



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

APRIL 2016

Dearest Friends,

The following is the report from Francis Banda who administrates Alabaster in Malawi. He has come so far from where he was last October. God has faithfully been working in him as he has co-labored with us. It is amazing to me that the team that now works alongside are all young people and they have such a love and respect for their elders. That is something that is lacking in today's cultural revolution in Africa.

"Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that you are in good health and that the Almighty God is keeping you well.

My life experiences assure me that our God is an amazing God and as long as we remain faithful, He never stops revealing more of His nature to us until we overflow with His everlasting love. The almighty God has continuously blown my mind into a million tiny pieces and I am still in awe at how He operates.

God loves because that is His nature. Human beings often fall short of God's standard and sometimes ask the question, "Why should I accommodate everyone?" In 1 Corinthians 13:3-8 the Word of God teaches us that:

"If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, BUT do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind; it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs, it does not delight in evil BUT rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres and love NEVER fails."

God has been dealing with me of late. He has continuously pulled me out of my comfort zone and brought me into an unfamiliar place, full of experiences peculiar and breathtaking. It is amazing to see how God teaches us to love after His nature and how He teaches us to trust Him.

He pulls us out of the little bubble we call our world, takes away all the things we trust and count on and then He removes our security so that He can show us His power that we may believe in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ and His undying love for all mankind.

When I started going out in the villages and working with the old people, I had this constant reminder, "LOVE THEM AS I HAVE LOVED YOU!" We can never achieve anything God has commanded us to do if we have no love in us.

I had no idea when to expect and what it would be like out there in rural Malawi. I am a "city" boy! The Lord zeroed in on my weaknesses and doubts; he shed more light on my life and literally obliterated all fear, doubts and darkness around me.

This has taught me a very important principle in my life as a believer. Instead of us crying, "Woe is me," when faced with obstacles, we should shout, "Lord Jesus, be with me as I go through these times." I guarantee that you will feel an extraordinary presence of God in your life and you will witness the power of is Holy Spirit working in your life."

ALABASTER'S TEAM OF YOUNG PEOPLE



Sometimes we may doubt our abilities and forget that we are simply clay in the hand of the Creator. We ought to learn to trust in God and listen to the constant calling of the Holy Spirit.

God will continue to stretch our boundaries and abilities just as the potter does with clay. I am absolutely grateful that God awarded me the privilege to work with the elderly of the Lower Shire and Chididi and anywhere else He might send me. I am glad that I see God's face in their tears, their sufferings but also in their laughter, joy and thanksgiving.

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REPORT FROM MALAWI

We have had an amazing trip. We had to take maize down as it is so very expensive in the lower Shire due to the drought. The Saturday before we left we spent the day packing maize into the individual sacks along with the matches, tea, sugar and salt and the bags of soya pieces. We normally give them ten bags of soya but because of the lack of food we gave twenty this trip. In a plastic bag we put the soap, Vaseline, face cloth and little drawstring burlap bags with money for milling the maize, pain killers and safety pins. Oresti, our Malawian director donated small packets of sausage which they can eat cold or heat up with their meal.

Some of those who were with us the last time have passed on and although we miss them we are so comforted to know that they are in a better place with no more sickness, pain or suffering. That is the real purpose of this ministry – that they find HIM in whom there is everlasting life and I am persuaded that when we finally cross over into eternity we will find all of them there worshipping around the throne. This has always been HIS project. It was HE who looked down from heaven and saw a lost and dying people who had no hope, who were destitute, unloved and uncared for and HE sent a team to ensure that not only would they find their way to HIM but they would also experience love and compassion whilst still here on earth.

We left the mountain villages until the end of the trip as they are always delightful to visit. We followed the same program we seem to have set. Penny Shellswell joined me from England to help teach on healing. We were amazed to see the sickness and disease amongst the children in the villages except for the mountains. Many of the kids have HIV and were obviously born with it. God is no respecter of persons and will heal so we had opportunity not just to pray for healing for the elderly but also for many children. The kids came flocking out of the schools when they heard we were there and Peter took them off and sang with them and told them Bible stories.



MEET SUMATI PEKA

He is 96 years old and comes from Nathando Village. He was married only once and was a faithful husband as he loved his wife who has long since passed away. He worked as a goat herder and butcher which is how he made a living and he had 12 children seven of whom have died. He now has seven grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.



