



# 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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Dearest Friends,

We are almost done with the first month of 2016. Let us make it a bumper year for witnessing to people about the saving grace of the Lord Jesus.

In order to do that we ourselves have to be spending more time with Him and in the Word. It is His Word in us that carries the power. We think that skipping out on reading the Word as long as we pray on our way to work will suffice but Jesus IS the Word and was made manifest in the flesh, not only so that He could die on the Cross but also so that He would be the example that we could follow. His relationship and communication with the Father was amazing:

*"Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the son likewise."* John 5:16

If it was good for Him then how much more does it apply to us?

For many years I have pondered on the anointing. We talk about how mightily anointed this preacher or that preacher is and then find out that all the while they have been in sin and we glibly repeat the scripture,

*"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."*

And herein lies the problem. We confuse the gifting with the anointing. We talk about how well this preacher or that preacher knows the Word but the devil is extremely well versed in the Word and when we lack discernment he is very well able to use the situation to deceive. If there is one thing that the Body of Christ is lacking in these days it is discernment and we need to be asking God for a double dose of discernment even as Solomon asked for wisdom.

"The **gifts** are without repentance....." God endows us with **gifts**. I have been given the **gift** of hospitality. I love to have people come and visit and take great delight in preparing elaborate meals for them? Am I able to that even if I were in sin – of course!

One of my favorite Gospel singers was **gifted** by God with the most wonderful songs – he has to be one of the most **gifted** psalmists of our time. He is heavily involved in sin and will not get help and deliverance but can he still sing and move me emotionally – of course. We get our emotions confused with the anointing. Others are **gifted** in oratory and this is often accompanied by charisma. They say all the right things

go to a conference and hear a charismatic orator and his oration is followed by signs and wonders. We go home believing we have been to the most wonderfully anointed service ever. In actual fact there was no anointing from the pulpit but only a **gifting** in operation.... "the **gifts** are without repentance." The devil can move in, making it extremely charismatic and one of the "tells" will often be in who ultimately gets the glory.

God's people go to these conferences because they are hungry and He will not let them down. "Signs and wonders accompany the Word." The signs and wonders follow even when the vessel is full of sin.

The Bible tells us that even the elect are going to be deceived in the end days and we are beginning to see more and more of this happening in the church today. This is why it is so important for God's people to have discernment more than ever before.

When we hear or see something in church we need to go home and confirm it with the Word. If the Word does not confirm it then we need to put it on the shelf. It is like having someone prophesy over you. A personal prophecy should only confirm something that God has already been speaking to you through the Word. We are too lazy to find out for ourselves. This is why so many lives are in a mess and we, as the church are not the witness to the lost and dying that we should be.

It is time for us to stand up and be the church – the light of the world and the salt of the earth and to hell literal with all of this politically correct stuff. Either God is God and His Word is TRUTH or we can be politically correct and denigrate the message of the Gospel. Choose this day whom we will serve and let us study His Word so we know it and cannot be so easily deceived. Let us stop allowing some stranger to speak into our lives instead of the Holy Spirit. It is time to stop straddling the fence and be all that God has called you to be.

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## **PASTOR PETER KANKOCHI**

My family and I send our greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are well and hope that you are too. I was not able to send you any report for all these months because I was given strict instructions not to make any form of communication with you at any given time by my former superior and I am glad that things have changed.

### **CHURCH**

I had been attending the church here at Tengani before there was a change in the status quo. I stopped attending church there the first time Stanford and Francis came to visit and I found a new church where my family and I are worshiping. The Pastor is the Village Headman's son in law and we get along very well. I am very glad to inform you that we will start having church at the Center in February. I have asked Francis to help gather a few things to put up a sign big enough for people to see that we will begin having Sunday services and intercession. People have been asking me for a while when exactly we are going to start and now I feel the time has come. I am very excited; we are all exited here and would like to ask you to remember us in your prayers.

