



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

AUGUST 2013

Dearest Partners and Friends,

It is interesting to watch as world events evolve around us. Egypt occupied all of the news programs and it seemed that the news desks could report on nothing but Egypt for hour after hour. Syria was forgotten until the use of a chemical bomb. Now all we see is news about Syria and everyone is in an uproar because an international law was broken. But hold on – what about all the chemical weapons used in the 80's by Iraq on Iran and the Western nations were giving Iraq the co-ordinates on where to drop them? What about the massacres of Rwanda, Southern Sudan, Darfur and now the Democratic Republic of the Congo? No chemical weapons used there – just pangas, knives, axes, machetes but millions of people killed. Is that not breaking international law? No-one threatened to go in and use an air strike in any one of these places. I was on a shuttle from a hotel in Johannesburg to the airport and a man in army uniform sat beside me. He told me he was happy to be home after a six month stint in the DRC (Congo). We had been discussing world events and Syria of course and he said that what he had seen in the DRC would haunt him for the rest of his life. He was one of the commanding officers of the South African Defense Force who are trying to keep the peace there. In the last two "Congo" wars over 3 million people have been slaughtered and this is a war being waged over the mineral wealth of the nation – a war because of corruption and greed. He said he has seen atrocities that have made him and his men literally vomit. Everyone crying out for peace and there is no peace and mankind has such a warped view of what is not acceptable and what we can turn a blind eye to.

There will never be world peace until the anti-Christ arrives on the scene and then it will only be a form of peace. The whole world seeks for peace. We want to be left alone to our own pursuits. We want to be happy and secure and that is what the anti-Christ will promise and to a degree that is what he will deliver.

Many are waiting for the Prince of Peace to return and usher in a utopia. Why are we waiting?????? He has already ushered in peace, joy, hope and love and if you, as part of the Body of Christ are not experiencing it, then I challenge you to take a long hard look at your relationship with Him.

Physical security and political accord are not the type of peace that the Bible speaks of. The Bible says that before we were saved we were at enmity with God. When Christ came and made Himself the eternal sacrifice, the lamb slain from the foundation of the earth, He made the way that restored us to a relationship of peace with God. His sacrifice also opened us up so that the Holy Spirit could establish Himself in us so that we live in various ways that without Him we would not be able to. I have shared my testimony about the fact I could not stand to be around old people. Now God has given me a ministry to old people and not only that, I really love them. Is it me and could I have done it in my own strength? I very much doubt it. It is His love which has been shed abroad in my heart that causes me to be able to hold them and weep with and for them.

It is His joy that so floods my soul no matter what is happening around me. Am I always joyful? Unfortunately not, because like most people, I allow circumstances to overwhelm me. So many of us get caught up in the situations and circumstances in which we find ourselves. We are rejected by a friend or betrayed by a brother and it is human nature to react. It is human nature to feel sorry for myself or get angry or build up resentment but in Christ there is a better way. "Footprints in the Sand" is such a wonderful poem but we are so familiar with it we probably no longer appreciate what it is really saying. When my life has been at its lowest there is only one set of footprints because Jesus was there to pick me up and carry me through. He said he would never leave us or forsake us. I remember breaking down in "Ambush Alley" in Mozambique during the war years there. I was on my own returning from a ministry trip and got a flat tire. The mechanic who took care of our vehicles had forgotten to put in the wheel spanner. It was a Sunday and the convoy did not run on a Sunday so there was not going to be any vehicles coming by until the next day. As I sat in the ditch beside the

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vehicle I realized I was totally stranded and could almost feel the eyes watching me from the bushes. Suddenly the peace of God descended on me and I began to sing as loudly as I could. It felt as if I had been joined by the choirs of heaven. I not only experienced peace but also the joy of the Lord. Within a very short time I heard a vehicle and around the corner came a whole convoy of army vehicles. They stopped, had the right spanner and even changed my wheel for me. They insisted that I follow them back to the border and as it was late I was invited to spend the night at the army camp and have dinner in the officer's tent. Because it was unusual to see anyone on their own on that road, let alone a woman, it opened up a wonderful door of ministry and I walked right through it, sharing the Gospel with these men, some of whom had studied communism in Russia.

When we really make Him the Lord of our lives His presence will be reflected in and through us. The gifts of the Spirit are truly that and we cannot operate them in our own flesh. You cannot love the unlovely without the Holy Spirit. How can we pray for a people or a nation when we are prejudiced against them?

No matter what is happening around us we can experience the tranquility or peace that passes all understanding.

I asked my grandson recently why he liked to stay at my house because he does not have the X Box there or his toys or his friends around and he told me because it was peaceful. Does that mean there is no noise and everything is quiet? Not at all! It is the peace of God that pervades the house even when the grandkids are there and it can be extremely loud.

He is my peace in every circumstance and He can be yours too. Yes, the Prince of Peace will one day return but He has already made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can experience peace, joy, love, hope no matter what is going on around us.



MALAWI

The following is a report from James who is a very vital part of the work we are doing. He not only drives the truck with the supplies but ministers to the young people. He is greatly loved by all and you can travel all over rural Malawi and people will ask how James is? He is known everywhere and greatly loved.

