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ALABASTER MINISTRIES



UPDATE

Dear Friends and Partners,

Are we equipped against all odds? If not, we should be. God has given us everything we need to stand against wickedness and evil AND more important than that He has equipped every one of us to carry out the great commission. There are multitudes in the valley of decision who are desperate and needy BUT they do not need a band aid or a quick fix that treats the symptom, they need something that takes care of the root. HE is the answer to all of mankind's troubles and woes and you and I carry HIM wherever we go. The answer to all of life's issues dwells within you and me.

We have all the weapons we need to conquer. Ephesians 6:11: *"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"* The word "wiles" means trickery, deception, conspiracy, beguilement – a perfect picture of the world today and the world at the time of Noah. What God considers evil is now totally acceptable by the liberals of this world.

For those who are saved by the precious Blood of our Lord and Savior we have armor explained in Ephesians 6:14-18. Armies never went into battle without armor and even in modern armies armor is worn – always a helmet to protect the head. The helmet of salvation

protects our minds from being attacked. *"I have the mind of Christ."* *"Whatsoever things are lovely....."* Our minds need to be safeguarded by the *"washing of the water by the Word."* Those who have fallen away are those who do not renew their minds daily by reading the Word. I believe that the Word is an integral part of the helmet. Our mind/soul is a spiritual battlefield. It is where the Holy Spirit and darkness contend for the body. The word helmet in the Greek is "perikephaiaia" and this means to "encircle and protect the head." Without renewing the mind, it is virtually impossible to live an overcoming and victorious life in Christ.

The sword of the spirit is the Word of God. It is a powerful two-edged sword. In the Old Testament it was carried by God to bring judgement against the enemies of His people. When I am in right standing with God, I can bring the sword of the Spirit against the enemy which is not a person but the spirit behind that person. I am not the judge, God is the judge, but we need to know the Word in order to pray effectively. The sword is an aggressive and defensive weapon. The word in Greek is "machaira" which means "a device of war for judicial sentence." The sword has always been a weapon of warfare. I always tell people that "Kill'em" prayers are not of the Kingdom but are soulish and often demonic. We can pray people out – out of office, out of a church situation PAGE 4.....

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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 SHADRECK:

I greet you in the most precious name of our Lord Jesus and pray that you are all well. The Lord has been faithful to my family and my congregation through the past trying months and we have seen His hand of deliverance so much that I am able to testify of His greatness today. I have had a bit of fun lately because my house meetings have been so lively. Perhaps it is because we have harvested the little crops in our fields and people have some food in their bellies.

We keep talking about Covid from every media platform world-wide and in our immediate circles as if that is all we have to talk about. That is because this storm has hit the world so hard and changed the "terrain" of almost everything. Nothing is ever the same after a storm. When a storm happens, it disturbs the state of an environment or an atmosphere affecting and sometimes permanently changing its normal state.

I had a meeting at Pastor Cephas Mphinga's residence and shared the gospel of Mark 4:35-41 with them to calm their fears and address the questions of concern towards the misconceptions circling regarding vaccines and everything else that is causing anguish.

Christ was on a ship crossing the sea of Galilee and there were many other little ships following Him to the other side of the sea when suddenly the billowing sea gave rise to terrible waves. The waters became as a battering ram, beating the sides and filling the ships with water. The Lord Jesus was asleep in the storm for He had been remarkably busy ministering to great crowds. Sometimes we have worries in our hearts and are like troubled seas - restless as we carry on with our daily activities. Our passions are unruly and often we think we hear God and have His commandments entwined with our lives in our presumption but we are just wandering in the wrong direction like restless waters. Listen the voice of God saying, "Peace BE still."

