



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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MARCH 2016

Dearest Friends,

"Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold : and the LORD blessed him." Gen 26:12. When we read the history behind this we find that there was terrible famine in the land and many were fleeing to Egypt. God told Isaac to remain and to plant a crop and Isaac was obedient. He reaped a hundredfold all because he was obedient and he trusted in his God.

When I was last in Malawi it was the middle of what was supposed to be the rainy season. There had been none. I told everyone that they should begin to learn and understand the signs of the times. Each year the rains have been later and later so ask God when will be the best time to plant and that way they do not lose their crop.

All of us in Christ should be aware of what is taking place or about to take place before it happens. It does not mean that we necessarily get a specific Word from God as Isaac did. In His death and resurrection Jesus gave us the authority to rule and to reign. We have not picked up the scepter.

Sowing does not only refer to crops, it refers to everything we do whether we are in Christ or not. God says: *"he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."* Matt 5:45. I have always said that if we live by God's principles we will reap a harvest whether saved or not.

I have received emails about the state of the church. It is up to you and me to do something about it instead of sitting back and waiting for God. I remember being in Estonia a number of years ago. There is a great cathedral in Tallinn which had an amazing revival during the cold war when people were not supposed to preach the Gospel. When you walk into the building there are crutches and wheelchairs lining the walls. I asked one of the pastors if he believed God would move again in similar fashion and he said yes. I then asked what they were doing to see this come to pass and he said, "Waiting!" That is what we as the church are all doing – WAITING! Waiting on God to move, waiting on God to do the miraculous, waiting on God for healing, waiting on God for deliverance. HE HAS ALREADY DONE IT!!!!!! It was manifested at the Cross and all we have to do is reach out and take it. God has made it all available to us but we are "waiting."

If we want an hundredfold harvest we need to begin to put

our faith out there and expect it. An hundredfold harvest of souls does not mean just going out to the highways and byways but it means sharing our lives with complete strangers because our lives should be reflecting the life and nature of Christ. When we do that and begin to disciple people they in turn will go and that is our hundredfold return.

I am not satisfied with a surface relationship with the Holy Spirit where the water is not clear and only a few can drink from it and nor do I want a well where we have to pump or draw water in buckets in order to get the water but I want an artesian well where the waters will spring forth of their own volition and take water to multitudes because the water cannot be contained and flows forth making streams in the desert. Have you ever watched the land after a drought when the very first rain begins? Within 24 hours it becomes green and the smells when the rains touch the earth are so beautiful. That is how it was for me when God touched me for the very first time. That is how it should be when the Holy Spirit reaches out and touches and you become a new creature in Him. Your life should be like a garden and the longer we experience Him the more fruitful our garden should become until He is producing an hundredfold not only in us but for those around us.

I want every hour of every day to count for something positive and the most positive thing in our lives should be the Kingdom of God.

Let us begin to plant in the drought and famine of the lost and dying. Let us plant in the lives of those who are without hope. Let us plant in those who are bound and may the wells of living water flow from us in such a way that God makes a marvelous change, not only in you and me but in those who are around us.

It all begins with us because He has already given us all that we require to make the difference. Can He do it alone – of course He can because He is everything – the beginning and the end, peace, mercy and grace but He chooses to use you and me and may we rise to the occasion.

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REPORT FROM MALAWI

GREETINGS

Dearly beloved, we greet you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray that you are all well. We thank God for His loving-kindness and grace that He has blessed us with life and good health.

CHURCH

We believe the Almighty God has strategically positioned our center of operation at Mgoni Village, in Traditional Authority Tengani's area in Nsanje for a purpose. God has called the nations to GO out and preach the gospel and make disciples of men. We have heard this call being emphasized and at times we have neglected the call. If there was ever a time for the church to rise and take up positions to be used of God in ministry, now is that time.

The world is desperately looking for an answer to the greatest puzzle that is our existence. God created this world simply by saying let there be light and it was as He commanded. He forged man from the dust of this world and by His breath gave him life. God simply is and He is looking for simple people to take up positions for His glory.

The time has come for the church to start acting like the church in the book of Acts. Our mission should simply be going about God's business.

Jesus issued a CLEAR command to the world that is "TO GO OUT AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF MEN". This should be our only mission but sadly, this is the most neglected discipline in the modern day church. Churches and prayer houses have become coliseums to stage **our** acts in whatever manner we see fit.

This past Easter, we had a team that stepped out in faith and obedience to the principle that Christ laid down and conducted a crusade at Mgoni Village. *"Freely ye have received and freely ye must give."* We remembered that Christ died that ALL men might have everlasting life. John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have EVERLASTING LIFE."* It is only through faith and obedience to God's word and through the abundance of His grace that people are saved.

The tradition in Mgoni village is that all the women and children go to church on a regular basis while the men sit at home playing games, drinking, weaving mats, or out fishing in the crocodile infested Shire River waters. Our crusade was 80% women, 15% children and 5% men. A meager 5% is what most of us give God. If we had to count all the things that need our sacrifice in order to give God the glory and honor He deserves, we would lose count within the twinkling of an eye.

