



# 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

## AUGUST 2016

Dearest Friends,

I recently attended a wedding in Charlotte NC. I am not huge into weddings as I normally have to attend them alone but I have seldom seen a bride and groom more excited about getting married than this couple were. It was held at an antebellum style home and the ceremony was outside under the trees where there was a gazebo. The father of the groom was marrying them. We were all ushered to our seats and the bride came out in a very beautiful cream gown. As she and the groom stepped into the gazebo, it began to drip little droplets of rain. We bravely sat there praying that the heavens would not open but they did and no one moved as the ceremony continued and we all got soaked. Did it daunt any of us? Definitely not! We went on to enjoy a wonderful evening of joy and laughter, great company, good food and dancing. It was actually somewhat saddening when it was all over and I made my way back to the hotel. Normally I am one of the first to leave.

It made me think of the marriage of the Lamb and the marriage supper of the Lamb. We go through life so unhappy about what we have and what we do and yet we should be excited and waiting in anticipation for the most wonderful marriage that will ever take place in the annals of the history of creation. Our marriage to the King of all Kings. What a ceremony that will be, followed eventually by the most incredible banquet of all time!

It is righteousness that will identify the Bride. In Rev 19:8 speaks of it, *"And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."* Just as in history it will be the Father who chooses the Bride, *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him"* (Jn 6:44). In history, it was always the parents who chose the partner for their child. But how wonderful that the Father has sent the Holy Spirit out seeking and searching for me just as Abraham sent out his servant to find a wife for Isaac? I am so important to God the Father that He sent out the Holy Spirit to find me!

Do we love and adore our Lord as He does us? Is He the very focus of our being? Do you remember what it was like when you walked down the aisle towards your groom? A bride feels as if she will never be more radiant or beautiful than she does when walking towards her future husband. She has eyes only for him. The groom is fixated on his bride. Jesus has eyes only for us!

It does not matter who else is in that room, when the bride and groom are so in love there is no place for anyone else. That is how it will be one day when He, Jesus, the groom comes for us. His bride will be shining in her robes of righteousness and there will be no spot or wrinkle. We will rise to meet Him in the air – what a glorious day that is going to be.

In the meanwhile we have to be ready for His appearing as if it is tomorrow and but live and occupy and obey and be busy about His business as if He will never come in our lifetime.

One day..... One day..... one day, I will be His bride and it will not be the marriage that may or may not be successful – may or may not end up in the divorce courts but it will be a marriage for all eternity – never ending. Are we so in love with our Lord and Savior that we look for the day that I am His and He is mine and His banner over me is love. There is never any doubt in my mind that He loves me. The Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth for me! What a sacrifice. What a salvation! What incredible love.



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**REPORT FROM STANFORD SEMU FROM  
CHILEKA BLANTYRE**

Greetings to you in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I hope that you are all well. I would like to thank God almighty for the gift of life and the privilege to know Him as my Savior and friend.

God is faithful and His promises are true to the diligent and those who seek and thirst after righteousness. We witnessed another extraordinary time with the Holy Spirit when we hosted a prayer and healing service on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August at the farm. In these desperate times when liberal humanism continuously strides to pervert the living reality of Jesus Christ and prevent us from enjoying an intimate relationship with our Lord, it is imperative to remain steadfast as to what the Spirit says through the word of God. My Bible says the blood of Jesus has the power to change my life forever and that the blood of Jesus will NEVER lose its power.

We reminded each other of these simple truths and those who believed were instantly touched by the blessed Holy Spirit. We had a Mr. Chikondi Sandram who struggled with a throat problem and after prayer he was instantly healed. Mrs. Esther Kananje had a heart problem and was in and out of the hospital between the months of June and July 2016. My wife (Ruth) and I visited her in her home and encouraged her to come to the prayer and healing service. I emphasized on the power that lies in the Blood. We prayed for Mrs. Kananji and she was made whole again. This is not an African story; the power of the Lord knows neither geographical positions nor boundaries, it does not require anything but faith and the willingness to know Christ more and more. I believe that we are at the end of the end and that the church needs to rise up and preach the living reality of Jesus Christ and the Power that lies within. I would like to extend my heartfelt regards to you all and thank you for your undying support and prayers. Please continue to pray for us as we will also continue to keep you in our prayers. May the almighty God bless you and reward you exceedingly.