He managed to get into a school by cooking the teachers' food so that he did not have to pay fees which his parents could not afford. He learned to write and read in Chichewa and went to the Catholic Church. He moved to Zimbabwe and worked in Harare as a butcher for nine years from 1949 to 1958. He has never suffered from any serious sickness or disease and in times of drought they learned to survive on the weed from the bottom of the Shire River that the hippo eat. They would brave the crocodiles to get to it. I asked him where he lives and he told me under a tree as he never sees or hears from family. When it rains he pulls his blanket that we gave him up over his head. He truly learned about Jesus and made a commitment to Him after we started teaching in his area. We have to build a cottage. Please can you help? The bricks will cost \$100. The door will be \$14. Roof is \$100 and mosquito gauze \$15.

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We're on the Web.
See us at: rozheyns.org
You can donate on line.
Email: alabastermin@aol.com

REPORT FROM PENNY SHELLSWELL : U.K.

Leaving our lovely base in Limbe early in the morning, we travelled down from the plateau to Nsanje some 100's of feet below. The landscape of mountains near and far with the River Shire (sheeri) in the very far distance is spectacular; although I have travelled up and down this several times now it never fails to impress me.

There is a very definite difference in temperature and the heat below stayed with us most of the time – even after a shower you still felt damp!

We visited the 5 villages with large numbers of elderly making a total of 420. The incredible planning, forethought and organization for supplying care for so many is an amazing achievement.

It was a delight to watch this young team working together with such love and care for all these dear old folk (including myself at times!!). Francis and Stanford I have known for a while and I met Peter last year; now there is Charles. Their abilities are varied in leading worship and organizing the distribution of some very basic essentials that Roz had purchased, to the roster, checking those who were entitled to lunch and those who were hoping to sneak in unnoticed, was excellent – sad that there are always some who want to cheat the system!

I had the pleasure of sharing on the Lord's desire to heal. We looked at several scriptures, some of which we got them to repeat over and over, Ps 103 v 3 for example, and I shared some miracles of healing from my own family. They were encouraged to be co-laborers with those who 'go' by being prayer supporters. Also we gave ideas on how to share Jesus with all the non-believers around thus fulfilling the Lord's command in Mk 16: 15-18.

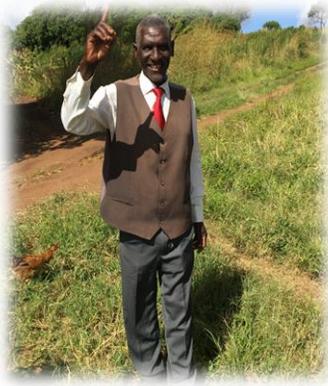
There were many that I recognized from previous visits and it was really good to be among them all again. Each area is different but Chididi still remains my favorite area. Up in mountains again they seem to be so longing to hear the Word and are a very encouraging and giving people. I loved every minute of my time there.

Besides the care, there is so much to be done in the way of building to form a solid base and with 100 new converts from the Easter Crusade and another Crusade being planned, this time for Chididi, Bibles are once again much needed. Vehicles are required to transport everything but for me and my husband to be a small part of such a growing ministry is a great joy and very exciting. The Lord is truly wonderful.

A PICNIC AFTER THE DISTRIBUTION AT CHIDIDI



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CHIDIDI

Our young Pastor Peter who is pastor to the elderly has a father who pastors up at Chididi. He came and greeted us upon our arrival and asked to join Alabaster Ministries. What an honor that he would want to work alongside us. About fifteen minutes later a young man from the border with Mozambique walked up to us and told us that he had walked three hours to get to the meeting. He said that he had attended the meeting on my last trip and had seen me arrested. He said that he was so impressed with the way everyone handled the situation that he went back to his church and renamed it Alabaster Church. There are a number of pastors who really need our support as they are doing a wonderful work. We would like to support Pastor Kankochi (photo on the left) the equivalent of \$30 per month and the young pastor from the Mozambique border \$15 per month. If anyone would be willing to do this please email us and let us know. We would like to begin at the end of June. The other Pastor that needs support is Charles who will pastor our church at Tengani and we would like to start him at \$15 per month.

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Pastor Shadreck Kanchila from Mozambique border – we would like to support him at \$15 per month.



Pastor Dykes Nyakamera from Chididi who hosts us when we are there. We would like to support him at \$15 per month.



Senior elder Kadzuwa Gambuleni of a Chididi church that has no pastor. He has been pastoring there for at least the past year. \$15 per month.



Pastor Charles from Tengani. He is our Pastor. We want to start him at \$15 per month.