### **THE OLD PEOPLE**

As the days to distribution come closer, I am reminded of the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the command that he gave us to love one another. It is because of the love that God has for you that you continue to love and care for these old people. It is sad that some ungrateful and deceitful individuals saw this as an opportunity to conduct their dark schemes, but we are ironing out all irregularities and previous corruption. I am sure that by the time we are finished with this coming distribution, we will have only those people who are in need of our help on the lists and not pastors' fill ins and made up identities.

### **BUILDING**

I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to you mom, for considering building such a beautiful house for my family to live in here at Tengani. I am sure Francis told you of how we had to do most of the work on our own. It was fun and I hope to do that again. Plastering the house is almost done and then the floor will be finished a few days after that. Francis will be bringing electrical material, paint, and ceiling materials so we finish construction. Thank you to all those who helped finance this house for us.

### **THANKSGIVING**

A lot of young people wish to be someone some day in the future. We go to school hoping to succeed, go to college and get a good job. Growing up I had dreams. I wanted to go to college and leave my humble abode in the hills of Chididi. Growing up in Chididi was not always easy and we had many challenges. I dropped out of school because my parents could not afford to finance my education and I had to help out at home. It seemed at the time, that that was the end of my dreams. When a large ministry in Malawi came calling, I left Chididi without even thinking twice. I thought I would be able to re-ignite my dreams. It was so bad with this ministry, I left when I finally realized the leadership were ungrateful and did not care about any of us. My first boy, Immanuel fell sick and I called for help, my boss said let him die, you can always make another. I left that month and never looked back. I never thought of that as the death of my dreams, I looked at it as an opportunity to go wherever God wants me to be.

It is amazing how God works. At that time I did not think I would be going to Bible school and follow in my Father's footsteps but here I am and I owe that to you. You have made all this possible. My dreams have come true and I have only the Lord to thank for positioning you in my life so that I can stand here on earth preaching His Word and making disciples of men. Thank you very, very much Mom and may God continue to bless you so that what you have done for me, you may do for others who were just like me, who are hungry to be used by the Lord.

When you came and called me to Tengani, I had no idea what to expect and what life would be like. When we arrived we were out of our comfort zone and placed into the fire for purification before we could even begin to do God's work. I told my wife Martha that the same God who was looking after us and our boys is the same God who is going to take care of everything at Tengani. Some pastors from my previous organization encouraged me until their true colors could no longer be kept a secret. Once again, thank you very much Mom for giving me this opportunity. Thank you to those who have partnered with us and who support us. We are doing the work of the Kingdom. May God bless you and take care of you so that you may continue to bless us.

With Love,

Peter and Martha Kankochi.

## STANFORD SEMU



The shorter of the two pastors is Pastor Stanford. Dynamite comes in small packages!!!

“I greet you in the name of our sovereign Lord Jesus Christ and pray that you are fine. Ruth, Grace, Moses, Stephen and I are all well.

### **NIGHT OF PRAYER**

We had a wonderful night of prayer on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December in my home at the farm. We invited our friends and families, and I am glad to say that many came to fellowship with us and witnessed the power and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I was very happy because we got a positive feedback. Almost all who were present wished the meeting could go on and on and last at least two days. I was happy and very much encouraged to keep up the good fight and stand for Christ in all things. I was glad and thanked the Lord for such a turn despite efforts by the evil one to keep people away from attending any meetings that we set up at the farm. Indeed, what the Lord has purposed, no man can destroy. I have been visiting people in their homes preaching and teaching the greatest message that Christ gave us, the message of Love. I have enjoyed a wonderful time doing this so much so that I am sure our next night of prayer will be so wonderful and so powerful. Two people who never believed at all gave their lives to Jesus at the end of the prayer meeting. This was so perfect for only the power of the Holy Spirit saves and God showed us then that He was with and among us. I am looking forward to our next night of prayer.

