



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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SEPTEMBER 2013

Dearest Partners and Friends,
"God and me, we are the majority....." And even in saying that, He alone is the majority and I just tag along for the ride! With Him on our side how can we not triumph? Many of us will not even take the first step because we believe the task to be too enormous. How will we ever achieve anything if we do not step out in faith? There are multitudes who can talk the faith talk because for decades it was a subject that was blasted from the pulpit every Sunday but they have never put it into action. We all know what faith is, but what have we done with it? Have we continued to sit in the pew weekend after weekend nodding our head as the pastor delivers the message or have we put the Word into action? Faith is a noun and should always be paired up with a verb which is an action word. Faith to go..... faith to do..... faith to be..... faith to see!! If you feel that "going" for God is too huge a task then take a baby step until the wobbling stops and then take the next step. "One small step for a man and a giant leap for heaven." (Since everyone is now disputing what Armstrong really said when he stepped onto the moon, I am going to truly change it) Whatever we do today will impact eternity so let us make it count. May God never say of us, ***"I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."*** Ezekiel 22:30. On the other hand may we never get so proud that we begin to believe that we are the only people out there who are doing something for the Kingdom or that what we are doing is one of a kind. Remember Elijah whining about being the only prophet left in the land and God telling him that He had 7,000 others. "Yes, Elijah you have done a great job under MY guidance and in MY strength but there are many more out there - don't think that you are the only one. I chose you for the prophets of Baal because that was the calling I gave to you." Many of us do not have any idea what our calling or purpose is and we have become fat and comfortable on our pews, filling ourselves and never giving out what we have learned. African people love to be told stories or parables and they seem to grasp the truth more easily if they get the picture in their mind's eye. On my latest trip I was sharing with them on how they can make history or impact eternity. I am not saying that what they do or say will go down in some history book on earth but I am saying it will go down in the history books of heaven. I

would rather that than a history book here on earth since heaven is eternity. I was teaching on prayer for evangelism and how they now have this treasure in their vessels and they need to share it with their neighbor. When they do that and their neighbor begins to have a relationship with Jesus an impact is made on eternity. All of the angels rejoice over the salvation of one soul. If we never do anything with what we hear we become like a stagnant pond. There should always be fresh water flowing into a pond and there should be an outlet somewhere that keeps the waters fresh. If there is only water coming in and nothing going out then the water becomes fetid. That is like many of us who get filled weekend after weekend and never give out what we have been given.

Oh, that the living waters that are poured into us would flow out of us to our neighbors, our cities our nation and the nations of the world but we are like children who hang on to their toys and will not share, or, as we grow older we become self-conscious and are embarrassed to share. The Word says that Jesus takes pleasure in us and that He rejoices in us. I am sure that when we carry out even the smallest task He turns to the Father and says, "Dad, did you see that.... Did you see Peter lay hands on that man in faith and command that he be healed. Did you just see Mary witness to those people at the well? I'm so excited that they are carrying out the Gospel and lives are being transformed." He delights in us because we delight in Him. When something or someone delights us we cannot stop telling people. I was so delighted with what is going on in Africa that I cannot stop talking about it even when people don't seem to be very interested. When you are delighted in someone you want to tell everyone about them so why should it be different when we are delighted in the Lord? ***"Delight thyself in the Lord and He will give thee the desires of thy heart."*** When we delight in Him, His desires for us become our desires. When we fall in love with someone we often embrace

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what they love and sometimes end up enjoying what they like. Even sport ladies, except perhaps not every night!!! Even the cooking channel gentlemen! After all, the way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

Africa is a continent of wells. We have three areas that need wells and if they cannot get the equipment up the mountain then it is possible that we will use a group that will hand dig the wells. While I was on this last trip I asked the pastors how many of them or their congregations went to the wells and spent time sharing about Jesus. What an opportunity! You have a captive audience as there are always people pumping and others waiting to pump and everyone has to have water. Sad to say it seems there is little evangelism done by the churches which is why I taught on prayer and evangelism this last trip. All that we do should be well watered with prayer and intercession. In Luke 10 He appoints 72 disciples to go ahead of Him into the cities to prepare the way by praying and declaring that the Lord of the harvest was coming. One of the greatest evangelists/revivalists had two men who went before him to each city where they prayed and interceded for a breakthrough before Finney ever arrived on the scene. Mr. Nash and Mr. Cleary paved the way just as the 72 disciples did in the Bible. It WORKS!!

