



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

MAY NEWS 2015

Dearest Partners and Friends,

What an amazing trip to Malawi!! But God, how we need "Philips Airlines!" Coming back I was two hours in flight with a three hour layover and then eighteen hours with a two hour layover and finally three hours home. It was worth it though, to be greeted by those wonderful smiling faces and on my return to be greeted again by loving family. How I love my family and I am fortunate in knowing that it is reciprocated by all four of my children and my three grandchildren. What more can we ask for? We are doing the work of the Lord. He loves, He is blessing abundantly, we are loved and He gives us the ability to love others unreservedly.

How many of us still think of God as the great hand of judgment? We still live under the laws of Moses written on rock rather than the law of love which should be written on our hearts. The more holy we try to become the more religious we become. Someone recently sent me this quote:

"Honesty, rather than holiness is the basic requirement in our relationship with God." How true.

It is only in our honesty before God that we can be set free and yet we still try to hide things from Him because we know that as long as there are hidden factors in our lives we think we will not have to deal with them. We like those things and are not quite ready to give them up. It is not a case of being unable but a case of being unwilling.

I believe that the true definition of agape love is the resolute dedication to sacrificial deeds for another. Jesus exemplified this for us because, *"while we were yet sinners....."* He went to the Cross and died for us. That type of love is not based on emotion but on will. Love today denotes emotional feelings one for another. We are in love as long as things are going well but there is little commitment and no-one keeps covenant. When we make a commitment to Christ or to one another we are in covenant with them and covenants are never to be broken.

"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law." Rom 13:8. The last six of the Ten Commandments are covered by the scripture, *"Love thy neighbor as thyself."* Mk 12:31.

"Love thy neighbor." WHAT? With his obnoxious kids and barking dogs? How can I possibly love them? They

don't even like me and won't even greet me! How do I turn that attitude around? It is not as hard as it looks on the surface. It simply means respecting others and regarding their needs and desires as highly as I regard my own. Often though, I have no regard for myself. I do not see myself as God sees me - the one He died for so that He could have a relationship. Keeping this commandment - *"love thy neighbor as thyself,"* however, is likely to require the supernatural assistance only God, through Christ, can provide. I am living proof of that with the way I felt about the elderly. How can I learn to love the neighbor when I don't even like him? Perhaps the secret is to recognize that the neighbor, whether it's the person next door, the contractor up the road, the man who comes to install the window blinds or the Sunday school teacher at church, is someone precious in God's sight and equally as deserving of God's love as I am.

John 1:14 says: *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."* It is paraphrased in the Message as follows: *"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish."*

The only way we love our neighbor no matter how unlovely we deem him to be, is through getting to know Christ, the living Word of God. It's human nature to copy those we admire most. How many of us die a copy when God made us an original? We all have our idols that we look to whether it be actor, sportsman, Christian singer or preacher. In getting to know Christ, we'll discover a God worthy of our whole-hearted love, and our neighbor will see that love in us. The only Jesus mankind will see is the Jesus in you and me. Allow Him access to love through you so that you can be His hands and feet and His mouthpiece to a lost and dying world.

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MEET BELITA BONJESI



We would like to introduce you to Belita Bonjesi. She comes from a place known as Tengani in the Nsanje district and she is over 95 and lives with her elder sister who happens to be over a 100. She is a widow with two children. Her son presently lives in the area and is over 70 whilst her daughter is married and lives with her husband. In her early 20s Belita immigrated to Nsanje from Mozambique. She was ill this trip so we took her hamper to her and she began to tell us her story. She said when she came to Malawi she was so beautiful she took away the breath of many men in the villages and they all chased after her. She held up her very frail arms to show what old age has done to her. "See," she said, "once my veins were on the inside of my arms and now they are on the outside." Despite the fact she was ill with dysentery she kept her sense of humor. She has one of the cottages we have built and shares it with her blind sister. She hopes her sister will die before her because if she goes first there will be no-one to take care of her sister but Belita has been sick on and off for almost a year and has grown very frail since my last trip in December.

One would expect that the son would take care of his sickly mother but instead he inflicts more emotional pain on her with his routine of constant drinking. He only visits to try to steal her food and seems to know exactly when we have been in the area delivering food. She has stood her ground until he threatened one day to take a panga (large knife used for hacking wood) to her and kill her for the little food they have. Undaunted, she told him, "Before you kill me, I will take this stick and lay you out." As she was telling us she was lifting her walking stick in the air.

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REPORT FROM MALAWI

In the year 2010, a strong Christian foundation was established called Alabaster Ministries. It is a foundation that was set to administer the glory of God to the elderly for they are roots of the many generations that come after them. Early this year we went down to Nsanje to visit the elderly and again we experienced the power and the presence of God.

