

A NEW HOUSE BEING BUILT FOR ONE OF THE ELDERLY.



April 2020
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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dearest Friends,

Rom 12:1 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."* The biggest problem with being a *"Living sacrifice"* is that we tend to slither off the altar. Sanctification takes a lifetime and we will never be perfect until His return but He does expect us to change from glory to glory. Faith in ourselves will not make the mark. That is the real problem with churches who have motivational speakers instead of pastors. They tend to put the emphasis on we instead of HE. *"If you put your mind to it you can accomplish this and accomplish that..."* For many years I have been amazed at some of the faith teaching to where we end up having faith in faith instead of faith in God. I see fear in Christians all the time. Fear of the unknown, fear of the economy collapsing and now fear of the virus. Did Jesus not promise that we were healed? If we die He has promised eternity in a much better place. We will begin to change when we read the Word often, when we pray often, when we listen to that voice in our "knower" which is the Holy Spirit who resides in us. No one can tell me that when we are about to do something wrong the Holy Spirit tries to stop us. His favorite admonishment to me is always, *"I wouldn't do that if I were you."*

How awesome is it that the Spirit of God dwells in you and me? How often do we even reflect on that? The great Creator who has no beginning and no end and who created the galaxies dwells in me. If our ears were more tuned to Him and we obeyed then our behavior would change. We must resist temptation, flee from sin, have a goal, *"press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 3:14
If we were attuned to the Holy Spirit in us, we would gradually become regenerated. That does not mean we sit back and relax and believe God will do it all. God created us individuals and gave us free will. How we chose to use that free will separates us as sheep from the goats. I have watched both sheep and goats in Africa with interest. For years I could not get the concept of us being sheep. Goats are intelligent but rogue. They run off everywhere and do their own thing. They are stubborn and head-butters meaning they want to continually show dominance. Sheep on the other hand are good followers, calm and compliant. Goats will not conform to a shepherd but run around doing their own thing. Sheep will follow wherever their shepherd leads them, they are passive and grazers. When the shepherd finds pasture, they will often lie down to graze. If we are sheep, we will love reading His Word and will be compliant to the Holy Spirit. *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand,"* (John 10:27-28).

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8514 N. Donna Ct. Kansas City, MO 64153

"He shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meant for the master's use and prepared for every good work."

REPORT FROM PASTOR ERIC

I was helping at a funeral at my friend's church a few weeks ago and as always there is a lot of talk that goes on at funerals. People come inquiring as to what has happened, they give their condolences and the men start talking sport, politics, or anything that will take their minds away from the tragedy that has befallen us. We were of course sitting on the ground in large crowds as is the case with most African funerals and that was when we were reminded of the dangers of being affected by the corona virus since there was very little physical distancing observed. There was a deep silence when most people learned that the deceased was a young girl aged sixteen and committed suicide because she was felt rejected by her stepmother and relatives. It was a somber moment because such things should not be happening in the body of Christ. The Lord Jesus loved us so much that He was prepared to demonstrate that love even unto His death on that cross. This young lady was lacking something the community could have given her. We all failed her because someone should have seen her pain and stretched out a helping hand. The church should rise to the challenges we are facing in our area. There are so many broken families and scarred people in Nsanje that only Jesus can heal. I am asking you our dearly beloved friends to help us in prayer that we can reach out to as many people as possible and share with them just how much the unconditional love of God can do to a person in need.

We are currently going through a difficult time in Malawi. We had a lot of rain but poor yields due leaching of fertilizers to the extent that recent studies have revealed that only 21 out of a hundred families have sufficient food throughout the year. Our health infrastructure is ill equipped to combat Covid-19, our political and already poor economic systems are failing. We have seen people taking to the streets to demonstrate their dissatisfaction with the way their rights were represented in the electoral process which the High Court and Supreme Court of Malawi have nullified. We are expecting another general election on 2nd July 2020 and already some factions are getting tribal in their ideology which will only divide the unity that makes this place The Warm Heart of Africa. The Word of God reminds us that even though we live in this world, we are not of this world. Our traditions and customs should not depict a worldly nature but a character that symbolizes the Love of Christ and the light that He bears. The problems we have are mostly born of our ambitious nature to be first in all things. There is absolutely nothing wrong with ambition and setting up high goal for oneself but doing so at the detriment of others is morally wrong. The corruption that epitomizes our political system is shocking and we pray that the Lord should intervene in this situation.

We are always happy when brother Francis visits our church to have fellowship with us. Sometimes I travel with him when he goes to visit other churches but it is always a blessing to have guests in your home. I am glad that the ministry takes time to visit us and see what we are doing after our graduation from the Bible School. I am grateful for the encouragement you give women by making us all realize we both have a role to play in ministry as well as in our society. Our culture allows for a male dominated society but the Word of God teaches us the truth. The Word shows how God first made Adam and gave him dominion on earth and then He fashioned Eve to help him fulfill his role as leader. Anyone who helps you at leading is simply leading with you. Eve was a leader in her own respect and the fact that she was a woman did not make her less a leader than Adam was. I am happy that this approach has completely dismantled the African way of thinking in my church. My wife has become a leader for other women as well and I am so blessed to have her by my side. I am happy the ministry has encouraged the women's ministry to change the status quo in our societies. We hope to radically teach these truths to more as well as encouraging more young girls to choose education and cut out early marriages in our region.



ABOUT US

We, Alabaster Ministries are based in the United States with a tax-deductible status under 501(c)(3).