Our elderly do not know much about the Bible as they cannot read or write but they do know about the power of Christ and the power of prayer as they have seen God answer their prayers. Not only that, they put into action what they have learned even though it may take a couple of times of teaching before they do it. Many of them will go to the wells in their area and will sit under a tree in the shade and tell people about this wonderful Man who died to save them so that they will one day go to a place where there will be no more tears. They will tell others why, in the midst of such poverty and hardship they are at peace.



TRIP TO MALAWI

What a trip, what a trip! It was a whirlwind and far too short but Dad had been in a very bad way and had been unable to walk or do anything for himself and we feared that perhaps the end was near. I spent a week with him in South Africa only to find out that he had bounced back and was getting around with a walker. The big joke in the Howard family has always been; "When you peg..... (die). Even in high school we three kids used to joke about it. Sorry but we have an odd sense of humor. When I arrived to find him walking my first statement was; "whenever I think you are about to peg you come bouncing back again." So, having given everyone a scare he seems to be back to his old self and his appetite certainly has not been affected.

From there I flew into Blantyre and everything was a go, go, go. Linda and I purchased all that was required for distribution – this time 10 kgs maize meal, 2 kgs beans, sugar, salt, tea stainless steel bowls and a spoon and a face cloth and Ibuprofen. I bought 50kg nylon bags from the market so that they could use those to carry everything home with them. Thank you for making this possible. Please remember that it costs \$20 per month to feed each of the elderly.

We set off for the south and spent the next four days in the villages. It was wonderful to see the spiritual growth in so many of them. When I asked who met with a group two or three times a week to pray about 70% of them raised their hands and upon checking with the local pastors they admitted it was true and the old people were not raising their hands to please me. The rains are supposed to come in October so I told them to start to pray immediately and not wait for a drought to begin before they did. As stated in the editorial I taught them to pray for an open door to evangelize and then go out and do it. The cottages we have built are wonderful and the old man in the wheelchair told me he was so excited to be able to go to bed at night and not hear mosquitoes buzzing around his head or feel rain dripping on his head.

Upon arriving I was told that the President is now handing out blankets to the elderly (if you want an audience then buy five blankets and take them to the palace). She has also started building three roomed cottages for the destitute. According to reports I got she has used photos

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EGYPT

A couple of months ago I had an article on the situation in Egypt. It was to do with everyone getting together and praying that change would come. Well, change has come in the most amazing way and all this has taken a back seat from the news media because of the Syrian situation. As an aside, has anyone asked where the WMD (chemical weapons) that Syria used come from?

Whether the media admits it or not, and most of them do not, the Muslim Brotherhood is not just a political organization but it is a religious organization that believe there is only one form of law and that is Sharia Law. Sharia law brings bondage and not freedom. There is nothing democratic about Sharia law. The ousted President can say what he likes about the freedoms of the Coptic Church in Egypt but the teachings of Mohammad state that ALL infidels (those who do not adhere to Islam) are to be put to the sword. There is nothing peaceful or democratic about Allah. Soon after being sworn in as president, Morsi 'temporarily' granted himself unlimited powers on the ground that he would "protect" the nation from the Mubarak-era power structure, which remained in place in late November 2012, and the power to legislate without judicial oversight or review of his acts. He also put a draft constitution to a referendum that opponents complained was "an Islamist coup and began replacing existing leadership with cronies from the Muslim Brotherhood including the Prime Minister.

