



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

MARCH 2013

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

It is so wonderful to be back in Africa despite all the frustrations which are experienced. I had the chance to spend some time in South Africa with family and flew on to Malawi right after Easter. What a work the Lord has done in my life! As I walked up to immigration in South Africa I was smiling and she asked if I was happy to be leaving. I told her that I had had a wonderful time but I was on my way to Malawi to see 350 elderly people. As I shared with her I began to weep. How do you explain the real compassion of God? I am not a weeper but when I start to talk about them the faucet opens up and I cannot switch it off. It becomes quite embarrassing sometimes because people just do not understand. It is when we are moved by the compassion of Jesus that He will and does move. That is when the Jesus in us begins to shine through and become that wonderful life saving force. Jesus in you and I can win our world, one person at a time.

Things are becoming increasingly difficult here with the daily change in the value of the currency. While I was purchasing the blankets this morning someone walked into the shop and announced that the Kwacha was no longer 425 to the US \$ as it had been at 9.00 a.m. – it was now 435. It was frustrating for the shop owner as I had just purchased 350 blankets at the old rate. Even more frustrating for me because if I had waited another couple of hours I would have made much more on the dollars I had exchanged. Tomorrow the price of everything here will go up.

Before leaving for Africa I was blessed to be able to travel 2,000 miles with a good friend. 1600 of those miles were done over a period of two days. I would say that you would have to be good friends locked in a car with nowhere to go. It actually turned out to be one of the most enjoyable trips I have ever taken. There was total UNITY and companionship in the Holy Spirit. There were times of silence that were peaceful and did not leave you feeling uncomfortable and trying to manufacture something to say. There were times of animated conversation and then there were times of bouncing the Word off each other. After two days and 1600 miles I felt at peace and rest. Our rest is in Him. No matter what is going on around us we should still feel at peace and rest. HE is my peace. No man will ever be able to bring peace to the world even though they try to do so. The only place we will find peace is in Him. – the prince

of peace! I can be rushing here, there and everywhere but in Him I will be at rest. Was I tired after 1600 miles, but I was at rest in Him.

As I arrived in Malawi I was, as usual, greeted with big beaming smiles. Within 24 hours all of the purchases for the trip to the villages were made. That is organization and working together in unity. I know that I have mentioned the importance of unity in the body of Christ but it is necessary in order to see growth in the Kingdom. There is an old African proverb which says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go FAR, go together." God is not concerned about speed. To Him a day is as a thousand years. Our race is a long one and takes a whole life time and we need to align ourselves with those who are like minded. I am an administrator. Does that mean that I am stuck behind a desk – definitely not! It means that I am not a visionary and I do not try to be one. Do I see tasks that need doing and envision the final accomplishment? Of course but only on a small scale compared to a visionary. I remember when the school was being built in Malawi a Pastor came out from the States to visit. Years later he came back when the school was operating and his statement was;

"I saw a mountain and they saw a school."

Without the administrator the visionary will find it extremely difficult to get the job done. We have to work together and acknowledge one another's strengths and yes, even their weaknesses. If you have a strength and you know it is a weakness in your brother then use that strength to stand alongside him and see him through to the end. Sometimes we have to slow down to aid our brother across the rocky path so that he does not stumble. There is that saying that came out in the 80's:

"The army of Christ is the only army that leaves its dead and wounded on the battlefield."

How sad but how true when you think about it. We don't leave our wounded; more often than not we kill them.

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What an indictment against the body of Christ! I know men and women of God who have fallen over the years. They have repented before God and man, stepped down from the pulpit and received counseling and a decade later are still being stoned. Where is the forgiveness and restoration on our part? And because we won't restore we often lose a great gift that God has given to the body. Should the Pope have retired? I do not know all the background but I do know that there can be no RETIREMENT for those who are called. RETIREMENT is for those who have jobs and when they are 65 and have been working for 45 years they can then put down their tools. That then leaves them totally free to hook up with a visionary and go for God until He takes you home. For those who are in the five-fold ministry or who work for those in ministry it is NOT a job but a calling and it does not end until you go to be with Him in heaven! I know that the Pope felt that he was old and feeble but where were the Aaron's and Hurs to lift up his arms until the battle was over? When we are working together in unity we will be a great support one to another so that we can continue until we are called home.

Would that we were more like Caleb. At about 40 he was one of the twelve spies that were sent into spy out the Promised Land. He was one of only two who returned with a good report. Two visionaries out of twelve! If you look at something and it seems overwhelming to you zip your lip until the Holy Spirit has time to work in you to see the possibilities instead of the pits and downfalls. When it is God it cannot fail no matter how daunting the task. It is amazing that a bad report is always far more easily accepted than a good report. We watch the news almost on a daily basis and when we miss a few days we start looking for a way to find out what has been happening. All news is slanted one way or another and it is all BAD news because that is what sells. Do we miss the Word as much when we skip a couple of days and that is the Good News – full of hope, peace, joy, love.....?

Caleb at 85 asks the Lord, *"Give me this mountain..."* They fought for it over a number of years and finally Hebron became theirs. That is faith in God and a vision to grab hold of what God wants for you but you cannot do it alone. You will always need an army to work alongside you in UNITY. We have to be careful though that we work together and, *"keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* I know a number of ministries where the vision is coming to pass but everyone is walking on egg shells because there is a manipulator and controller at the head. His/her word is law, he/she is never wrong and they are above correction. Everything seems to be working but

there is no peace. Jesus is the head over any man or any project He has called us to and when we work together in unity there will be peace and no fear.

Think about the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. *"So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work."* Neh 4:6

Not only did they rebuild the walls they had to do battle while they were rebuilding.

"Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us." Neh 4: 19,20

When God is on our side who can stand against us? The walls of Jerusalem were built and repaired by Nehemiah and his team in 52 days.