We also have representation in the United Kingdom and are covered by Stewardship Services

Our representatives there are Michael and Penny Shellswell.

Phone: +44-7780-383452 (Michael)
+44-7551974316 (Penny)

In Malawi we have Oresti and Julie Yiannakis who are a wonderful support and without whom it would be extremely difficult for us to operate.

Our staff comprise of local Malawians, and volunteer staff in the USA and UK.

It is our belief that we should train the locals to one day be able to totally run every aspect of the ministry in their nation and to train the next generation to one day take over while we support and give advice where needed.

God has blessed us with an amazing team of people who are always ready and willing no matter what comes against us. God is in charge and is faithful when we are about His business.

This is an exciting ministry to be a part of and we so appreciate your support.

CONTACT US

You can support this exciting and vibrant ministry by sending checks to:

Alabaster Ministries
8514 N Donna Ct
Kansas City, MO 64153

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Via the web site direct to PayPal.

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Website: www.rozheyns.org

REPORT FROM PASTOR FRANCIS BANDA

I know I need God in my life every day. When I do not sense His presence, I feel like a blind man driving a car, or a ship without a rudder. It is almost as if I am merely existing and not truly alive anymore or on a journey and I have no idea what my destination is. I should always be confident He is there because He was there before the beginning of time. He that was there before the "Beginning," and He has no beginning and is eternal. John 1 says, *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."* We know that we cannot read the mind of anyone and nor can the devil. We understand through what comes out of the mouth – when something is verbalized. The simplest reason why Jesus Christ is referred to as the "Word" of God is this, THAT HE SHOULD REVEAL THE MIND OF THE FATHER TO THE WORLD. I love to read the first chapter in John because I find that it helps me to understand the divinity of the Godhead and their purpose for my life and it is so comforting to know and that They are always there.

We have mentors in different arenas of life. These days we have taken things further with motivational speakers and charismatic figures who give speeches and lectures on a wide range of subjects in life. These people have spent a great deal of time in study and are dedicated to their work which is why we trust them enough to sit in on their lectures. Christ comes down into this world to be the mouthpiece of God that we might hear the Father speaking to us and see the life that He brings firsthand. In hearing and believing we can tap into God's heartbeat and share the LIFE that He freely gives. This for me answers the question "Who needs God when you are strong?" Strength and weakness are attributes of life and not life itself. We can be weak and still live, and likewise when are strong and able to do a lot of things on our own. Christ demonstrates strength at the greatest level. He was able to lay down His own life and pick it up again in victory on the third day that we might experience LIFE on another level than what we cherish now. He created us and desperately longs to be reunited with His creation so much so that He suffered the agony of the cross to redeem us from the depths of depravity of this world. I look at Nicodemus in John 3, he was afraid or ashamed to come to Christ during the day so he came in the dark of night. He was one of the Pharisees, a man of influence, a powerful man, a strong man, yet he needed eternal life. Even in our positions of strength we can be weak and in weakness lies the greatest need. It is only when realize that we are weak that we will cherish the strength that is in Jesus Christ.

I was watching the news the other day and kept changing news channels. Everything was negative and there were no positive reports. It is so easy to be afraid right now when you watch the news. I saw little on anything else but the Corona virus. The world was aware that someday a virus would terrorize us but we did not expect anything to hit us on this magnitude. It is so easy to despair and ask the question where is God in all this? I used to look at those old people in Nsanje and wonder we would manage in the face of such a formidable foe. Most of them have little sanitary materials, there has been little assistance from the authorities, their homes are mud huts with a grass roof and they live on top of one another. The hospitals are poorly manned and literally do not have the capacity to contain such a virus and yet these underprivileged people are safe. The hand of God over them is testimony enough that He is always there. He listens when you call upon His name and He will never leave you alone. The world as we know it will never be the same. This storm shall pass away and we will all be united in our loss but let us remember to count our blessings as well. Let us remember to cherish the good things and enjoy our families and friends. If there is anything this virus has done for me it is to recall the important things of my life and the living reality of Christ. We are here not by chance but by the love, grace, and power that is in the Blood of the Lamb.



PRAYER MEETING AT PASTOR ERIC'S CHURCH

REPORT FROM MARTHA

I greet you in the most precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and pray that the Lord has preserved you and your loved ones under His wings during these hard times. The Lord is keeping us safe in Nsanje. We pray and share communion together with family and friends regularly and ask the Lord that this storm should pass over us that one day we are all a testimony to the world unto the glory of His wonderful name.

We all go about our day to day lives knowing what we are setting out to do on that day. Some of us work, and others run businesses but at the end of the day we feel some sort of satisfaction because we have a purpose, otherwise we would be really frustrated with ourselves. The women in our region have for a long time lived under the shadow of men without realizing what their purpose is in life and that is no way to live at all. Needless to say, we allowed this trend to exist in the church. The women's ministry is helping us do away with the old method of doing things and to realize our purpose in life. We have a voice and with that voice we must take our place and leave our mark in this world. I would like to thank Pastor Roz and the entire Bible School team for giving young women the opportunity to learn and teach future generations the solid foundations of the Kingdom of Heaven and the need to realize our purpose in life. I am glad to see the younger women at the Bible school doing well and they are a powerful asset in our women's conferences. Thank you for all your teachings, your efforts have not been wasted and we pray that you continue to invest in the youth. We also particularly happy with the Chazuka church women group who continue to show exceptional qualities under the leadership of Mrs. Ndaluzi. We would like to thank Pastor Eric for encouraging and supporting her so that she can become the powerful instrument of God that she is.

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