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ALABASTER MINISTRIES

UPDATE

Dear Friends and Partners,
I watched "The Return" last weekend in Washington D.C. All I can say is WOW and that I am sorry I was not there. There were approximately 100,000 in attendance and it was watched world-wide by multiple tens of millions. The speakers kept on point and the theme was repentance – to stand in the gap on behalf of peoples or nations. Our God is a God who never changes. What He has done in the past He will do again and again and again. He has types and shadows and formats that we should follow whether they be from the Old Testament or the New. If we do not read the Old Testament then how do we know what to do to invoke change in our every day lives. The New Testament is the fulfilment of the Old and I think this is why many advocate preaching and teaching only from the New Testament. Many no longer believe that we must repent once we have given our lives to Jesus. Many do not believe that God judges this dispensation – the Cross to the Second Coming. Then what do we do with Ananias and Saphira? Surely that is New Testament? What do we do with the prodigal son who returns home in repentance? The sole condition for salvation is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, John 20:31, "These are written

that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." The full Biblical definition of repentance is a change of mind (turning from your old ways to believe on the Lord) that results in a change of action (walking away from the old man who was a sinner). To me, the purpose of repenting is not for God's sake because He says our sins are forgiven yesterday today and forever and are covered by the precious Blood of Jesus BUT that I account for them and in doing so I am less likely to repeat them. There is accountability for sin. Ananias and Saphira were held accountable for lying to the Holy Spirit. The prodigal paid a price for walking away from the Father. Whatever we do will cause a reaction, not only for us but for others. It may cause blessings but on the other hand, when we habitually sin it can cause God to remove His umbrella of protection over us. With 63 million babies having been murdered and their blood crying out from the ground there is no doubt in my mind that His umbrella of protection has been removed from this land. The law of sowing and reaping comes into effect. That is now 63 million people who are not paying into social security, 63 million people who are not purchasing – homes, cars etc.

The theme of the Return was, 2 Chron 7:14: *If My people who are called*

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

by MY name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, then shall I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Ez 22:30 I sought for a man among them, who should build up the wall, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none."

God is still seeking men and women who will stand in the gap as did Moses and Isaiah and Daniel. It is the ministry of the priesthood. If we are no longer encouraged to read the Old Testament then how will we ever find out how God operated through these great men of faith. God never changes and what He used in the Old Testament He will use today. Faith is Old Testament as is prosperity. By faith Job saw the second coming of Jesus Christ. Isaac practiced the laws of sowing and reaping and reaped an hundredfold in a time of famine. God's laws work whether we are saved or unsaved.



THE RETURN. WASHINGTON MALL SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

Isaiah stood in the place where Uzziah had offered strange fire unto the Lord – strange because he was a king and not a priest – and he was struck down with leprosy. Isaiah stands in that same place and repents on behalf of the nation for the sin and he sees the Lord high and lifted up. Moses stands upon the mount and bargains with the Lord on behalf of Israel who are dancing around a golden idol. Grind the golden idol and cast it into the water and make the people drink of it. As soon as the ground gold was cast into the water the water turned red.

God is sovereign but He has never worked sovereignly with man. He works in conjunction with man. He requests that man does his part in order for God to move. Old Testament examples are the Valley of dry bones where God commanded Ezekiel to prophesy or tell the bones that God would breathe new life into them. Daniel remembered that the 70-year captivity was over and he was to pray that they would be released to return and rebuild the temple. Moses reminded God that He had said that Israel would become a nation so how could He threaten to wipe them out. For it to rain after the most terrible 3 1/2-year drought in history Elijah had to go up to the mountain and intercede until he saw a cloud the size of a man's hand. In each of these and every other case God has used us. What an honor but what a responsibility! Is it possible to thwart what God wants to do because I will not do what He requires of me? In the New Testament there are numerous healings that would never have taken place if the disciples had not stepped out in faith to pray for the sick. Working with the halt and the lame in Africa how many times do I miss it because a miracle or and healing may not manifest. It is not up to me. All He requires is for me to do His bidding to pray for the sick, pray deliverance for those who are bound and the rest is up to Him.