"From May of this year to date, Alabaster Ministries has managed to build more than thirteen houses for the elderly in the Nsanje district of Malawi. Out of thirteen, eight are completely finished and for those elderly who have moved in, their dreams have become true. Many of the villagers back in May were laughing and mocking and telling the elderly that they would never have a modern house in their life time because no-one would bother to spend money to purchase the iron roofing, cement, bricks and everything else required to build them a house. Not only that, all of the building materials would have to be transported from Blantyre which is over three hours' drive and the price of fuel is so high. Those who were so busy mocking just a few months ago are now speechless because God has fulfilled His promises by giving modern houses to these old people and they are now sleeping in magnificent houses on a proper floor that does not turn to mud when it rains and who have a roof that does not leak when it rains.

During our last visit to Nsanje we spoke to those who had moved into their new homes and they were very, very happy, dancing and rejoicing in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. They were praising Him. They told us that many had said they would never get their home but God is great and is so very faithful to them. They said that they once thought that no-one cared about them but now they know there is a God who cares and many people who care because they have helped with this project with their finances. They said they could not wait to see Pastor Roz to thank her for her faithfulness towards them, They said their lives have been completely transformed over the past two years, not only because they have a new home and food and clothes but mainly because of the Word of God which Pastor Roz always preaches to them when she is here and because they have learned how to pray and how to trust God for results when they pray.

James Phiri, Malawi

DROUGHT

The following was a recent report on the internet and already they have underestimated prices. I was horrified when I arrived here to find out that not only had food prices escalated since April but back then I was getting Malawi Kwatcha 411 to the US \$ at the bank and MK425 on the black market and now it is MK350 at the bank and MK370 on the black market. The price of 10 Kgs of meal is already over \$6 which is what this report projected for December and the locals are saying it will be costing them close to \$8 by the end of the year. When the salaries in rural areas is about \$30 per month and 10 kgs will last one person about two weeks.....

MZIMBA, 16 August 2013 (IRIN) - The phrase on the lips of many Malawians these days, particularly in the north of the country is: "There will be hunger this year." In Karonga District, prolonged hot, dry spells caused maize crops in the southern part of the district to wilt. The dry spell was followed by heavy rains, which not only knocked down the wilting maize but also brought down several houses, affecting scores of people. In the northern part of the district, flooding filled rice paddies with sand, virtually burying the crop. Rumphi and Mzimba districts - the hub of maize production in Malawi's northern region - were also hit by dry spells starting from February. As a result of the weather conditions, most farmers in the region harvested little maize. In fact, an annual food security [forecast](#) by the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) - composed of the government, UN agencies and NGOs - predicted that 21 of the country's 28 districts will face varying degrees of food insecurity until the next harvest in March 2014, with the northern region most severely affected.

Costs to rise

Across the region, residents have started buying and storing bags of maize to prepare for the steep price increases that normally accompany the peak of the lean season. "Unlike in the past, when vendors were the ones buying the maize, most of those buying the maize this time around are people who say they are just stocking it for domestic use," said Francis Chirwa, a farmer from Chitipa District, who was selling some of his maize. Currently maize is selling at between 120 and 130 kwacha (between US\$0.36 and \$0.39) per kilo at points of production in rural areas. The MVAC report projects that prices will increase to 200 kwacha (about \$0.60) per kilo by the peak lean period, which will fall between December 2013 and January 2014.

Surplus?

The MVAC report projected a slight increase in total maize production compared to last [year](#), with a surplus of 194,000 metric tons beyond the national food requirement. However, the report also estimated that nearly 1.5 million people - representing 9.5 percent of the country's total population - would need food assistance equivalent to 57,346 metric tons of maize over the coming months.

A CHALLENGE

Please pray about supporting an old person each month. At present we are supplying them with food every three or four months. We recently lost three of them from starvation!!! This is unacceptable. At their age it is fine when the Lord takes them home but it is not right that they should starve to death. Just think that in the US we pay farmers NOT to put in a crop when half the world is starving!

If we can have each of our old people supported at \$20/25 per month we would be able to take them food every six weeks. That is our Panera or Starbucks coffee five times a week! Please will you consider taking coffee from home instead and donate your coffee bank to keeping these people alive for as long as God wants them here? We will send you their photo and information about them. They are wonderful and gentle and many are taking care of orphaned grandchildren and great grandchildren.



VILLAGE GIRLS

We recently shared about the plight of young girls who are being married off to the highest bidder even at the age of 11 and 12 years.

We have found a way to prevent this. It is not free to attend schools in Africa and when families cannot afford fees they take their girls out and sell them, using the money to keep the boys in school and for food and clothing for the family.

If we can keep these girls in school then the parents are happy to leave them there. We now have thirteen girls we are paying for so that they can stay in school. The fees for a three month term or semester along with school uniforms is \$40. If you would like to help

In this area of ministry we would be thrilled. Like the elderly feeding program we would send a photo with details on a girl you would be supporting. These are some of the girls in the program.



ALABASTER MINISTRIES
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LETTERS TO GOD

Dear God,
I bet it is
very hard
for you to
love all of
every body in the
whole world.
There are only
4 people in our
family and I
can never do it.
Nan

Dear God -
Please put a -
nother Holiday
between Christmas
and Easter.
There is nothing good
in there now.
Ginny

Dear God
Maybe Cain and Abel
would not kill each so much
if they had their own rooms.
It works with my brother
Larry

We read Thos . Edison
made light.
But in sun. School they said
you did it.
So I bet he stole
your idea.
Sincerely,
Dona