



# 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*

8514 N. Donna Ct. Kansas City, MO 64153 (816)503-6177

*Roz Heyns*

## FEBRUARY NEWS 2016

Dearest Friends,

What an amazing trip I just had to Africa! Someone tried to have me arrested and God was so faithful. It was as if I knew the end from the beginning. The Holy Spirit just quietly kept reminding me about Haman and Mordecai. He told me to just rest in Him which I was able to do because I had done nothing wrong. It eventually turned out that one of **their** CEO's was arrested on tax fraud around the same time and ended up with a six month suspended sentence. My name was cleared. Certainly the Holy Spirit was spot on when He whispered those words to me.

I came away with quite a testimony and senior police officials asking where I was preaching so that they could go to the meetings. That is, without doubt, the Holy Spirit in action.

God is so very faithful when we are resting in Him. I was doing exactly that and slept so well during the whole ordeal.

We seem to strive so much as Christians – running here, there and everywhere and always trying to get things accomplished. We have to have books to sell at a book table and if we don't then we are loser's and so everyone is into writing books they will hardly ever sell and half the time they are books about what we have accomplished instead of what God has accomplished through us.

God and I are a team – the most powerful team on earth as long as I do it His way and as long as He is in me and I am hidden in Him.. When I was in Blantyre a Seventh Day Adventist came in to office and started to talk about Saturday being the Sabbath. He went on and on about how they were right and we were wrong until I finally told him that every day was a Sabbath or it should be for us. This caused him to finally quiet down and listen and I explained that as long as we are resting in Him every day is a Sabbath day. We no longer have to wait on a priest or High Priest to make the way for us – we no longer enter in by good works and do not have to prove that we are worthy. Jesus made it all so very easy for us by His wonderful atoning Blood. I now have direct contact with the Father through the Son. I am saved and set free, I am healed and delivered and I am alive forevermore. It is no longer a promise such as the prophets of old grasped but

it is an accomplished work – a reality - and all I have to do is receive and give thanks.

If that is the case then there is no striving. We should surely be at peace and be resting in Him because He is the author and finisher (or perfecter) of my faith. Heb 12:2

Faith is a gift from God and all His gifts are good. Africans dislike snakes almost as much as I do. When I describe the gifts of God I ask them if they are given a pail and told there is a present inside and they put their hand in without looking first and there is a snake in it – what would happen. That is the type of gift that satan gives. The Bible says that God gives only good gifts to His children and yet we so often choose not to accept them or hesitate in accepting them.

He is the perfecter of my faith and for example we have only to look to Jesus – utter perfection in every aspect.

It surely is time for us to so be one with Him that all the worldly cares pass away and so that out total trust is in Him.

I fully understood Paul and Silas' situation when they went to prison and even though I did not go I knew that I would have been in total peace with it. God gives grace for discomfort as He has so many times when I have been in the Lower Shire with the heat and humidity and the never ending swarms of mosquitoes. Besides which, I had at least three friends who had already told the police that if I went they were coming too. We would have been able to have church and seen the captives set free from their spiritual bondage.

I ministered in the prison in Chillicothe MO on a regular basis and I saw many who were free in Christ. Much freer than many in the church! A couple of lines from a favorite poem of mine read. "Stone walls do not a prison make nor iron bars a cage." It is time for the church to become free in Him. "If the Son therefore shall make you free you shall be free indeed." Jn 8:36. Are you free or are you still weighted down by the cares of life or by the devil? He is only as powerful as we allow him.

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### **MALAWI DISTRIBUTION FEBRUARY**

Thank God for pastor Roz whom God has put love into her for the elderly people in order to bring to them the word of God and to support them their need. These elderly are lacking many things and it's only God who meets with their need through pastor Roz and we are ready to support her vision. On February 4th we went to Nsanje for the elderly distribution program. We went by truck which Pastor Roz was loaned by her friends the Yiannakis' and they are good friends indeed and really support the work. We started off in Blantyre at 6.30a.m. and arrived in Nsanje at 11 00a.m. and we travelled well. The first place we held our meeting was at Kalumbi School under the trees. Peter who is our pastor to the elderly started the meeting with few choruses and then we entered into praise and worship. Waaoo!!!! People really worshipped the LORD. Our brother Francis who is the coordinator for Alabaster Ministries in Malawi read from the book of John chapter 11. It says in vs11 *"These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep"* Vs 38-39 *Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days"*