Pastor Stanford and Ruth Semu.

**SOLOMON BANDA**

I give thanks to Him whose love for us endures forever; He that is seated on the throne and remains in absolute control even in the face of a global economic distress and chaos. I am minded of the words of that old song, "It's the Holy Ghost and power that is keeping us alive... Jesus is keeping us alive." I thank the Lord for keeping you, all our friends and partners, and who in obedience to the Lord and in love Him make it possible for me to attend Pentecostal Bible and Leadership College and the others who the Lord blesses through this ministry.

Bible School week just ended and Pastor Abel and Doctor Harlyn Purdy took us through an intensive study of ministerial ethics and the book of Isaiah. With what is happening in the world today one does not need much convincing to agree with Leonard Ravenhill who quoted from Elton Trueblood, a Quaker philosopher that, "By the year 2000, the church of Jesus Christ will be a conscious minority surrounded by an arrogant militant paganism." Challenged by terrorist attacks, abortion and many other ethical and moral issues the church must disregard the politically correct rhetoric and stand on the rock of all Ages and the truth of the Word of God. No amount of legislation by nations will ever be truer than the Word of God. To the politicians and lawmakers we are to respond; "...*Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye*" Acts 4:19.

The life and teachings of Isaiah are equally prominent. The book shows us that Yahweh is not only the God of Israel but also the God of all the nations of this world. Likewise, Jesus is not only Lord to the professing believer; He is the Lord of the entire universe and every man regardless of whether or not they chose to acknowledge him. Our God is the master of his history. He controls everyone even in history and the rulers of the world are no more than pens yielding to his mighty hand. Therefore, we need not fear because through the chaos, the violence, and the economic strife, JESUS is still in control.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our friends and partners in the body of Christ for all the work you are doing in Malawi. You are feeding the hungry, sheltering the destitute, and clothing the needy, and above all teaching the Word. May the Lord richly bless you. I thank you from the depth of my heart.

Matthew 25:34-40, "*Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungered and you gave me meat: I was thirsty and you gave me drink: I was a stranger and you took me in: Naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me: I was in prison and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him saying Lord, when saw we thee un hungered and fed thee? Or thirsty and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger and took thee in? Or Naked and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison and we came unto you? And the King shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*"

Ed note: Solomon is the brother of Francis who is the administrator for Alabaster, Malawi. We are paying his Bible School fees.

### REPORT FROM PETER KANKOCHE

I bless you in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit and pray that the Lord is keeping you well. We are all well here at Tengani and rejoice to have yet another opportunity to correspond with you, our friends, in the body of Christ. I have just returned from a week session of Bible school and like as always, it was so refreshing as well as eye opening. I spent time studying the book of Isaiah and I was so touched by the 61<sup>st</sup> chapter. The Spirit of God reveals to Isaiah what Christ would come to do and He says *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has appointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound..."* I sat with my head in my hands thinking, have I really been following in my master's footsteps? Have I been preaching good tidings and in the name of Jesus breaking the shackles that enslave so many to sin? The role of every Christian, be it young or old is to proclaim the Word of God to the masses and if we are not doing that then we have fallen so far away from everything Jesus Christ represents.

I am so happy to be learning so much from the Bible school and working with the elderly in the villages. I am glad to report that the elderly have started doing their little gardens in their backyards in Nsanje. Pastor Chikwapa and I have been helping an old lady who struggles with Leprosy. Her vegetable garden was attacked by the locust which hit the Lower Shire two weeks ago. I was just so touched to see this poor old lady who almost lost everything, but unlike most of us, she did not stop and still kept gardening. There will be times in our lives when we will be faced with difficulties and challenges so overwhelming that we almost feel like giving up and we often ask the question "God where are you?" God is never too far away to hear us, He's never so preoccupied to tend to us, and He's always there with us every step of the way. We should remember what God said to Jeremiah, *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee..."* Jeremiah 1:5. Instead of crying out, "Lord where are You?" we should say Jesus take the wheel and lead us where we ought to be.

