



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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Roz Heyns

APRIL 2013

Dearest Partners and Friends,

"Except ye be converted and become as little children...."

Africa always blesses me especially in the rural areas because they have faith to believe. They are simple in their ways and very trusting and if you tell them something they believe it. So much scope for creative miracles and signs and wonders!!!!

Just after arriving back I was in a service in Sarasota, FL and they had a healing evangelist as their guest speaker. An elderly gentleman, who was blind and had been for some time, came forward for healing. He was well known by all and after being prayed for he said that he could see the color of his friend's shirt – it was blue. He saw *"men as trees, walking."* There were two gentlemen who obviously had had strokes and could not walk without a cane. They walked out with their canes hanging from their arms. For the rest of the church it seemed like business as usual. There was no awe, no excitement shown at these manifestations. I have worked with some of the great names in crusades and seen the most amazing miracles and the crowd has gone wild with excitement. I have seen people running and jumping when their wasted legs begin to operate and not only has it made them excited but it has raised the level of faith for all those who are waiting to be prayed for.

People in the west are always asking me, "Why do we not see miracles anymore?" I believe it is because when we do pray for people there is not only a lack of faith in those who are praying but also a lack of faith in those receiving. When we go up for prayer we do not expect to be healed or it is a case of maybe I will or maybe I won't. And if I don't then I can always go to the hospital or the doctor. In third world countries they do not have that luxury and even if there is a hospital or clinic they will not go because they perhaps have lost a loved one from HIV/AIDS who has attended that hospital or clinic. They are so steeped in superstition that even when saved it takes years of teaching them the Word to begin to see change in that area.

The blind man Bartimaeus was desperate. Just how desperate are we to cry out to Him for our healing? It is time for us to become desperate for Him. Not just desperate to be healed but desperate in every area of our lives. If you do not have a job it is time to fall on your face and become desperate with Him instead of depending on the State or government to meet you need.

If you need healing it is time to become desperate instead of trusting in drugs that maybe will help your situation all the while destroying some other organ that was perfectly fine before you began with the drugs.

If your children are rebellious it is time to become desperate before Him as it is He that can change the hearts of our children especially when they have followed the road to destruction for so many years they cannot see anything but the bottom of the pit. He lifted me out of the pit and set my feet upon the solid Rock, Jesus. He brought the prodigal back. Just how desperate was the father? Day after day he stood on that rooftop willing his son to return until finally his cries moved the heart of the son.....

If our hearts have grown cold and we attend church because it is the right thing to do even though the church is so dead we do not receive anything then it is time to get desperate in your room for God to visit you one more time. America God wants to visit you one more time for a great outpouring but it depends on how desperate we are to receive Him.

Remember what it was like the day we first received Him? If you did not experience a great flood of joy and excitement then perhaps it is time to once again ask Him to overwhelm you and reside in you and be Lord over you.

Be excited about Him and if that excitement has faded ask the Holy Spirit to breathe once again on the embers of your heart. It never ceases to amaze me when I am in the villages and I watch as the women tend the fire early in the morning. There is a tiny glow right in the center of the fire from the previous evening. They get some dry grass and small sticks and then begin to gently blow on that ember. Finally a small flame shoots up and catches the dry grass and then the twigs and they begin to add larger and larger pieces of wood until they have a fire they can cook on. It is the Holy Spirit that will blow on that small ember in your heart if you will become desperate enough.

CONTENTS

TRIP TO AFRICA.....	2
NEW HOMES.....	3
A CHALLENGE	4

TRIP TO AFRICA

I am sitting on the flight from Addis Ababa on my way home to the States. What an incredible trip it has been! For the first time in many years the countryside of Malawi was lush and green and the cattle sleek and fat. I cannot remember that last time I saw so many large herds of cattle. Anywhere in Africa cattle denote wealth especially in the villages. Last year you could buy cattle for a very reasonable price because they had been living under drought situations for so long. This year the prices have soared because there is plenty of food and water and no one wants to get rid of them.

Even so, the famine in parts of the country is still severe as it rained so much their crops were washed away and rivers formed where there were no rivers before. We could not get up to Chididi in the mountains because parts of the road have been washed away and teams are going in this week to repair. There are 88 elderly there and they had to send porters down from the village to pick up 88 x 25 lb bags of ufa (maize flour) 88 x 6 lbs of dried beans and 88 blankets. They carry all this back up the mountain on their heads.