Francis was emphasizing that we need to allow the Holy Spirit to deal with the stones which are in our hearts so that Christ can work in us. That many of the rock formations in our lives are sins that block our blessings and block Christ from being all He wants to be in us and through us. It is time now to take care of the sins and let Christ come in and have His way in us. Pastor Roz shared Holy Communion. She read Psalm 91 vs 1: *"HE that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."* Vs 4 *"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust, his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."* Pastor asked the multitude of people if they were in the secret place of the most High? If you are not, then it is time to start to know Him through developing a relationship with Him and begin to abide in Him for He will keep us under His wings and will be our protection and our source and our comfort. 5th February - Friday we were at Nsanje village. Before we do any distribution we give them the Word of God which is the life and hope and the foundation of Christ Jesus. Pastor Roz again preached from Psalms 91. I shared the Holy Communion and read 1 Cor 11:23-26 *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the [same] night in which he was betrayed took bread:*

*And when he had given thanks, he brake [it], and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also [he took] the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink [it], in remembrance of me."*

We had wonderful fellowship in eating and drinking of cup. On this day we prayed for 10 people to be baptized by the power of the Holy Spirit for speaking in new tongues. Some of them received immediately and others needed to be encouraged. Pastor Roz explained that this is a gift that the LORD has given us and He only gives good gifts to His children. After that they went for lunch. It was just lovely to have lunch with them and fellowship among them.

6<sup>th</sup> February – Saturday. Early in the morning Pastor Roz drove 19 km to Chididi up in the mountains to off load things for elderly and then came down again to pick us up at Tengani. It was not easy to drive that trip because the mountains had received rain and many parts of the road had been washed away. In each village Pastor preached Psalm 91. When she was preaching in the miracle church where all the elderly assembled we saw the policemen who came to arrest Pastor Roz. She continued to finish her message and then went out to see what they wanted and left myself and Pastor Peter to pray with the congregation and to complete the program and distribution. She and Francis had to leave with the Police and had to return to Blantyre later that day.



We had to walk all the way down the mountain after distributing to the elderly and it took us four hours because my legs are so short. We postponed the village we were supposed to go to on Sunday which gave us a day to rest at a Pastor friend's house.

**ALABASTER MINISTRIES**  
**8514 N DONNA CT**  
**KANSAS CITY, MO 64153**  
**(636)358-4615 (CELL)**

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We finally heard from Pastor telling us to hire a vehicle to take us and all the goods to the final two villages for Monday and Tuesday. Nothing was going to stop us doing the work of God. On Monday we went to Marka and the elderly were very disappointed that Pastor Roz was not with us. On Tuesday it was the same at Chimombo but we preached and shared and broke bread and gave everyone their gift bags. The mosquitoes were really bad at Marka so the elderly were very excited to get their mosquito nets. The man who drove the vehicle we rented was a Moslem. We shared the Gospel with him and even though he did not give his life to Jesus he said we could use his truck any time. We thank God for all things - His provision, His mercy and His protection and we came back home safely. The Elderly people from all places are thankful for the mosquito nets and pain killers and are appreciative for everything.

Thank you Pastor for the bicycle. It is nice and strong and we call it Landcruiser. It really helps me in terms of transport and makes things so much easier.

Thanks mum for taking me to Ryalls hotel for lunch. Wow! It was great and I enjoyed being there - that's real love and no-one has done that for me before. Love you mum.

#### Stanford and Landcruiser



Our grateful thanks for the gift for the bicycles. The other bike is called Scania and is ridden by Pastor Peter.

## DISTRIBUTION

### Mosquito Nets



### Elderly at Chididi



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**MINISTRY NEEDS**

We are beginning on the staff house. It is simple with three bedrooms and two bathrooms and an open plan kitchen/dining and living room area. We need to have somewhere comfortable for visiting ministers especially those from overseas.

At present we do not have a total cost but we will build with concrete bricks and steel girders. Approximate cost will be \$50,000. Our aim is to build to last and we build with concrete brick and steel to stop the termites. Even so we make sure that the foundations are lavishly sprayed before we lay the floors. Floors plans in the next newsletter.

We are building precept upon precept – not just in the spiritual lives of people but with this project. Here a little and there a little.

**CRUSADE**

I love it when you have staff that do not have to be told what to do all of the time. Just before I left to return to the States I was informed by them that they wanted to hold a crusade on our property at Tengani over Easter. How very exciting and I almost wish I could return for it.

I just told them to make sure it is well advertised throughout the Lower Shire and that people can bring their things and stay on the property but that we have to put up some rooms to bathe and also some temporary “Long drops/pit latrines.” We can get some rolls of black plastic for that. There is water on the property and they can bring food with them.

Please pray that multitudes will come and that many will be saved, healed and delivered.