



AUGUST 2021  
rozheyms.org



# ALABASTER MINISTRIES

# UPDATE

Dear Friends and Partners,

We were extremely excited to see the grader move onto the property in the mountains, to clear the land and terrace it ready for building.

This property will house the new Bible School which will consist of a meeting hall along with men's dormitories, women's dormitories, and a kitchen. This facility will be used for the Bible School, Pastor's conferences, youth group weekends and the women's groups. We will also have a cottage built for Francis. Francis is going up to the Forestry Commission in Zomba this weekend to get fruit trees to plant at the base of the land where the soil is extremely fertile. We will be able to grow fruits such as mangoes, lemons, oranges, papaya, custard apples, tangerines, guavas, and passion fruit. We are waiting on the final quote for the borehole/well and they will begin to drill 7<sup>th</sup> September. The road to this property is easier on the vehicles and without all the rocks and boulders which we had to navigate going up to the previous property in Chididi. It was beginning to take a serious toll on our vehicles especially out tires and struts.

Each dormitory will have 20 bunk beds, five toilets and showers with running water and flush toilets. The cottage will have two bedrooms each with their own bathroom and an open plan kitchen, dining and living area. I am still set on staying in my tent which is bug and reptile

Free where houses are not despite mosquito netting and all other precautions.

By the next newsletter I will have photos of the new well, unless of course there is a hitch which is always possible in Africa. The villagers are amazed at what is happening. They have not seen any independent organizations building in their area and cannot remember the last time the government did anything. It was the same when we moved into Chididi and when we left there were many NGO's (non-government agencies) and a cell tower had been erected.

We pray the same thing for Nthondo. They have one well for a village of 900 residents and we wonder why they are not productive. People must sit at the well for hours waiting in line to be able to use it and everything is done by hand. We are wanting to install a solar powered pump with a storage tank about 10' off the ground which will give us pressure.

Please pray for this project that it would be done swiftly and that the finances would flow so that there are no delays. The government are allowing schools to be in session and we want to reconvene the Bible School. Until our buildings are up Pastor Shadreck has offered for us to use his church.

Meanwhile the project with the elderly continues.

ALABASTER

MINISTRIES

9641 N Ambassador Dr. #1709, Kansas City, MO 64154

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

## REPORT FROM PASTOR FRANCIS:

I greet you in the wondrous name of our Lord Jesus and pray that this finds you well. Malawi, like most of the global economies is going through major social and economic adjustments following a drastic change due to the Covid pandemic. The introduction of vaccines has sparked countless corruption and conspiracies and created confusion especially among our rural communities who have little access to information. The rapid increases in prices of goods and services including the price of fertilizers in our predominantly agricultural economy are good indicators of the difficult times we are going through as a nation.

Corruption is still high and it seems that there might be some hope in this regard following the arrest of top figures in government. The first time a cabinet minister who represents the top echelon in Malawian politics was arrested for corruption was almost two decades ago. Recently we have seen wonderful leadership which has given people hope that perhaps for the first time this nation is heading in the right direction. Top government officials have been dismissed and arrested on corruption charges.

There are a lot of frustrated people because it is so difficult to earn a living in these tough times and news of strict discipline amongst the leadership of this nation surely gives one hope that perhaps there are those who really care about the ordinary people in the villages. It has pleased us that for the first time we have seen signs from the government that there might be real programs that will help in poverty alleviation and in looking after the welfare of the old and frail.

It is very dry in Nsanje and the price of maize has gone up from \$10 to \$15 for a 50kg bag. The ordinary Malawian survives on less than \$1 per day. The skyrocketing prices will hit them hard since our staple food and diet largely depends on maize/corn. I have had conversations with over thirty old people in the past week alone. I have sat down in their broken homes and listened to their challenges. I noticed the issue of poor housing, food security and rising prices, and blankets kept coming up. Ms. Vihzina Benasi who was in our Newsletter a few months ago told me her house has totally collapsed and all she wanted was a blanket since she is now living at a church elder's house. May the Lord bless him for his generosity.

We will be having another distribution campaign soon and we would like to implore you, our dearly beloved, to help us so that we can brighten up the faces of our dear elderly in Nsanje. We are looking forward to a successful distribution and creating lasting memories with you all. May the Almighty God bless you always.