There were four aspects to Nehemiah's vision.

1. Intercession. He spent about four months in intercession which was accompanied by fasting, weeping and mourning.
2. Plan. He had his plan already mapped out before he went to the King and was specific in his requests. When we go before the Lord He wants us to be specific. There is nothing worse than to hear Christians pray, "If it be your will Lord....." We should already know what His will is in any given situation.
3. Leadership. He managed to get the people to participate and they were people from all walks of life, men and women and the children.
4. Persistence. He was not going to allow anything to stop him despite the threat of a battle or the sheer size of the task before him. He was not distracted by anything even when the enemy requested that he meet with them for discussions on four separate occasions.

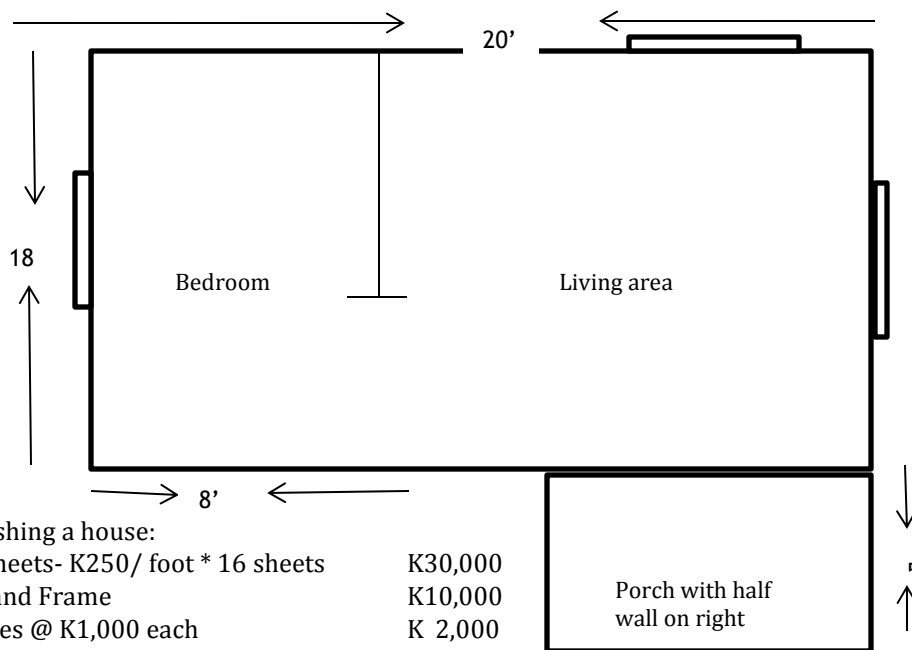
It is out of our intercession that the vision and the plan will come. When we know that we know, that we know that we have the mind of Christ in any situation then we can be persistent.



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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

I have left the plan in the newsletter for another month because it sometimes takes a while and repeats for some to really see it. The response has been wonderful – thanks to all that have supported this project so far. As soon as we have some of the homes finished we will have photos for you that will be posted in the newsletter.

As I was flying out here I began to realize that this project really needs to expand even more. As I mentioned in previous newsletters, there is a dire need for the youth to be reached both emotionally and spiritually. When we touch their hearts with the Gospel their lives will begin to change. At present they are full of self and cannot even see that there is anyone else apart from them and their needs and if anyone gets in their way then they will do whatever it takes to remove them. Some of the villages are worse than others but it is serious and since there is already one generation missing because of this attitude we do not want a repeat with this generation. I am going to be teaching the elderly how to pray for this young generation and while I am doing that James is going to be teaching the young people. They are out of school and are always interested when we come to the villages so it will be a willing audience. What they do with whatever they hear is between them and God but the seed will be sown. What was really touching me as I traveled were the women in this area. They are very abused and unable to function as they should. Last time I was here I overheard a conversation regarding village life in many parts of Malawi. I was horrified to hear that the village girls are taught from a very young age that they cannot say no to any male, be it brother, father, uncle or friend of the father. Can you imagine growing up under those circumstances and with the HIV/AIDS rate as high as it is? It is no wonder the UN statistics state that the average life expectancy for a Malawian is 38 years old. On my first day here I discussed with Linda Mavutula about speaking to these young women and she is very excited. They need so much healing! It is no wonder that so many of them feel used and abused and cast aside. They feel that their lives are valueless much like the elderly. These young girls need to be taught some craft so that they can become independent but more than that they need to experience His love and to know that He cares and that they do not have to live that way anymore. What an exciting task because we know that they are going to be set free.

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Linda is going to head up this area of the ministry so please pray for her that the Lord would give her an abundance of love to pour out on these girls.

I know that I said that I was not going to build a center BUT..... some of these girls need somewhere to go so that they can find peace and make a start at rebuilding their lives.

Perhaps a center was the right thing although not for the elderly who are happy to stay where they are. These young women need a place of refuge where they can recover and become who God wants them to be. He was there for Rehab, Tamar and the woman at the well. He is here for each of these girls too.



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THIS IS AFRICA

The rains have been excessive here and at the school a huge boulder slide down the hill and onto the side of the road from the cottages to the school. It did not block the road completely but it definitely needed to be removed. Yesterday morning I awoke to the smell of burning rubber to find that they had set a fire under the rock and when it was hot enough they pinned an old tire against the rock and this had begun to burn, giving off great rolls of thick black smoke and an evil smell.

We had gone back in time to Hannibal crossing the Alps except with modern day technology we now have tires which give off a fierce heat. The theory is that when cold water is poured over the burning and blackened rock it will crack especially when sledge hammers are applied at the same time. It worked!!!! And this performance will be repeated until the rock is not more than small stones that can be carted away.