricity is so erratic there and the sun shines all year round I am looking at a solar system to run most of the electrical we will need. If anyone has any connections in this area or knows anything about solar energy please contact me preferably by



email rather than by phone as I will be in the UK for the rest of October. Please pray for favor while I am there.

GIRLS

In my last newsletter I mentioned the girls and would like to clarify a statement I made about the sale of the girls. We are trying to keep them in school in order for them to complete their education by the age of 18 or 19 years. As education is so important and many girls are uneducated because the males come first and families do not have the money to educate everyone in the family, they will not pass up a chance such as the one we are offering. They believe that when it comes to selling an educated girl they will get a far higher price for her. This is a cultural thing and in almost every country of Africa and the Middle East girls are sold to their husbands. Their husbands pay a “bride price.” I am not encouraging that. What we are doing is keeping the girls in school and while in school they go to church. We are also teaching them that they should be free to choose and by the time they are 18 and educated they can stand up for themselves. An uneducated girl of 8 or 10 has no chance of escaping a marriage to anyone if the parents or guardians decide they need some money or food.

One of our girls who was badly molested when she first came to us has just passed her exams with flying colors. There is already great change in many of them as they make a decision for Christ and receive their education.

Once the center is built we plan to bring in a certified counsellor who can work with those girls who are traumatized. We will, of course have some dormitories built for those girls who need a refuge and place to which they can go and get help.

We are blessed as there is also a school literally across the road from us which takes primary students.

Hard to believe these are both Mery taken nine months apart. When we met her she would hardly smile and certainly never look at us or the camera. What a change as she becomes more confident in herself.



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It only recently came to my notice that Amazon donates to charity organizations. You can sign up your favorite charity and after that when you purchase anything instead of going to amazon.com you need to go to smile.amazon.com. You will have the same account number and nothing will change regarding ordering from them. You do have to sign up for us. We are listed as Alabaster Ministries Inc., Kansas City MO. Once you sign up then a percentage of what you spend with Amazon goes to us. Here is our link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3457491>.

It is also a good idea to check with your company and see if they have a charity department which will match whatever you donate throughout the year. It seems that many companies are now doing this and as wise stewards we should take advantage of the opportunity.

I was talking to a lady yesterday and she said what a wonderful opportunity and blessing for her to give to the center in Malawi or to give toward building a cottage for the elderly. She said one day in heaven there will be knocks on her door and strangers that she has never met will come in and tell her what her gift did for them on earth. That is building "your treasure in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through or steal for where your treasure is there will be your heart also." Matthew 6:21,22

Thank you to all those who responded to the call for the donation towards bricks for the house and center. WOW what a blessing and if this keeps on happening we will get it built in no short time.



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I have often thought about some of the great men of God and read about some of the great men and women of the Bible who suffered greatly from depression. Jonah wanted God to take him home and Jeremiah agonized along with Job and Elijah in the cave, and many others. When we read about some of the 19th Century missionaries and preachers we often see them along with the rest of us in the pit of depression. It is obvious from some of Mother Theresa's statements that she sometimes felt that God was far from her. Does that mean these people were not saved? Of course not! Depression is definitely a tool that satan uses to shut us down. When we are depressed we cannot function properly. We walk through life as if in a fuzz and all we want to do is either sleep or cry. We cannot communicate properly or think properly and self plays a very important role. In order to get through we really need to begin to worship Him and force ourselves to turn our attention from self to others. More easily said than done BUT it does work!