When the raging sea roared, fear gripped the disciples and they began to despair. There was no peace in their hearts, their faces turned gray, and their spirits were greatly troubled. It is ok to be concerned but not any good giving in to fear so much so that we lose our faith. When the billowing seas threatened to sink their ships, the men and women following Christ summoned the strength to pray to the Lord for help. Today we have an enemy among us that has threatened and destroyed families, economies, and partnerships. We have witnessed a storm that has filled us with immense fear and doubts. The disciples were lucky to have their Master physically present with them on that boat. They could see Him lying in the bottom of the boat and they called out for help to the ONE who commanded the waters and the wind. He rose and all He said was, "PEACE BE STILL," and the storm was no more. Why are we still afraid today? We have been adopted into God's family by the Blood of the Lamb through grace and the power of the blessed Holy Spirit, to be made coheirs with Christ in heaven. We can be in His presence everyday of our lives so long as we maintain a relationship with Him. We can through faith and fervent prayer offer up supplications to the courts of heaven to calm even this storm that is changing the earths' terrain today. We must acknowledge that fear will always take turns with faith in a great turf war within our beings but unwavering faith overcomes fear. Do not despair in the face of trouble but rather summon the strength to prayer through faith in our Lord Jesus.

Alabaster Ministries

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

OR

Via the web site direct to PayPal.

OR

Cash App: \$alabastermin

OR

Venmo: Rozella Heyns@Rozella-Heyns



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REPORT FROM PASTOR FRANCIS:

I greet you in the most precious name of our Lord Jesus and pray that you are all well. We are looking forward to hosting Pastor Roz in Malawi after the hiatus caused by covid circumstances in recent months. We are definitely anxious to have her visit all the elderly and share another wonderful distribution. I cannot even begin to describe the Euphoria that will be when she graces us with her presence. We have just returned from our annual Easter conference which such a wonderful event. I was particularly happy because for the first time I have witnessed the success of the investment our elderly are making in raising a younger generation in the ways of the Lord.

Jesus Christ often spoke of his sufferings and death as being at a distance but in Matthew 26 the narrative changes; He says to his disciples, *"Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the son of man is betrayed to be crucified."*

The Jewish council was secretly plotting to kill Jesus quietly during the feast of the Passover to avoid making a spectacle of it all but it pleased God to upset their intentions. The Pascal lamb was sacrificed upon the foundations of the earth and His death and resurrection was rendered public for all to see and hear.

Throughout the gospel of Jesus, we see several times when the Lord commanded the apostles to go and do something but in Matthew 26 Christ gives a specific directive to His apostles as to exactly where He would love to have His last supper with them. The Lord knows those who receive Him with open hearts and He desires to spend every precious moment with them. Even in our modern age when we call upon Him and celebrate communion under the new covenant, we made with Christ He is there. We must earnestly yearn for Christ especially in these trying times. We have no idea how hard we will be tempted and how far the Lord might leave us to ourselves for the strengthening and perfecting of our faith.

The ordinance of the LORDS SUPPER is to us the Passover supper by which we commemorate a much greater deliverance than Israel coming of Egypt. "Take, eat; this is my body." Accepting Jesus as He is offered to us through the breaking of bread means receiving atonement, approving of it, and here is the hard part for most of us - submitting to Christ's grace and government! Looking at well garnished meat and admiring it does not fill the stomach and so it is with the doctrine of Christ. It must be consumed. Christ gave thanks to teach us to look to God for every part of our lives and gave His cup with a command, "Drink ye all of it." Complete reunion with God lost in Eden, complete healing, complete deliverance completeness of spirit, soul and body is we would totally submit to Him and Him alone.



We know that Adam lived in a garden of pleasure and of course we cannot compare that pleasure to the "pleasures" man has indulged in today. He who made atonement for the burdens of this world submitted Himself to suffering, to the will of God from which man revolted in a garden of pleasure. *Isiah 53:3-4, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely, he hath borne our grief and carried sorrows yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted."* Jesus took the three who witnessed his transfiguration and fullness of glory with Him as He went further in the garden to pray. The sweat drops from his brow were as blood with the agony as He wrestled to submit to what He knew was ahead. Those who are best prepared to submit to Christ are those who have beheld His glory.

