



# 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*

## MAY 2016

Dearest Friends,

It has been a whirlwind year so far with two trips to Malawi already completed and it seems that God is indeed enlarging our borders. Five years ago, I had what I thought was a large group (250) elderly people that the Lord wanted me to take care of both spiritually and physically. Five years down the road we have 425 and now 15 churches that seem to be growing as since I have been home more are requesting to join us every day. Many of these pastors though are corrupt and in sin and of course when there is sin at the top there will always be a trickledown effect. It is wonderful that the Lord has exposed to us the hearts and motives of many of these and revealed to us those who are humble and really wanting God to move in their midst and who care about their flock.

It is all about empowerment. If God can get one person to be so filled with His love and compassion, and those are very definitely the keys, and they can begin to impact others likewise then the Kingdom will explode on the earth. My God is so a God of love and grace and mercy – those are His attributes. I am not talking sloppy grace and mercy because if we abuse those attributes for long enough there will come a time of retribution. When the cup fills to overflowing and God begins to bring correction I do not even want to be around to see it.

God wants order – in everything He does or ever did there was order. He wants His people and His church to be places of order but that does not mean control from the leadership. When we rule over others they will begin to rebel to the point that some may actually sin. Why would we want to cause our brother to stumble? Let God be the great Dictator because He will always be the benevolent Dictator. When man becomes a dictator he is normally a malevolent dictator because he wants to hold onto the power, because he wants to benefit from his position, because he wants to be the “BOSS.” Isn't that God's rightful position – to be the BOSS?

When we reach out to anyone with compassion for long enough we will eventually win them over. You can never do it once and expect immediate results. It takes time and effort and we will not put in the time because we are selfish about how we spend our time. We would rather flop down on the couch and watch the latest Royals game or our favorite soap opera than make a bowl of soup and take it to our sick neighbor. How many of us even know our neighbors despite the fact we have lived next to them for ten years? How many have opened a door so that we can witness to them? I am fortunate because I live on a cul de sac with four families.

At Thanksgiving or Christmas or both if I am around they all come over for dinner. They all know what I do and are always excited to hear about my trips and it has really opened doors for me to minister and pray for them. We sow the seed and it is up to the precious Holy Spirit to water and see it grow and bring forth fruit.

Let us always remember that people will always better respond to a kind word rather than a harsh one. People will always better respond to love rather than indifference.

I was very privileged to stop over in Israel on my way home. What an amazing nation and such a change from the last time I was there in the early 80's when they were at war. Back then they gave no glory to God whatsoever despite the fact God had given them victory over and over again. This time they do acknowledge God and I was so blessed to see how many Jewish believers there are.

We so need to pray for the believers that God will open doors for them to witness in their own nation. Our guide was Erez and he was passionate about the Lord and his nation and was able to give us so much insight into how Jewish customs and traditions impacted the life and time of Yeshua Ha-Mashiach. Thank you Erez.

Mount of Beatitudes



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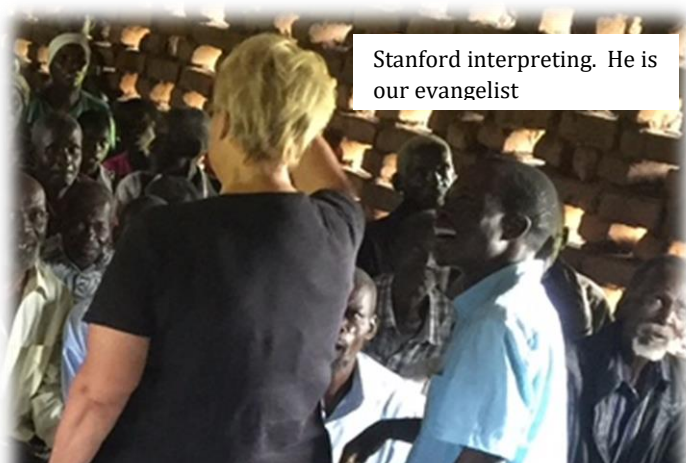
## REPORTS FROM MALAWI

### Stanford Semu Report

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I hope the Good Lord is keeping you well. My family and I are all well - the Lord is blessing us and bringing us from glory to glory.

We had a very successful distribution campaign in May and God's work is growing faster than we anticipated. Yes, the time has come for a quick adjustment for all believers worldwide. We need to step out of our comfort zone and begin to do God's work just as He commanded us in the His Great Commission. I realized just how little I have done in preaching the gospel during the distribution period. I looked at the number of people who did not know the Lord and I was touched. Young men, adults, and the elderly; together we have a responsibility and a command to fulfill the Gospel. I love these distribution trips because I learn something new about giving and my personal relationship with Christ. I see just how much the little you give goes a long way and how God keeps blessing those who bless others. I am encouraged and constantly reminded that in giving we receive for the almighty God blessed us freely and freely we must bless His flock. Work at the farm is going on very well. Our church has grown from 5 members to 15 members and the Lord keeps bringing people to our house meetings. We are planning to host a crusade sometime in July, or early August. This will come a few weeks after the Chididi crusade, which will begin on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July and close on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, we have begun meeting workers at the farm in their homes, having fellowship and encouraging them where needs be.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to attend Bible School and unlearn a lot of false theology so as to get to know Jesus better and improve my biblical knowledge. Thank you very much mom for the laptop computer. It will help me with work and doing reports. Thank you very much mom and God Bless you. I would also like to thank Sister Penny who brought two flash drives from England for me. Thank you very much and may God continue blessing you.