## TESTIMONIES FROM PASTORS ABOUT THE NEW BIBLE SCHOOL:

JEFFREY DAYI



I grew up in a poor family and never imagined in my wildest dreams that I would receive an education of any sort until the missionaries arrived in Chididi. I was privileged to learn to read and write our vernacular language but that was all I called an education. God gave me a gift and so I decided to follow my heart to become a pastor in my village. However, my understanding of the word was limited until 2016 when Alabaster launched a Bible School in Chididi to equip all chaplains to the elderly with the right tools for their task. It is a huge burden to bear for anyone who is not prepared. Nevertheless, we had been conducting these lessons in a church building. We did not complain about the little resources we had but rather treasured the great opportunity to acquire knowledge to better our work. I am so excited at the concept of building a great bible school in the Mountains of Nthondo. This will serve as a beacon of light and truth in our area as well as a transformative force in our communities. Our children and their children's children will be able to come to this school to learn thus transforming our nation from within. I would like to thank the leadership for their vision and pray that God grants them the grace they need to carry out this wonderful vision.

## 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**  
9641 N Ambassador Dr #1709  
Kansas City, MO 64154

OR \_\_\_\_\_

Via the web site direct to PayPal.

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 Website: [www.rozheyms.org](http://www.rozheyms.org)

## MAXWELL TCHAPO

My father taught to invest and preserve the things I have so that my children and the generations that are to come after me may also enjoy in the riches that our forefathers left for us. I have tried to live up to this challenge my entire life. I work very hard and preserve the farmland I inherited from my folks. I have been teaching my sons this principle so that they may follow in my footsteps when I am no longer there to support them. The problem with the oral system of education is that it can easily be distorted and lost once someone forgets some minor details. That is why it is important to have institutions that record what they teach us so that we might benefit in the now, but also have continuity for the generations which are to come. I went to the Bible School in Chididi which we were conducting in a church building for about three years. I am overjoyed to hear that Alabaster has acquired land to build a proper Bible School. I used to be a big believer that we did not need such things as bible schools but growing up and living in an area with a lot of controversial doctrines has made me realize that it is far better to have teachers.

I have learned that the Holy Spirit is our greatest teacher because He informs us on the doctrinal knowledge that we have learned from our Bible Schools. This school will not only be a blessing to everyone affiliated with Alabaster but all who live in Chididi and neighboring Mozambique. Most people would have opted to have this school at Nsanje central business district or in Blantyre where you have all the comforts of city life but the leadership of this ministry has decided to have it here in the middle of nowhere. I would like to encourage you to continue with this vision. It is far better to teach people in their environment, using things that are found locally that way it becomes easier and they do not have to adjust to big city life which all often overwhelming for us in the rural areas. May the Almighty God give you the wisdom and support you require to make this dream a reality.



Ed Note: These pastors graduated from our first Bible School. They faithfully attended for a week out of every six weeks with six 11/2-hour sessions a day. Some walked from up to 25 miles away to attend and they never missed. We held them in a church and they slept in that church while we slept in tents. When it was discovered that the pastors of the church were in adultery and refused to stop, we bought land in another mountain area about ten miles away. The graders came in at the beginning of last week and cleared and terraced the land making it ready for building. Pastor Francis is now finding a well driller to come in and find water and then we will begin to build.

## A NEW HOUSE:

Jekapu Peshe was born in August 1932 in Nsanje District. He is the first-born son in a family of six and has lived in Nthondo village all his life. He was one of the people who risked their lives to assist those who were fleeing Mozambique during the war with the Portuguese and the civil war as well. It must have been dangerous to host the refugees when you consider that the boundary between Malawi and Mozambique is literally twenty meters away from his front yard. Jekapu has a garden but is unable to farm because of old age so he depends on his last-born son for assistance. Years of cooking on the fire inside his house have resulted in serious health issues with his eyes and lungs. The smoke from burning firewood and charcoal has also fouled the air in his house and has done damage to the house which was built with fire cured bricks and mud which disintegrates easily. Jekapu is concerned and worried that his house will give up some day because he does not have a proper roof. Shadreck and I spent three hours at his house encouraging him not to lose hope and I understood that shelter, food security and the lack of blankets was his biggest challenge. He is very worried his house might not survive the rainy season that is coming a few months from now. We pray the Lord touches him and shows him unmerited favor.