This year's Easter conference was not only a commemoration of the great sacrifice that Christ made for us but also a time to reflect on our role as the body of Christ. As we partake of communion following the command given to us in the New testament with the Lord we should be at peace with all men and be the dutybound soldier of Christ in us who must go forth with the gospel. When we get right with God and man and we are on fire for His service, He fills us up with a terrific burden to serve the nations and minister in our current environments. This has nothing to do with personal gain but just like Christ, it has everything to do with being transformed into broken bread and crushed out wine to the world. We are forever grateful for our blessed partners and supporters who are to us a symbol of broken bread and crushed out wine through their enormous sacrifices. May the Almighty God continue blessing you.

Ed Note: The above "church" belongs to one of the Pastors who graduated from our first Bible School – Pastor Dziko. He has a growing membership. Don't you think he should have a building in which to meet? If he has a building his congregation grows.

The estimated amount for a building is \$2,800.

Bricks \$200,

Iron sheets \$750,

Cement \$650,

Builders \$300,

Timber, \$250,

Nails \$150,

Sand \$150, Fuel \$350.

FROM PAGE 1... out of our lives and how God does it is His business as He is the righteous judge. However, our motives always must be pure and sincere and not just because we do not like someone or something.

"Gird our loins with truth..." Jesus stood in front of Pilate who asked Him, "What is truth?" Truth was standing before him and Pilate did not wait for an answer but pronounced Him innocent and washed his hands and gave Him to the mob. The mob pronounced Him guilty. Worldly truth is relevant, there are plenty of gray areas but in the Kingdom, there are no gray areas. The truth is predominant public opinion in today's world. Protagoras (paraphrased) says to Socrates, "What is true for you is true for you, and what is true for me is true for me." This pagan notion, that truth is always personal and relative to self, is widespread today. Jesus believed in absolute truth and made it the fundament of life. He prayed to His Father for His disciples: *"Make them holy in the truth; your word is truth"* (John 17:17). God's Word once again that protects us from lustful impurities – *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life* – all of these inhibit the equipping of the saints.

Breastplate of righteousness – in today's world the breastplate in the physical is the bulletproof vest. In Roman times it was made of leather or metal and protected the front torso. There was nothing to protect the back because the Roman army did not retreat so there was no need to have its rear protected. There should be no retreat in the Kingdom of God because Jesus is the commander of the Lord's army both angelic and human and with Him there is no variation or shadow of turning. If He led the Israelites to victory just because Judah went out praising ahead of the army then how much more will He lead us into victory. To me our breastplate speaks of praise and worship that will always lead us to victory in Him. When we begin to praise, we will enter His courts. When we begin to praise all of self – our fears, our woes, our doubts begin to fall away and then we can start to worship Him for who He is. What an incredibly powerful place to be – in His presence – in the presence of a righteous King and Judge who judges justly. The breastplate protects the heart. Impure hearts invite impure spirits which is why

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King David had to pray, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me"* Ps 51:10. His heart had been infiltrated because he had not put on the belt of truth, and his flesh had overtaken him.

The footwear – Ps 37:23 *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."* Our feet need to be shod with the gospel of peace. There is nothing more wonderful than being at peace with God and man. I find rest in Him. I can be in the midst of terrible hardship or danger but it matters little when I am at rest and peace in Him.

Finally, the shield of faith – the shield was used to protect our bodies. The Romans had an amazing maneuver in battle called the tortoise in which they covered themselves with their shields so that no lance or arrow could pierce them and then they would advance on the enemy. Our shields protect us and others from the fiery darts. Prayer in both our language and in the spirit are definitely part of the shield. All parts of our armor work together to either protect or to use offensively in battle. When groups of us who are fully equipped in our armor get together and form a tortoise..... If I have one stick it can easily be broken but when I have a bundle they cannot be broken.