Nevertheless, it was wonderful to see God operate in mysterious ways. It was a blessing to stand in a place where the Holy Spirit touched polygamists and converted them. We rejoiced in the fact that God saved so many souls from the shackles of darkness.

We had door-to-door ministry on Saturday, March 26th and we are all blown away by what we saw. We went out in teams of two and spread out in the entire village. Some of us visited the beer parlors where people spilt their drinks on the ground and accepted the Lord Jesus as their Savior; others came across men smoking marijuana and they ended up ditching the darkness for the Life that Jesus gives. So many children were delivered of witchcraft and demons and the elderly too.

It was amazing to see that almost half the women who attended the crusade had similar issues. It was either they were unhappy with their marriage because their husbands never attend church or they were the first, second, or third wife to a certain polygamist. We rejoice in the fact that Jesus Christ, who is Perfect Love, delivered these women and gave them hope.

We all need to feel sometimes, that supernatural touch that changes our lives. Imagine living your life as island, a hermit, or a neglected person; imagine how hard it must have been for these women to be in unhappy marriages and without Jesus in their hearts. It must have been so lonely, depressing, and hopeless. Jesus Christ, the perfect friend comes in to change all that.

This is why the church must rise up. The little things that we neglect in our societies matter the most. The little things we turn a deaf ear to, to turn a blind eye to, really do matter. As Christians we must be mindful of Isaiah 6:8, *"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then said I, Here I am; send me."* This should be our modus operandi. We should not neglect the Gospel any longer than we have. We have fed on the cream of the Gospel of Jesus but we have become negligent to one of His principles – GO!

The harvest is large but the laborers are few. The world needs people who are ready to position themselves and to be used of God. Revelations 22:12, *"Behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."*

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Our task as a people redeemed from the depths of depravity by the precious blood of the Lamb should be to GO and to GO now. The need is there - people are hungry for the saving Grace of Jesus Christ. All they need is men and women hungry and passionate enough to say, "here I am Lord, Send me." We are at the end of the End of times. We have seen the signs of the times but what is our response? Will we be the ones to stand in the Gap? Will we be the ones to GO? One hundred gave their lives to Christ during the crusade

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to you mom for all the support you give us. We are grateful for the blessing of Mr. and Mrs. Yiannakis. They are real gems in the ministry and may God continue to bless you all.

We are very excited to start doing crusades, so much so that we have already planned another crusade in Chididi. We are working on a program and when we have that finalized, we will let you know. Charles is learning English and according to Peter, he is doing very well. He is able to read and understand the word as well. We are working together to make sure Charles, Martha, and Ruth are all up to speed with learning English. Thank you very much for your love and support.

(Ed note: Charles is a pastor operating a church right next to our property in Tengani. He has never had training in the Word and is learning English so that he can go to Bible School along with Francis and Peter and Stanford. He wants to work with us and since it would be unethical to start a church right next to his we have made him the interim pastor for Tengani. Martha is wife to Peter and Ruth wife of Stanford. Once they are fluid in English and can read and write we plan to send them to Bible School as well. Many of our African women make very fine Pastors.)



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FAMINE

Just over a year ago, Malawi received a lot of rain due to two cyclones off the coast of Mozambique and was overwhelmed by the flooding in the south that followed. Now the whole of Southern Africa has been hit by a catastrophic dry spell. We have had little or no rainfall at all in most parts of the country, including Nsanje. The fields are almost dry from the scorching heat and because there was little rainfall, the crops dried up before they could bear any fruit. There is a serious problem in Nsanje and I pray to God that He sends us angels of men who will help us in this dilemma. The locals have already started selling their goats and chickens for less than \$6.00 instead of the usual \$30-35 for a goat, and \$00.60 for a chicken instead of the usual \$3.00.

We have already purchased the maize for the next distribution for the elderly and will give them extra soya meal.

This is the total crop this year for the lady on the left and they have had to reap early otherwise people would have stolen the little she has.

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REFUGEES

I know I said I would have a plan ready to show you the house but we have had to focus on the famine and also the wonderful Easter Crusade.

It is important that we build as quickly as possible as the war has begun in Mozambique again and the area in which we work juts out into Mozambique and not only that, the area in Mozambique in which the fighting has begun is right opposite that border of Malawi so there is an influx of refugees. We need people on the ground there.

Having worked with refugees in the past it is not unfamiliar to us. People in despair who have lost everything make for a wonderful mission field. It is time for the church in Southern Malawi to rise up even in the midst of their own problems with famine to reach out to these refugees with the message that there is hope for the hopeless and His name is Jesus.

What a mission field right in our back yard!

HOUSE

The rock for the foundations has already been delivered to the site. The cost of the cement bricks at this stage will be approximately \$3,000. When I break things down in my own mind the task does not seem to be impossible.

Each brick costs approximately \$1.50. When we look at it like this it becomes easier to see the building up and completed.

If you are able to help, even with a couple of bricks, that brings us one step closer to completing the building. Sleeping in tents in the heat with the mosquitoes is far from fun.