



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

JUNE 2016

Dearest Friends,

For the past five weeks I have been traveling across the northern and mid-western United States. It has been wonderful to see friends and to meet new people.

Over the previous couple of years when I have been in the UK I have felt that God was wanting to give the UK one more opportunity. He would allow the church to rise up and be all that she can be one more time because of all those who left her shores over the centuries to take the Gospel to foreign lands. While on this trip we are taking they went to the polls to vote. We were in Omaha the day they voted to leave the European Union. I believe they voted the right way and regained their freedom. During the reign of Queen Victoria and afterward there was the saying that "the sun never set on the British Empire." Suddenly they allowed themselves to be dictated to from a godless, God hating European Union. I know that things will be tough for them but am believing that this is the "one more time" that God is giving England to rise up and once again be what God wants them to be. They need our prayers at this time that they would find a leader to take them into this new era and that they would become unified in this decision.

I believe that American is in the same situation. It is time for the church to rise up and be the church as Christ ordained it to be and not as man would have it. Yes, He has His remnant as He always has throughout the ages but each one of us is responsible to be who He wants us to be. We are responsible to share the Gospel with others. America has now become a mission field. The one thing that will help turn this nation around is when we stop church programs and begin to pray and intercede that His will be done here.

Works will not get us into heaven but the Bible tells us to do good works. How do we reach out to people who do not appear to be interested in hearing about the saving grace of Jesus Christ? LOVE, LOVE, LOVE. Love is the greatest tool that the Lord has given us. When people KNOW that we love them they will more readily listen to what we have to say. I know I have shared this before but we need to keep hearing it. Elderly people who are on their own are lonely and just want to talk. Take the time in your busy day to stop for five minutes and talk to them or help with something – it may well open a door. When you have your grandchildren to stay have each one bring a friend. Cook a good meal for them and sit at the table and begin to talk. Many kids today seldom sit at table for a meal and even if they do parents either watch TV while they eat or are too pre-occupied to talk to their children.

You know my story about disliking the elderly. After my children grew up and had their own children I loved the grandchildren with all of my being but did not particularly like being around anyone else's children. Now they bring their friends and I love to sit and talk to them. If you ask young people today about some of the Bible Characters they have no idea who you are talking about unless they have seen a movie about them. Ask about Noah and they can only relate to the Hollywood movie about Noah which is filled with errors. If Hollywood is going to make a movie about a Biblical person why can they not get the story right?

We have a confused generation of young people which is probably due to the fact that there have been a couple of generations of single parents. Is this partly the reason that some lose their identity and do not know if they are male or female and do not know which bathroom to use? How do we reach out to these young people in order to one day share the Gospel? We have to first win them over by loving them. Sorry folks, there is no "quick fix" to these people – we are in it for the loooooong haul! People today have to be attracted to the Jesus that shines from you and me and the only way that is going to happen is when they get to know us. Many of us will come across people that make us mad or even repel us and sometimes those are the people that the Lord wants us to reach out to. When we are obedient He will make the way, even to pouring out His love into us for those He has asked us to minister to. We need to realize what the definition of minister is: It is not just to preach the Word to but also to care for, nurse, comfort, aid, support, and most importantly to wait on. We are called to first be servants. I am a servant of the most High God and am sent to be a servant to the lost and dying of this earth. If in being first a servant will aid someone in making a decision to join the hosts of heaven then that is what I should do without any hesitation whatsoever.

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Pastor Stanford Semu Report.

Greetings to you my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. It is my prayer that you are all well and that the Lord is constantly blessing you with good health.

I write to share what the Lord is doing in Malawi, especially in my home area. I live on a farm with over a hundred employees and these people have different ideologies and cultural and spiritual beliefs.

It has been fascinating to see how so many of different backgrounds have been brought together by the simple truth - the Living Reality of The Lord Jesus Christ. It came to my attention that some people were tempted to indulge themselves in the use of charms and that other employees were already using these witchcraft items to consolidate their positions at the farm or gain favors from the boss. Yes it might seem a little far-fetched for the western world to believe but there is evil behind a practice that may seem harmless and almost "fairytaleish" but there lies the one of the devil's greatest snares. The devil has laid so many traps for God's Children to fall into.

Of late, I have been teaching from the Book of Daniel and it has been such a wonderful and eye opening experience for most workers at the farm. Daniel teaches us through principle that we have to put our trust in God and abide by His un-paralleled counsel. We need to learn to trust God no matter what, even when we seem to have limited alternatives to whatever we might be going through or when the future is very uncertain. With the economic crisis in Malawi, so many people turn to cutting corners to make it. Corruption, theft, witchcraft, backbiting and backstabbing become the order of the day. So many people are desperately seeking for solutions to battle poverty, hunger, and poor living standards and thus so many turn to listen to the counsel of the ungodly. Nebuchadnezzar listened to the counsel of the ungodly and paid a hefty price for it.

I took this opportunity to illustrate how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego boldly stood against evil in honor of God's Holy Name. It has been wonderful to see the impact that The Book of Daniel has made on the indigenous traditional practices. It is amazing to see so many give up their old ways and put on Christ.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude for the love, support you have given me and for your prayers. These go a long, long way and may God continue blessing you.

With Love,

Stanford and Ruth Semu.

**Pastor Charles Chikwapa's Report**

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. My family and I are all well and I pray that the Lord is keeping you all well.

I would like to thank you all for your love and support, which you have shown us here in the lower states of Malawi. May the Almighty God ever bless you for your selflessness and zeal you have for the things of the kingdom of heaven.