**NEW HOME FOR OUR WHEEL
CHAIR ELDERLY MAN**

As I travelled to four of the five villages I was thrilled to hear that the elderly have been meeting two and sometimes three times a week to pray. This trip we were determined to concentrate on the young people who are largely forgotten by the church in Africa as a whole. It is no wonder there is such rebellion amongst young people. On Sundays everyone comes to church while the young are left outside to find their own entertainment. There is no such thing as children's church or youth meetings. As I shared before, we have great concern for the young people because there are already almost two generations missing in the rural areas of Malawi due to HIV/AIDS and other diseases particularly in the area of STD's. I often wonder if the elderly I work with have been kept by God to such an age in order to take care of this young generation.

While I taught the elderly, James took the children and youth and taught them. School was on Easter vacation so there were about 150 youth in each village. I took the elderly through repentance after they all agreed it was their fault that their children and grandchildren had died because they failed to bring them up to know God and because they did not discipline them and teach them right from wrong. They then began to really pray for this new generation as we went round and round in a circle, each of them praying short and powerful prayers. Many wept and travailed.

When we were finished we were joined by the youth who came from their meeting and sat quietly under a tree. It was amazing what was achieved in such a short time especially after what happened when I was there in December last year.

We used the older children to help distribute the goods to the elderly. Of course they made some mistakes but when the pastors shouted at them James told them to be more patient as they were bound to make some mistakes to begin with.

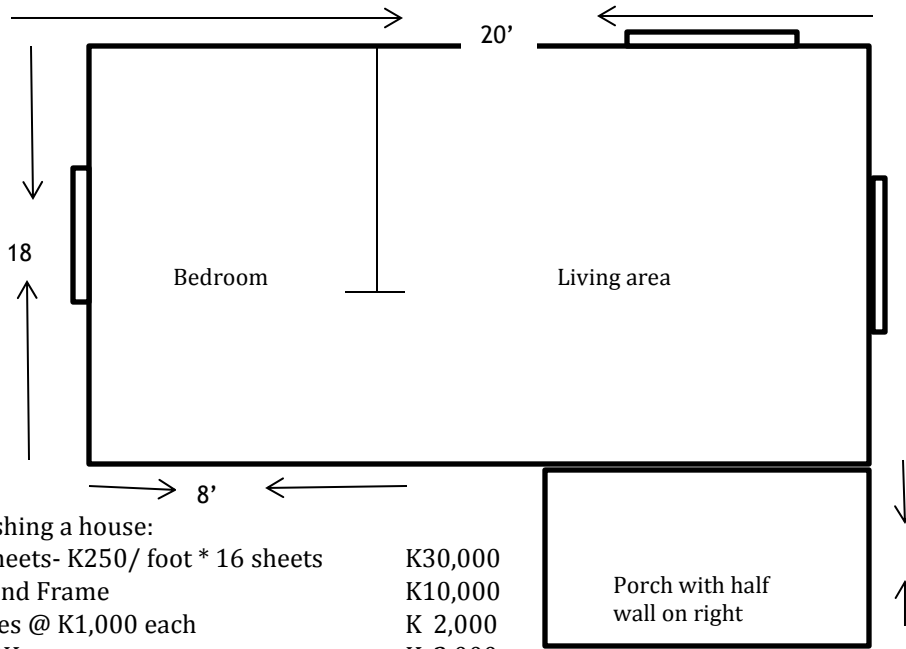
I watch parents with interest when I am at my grandchildren's soccer/baseball/wrestling games or at a school event. When a child makes a mistake the parents often get angry and at wrestling I have seen parents actually get abusive when their kids do not perform to perfection. Why is it? I believe it is because the parent is embarrassed in front of their contemporaries. Who is the child and who the adult in that case? For the most part, children do not make mistakes deliberately to annoy us unless they are trying to get our attention and have failed to do so by "good works." Shouting and abuse does not bring respect but rather fear and rebellion.

