



# 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*

## NOVEMBER 2013

Dearest Partners and Friends,

How comfortable are you in your present situation? I have found over the many years that I have been partnering with Him that we should never become too comfortable. I know people who have a weight problem and who resolve to lose it. They lose their first twenty or so pounds and then reach a plain which they can stay on for years. A friend told me recently, that is when it is time to give your system a shock like extreme exercise that the body is unused to. We can go plodding through life and become comfortable in our situations and lifestyle. We can cross the valley and mountains and finally camp out indefinitely in a valley next to a spring with pasture and place to feed animals and grow food for ourselves just as the settlers of old tried to do. But, there was always the question in the back of their minds – “what is over the next mountain or what is at the top of this mountain?” Why have we lost that pioneering spirit so that we become content instead of adventuring over the next mountain?

God is an ever moving God and we need to be moving with Him. Let us never become too comfortable where we are. Imagine Mary. She was comfortable in the knowledge that she was engaged to be married and her future would be well taken care of. Joseph was well established in his career (he was quite a bit older than her) and even though he was not rich there would always be a good source of income. SUDDENLY - amazing how the Holy Spirit seems to so often creep up on us SUDDENLY. It is because we have not been attuned to Him. There have been too many distractions in our lives and too many voices and our ears have become hard of hearing. Also amazing that when there is about to be a big change in our situation, God tells us not to be afraid. In the Bible there is always an angel or the Holy Spirit who is telling the character to, “FEAR NOT.....” Let us make a change for 2014 and begin it now even before 2013 is over. Let us begin to listen and obey. Instead of going to church on Sunday only and sitting in a pew to hear the Word, let us decide what it is that God wants us to do with the Word we have heard.

I am writing this in Virginia while staying with a friend. She has just moved into a new complex and does not know anyone here. Yesterday morning in the snow and bitter cold she went out to brush the snow off her car and also brushed the snow off her neighbor's car. It is the little things that count. Her neighbor is Moslem.

Tough territory but not for the Lord! Do we knock on the door and beat them over the head with the Word or is there another way? If we beat them with the Word we will never win them. There is always a price to pay even in evangelism and that price is to lay yourself down and live out Jesus before them. Wipe the snow off their car even when you are freezing. Make a banana loaf and take it to them. Over the years I have always found that treating people as if they already know Jesus makes an impact. When you talk to them just allow Him to enter the conversation as you would when talking to someone who is already born again.

“Disturb me Lord to get on and do the work of the Kingdom alongside You. Disturb me when I think I have accomplished what You have called me to do. there is always something more – another mountain to climb. Disturb me in my comfort zone”

I have always been a great lover of history and particularly the Elizabethan era in England. The Anglican Church was started by Henry VIII, not because he felt persecuted in his spiritual beliefs, but because he wanted to divorce his wife and marry someone else. In other words it was rebellion. For many of the people and for many of the rulers that followed it became a spiritual move. It allowed all people including the common people to be able to read the Bible for themselves and to make spiritual decisions for themselves instead of being dictated to by the existing church.

In researching this era I once came across the following poem by Sir Francis Drake. Drake was the admiral of the English fleet at the time of the great Armada that Spain sent against England. He was what I would call a “Legal pirate.” He and his ship, the Golden Hind would set sail and roust the Spanish ships that were returning from the New World and take the gold and jewels back to the queen. The following is a prayer/poem that was penned by him which surely illustrates his relationship with the Lord.

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## **DISTURB US LORD**

*Disturb us, Lord, when  
We are too pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, Lord, when  
With the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wilder seas  
Where storms will show Your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.*

*We ask you to push back  
The horizons of our hopes;  
And to push back the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.*

*This we ask in the name of our Captain,  
Who is Jesus Christ.*

(Written in 1577 by Vice Admiral Sir Francis Drake of the English navy who carried out the second circumnavigation of the world from 1577 to 1580).



## **MALAWI**

As you know, Malawi is still a developing country and most of its population is faced with problems of poor quality shelter or they have no shelter at all. The Malawian economy is currently facing a “cashgate” scandal and most of our politicians are being accused of corruption and money laundering. This problem has had the trickledown effect and has impacted the economy of the nation. The government no longer has sufficient funds to take care of the elderly and orphans or provide food and shelter for them.

When donors send money it is not used where designated but much of it lines the pockets of those in power. This has caused people to put their trust in organizations like Alabaster Ministries. Alabaster has really played a huge role regarding this existing problem by taking the initiative to provide homes and to renovate existing homes for the elderly in the rural areas. The worst hit rural area of Malawi is the Nsanje area in southern Malawi, not far from the Mozambique border.

These elderly people are abandoned by their children if they have them, or their grandchildren. The younger generation accuses many of them of being witches and they have no support or source of income. The existing homes are poorly put together and collapse early into the rainy season or the grass roofs blow off in the wind and provide no shelter.

As of now 18 homes have been completed with another two to be completed by the end of the year. The goal was 12 a year but God have been so faithful with “Abba’s House” and we have been able to erect 20 even though the price has more than doubled from the original assessment. The main purpose of Alabaster Ministries is to bring the Word of God to the people and to give them a better existence in their later years. We show them the love of God which He has placed in our hearts for them and in doing that we are winning more and more souls for His Kingdom.

If the Lord does not build the house then we labor in vain. In all that we do we make sure that it is what He wants. He first of all wants for them to know Him and then He wants them to know that He loves them and values them. Hard when they feel they have been cast aside by everyone.