As we visited the 403 elderly people we have under our care, not only did we share with them our gift hampers which include basic needs like sugar, soap and many more, but we also shared with them the priceless but yet the most important gift of all time which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We stood in awe as we saw our grandmothers and grandfathers pour out their hearts to God in total surrender with nothing but joy in their hearts as they stay assured of the wonderful place that awaits them after a long hard life - that place being Heaven. Not only did we have a great time with them but we also had communion representing the unity that has risen as a result of this ministry. However the wonderful work that the Lord is doing with Alabaster is also influenced by the great team that we have which is always selflessly willing to go down to Nsanje to help whenever help is needed and this team includes Pastor Penny from England, Mrs Navaya and Pastor Roz Heyns. We have a team of cooks from Nsanje village who always come with us to cook lunch for the elderly after the meetings are finished. One of them takes four days off work to be a part of what she considers an extremely worthy endeavor.

All in all we had a great time and we can't wait for another wonderful experience.

Linda Mavutula Director, Alabaster Ministries Malawi



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We're on the Web.
See us at: rozheyns.org
You can donate on line.
Email: alabastermin@aol.com
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Her daughter visits her occasionally but does little else to help her mother and aunt, She does not even cook for them and I am sure that some of the food is taken by her.

Belita told us that when she goes to bathe under the trees some of the village kids go into their cottage and steal their things. I asked her why she did not lock the door and she said that no-one had shown her how and now they can no longer find the key. She had a padlock hasp put on but no padlock so we purchased one for her. This does not prevent anyone from coming in at night though.

She clearly stated that she is not afraid of death because she stands firm in her faith and knows that she is a child of God and the only thing she can do is wait for the Lord to call her name.

These two sisters are the reason why we need to build the center on our property in Tengani. Their lives are in jeopardy and Bonita is becoming too frail to take care of herself let alone a blind sister as well.

We are building a house on site for a young pastor who is married and once the center is built we will begin to move some of these elderly and the Pastor's wife will take care of them by making sure that they have water on hand for bathing and she will cook for them.

We stood for a while and listened as the two sisters bantered with each other. They argued as to whose cottage it was: "Pastor built it for me," - "No, I am the eldest, she built it for me...." They sounded like small children arguing over a toy and they are like children, all over again but they have no-one to care for them. Will you help the Belita's that we have in Africa? There are so many taking care of orphans and so few who care about these elderly who are beginning to change their nation as

bring their prayer and intercession and offer them at the feet of Jesus. They may be old and frail but they are making a huge difference in the land through prayer.

When things seem insurmountable the answer is prayer and God will come through as He is for them.



AMAZON SMILE

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"You can increase your organization's donation potential by spreading the word about AmazonSmile. Sign in to <http://org.amazon.com> and click on Marketing Tools to access customized online tools to let your supporters know that their AmazonSmile shopping can support Alabaster Ministries Inc. Here are several tactics that have been successful for participating organizations.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3457491> and ask your donors, volunteers, employees, and friends to bookmark this link so all their eligible shopping will benefit Alabaster Ministries Inc. "

Please sign in. It takes no time at all and they pay out every three months. Make Amazon work for us!

EMAIL

Please Note that I am changing my email address to:

rozellaheyns@gmail.com. Mail to Alabastermin@aol.com will be forwarded for some months. My children are thrilled at this move. They keep telling me that some of my media usage is so antiquated. I have little love for the news media behind AOL which I consider extremely liberal so this is a good move - right?

Many seem to be unaware of the fact that we have a web site. There are so many Alabaster Ministries out there so we decided to make the web address:

Rozheyns.org

It is updated every couple of months and the newsletter can be downloaded and read there. You may also sign up to receive the newsletter if you want a hard copy. There is access to paypal on the web in order to donate via them if you do not want to send a check. I am signed up with them as a nonprofit so their fees are not as high as they normally charge.

STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

For anyone in the U.K. who would like to donate towards the work of this ministry please go to the following:

<https://www.give.net/20170415>

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KALIBU MINISTRIES/ACADEMY/SHEKINAH MINISTRIES

Four years ago Alabaster Ministries was birthed in order to focus on the elderly in Malawi, especially in southern Malawi where they seem to be much older than the rest of the country. During this time we have been establishing ourselves and establishing the work. It is very effective and we are already beginning to see change. We now need to begin to build for ourselves and have our own base.

Kalibu has been of great assistance in helping us establish. They have loaned us their truck and a driver when we have needed to transport the food from Blantyre to Nsanje and I have been able to stay at one of the cottages at the school during the time I am in Blantyre. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Paisley Mavutula, James and Isaiah for all of their invaluable help and assistance during this transition. Without them things would decidedly have been much more difficult. May God bless them for serving Alabaster Ministries.



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URGENT MINISTRY NEEDS

HOUSE FOR PASTOR		
Cement	227,500 MK	535.00 US \$
Iron Sheets	90,000 MK	212.00
Bricks	50,000 MK	118.00
Timber	70,000 MK	165.00
Incidentals (nails, wire etc)	45,000 MK	106.00
Labor	80,000 MK	188.00
TOTAL	562,500 MK	1,324.00
ROOFING FOR ELDERLY (ABBA'S) COTTAGES		
5 Cottages	150,000 MK	353,00 US \$