Our Church at Tengani is quickly growing in number. We started off with 68 members and now we have 85 people in our congregation. We are supporting the youth and encouraging them to take part in church activities as a way of teaching them responsibility and ensuring the

continuity of God's work elsewhere and the future church. In most African churches they do not bother about the youth but Alabaster realizes the great importance of training youth. In addition, women from the Tengani church recently visited the Nthondo branch and they had such a wonderful time with their colleagues. I am very thankful for the Bible you gave me and it has helped me a great deal in my work as well as improving my English abilities. Many of our members can read and we would like to get Bibles to those members if you can supply them.

With Love and gratitude,

Charles and Pilirani Chikwapa.



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Pastor Peter Kankoche Report.

My beloved brothers and sister. I greet you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ and hope that you are all extraordinarily blessed.

Let me start by thanking the Almighty God for His unconditional and unfailing love. He has kept us alive and well for a purpose and we must needs glorify and honor Him as well as serving Him in the best way that we can. Just remember we are never too young or old to serve the Lord.

I have been busy visiting the old people in their homes, having fellowship with them as well as doing a few repairs on their houses for them. We visited Mr. and Mrs. Zandivuta Beka (they are a blind couple) and cleaned around the yard. We also did some repairs to the roof of their house. The Beka's were grateful and thankful to God that He raised some people to help them in their day of need.

We heard that there was an old lady close to our house at Tengani whose roof was eaten away by termites. I gathered some men and with the permission of the chief, a few women joined us to go and assist this poor old lady. We fixed the termite problem and thatched her roof. Everyone around us was overjoyed by the spirit that has been passed down from the leadership of Alabaster ministries into all staff. Not only that, it was a testimony to the villagers that the church is doing the work of the Gospel and not just teaching or preaching. The Chief at Mgoni village urged the villagers to be responsible and tap into our philosophy. I was very excited for I knew we were doing something that made a difference in society. That was all the encouragement I need to go on.

Nevertheless, where there are good things happening, evil is always lurking in the corners. It is unfortunate that there are some people who hide behind the pulpit and prevent other people from receiving their blessings. We met several members of the clergy who tried to prevent us from helping the elderly and having fellowship with them. In summary, I am very pleased to say that the elderly are still maintaining their prayer groups and still encourage one another.

Tengani church is growing and God has begun to do His work in our lives. We are looking forward to seeing the hand of God move and work in miraculous.

Blessings and Love,
Peter & Martha Kankoche.

**JESUS FRIEND OF SINNERS: Francis Banda**

You know you love someone when everything inside you longs to see the best in them; when your soul, body, and mind absolutely care for that particular person without any conditions attached. Love sees beyond everything.

We all know what love is because we were made in the likeness of God. The Almighty God forged us from the dust of the earth and breathed in us His breath. His breath is what makes us God conscious because when God breathed in us, He poured His spirit into us. God's Spirit is His nature, and His nature is LOVE.

The Bible teaches us in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, that *"Charity (LOVE) suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; Rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; Bears all things, believeth all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Charity never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."*

Romans 21-25 reveals just how big God's love is for all mankind. Apostle Paul, through the abundant revelation of the Holy Spirit says, *"Now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned and come short of the GLORY of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God: To declare, at this time his righteousness: that He might be just, and justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."*

Even though man was made God conscious, he has fallen short of the glory of God through his sinful nature. Adam was thrown out the Garden of Eden because he sinned against God. Did God Love him? Of course He did. The Love that God has for us is true and Agape love. Our little imaginations and intellect cannot even begin to comprehend how deep and true God loves us. There simply is no means to measure God's unconditional love for us.

All men have fallen short of His glory, but God sees beyond the fall, beyond our faults and sick state of mind to lift us out of this depraved world through Grace and by the abundance of His AGAPE love.

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The greatest honor for all mankind is to be called God’s friend. How wonderful it must have been for Lazarus to be called Friend of Jesus. Jesus desires that we establish relationship with Him that He might lift us up into His Father’s bosom and transform us into heavenly citizens. God loves us deeply, regardless of our transformation and restoration into the Kingdom of God, or whether we are so stooped in sin so much that we forget to tell right from wrong Matt 9:12, *“But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them, they that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.”* Christ came for all mankind but His TASK was to free the sinners from the grip that Lucifer placed on their lives. His task is the same today. He is the Friend of Sinners and Blood Washed Believers alike.

The modern day church is quickly falling short of the glory of God through our self-righteous and super-spiritual indignation. We have become a band of religious pipers and legalists who give a hundred percent in observing the law, the Sabbath, external appearances, and religious rituals rather than focusing on what really matters, which is RELATIONSHIP with Jesus Christ.

Matt 11:16-19, Jesus says, *“To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: “We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge for you, and you did not cry.” For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, “He has a demon.” The son of man came eating, and drinking and you say, “Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and SINNERS.”* Yes they were right. Jesus Christ is a friend of sinners but He does not condone sin. He longs to obliterate the sin that has corrupted what God so wonderfully and fearfully made in His own image and gave it dominion over the entire universe. Man through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, has dominion over all the earth. Not the devil. He is a defeated thief and usurper. Everything has been made for and given to man. We can only inherit the universe that God gave us through the redemption that lies only in our friend Jesus Christ.



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CRUSADE

Later this month our team will be holding a crusade up in the mountains of Chididi. They will go from door to door sharing the powerful message of the Gospel. They will also be visiting the bars and the smoke houses in the area. This is the area in which most of our pastors have their churches and they will take in the new converts and begin to disciple them.

In the evenings there will be an evangelistic outreach with a call for salvation and there will be prayer lines for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, deliverance and healing.

Please keep this in prayer. These meetings will begin to change everything in that area and also into Mozambique. We have some Mozambique pastors who will go back and do the same thing in their areas.

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.