



# 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*

## **FEBRUARY 2013**

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

It is hard to believe that I am on my way back to Africa in a few days. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderful response from you all for rebuilding homes. I know that it is His Temple in each of us that needs to be rebuilt and that is always a priority but while we are doing that we all need to have some form of comfort and safety in our lives. Imagine being 70 years old and lying on wet mud at night because your roof is not rain proof, or watching as the roof begins to sag under the weight of the water. Is it going to fall on me tonight? We in the West would not survive one season under those conditions.

I was recently in Northern North Dakota – the frozen wastelands of the north and it was cold and snowing and icy and grey and white all over. I totally understand why there are “snow Birds” who move to Arizona and Florida for four months of the year!! I had the opportunity to share about this project but more than the building project I had opportunity to share about how the Holy Spirit has moved in training all these elderly people in Malawi. It still overwhelms me when I think about His goodness and mercy for He has indeed lifted them up out of the miry clay and set their feet upon solid ground. We take for granted that all of us have a minimum of two Bibles in our homes and that we can read and write and yet how many hungrily devour the Bread of Life each day. How many desire to be washed in the water of the Word every day? Can you imagine if the Bible was banned and we could no longer get one? I was discussing the fact that I had decided to teach them all how to intercede so that they could be a force to be reckoned with for the Kingdom. Then I realized that half of them were not even saved, most were not filled with the Holy Spirit, all of them saw themselves as valueless in the eyes of God and man. How could a people like that ever stand in the gap on behalf of their families let alone their nation and the nations of the world? Someone asked me how we could purchase Bibles for them and if the Bible was written in their language. Yes, there is a Bible in their language but none of them can read or write so unless they are told what is in the Bible they have no idea who they are in Christ EXCEPT....EXCEPT there is the wonderful Person of the Holy Spirit who has come to dwell inside of them and as they have been coming to

hear and as they have been praying He has brought enlightenment. He has proved Himself time and time again that He is the great teacher. We should expect to see and hear about His wonderful works in the world today as those who have never heard and who have not been reached with the Word are gathered in by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we are so vain that we think He cannot operate outside of us. Yes, He uses us when we become available to Him but He is still sovereign and can and will pour out His spirit wherever and whenever He deems necessary. He can and does appear to people in the outermost reaches of the earth and how can anyone looking upon Him not know who He is. He is the Christ, the risen Savior and glorious Lord. He is the Son of the Most High God and I believe that anyone looking upon Him would know who He is.

I have a friend who is now retired from NASA. He was telling me that when he worked there he received many letters about aliens coming to earth. He told me that the odds of people existing on other planets are long -- perhaps a million to one. Considering the number of other planets - estimated to be in the billions - the chances would seem pretty good; however, these other planets are many light years away. In order to travel from that great a distance the spacecraft would have to produce large amounts of energy that would be detectable by scientists on Earth that are constantly viewing space. As he told me I got so excited because all I could think about was that one day our blessed Lord will return and the energy He will produce will light up the heavens and the earth. The only “alien” ever to enter the earth’s atmosphere will be the glorious King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Captain of the Lord’s host and He will light up the heavens and the earth as He returns in clouds of glory for me and for you. Each one reach one so that we can all be caught up with Him when He makes His return.

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**LETTERS**

"Dear Pastor,

I write this piece of paper to Alabaster Ministries to thank you for the love you showed me during this stay in Malawi. I feel like a child having a good and caring Mom. Secondly I want to thank you for answering the voice of God when He called you to minister to the elderly. I wish this ministry all the best. It's my prayer that the almighty God, who gave you this vision, should open more and more doors for supporters. You already started to support these people with the little that you have and you care for them as a parent. No-one else cares for them and this ministry is a shining star filled with God's love which it shows to them. They have something to be proud of in Alabaster Ministries. The staff is real people of God as we have seen when they pray for rain God gives the rain. That is a great testimony and also it was great to see God answer as the elderly prayed.

May God bless this new ministry abundantly forever and ever? May God bless you and give you long life Mom.

I love you and thanks,

Your Son in Christ, JP" (Blantyre, Malawi)

"Just a short note to thank all of you for what you do. It is an honor to be associated with you.

We in America really need to sit down and count our blessings and consider those who have nothing. Most of us don't consider hot water a blessing much less water itself. We constantly appear to compare our lifestyle to those that have even more which brings about a drive to get, get, get more. I don't think most of us are even aware of the subtlety of these passions. No need to mention TV, computers, internet connections, expensive restaurants, sports events, pets and hobbies that we spend billions of dollars on each year.

I say all of that for me, to refresh that awareness within myself. You all live in the reality of the above, and then walk in areas breathing the very air permeated with needs beyond our comprehension.

My wife and I decided to take money set aside for our spring taxes to build one of these homes. Our God is well able to replace it, in fact I KNOW He will. In my heart I believe He will provide extra work, but even if not, the joy of knowing that someone, or some family had a home would far outweigh any momentary tax issue.

Thanks you for your faithfulness," K and M F Pennsylvania

**FIELD TRIP TO NSANJE**

**8 March, 2013**

Malawi has been receiving excessive rainfall in the past few weeks. This contradicted the prediction by the Malawi Government's Meteorological Department which indicated that Malawi would receive erratic rains this year. These rains have caused much damage and worsened the poverty levels already battling hard on poor Malawians, especially the vulnerable groups which include the elderly. Almost 70% of Malawians are very poor and fall under the vulnerable group which is living on less than a dollar a day as stipulated by the United Nations.

