



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

JANUARY 2013

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

If I have learned anything in the past year from working with the elderly it is that everyone responds positively to love. Love is the law of God and replaced the Ten Commandments in the New Testament. It is wonderful that one thing that should be easy has replaced ten that seemed so difficult that no-one could keep them. If we love as God requires we do then we would not break any one of the Ten Commandments. God made Himself so easily approachable through Jesus Christ and His death on the Cross. And it is a whole lot easier when God is in the equation. HE IS LOVE and *"His love has been shed abroad in all of our hearts by the Holy Spirit."* Rom 5:5. Please note that it is NOT our love but His love. If we are in Him and He is in us then it is His love that should shine in the midst of the most difficult of circumstances. If we take SELF out of the equation and OUR CHOICE and we make what we do and say God's choice for us then it is obvious that love will follow.

I have never shared my testimony regarding "OLD PEOPLE." I never liked "old people." I always felt that they were especially demanding and difficult and felt that the younger generation owed them something. Ever meet elderly people like that? It seemed seldom that I came across a gracious and loving elderly person even in Christ. My Pastor long time back in Zimbabwe asked me to bring the elderly to and from Church for a month and back then I was a "yes" person. It is okay to say "NO." Whatever we do should be done as unto the Lord or it burns in the crucible like wood, hay and stubble. I want gold in that crucible. So for a month I collected them, took them to church and dropped them off again - three times a week!!!!!! At the end of the month I told God that He had failed and I did not like them any better - in fact I probably felt worse towards them. Of course God never fails and always has another plan of action.

When I began to work with the elderly as a part of Shekinah/Kalibu Ministries God began to work in my heart. As I began to pray for them He began to fill me with His love and His compassion so that I could reach out to them and in doing so it began to change them. When I took over the elderly project and began Alabaster Ministries I saw them as vital, special, lovely and I began to see them as God sees them.

How easy it became as I allowed Him to take over and remove all the prejudice that was in me.

It seems that the whole team that works with me is filled with this love and reports we get from the villages talk about how much the elderly feel loved and it is sometimes for the first time in their lives. We teach them about the love of God and His son Jesus and they are beginning to reach out to each other with love.

Under normal circumstances they are the unlovely. They have sickness and disease. They smell because they often have no change of clothes and cannot bathe often because they have too far to go to collect water. When they do it is to drink and not wash. Who would want to hug someone like that? Jesus! It is not me or James or Linda or any of the Alabaster Ministries helpers but the Jesus in us that reaches out to these old people and loves them as they have never been loved before. When it is Him working through us then it is the all-encompassing love - not just filial - we like you because you did this for us but we love you no matter who or what you are. We feel your pain and your distress and your loneliness and not only are we going to teach you how to overcome but we are going to do something physical to help you in these circumstances. Words without actions to back them up are just empty words. You cannot go into a village and preach and teach about the love of God without backing it up with action in the form of feeding, clothing, praying, delivering, rebuilding and whatever else is necessary. You cannot go into a village and give whatever is necessary to ease their situation without teaching them about the love of God.

May 2013 be a year of reaching out in love to all who come across our path.

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MY MALAWI HELP

JAMES is my interpreter and does much of the truck driving for me when I am in Africa. He is such a delight to work with and has a real heart of humility and love. It does not matter the age of the villagers he seems to have a real love for all of them and they respond to it. He has come on every trip with me and at five in the morning when everyone else is still sleeping James is out cleaning the vehicles and making sure they are ready for use. You will never find a piece of paper, banana skin, plastic bottle or any other form of trash left in the vehicles as he has been there cleaning before anyone else has even opened their eyes for the day.

I have watched as he has picked up old people from the back of the vehicle and stood them on their feet after a long and cramped trip. He has held them until they have been able to stand alone. I have watched as he has gathered the village children around him and danced and sang choruses with them. He is a preacher in his own right and can lead a "dead" group of people into high praise.

He has a wonderful wife and four children. The youngest

was born about six months ago and is called David. James is in great demand all of the time and whenever there are visitors he is the driver who takes them on preaching trips and sightseeing trips. He is also a leader in the local church which keeps him busy. With all the hours he puts in for others he makes sure that he spends quality time with his family. They love to visit the ice cream parlor with him and that is often their outing with Dad.

WHAT A SERVANT. Jesus commands us to be servant to all and James is surely that.



LINDA is a blessing from God and has a real heart for the elderly. She is the wife of the Headmaster of Kalibu Academy – Paisley. For various reasons I have had to let Jackson Kaphuka go and she has replaced him as Director of Alabaster Ministries in Malawi and will prove to be a very able Director. She has a number of small businesses which she formed and runs and is the Proverbs 31 wife. Linda is up each day by 4.30 and busy around the home. She is a wonderful stepmother to Paisley's teenagers from a previous marriage. I have heard Hannah, their sixteen year old daughter pray at school assembly and it is powerful. Their son, Paisley Jn is growing up to be a caring and considerate young man and baby Rozella is a typical "Rozella" with a mind of her own at the age of two. I always say that there is something in the name and certain names seem to inherit certain characteristics. We need to research names before we name our children. Linda seems to be tireless and can be found still working at ten in the evening. She is a good and loyal friend who is quiet most of the time but will stand up for what she believes and she believes very strongly that the elderly need to be taken care of and made to feel useful in their old age. She accompanies me on my trips to the villages