Suddenly, Egypt rises up and overthrows President Morsi after only one year of presidency. Not only that they have now banned the Muslim Brotherhood who have moved their headquarters to England. Doesn't England have enough problems already without inviting an organization such as the Muslim Brotherhood to camp out on their front step? It is a shame that the church in England does not step up to the plate and begin to pray like the church in Egypt. The change in a nation should be brought about according to the prayers of the church who move and pray in accordance to the directing of the Holy Spirit.

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of our cottages to raise money for her organization. If I were to pay people to build our cottages (two roomed) it would cost me \$60 per cottage but our agreement with the villagers is that we supply the materials and they do the building. She is paying builders \$700 to build each of her cottages and that does not include materials.

It is election year 2014 so there is a mad scramble to do this kind of thing to get the vote. James, who once again ministered to the young people with wonderful results, was talking to some of the elderly who stated they had heard about the blankets and cottages Mrs. Banda (the President) was doing. They said that she had copied the idea from Pastor Lozzie (that's me as Malawians say L for R and R for L) and she was just doing it to get their vote. They may be backwoods and uneducated Africans but they are sharp. When James asked if they were going to vote for her they said that the only person doing anything for them without expecting a return was Pastor Lozzie and they were going to vote for her. James said that they could not because she would not be on the ballot so they said they would ask for her to be added so they could put their mark there. There was much laughter over dinner as James shared that with us.

We now have 17 houses up. Eight are completely finished with people living in them, five should be finished in the next couple of weeks and four by the end of November and we plan to have another three by the end of the year. That is twenty since April. The wonderful thing is to see how excited they are and the fact that they know when we say we will do something it happens. A friend in Florida is having 20 plaques made that are inscribed "Abba's House" and these will be screwed onto the front door of each house because He gets the glory.



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GIRLS

We are going ahead with the project for the girls in five villages we work in. We now have 35 from the age of 8 years to 18 years. Most of these girls are orphans who are now in the care of extended family and who are used as slave labor, prostitutes to bring in money for their adoptive families or they are being married off at an early age as the second, third or fourth wife. One eight year old we managed to save from being sold for a bag of sugar. If we can keep them clothed, in school and supplied with school uniforms, exercise books, pens and pencils and ensure their fees are paid there is less likelihood of them being sold. We were horrified to see how lost and abused some of these girls were &

there is a desperate need for counseling. They cannot look at you and if they do their eyes are dead. It will cost about \$120 for each girl per year to keep them in school. We do eventually want to put up a place where the worst off can come and feel safe and be counseled. We have the land which has water and electricity on it. We need to build a center.



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2014 CONFERENCE

Upon reflecting on the 2012 conference that we held last year in April, I said never again. It went so well, everything was perfect and everyone had a wonderful time, BUT, when thinking on the logistics of it all, I figured it could never be repeated. On this last trip I was asked on more than one occasion if we could do another conference. When we put it to the elderly they were really excited. So..... we will be having a conference July 6th through 10th 2014. If anyone would like to come and be a part of it please let me know. It is not comfortable. We want to build a house near the conference center but do not think it will be ready by then. At least it will be cool and there will be a minimum of mosquitoes at that time of year. The quickest way to get there is on Delta into Johannesburg, overnight there and then fly into Blantyre the following day. That would mean leaving from Atlanta GA July 3rd.

I would suggest two full weeks. We would have to return to Johannesburg on Wednesday 16th. You will have plenty of opportunities to pray for the sick and to minister. We normally have two teaching session in the morning each for an hour with a group session after each for an hour. After lunch there is another hour teaching session followed by a group session putting into practice whatever they have learned. After that they have a time of fellowship or they can bathe and then there is early supper and they normally go to bed by seven. We will definitely have a foot washing on the first afternoon – we will wash feet and pray over them. We are expecting 375 elderly this time and since school will be out we will also invite the girls to attend. There will be about 30 pastors as well so approximately 450 people. Perhaps two days at the game park on the way home!!