I made a field trip to Nsanje on Friday, 8 March, 2013. The purpose of the trip was to establish the gravity of the damage caused by the excessive rains as Nsanje is always negatively affected every time the district receives such heavy down pour. Indeed, the situation in most of the parts of Nsanje is pathetic, worrisome and almost hopeless especially for the old people. Most of the people, the elderly inclusive, have been left homeless as their already dilapidated houses have been destroyed by the rains. As if this is not enough, most of the crops in the fields have been washed away, leaving the people homeless and without food.

I visited the elderly in five Traditional Authorities and what I saw could not stop me from shedding tears. Some old people have had their houses washed away and are seeking shelter in nearby churches. Some of them have literally nowhere to seek shelter in the event that there are no churches and school blocks nearby. I captured several houses which have been destroyed as shown by the pictures.

Apart from being homeless, most of them have had their crops washed away, hence escalating poverty levels. There is indeed a dire need for relief aid, otherwise our grandparents will continue to die mercilessly.

I distributed sugar, tea leaves and bread to all those I visited. Though not enough, they were very happy and kept praising the Lord for giving them such relief aid.

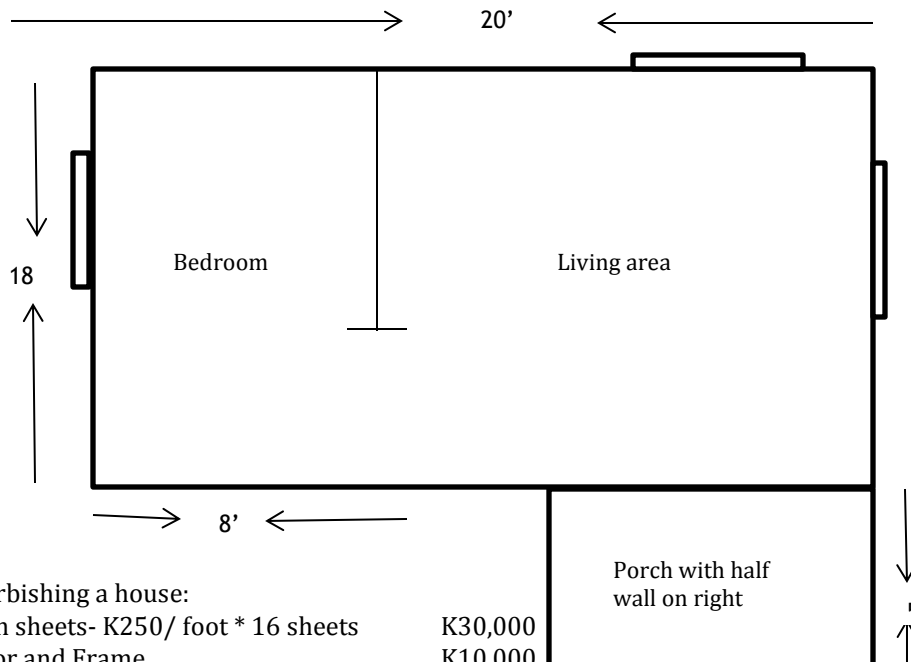
Let us continue to pray for such unprivileged elderly so that the Almighty God should comfort them and surely bail them out from this disastrous and pathetic situation.

Linda Mavutula Director Alabaster Malawi

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**We're on the Web.**  
**See us at: [rozheyns.org](http://rozheyns.org)**  
**You can donate on line.**  
**Email: [alabastermin@aol.com](mailto: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

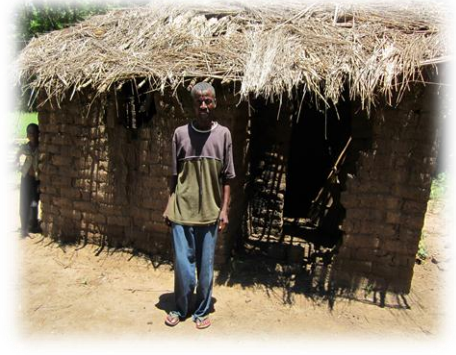
Sadly it appears that some of the houses which the churches/villagers had begun to build for the elderly have fallen down during the extensive rains. This is because they tried to cut corners and built them with unfired bricks which obviously just melted in the rain. It is a good thing they had not been completed otherwise they would have fallen in on those who are living in them. For those who build according to our specifications I will be roofing, flooring and putting in windows and doors this trip.

We taught them how to pray for rain and within days the rains began but obviously they did not get together and pray that the rains stop. God is so faithful and years ago when we were living in the Eastern district of Zimbabwe we had a problem with drought. We would pray for rain and when there was enough we would pray again that God would hold it back so that the crops could grow. He never failed us and nor will He fail those in the Nsanje district of Malawi. Along with praying that there is change amongst the youth and that the Lord will touch their hearts and begin to work in them we will show them how to pray for the weather. God wants His people to prosper and be in good health so we will teach them how to trust in Him. They have outlived everyone and most Westerners do not live to be their age so the Lord has really taken care of them.

**BUTAWO VILLAGER. SHE IS 78 AND LIVES ALONE. ALL SHE POSSESS IS IN THAT BAG. WHAT IS LEFT OF HER HOUSE IS BEHIND HER**



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**PASTOR MCDONALD MASO** has been an incredible help to Alabaster Ministries. He is the overseer of the pastoral ministries in the Nsanje area. He is always helpful and available and it is he that does the organization of the elderly in the various villages. He maintains the lists and organizes the pastors and he knows who the neediest people are.

While we are in the area his wife cooks our meals for us. They are a very hospitable family. What a gift when things are expensive and there are so many shortages! I remember years ago when we held a pastor's conference in Nsanje for about 60 pastors. We ran out of maize meal. Pastor McDonald took a bag from his personal stock and insisted on giving it as a gift. He would not take payment for it.

He is also my interpreter in the villages along the Mozambique border where the language is Senna and James does not speak Senna. I am blessed to have these men and women alongside to hold up my arms.