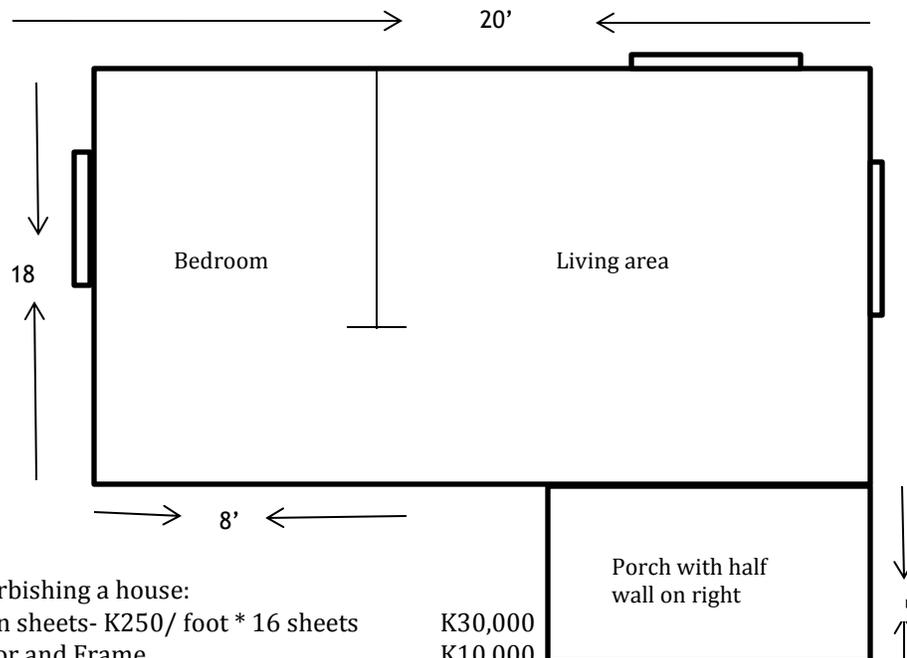
handles all of the interviews with the elderly. She decides which homes need instant attention and we then visit those homes. The next trip we will be staying in the villages instead of a lodge. That means sleeping on the ground under a tree with a mosquito net. She appears to be excited about this. She is going to have to stir some of that up into me!!!!



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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	<u>K 3,700</u>

TOTAL K62,700
 US Rate 330 \$190

My flight is booked for March 19th to Malawi. We will be staying in the villages while we distribute food and begin to roof the new homes, some of which are already almost completed as far as brickwork is concerned. The rain is still falling in Malawi and it is the greenest it has been for many years. Reports come through the various pastors in the villages that it has stirred the elderly to continue to pray as they have seen God answer their prayers almost immediately. This is the most important thrust of this ministry – to teach them that God still values them no matter what their family thinks or what the government thinks of them. That they can change the state of things by lifting problems before His Throne and believing that He can and WILL move.

We want to spend time in ministry to the younger generation. It was very apparent that this generation is fast going the way of their parents. I was astounded at the behavior of the youth on my last trip. They were totally wayward and undisciplined and had absolutely no regard for anyone in leadership. I told a group of about 80 elderly that where they failed with their children they would have another chance with their grandchildren. They began to laugh and when I asked why they told me that this generation will not listen to them but laugh and call them witches. When I addressed the youth they told me they had no parents as they had died. I asked the elderly if they had respected their parents and they answered yes but their children did not respect them. I told them all that when you honor your parents God will give you long life which is why there are so many really old people. Further that there is a generational gap because their children did not honor them and if things do not turn around there will be a two generation gap AND all the old people will have died off leave a nation of teenagers. This is a serious situation that needs to be interceded over. This trip we will be praying, first that God would forgive us for failing to bring up our children in a Godly manner and then to change the situation and circumstances for the existing young people. While I am doing that we plan to have someone teaching the youth as it will be school vacation while we are there. Please keep us in prayer that an impact will be made on the youth, lives changed and a reverential fear of God instilled in each of them as well as a respect for their elders who do the best with what they have.

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TESTIMONIES

Nthambire Bande Age: 95 approx
Village: Chimombo



Facts: All her 7 children died, 3 died from HIV/AIDS related

- She stays with grandchildren/great, great grandchildren, the youngest being 3 years old
- She takes care of her grandchildren
- Does not have a house, her house fell and is living in an old kitchen which a well wisher lets her use.
- Does not get help from anyone

Main problems:

- Proper housing
- Food

Testimony:

She never used to pray or go to church before. After hearing the preaching from Alabaster Ministries and getting some assistance she decided to start going to church. She joined a church where she and her grandchildren now attend services and get spiritual help. She thanks God and Alabaster for most importantly rescuing her spiritual life and furthermore assisting her with giving her clothing, food and other everyday needs.

Facts:

- Has one child left
- Her house fell down
- Lives alone in her small dark house which belongs to her son with a small window
- She depends on her son to share her food

Main Problems Observed:

- Lack of proper housing
- Very poor health which does not enable her to walk to the hospital for treatment when sick

Testimony:

She thanks Pastor Roz so much and she prayed for her as soon as she heard about this program as we were standing there.

She prayed that God should help Alabaster in every endeavor that they will be partaking in. She really does not know how to thank the Pastor enough for this idea of helping her with her house.



This was Ellen Mayenda's home in Nyakamera Village, Chididi. She is 89 years old.

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