Linda Mavutula Director Alabaster Ministries - Malawi

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## SILENCE OF THE PULPITS

**By Bill Warner**

If you are even slightly awake about the world news today, it is no surprise that Christians are being killed, raped, and brutalized throughout the Islamic world. However, there is a place where you can go to escape the dreadful and relentless details of Christian annihilation by Islam. You can just go to church. For example, Christians were killed this week in Nigeria. Nothing out of the ordinary -- indeed, in the world of Christian persecution, this is routine.

And so the response found in nearly every church to the murder of Christians is...wait for it...complete silence. Not a mention or reference to it, or to the brutality against Christians that happens almost every day in the Islamic world.

This is not a passive silence, because if you try to change it, you will fail. The silence is an active, working conspiracy that goes throughout nearly all of Christendom.

Take a simple example: prayer for the persecuted. From a Christian perspective, this falls under the heading of obvious. Try taking the idea of prayer for the routinely murdered Christians in Nigeria or Egypt to ministers, boards, and any part of the structure of the church, and see how far you will get. You will get rejection with a myriad of lame and evasive excuses, since the people in power fear to recognize the suffering of Christians around the world.

If you acknowledge the suffering, you might wind up asking the question: *why* are these Christians suffering? Ah, there is the rub. The suffering is caused by Muslim jihadists who are following the Islamic doctrine of jihad against the Christian as found in Koran, Sira, and Hadith. Islam is the cause of suffering of Christians, as well as of Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and atheists.

But stop! We cannot say those things! Facts are the new hate speech, so we cannot speak about the jihad against Christians. Therefore, we get no prayers for the persecuted, because it would lead to talk about why the murder of Christians keeps happening. And that truth would lead to being called an Islamophobe, so we are not going there. Result: silence.

It is ironic that the *Wall Street Journal*, a financial newspaper, has run an article about the silence at the pulpit concerning the suffering of Christians. We live in a time of moral inversion, when Christian leaders are chastised for their moral bankruptcy by money men. It is supposed to be the other way around.

Actually, there are few religious leaders left in America. Instead we have chief-executive-officers who manage a 501(c)(3) institution that has meetings on Sunday. In too many cases, Christianity has devolved into an hour's meeting that is supposed to make you feel good for a week. This 501(c)(3) corporate mentality is another one of the roots of the denial of the Christian suffering. If you are willing to see the doctrinal roots of the ongoing murder of Christians by Muslims, then you might have to speak about it from the pulpit, and that could be seen as political speech. In spite of the fact that there has never been a 501(c)(3) revoked because of political speech by a minister, the imagined loss silences ministers. Hmmm...if a minister is worried about the IRS revoking his 501(c)(3), then whom is the minister serving? Caesar or Christ?

Now, you may not be a Christian, and so it might seem that there is nothing here for you. But in reality we all have pulpits. Are we using the suffering of Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, women, gays, and intellectuals caused by Islam as a topic of conversation with those around us? Who is comfortable with bringing up anything negative about Islam? To tell those facts about Islam is a social crime, and you will be accused of being a hater/Islamophobe. So most of us remain silent about the evils of political Islam, and we are just like the ministers -- silent in our own pulpits. Christians and non-Christians share the fear of being insulted as bigots and Islamophobes. It turns out that all of those who oppose any social evil will be hated. Think about it. It takes a massive amount of power to put into place any societal doctrine, such as multiculturalism and political correctness. The government, universities, many churches, synagogues, and the media have become enforcers of multiculturalism and political correctness. They are very powerful and believe that their dogma rules all peoples. They are also full-throated apologists for Islam. Now it turns out that their actual knowledge about the doctrine and history of political Islam is close to zero and Muslim Brotherhood-approved, but that is no problem. The Establishment just says that those who find fault with Islam are bigots and that they hate us.

The silence of the pulpits is the greatest aider and abettor of Islam in the U.S. No one serves and advances Islam better than the silent ministers. They have abandoned their duty of courage in the face of persecution, but the rest of the flock still looks for moral leadership from them. Islam triumphs when Christian leaders do not condemn the

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murderous evil of political Islam.

Even worse than the silent ministers are those who go to "interfaith dialogs" and smile while the Muslims assert religious and political dominance over them. The nice, oh so nice Christians and Jews show up to tie, while the Muslims are there to win, and they do.

Christians need to follow the example of Jesus and willingly suffer the condemnation by the Establishment and fight against the political Islam that murders Christians. Said another way, Christians should demonstrate courage and sacrifice to support their cruelly murdered brothers and sisters.

It isn't just about religion; it is about the survival of our civilization.

We cannot defeat political Islam until we get Christian boots on the ground. Do the math. The pulpits must become a source of courage and knowledge and stand up for Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and all others who suffer under Islam's persecution today and who have suffered for the last 1,400 years.

It isn't just about religion; it is about the survival of our civilization.

***Bill Warner is the director of the Center for the Study of Political Islam.***



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## CHRISTMAS TIME

What a wonderful time of year! This is the first Christmas I have spent in the States for the past four years and I am looking forward to celebrating it with my children and grandchildren. It is such a wondrous time when you consider that the tiny baby in the manger grew up to be the Savior of the world. Not only that, but He is no longer the babe in the manger but our soon and coming KING. One day soon He will return in all of His glory accompanied by a great throng from heaven to catch up His Bride and His Church. We will know as the heavens will thunder all around the world and there will be such an incredible explosion in the heavens that will light up the whole earth. No one will have an excuse because all will know that He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and the government will be upon His shoulder. An army of light will approach and no one will mistake Him.

Let us remember Christmas not for the presents under the trees but in gratefulness for the babe in the manger. The reason for gifts is because He says it is wonderful to give and I love to give. Let us give, not just a wrapped box with gorgeous bows, but let us give ourselves. Let us remember those who have no family. It is always a difficult season for those who are alone. If you know someone like that then invite them to join you.