## YOUTH CAMP:

We are investing in these youth seminars to avoid setting a dangerous precedent of ignoring the changes at hand, AND the concerns of the disenfranchised young adults. We do not want to ignore the fact that young people are overlooked in the church. The substitute to their zeal for the things of the Lord has been entertainment in the form of sport and picnics. One of the solutions we have is the teaching we do at Alabaster Bible School. Our knowledge of the Word in many rural homes is very limited. In addition, a typical rural African church has very little exegesis taking place and instead you have the wildest forms of erratic teachings being expounded. The vacuum that is created by lack of proper teaching and leadership in our young adults makes the inevitable very real.

We are happy to report that the youth under the visionary leadership of their chaplain Robert Kankoché now has a keen interest in the technological, philosophical, social-political, and economic transformations of their societies. Engaging young adults lay down the foundation for what our communities will look like a decade from now. The African rural region still operates under the simple rules of coexistence and communal ties. We share everything with our neighbors, village, and surrounding villages and so the richness of tradition and wisdom passed down from generation to generation preserves and strengthens society. This works because it is simple for the unlearned to understand and follow. The modern generation however if wired differently therefore the youth meetings are striving to bridge the gap that exists between the young and older generations. In addition, there is powerful teachings followed by signs and wonders at these meetings.



### **YOUTH GROUP cont:** by ROBERT KANKOCHE

If anyone is "called" by God then the obvious response is the answering of that calling. God may assign us many tasks some of which might be demanding and others not so demanding. There is a reason why the scriptures say,

the harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few." Not everyone who has been called went willingly. Jonah tried to be a draft dodger but he ended up in the belly of the fish. We are a people who make excuses and we do not necessarily enjoy being taken out of our comfort zone. When God assigns tasks for us, we are liable to grow weary but when He calls us to missions, His call and Grace keeps us from quitting and propels us to go even into places we do not want to go.

When the Lord called Moses in the wilderness to go to Egypt, rescue the nation of Israel from the shackles of bondage, and bring Israel back to the promised land, he had a lot of excuses to give. But Lord, I am a stutterer, they will not listen to me. But the Lord gave Moses the solutions and the helpers because he was called to do God's bidding. Our modern generation is much more skillful in the art of excuses. So many young people are called into ministry but sometimes we do not have keen interest in the mysteries of heaven or it is simply because we are afraid to answer the call.

Jeremiah was called to be a prophet and not a priest like his father the Levite. Today we often think of prophets as people who tell the future because that is what these tricksters of the modern age have got us hooked on; but prophets spoke messages in the now that had future ramifications. Jeremiah would have had an easier task

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### **YOUTH GROUP continued:**

serving as a priest than operating in the office of a prophet. This was a demanding duty but Jeremiah, just like us today, had the promise of God's purpose. (Jeremiah 1:5- *I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born.* This means then that God knew, chose, and appointed Jeremiah.

Moses tried to con God by claiming that his talent was inadequate. *"Then said I, Ah, Lord! Behold, I cannot speak I am only a child."* Most of us at the conferences are young and have weaknesses. We are afraid to take up our position and serve because we lack leaders to show us the way. I am privileged to serve Alabaster whose leaders nurture your gift and support you to grow spiritually. It is only when you realize that you are unable to do certain things on your own that drives you depend on the sufficiency of God. Whatever God says through us might be dangerous but He gives us the strength to endure the hardships. I know and believe the Lord expects our obedience immediately. We have the promise of God's unmerited favor and power wherever we may be called. Immediate response is the appropriate response to the call of God. Jesus gave us the greatest example. There was no hesitation, no circumventing, no questioning, only immediate obedience, and action, all the way down Via Dolorosa to the victory of cross. If God has called you, do not think of your age or abilities. God called David when he was just a boy. The Lord will fulfil His purpose in you, He will equip you, accompany you wherever He has called, be with you and share in your triumphs, protect, and empower and enable you to do whatever it is He has called you to do.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR  
ADDRESS HAS CHANGED:**

**ALABASTER MINISTRIES  
9641 N AMBASSADOR DR  
# 1709  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64154**