Cont.....page 4

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

This is a copy of the plan we have drawn up for the new homes for the elderly:



Cost of refurbishing a house:

- Iron sheets- K250/ foot * 16 sheets K30,000
- Door and Frame K10,000
- 2 Ridges @ K1,000 each K 2,000
- Nails 3Kg K 2,000
- Cement (Floor) 3 Bags K5,000*3 K15,000
- Transport K 3,700

TOTAL K62,700
 US Rate 330 \$190

Two of the villages had already begun to build their houses. I realized that if we wait for them to supply the bricks then the homes will never be built. It takes 2,500 bricks to build a house so I am purchasing the bricks as well. We plan to have 12 homes built over the next three months. As we sat at the table after supper I realized we had approached this the same way Nehemiah did on a smaller scale. We had prayed and fasted until we had a plan. When we had the plan we sat down and discussed everything – bricks, wood, cement, roofing – where to buy and what the cost. We decided that when people walk, cycle or drive through the village they will see the houses and ask how come they are so beautiful. They are beautiful because they are “Abba’s Houses.” This project is to be called the “Abba House Project.” There will be no rough finish but the walls will be plastered outside and in and whitewashed and the windows will have burglar bars to prevent things from being stolen. There will be a real wood door with a lock and key. Eventually I would like them to each have chairs and a table instead of them sitting on the floor.

We have wonderful leaders who each carry the vision and are a vital part of the ministry and most importantly they care about the elderly.

Now we are putting the plan into action no matter what anyone says and there are many that are telling us that it cannot be done or that we should not be doing it because the elderly are all going to die soon. Our numbers are up to 400 now and they are all over 75 years. From December to April only two had passed away and why should the elderly not have some form of comfort in their old age and be able to live in dignity instead of scrabbling around trying to survive in the wet, cold, heat with no food and huts that are falling down around them?

We slept in the villages on this trip. The roads are so bad that I did not want to make a trip back to the lodge at night so we purchased four inch foam rubber mattresses and mosquito nets and we slept under grass thatch. (I am getting too old to sleep on the floor now but imagine the elderly do that every night and the cold from the ground draws all the heat from their thin, emaciated bodies. Many of them suffer from arthritis, adding to their discomfort).

Cont.....page 4

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Cont from page 3.....

All night I could hear the rustling as the termites munched on the grass roofing and sometimes I could hear things that were much larger than termites and was glad that I had a mosquito net covering me. There were no lights – only from the cooking fires and my flashlight. There were no toilets – only pit latrines and there was no shower – just a bucket of water with a cup but they had taken the trouble to warm the water for us which was better than the lodge where there is only a cold shower. This is what the elderly put up with all the time. Only they have to collect their water, collect their wood for fires to cook on..... We have absolutely no conception.....

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The young people reacted positively to the Gospel with many saying that they intended to go home and repent to their grandparents. This trip we distributed food and blankets. I took mylar blankets (space blanket) for each of them from here. They could not believe that a blanket could fit into such a small packet. There was real wonder on their faces as I explained that they were developed by the same people that flew planes to the moon. I had a few wrap themselves up in one as I taught and after ten minutes they asked if they could remove them because they were sweating. I love to see them act as children with a new toy. They have such simple faith – oh that ours was similar. *Except ye be converted and become as little children.....*



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A CHALLENGE

A friend from Florida called on my return. I met with him and his wife while I was there a week ago. When we were in Southern Sudan and desperately needed money for roofing the school he called and donated but also put out a challenge for people to support the project. It worked and within a week we had all the money we needed for roofing the Bible School. He has suggested it again and since the pattern worked the last time why would I change anything? He sent a check along with the following letter.

“What a privilege, honor and joy it is to partner with you and Alabaster Ministries in building houses for the elderly in Malawi. May this \$1,500 be matched by many others who God calls to partner with you as well. Clearly, you are building far more than just houses.

You are the hands of our Lord to these people, showing His love and building hope even as you sow the Word of God into their lives.

God’s greatest blessings to you, your family and the ministry He has called you to lead.” B & P from FL

I have been so blessed as people have begun to sow into this project. Thank you and I would love for you to be able to see first-hand these men and women who have struggled for so long with absolutely nothing.

It is a great honor that the Lord has entrusted this project to us and we by no means take it lightly. It is a tiny corner of the earth that has been forgotten but not by God. He sees them and His heart is filled with compassion and in turn He has filled our hearts with compassion to meet their needs both spiritually and materially.