Penny and Charles – he loves to praise and worship

### Charles Chikwapa's Report

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and hope that you are well. The Good Lord is keeping us well here at Tengani. I am very grateful for your accommodating me in Alabaster Ministries. We were a destitute people and without anyone to look up to for moral support and counsel. I am a young man with little experience in things of the Lord and I am sure I have so many things to learn from your leadership and guidance. Thank you very much for considering us and accepting us into Alabaster Ministries.

I was very fortunate to accompany Peter and Francis on their trip to Chididi and I learned new things. I have a very good picture of what the leadership demands from us and far important is the fact that we have to teach the Gospel the right way.

After being disillusioned for a long time in my previous leadership, I have been rejuvenated and shaken by my new experiences. I saw you feeding the old people, embracing them, distributing, cleaning their sores, and carrying a dirty child. I said to my friends this is exactly what we have been missing; leaders who are humble and who do not care about anything else but preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and showing people love in a world where everyone is fully concerned about their own welfare. Church at Tengani has started very well. We are gathering under a tree and praying every Sunday morning now and the services been wonderful. God keeps drawing people from every corner of the village and soon the beer parlors will be empty because all the men are going to church. We had over 40 people on our first day and we thank God for it.

I am still having my English lessons with Peter and I am very thankful for the friend he is. He's been such a blessing to my family and Tengani as a whole. I could not ask for a better friend in the body of Christ as I have found in Peter. Once again, thank you for accepting me and taking me on as one of your own children in Alabaster Ministries. May the Almighty God Bless you abundantly.

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**Peter Kankoche's Report**

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, I would like to extend my heartfelt regards to you and your families. My family and I are all well, and I pray that the lord is keeping you all well.

I have much to share with you as so much has happened since my last communiqué to you. Let me begin by saying that what the Lord has set aside for his children will always be theirs as long as they remain faithful and obedient to his will. We are facing a very serious drought problem in the Malawi but the Lower Shire region has been badly affected. It has been difficult for us but the Lord keeps providing in mysterious ways. I would like to give testimony that being faithful and obedient to the will of God and his commandments is much more rewarding than we could ever expect. To this effect I would to thank God and praise him for the people he has positioned in my life and the blessing they have been to my family and me so far.

In addition to this, I have had such a wonderful time at City Pentecostal Bible School in Blantyre. I cannot say this enough but I thank God for giving me this opportunity. It is like a dream come true to me. I have learnt quiet a lot and now I have a 60-day break from the bible school. I will use this time to visit the old people in their homes, break bread with them as well as have bible studies. There is so much you can give these old people but no gift will ever suffice more than Jesus Christ. That is why I am devoting my holiday to serve this purpose. We all have a responsibility to take care of those who are weak in the body of Christ as well as encouraging them. We all must share the good news, which is the Living Reality of Jesus Christ our King. I visited the mountain people last week and what a wonderful learning experience it was for my colleagues and me. We started with Chididi which is lies 24 kilometers North of Tengani. As usual there was no transportation on this particular day so we hiked up the mountains with our language and the bibles we carried to give our pastors. It was not easy and we were tired, but when we arrived and the praise and worship began, we were all rejuvenated. I have never felt so happy and proud to be doing God's work as I was in that moment. Beloved, there's a certain level of satisfaction and rest that is found in Christ alone and nowhere else in this world.

We hiked an extra 15 kilometers the other day and much to my surprise, I had a similar experience as the day before. We hiked 60 kilometers in three days and it was such an amazing experience. We are the carriers of the Light because Christ, the Light of this world dwells in our hearts and we have a mandate to take this light to the ends of the world. The journey is never easy if we do it alone, but if we are faithful and obedient to the will of God, then He shall lead us on our journeys, and he shall take us where we have to go.

I would like to thank you Pastor Roz for your support and love. Thank you for the bag of Maize you gave me, it has helped us a lot here at Tengani. Martha's English is improving greatly. Mr. Francis can give testimony to that. My vegetable garden is excellent now. Thank you very much for the vegetable seeds too. Martha and I wish you all the best as you travel to meet supporters, we are always praying for you and your family. We love you and may God bless you.

**Francis Banda**

In the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah saw the Lord seated on his throne and his train filled the temple. Isaiah was a simple human being that the Lord chose to do his work. Isaiah realized that at the time of his vision, he was standing face to face with The Almighty God. Isaiah was not proud that he was this privileged and neither did he think of himself of much importance than any other man but he humbled himself before the Lord and cried out woe is me who lives in a sinful world and my lips speak sinful things. God was thus moved and cleansed Isaiah to make him the extraordinary prophet who later spoke of the coming of the Messiah and salvation. Isaiah first humbled himself and God elevated him.