We bless you all in the name of our Lord and thank you for your prayers and support.

Pastor Peter and Martha.

Ed Note: We would like to thank Pastor Peter Kankoché for his love in giving us his land so that we can begin to build a church in Chididi. We have begun to collect bricks to lay the foundations and begin to build what will be our operating center up in the mountains. We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to Jennerford Kankoché (Peter's dad) and Yoweri Kankoché for their support. This family has been more than a blessing to our work and we pray to God the Father in heaven to bless them.



These bricks are to build the new church at Chididi.



All that is left after the locusts.

I am taking a lot of seed with me on this trip so that we can distribute to each of the cotton candies who would like or who are able to grow a vegetable garden. We also want to purchase a mango or avocado sapling that they can plant outside their front door and use their finished bath water on. Mangos grow prolifically there and Avocados are a wonderful form of nutrition. Added to that they are both shade trees and can supply shade to the houses.

I am always looking for good ideas so if any of you have some that will help and enlighten the load of the cotton candies please email me.

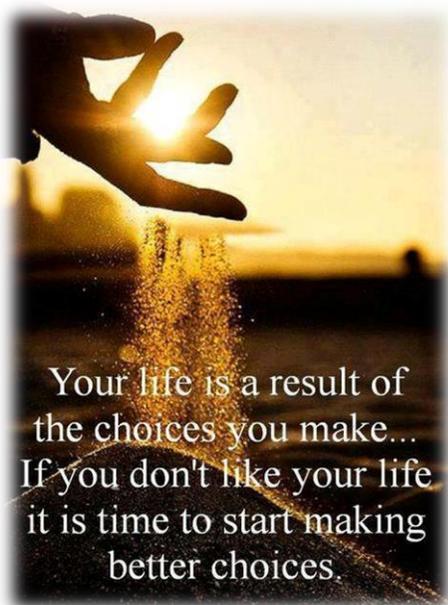
Tuesday Morning have just had sets of cotton thread and needles for 0.49 a pack. That is a wonderful gift. If you have Tuesday morning in your area would you please buy them out of their sets. I need 450.

A couple of months ago we wrote about an old man who had no family and no home and slept under the trees and an old blind and crippled woman who slept on the porch of her daughter's house. Thanks to you we were able to build cottages for each of them. This is the cottage for Sumati Jeki who is 96 years old. He will be able to live out his last days in more comfort than he has ever known. It is our belief that these cotton candies should live their last years with dignity and in some comfort. He will have a front door that locks to prevent theft and as you can see, he has burglar bars on his windows. I am excited to be able to see them soon. Repairs were done to the headman's house in one of the villages and a corrugated iron roof was put on the house of the senior pastor in the mountain area of Chididi. I will be posting live facebook recordings while I am there this time.



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**PLANS FOR THE PROPERTY**

We are going ahead with the dormitories for the Bible School. If you are able to help us in any way, we will be very grateful.

We are trying to break down the costs for the dormitories to make it easier for supporters to understand. The sooner we can build these, the sooner we can begin to teach these wonderful pastors who are desperate to study the Word and be taught the basics.

Foundations:	\$ 300
Bricks:	\$3,500
Wood for roof trusses:	\$ 600
Wood for windows:	\$ 350
Bunk Beds:	\$ 400
Mattresses:	\$ 480
Desks:	\$ 560
Chairs:	\$ 400

The last thing I wanted to do was to build but it seems that this is what the Lord would have us do. Building for the right reason is all we need to know and these buildings will be effective for the growth of the Kingdom in this area. We plan to have effective pastors, children's church leaders, youth pastors and outreach workers for women.