### **CHURCH**

When I left the ministry I was working with and joined Alabaster Ministries, I had no doubt in my mind that God was going to take care of my family, and that God was going to give me a

going to give me a people to minister to. When people from the ministry I was working for were discouraging people from attending church at the farm I said, “Hallelujah Lord, thank you for the challenge”, because I wanted to reach those who had never heard the Word of God before. I wanted to see God move and blow with the wind of His Holy Spirit on those who are disillusioned in themselves and religion and remind them that Our King Lives. I am glad to say that now we have 10 people at the farm and more and more keep coming from surrounding villages. People would like to be a part of Alabaster Ministries here in Chileka. It is amazing that everywhere I go, even in Chikwawa and Nsanje people want to be a part of this ministry because it is birthed inside the heartbeat of God Himself and follows God’s word to the letter. And now the time has come for us to go far and beyond the farm and into the field to win souls and make disciples of men. We have started with two Branches and from these two branches God will do a work that is impossible by the hand of man. He is God and nothing is impossible for Him. I have faith that God will use us to achieve greater things than we could ever imagine both in Malawi and elsewhere in the world. God will bless you and all in our leadership to make this dream a success. We know that you are always busy doing everything possible for us here and the people in Tengani, Chididi, Marka and elsewhere. I just want to wish you well Mom and encourage you to go on. May God ever bless you for the things that you do for us.

### **THANKSGIVING**

On behalf of all the people here at the farm and in Chikwawa ( My home) I would like to Thank God for what He is doing in our lives and those He keeps bringing closer to His Glorious Throne, for this amazing work and all the breathtaking moments we have been through. I would like to thank you mom and all people who make our work a success, and I would like to thank Mr Oresti and his family for their love and dedication towards making the living reality of Jesus Christ know to the very ends of this world. May the good God Almighty Bless you all.

### **ENCOURAGEMENT**

Mom, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that I wish you all the best this world can give, from the bottom of my heart. May you never worry so much, because Peter, Francis and I have each other’s backs and we will not fall back for anything. We are always praying together and lifting up one another so that God may guide and direct us in our path. I spent a week at Tengani in December and I had such a wonderful time with Peter and Francis, praying and discussing the future of the ministry and how we were going to work. It was

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discussing the future of the ministry and how we were going to work. It was wonderful, we are planning to meet every month so that we keep this momentum and so through our constant meetings we can make great strides in our work as a team. I remember our first night at Tengani, we came with a truck load of bricks and Timber and Iron sheets, it was so hot outside, we began to pray for the rains, it rained heavily that night we enjoyed good temperatures the entire week. All am trying to say is God is always with the faithful, and you have shown us the way. God is using you to make this ministry a reality through us and we will not disappoint you. Stanford and Ruth Semu.

These are the caliber of men and their wives that the Lord has so wonderfully graced me to work with. I am so excited about the future prospects of the work of this ministry to bring glory to God.

If you would be willing to support Peter and his family it costs \$70 per month which includes his Bible School fees and lodging and food while he is at the Bible School. It would be easy to break that down with one person paying his Bible School at \$30 and another paying his monthly support. We would like to give each of our Pastors and Francis a salary increase as the cost of living has increased alarmingly. Francis also needs to be supported each month.



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### MINISTRY NEEDS

Thank you for the bicycles. The staff is thrilled and it will save so much money and time. They will be able to cycle from place to place instead of walking or taking a minibus. I will have a photo in the next issue.

We do need two 125cc motorcycles in the near future. Of course these are a lot more expensive so if 10 people would be willing to give \$80 that would cover the cost of the motorcycles.

With the reports on the hunger of the local people in Tengani to have prayer meetings and church we need to pursue the building. We are considering structural steel since it will withstand any termites in the area and Tengani is notorious for termites. We will have to import the structure from South Africa. In The next issue I will have a costing for that along with the size of the building which will not only act as a church but also a counseling center and a place of refuge when flooding comes and that area seems prone to either flooding or drought. That is what happens when we destroy the eco systems of an area and Malawi has decimated its forests for firewood in order to cook their food.

Please keep these projects in prayer. We know that God ultimately is our source but He works through you and me. To quote the famous missionary. Hudson Taylor: "God's work done Gods way will never lack God supply."

If the finances are not available for certain tasks then it may be that it is not God's timing for that project. Sometimes He wants us to keep things simple and we overreach. Ultimately it is He that builds His Kingdom using people who are willing vessels. In the meanwhile church will be held under the nearest available tree. We do have a school opposite the land and I have asked them to check to see if we can use one of their buildings.