This is the message that I took to all the pastors in the villages - that we have to realize to whom much has been given, so much is expected. We, who say we are blood washed believers and have been blessed enough to assume leadership positions in the ministry of Jesus Christ must realize that we stand face to face with the King of Kings and our lives, our actions, and everything about us must reflect the nature of Christ. If at any time we are involved in corruption, adultery, sowing seeds of rebellion, back stabbing each other and so on, we are putting ourselves in danger of receiving God's correction. For he whom the Lord chastises; and if He chastises the sheep, how much more will He do the shepherd? In order to lead, we have to learn to follow and that takes humbling oneself before the lord. If we do not have the fear of the Lord in us, we cannot respect fellow men, let alone humble ourselves before our congregations, fellow leaders, and members of our community. We need to set the bar so high for our subordinates to emulate and even then, it might not be enough until Christ himself be born in us and we take after his nature.

We must steadfastly pray for a supernatural visit of the Holy Ghost because without him, our work is vain. The Holy Spirit of God must lead our ministry. This is why we ought to seek after the heart and nature of God first. If there is no love among us, let it be born, let unity prevail, let peace flourish, let there be a real brotherhood in the body of Christ, let us support and complement one another, as well as counseling and pointing each other in the right direction at all times.

I made sure everyone knew we are not tolerating adultery and corruption from our pastors, we are not going to take from the old people of Alabaster Ministries as some pastors have done and if any pastor is found taking money from old people, he shall be

dismissed. I also made sure they were all clear we are not tolerating polygamy and traditional beliefs in the church. The Word of God is very clear on idolatry and sorcery. I took 10 Bibles with me and gave 8 bibles to the pastors in Chididi and Nthondo, 1 went to to Martha who is Peter's wife and 1 to the chief of the Tengani area. I am very happy we have won the chief's support and she really goes out of her way to help Peter and Martha. It seldom ever happens that high ranking chiefs like her should act the way she does with us. I have 20 Bibles left and will take more on my next trip. I have a record book where all the pastors will sign for their salaries and they can keep a receipt. We will have a hard copy with all the financial transactions recorded for auditing and financial reports on all transactions carried out. Peter will have his files at Tengani and I will have copies of the same in Blantyre. Mrs. Oresti will also have everything on file.

I am monitoring Charles and helping him. He's used to being the chief's son but now he has to learn from others, take correction from others, be humble and work in a team. Stanford came to see me with news from Nchalo. He says his sister and some people around his home area would love to start a church and call it Alabaster. I haven't given him an answer. I know how you feel about calling churches Alabaster and that you would rather they find their own name. He knows am of the idea that we start in Tengani and then when that is up and running, we could think of expanding. I am very excited that we will start building the dormitories for the pastors to come and learn on a regular basis as well as have a chance to come together and share their experiences, encourage one another, and form friendships. It is this sort of interaction that creates lasting bonds in the church as well as great working environments. This is what sets you apart from those others mom. You don't just realize the power behind community strength; you know what it does in ministry because you are a very good team player and leader. That's what I love so much about you and I strive to do the same. I love you mom. Love from my mom and dad. Francis



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**BIBLE SCHOOL STUDENT**

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for the love that you have shown me in paying my Bible College tuition. You have lifted a burden off of my shoulders that would have been heavy to bear. So far, Bible College has been a wonderful, eye opening experience that will help me grow into servant leadership as I endeavor to answer the call to ministry. I have now completed 4 courses: creative children's ministry, the doctrine of God, Christology and academic writing. Pastor Dr H. Purdy has inspired me to take on the weight of the call by merging academic excellence with obedience to the great commissioning, in going out to preach Jesus to the world. Once again I thank you for your loving kindness and financial support. Solomon J Banda

**PLANS FOR THE PROPERTY**

It is with great excitement that I let you know that we now have 15 churches who want to come under the umbrella of Alabaster Ministries. The foundations for the staff housing are already dug but we are placing that project on hold and begin on foundations for dormitories this week. The first block will contain four rooms each with two bunk beds. At one end there will be showers and toilets and at the other we will have a classroom/dining area. These pastors are sorely in need of training and we will bring them in every three months for a week of three sessions a day and a church service each evening where they will be expected to take turns preaching and allow the gifts to operate. One of the pastors who left his previous governing body has been kicked out of his church. This organization would have pastors build their churches to roof height and then promise to roof them with corrugated iron if they signed over the land and building to the governing body. Many of them have done so and if they leave that governing body then they lose everything. Some of these churches now have their meetings under the trees on Sunday mornings. We have land to build new churches and will begin this month. If anyone wants to support a pastor it is \$15 per month. Thank you! God thanks you, I thank you and the pastor will be very grateful.