God requires us to do our part and then He will do His. I can only believe that He looked down upon each and everyone represented at the Return and all of those who watch it and participated and He saw the genuine heart of the people and He will do what He does best. His heart is moved by the prayers of His people. The days grow darker but He is light and light dissipates the darkness and He is the light that shines through you and me. Let us walk in right doing with Him and SHINE so a lost and dying world may see Him in us the hope of glory.

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.

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Cash App: \$alabastermin

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REPORT FROM PASTOR FRANCIS:

Greetings in the most wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that this finds you well and that the Lord keeps bringing you from Glory to Glory. Summer is finally here and for the Nsanje area this means the heat is back.

We enjoyed the cool breeze nature provided for the past 4 months and now the heat is back. Needless to say, it always signifies the beginning of our annual farming season. Pastor Shadreck told me that some old man said to him months ago, "Shadreck, clear your field when its cooler before the heat comes." He should have paid more attention to the voice of experience because now he is having to use a garden-hoe for hours a day under the intense heat of the sun. We have already started praying for a favorable rain season. It sounds like an unending song that every year, especially at this time of the year we start praying for good rain and that is because most of us depend on the annual convectional rainfall for subsistence farming. We are at a loss without the showers of blessings that come from above.

Nutrition has been one of the biggest challenges in Malawi for about 16 years in the aftermath of the 2002 drought and the poor strides which were previous adopted and implemented (if any) to curtail the hunger problem. Some regions of the country boast an improvement in nutrition whereas poor administration marred progress in most parts of the country. The ministry intends to start encouraging local farmers to have small gardens around their homes which can supplement their small-scale annual subsistence farming and for those privileged enough to be close to a water source, irrigation agriculture to insure food security. It is a well-known fact that Malawi is blessed with a beautiful freshwater lake which gives way to huge river that flows through Nsanje and out into the mighty Zambezi. This great water source is never used to address the question of food security as it should be and so we will try to get those who are willing to address this question and assist them with the knowledge needed to embark on irrigation farming. We pray that the new legislation that has been passed to benefit local farmers really gets implemented and reaches the targeted populations to address nutrition problems in our area.

Pastors Eric and Shadreck are doing a splendid job holding house meetings with the elderly in the region. We are really blessed to have them and they make our team a wonderful functioning machine that fully serves and imparts the mysteries which have always been hidden in plain sight, in the wonderful Word of God. We are looking forward to another time when we can meet the rest of the elderly group again in one gathering when we get past all the things that have been hindering the holding of large meetings. Some schools will reopen in Malawi but they are mostly restricted to senior year students and classes that are about to have their final examinations. However, this gives us the opportunity to hold Bible school classes again and make sure that we keep the new group of chaplains entrenched in the Word of God.



PASTOR SHADRECK KAMCHIRA:

Please receive greetings and the best regards from my Church at Nthondo in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus. He continues to be faithful to us and has preserved us during these difficult times. I pray that this finds you well and that your families are all well too.

I have had a busy month going from village to village doing house visitations with the elderly. We decided to hold house meetings following government regulations on meetings and our own conviction to prevent the spread of COVID in our areas. I have to say house meetings have ruined church for me forever. It is by far the most successful way to conduct church because we can relate to one other. We never really have sermons but wonderful fellowship and the more we get into discussions on whatever subject matter we have for that particular meeting, the more I am able to teach and deal with the exact needs the people have. Unlike church, in which everything is general and there is very little time to get deeper into the subject matter these house groups are personal and have brought about a more caring attitude one with another. I have been a little swamped but I have to say I am enjoying it more and will continue with house meetings going forward. I have been teaching from the book of Romans and we have had a great time studying the text together. Mr. Bingala Gume, Pastor Gume's (one of our graduates) father, led the discussion on Romans 6 where Paul begins the discourse by asking the question, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that GRACE may abound?" The apostle was pressing the necessity for mankind to strive to attain holiness through grace by showing that justification and holiness are very much connected and inseparable. We are very aware that baptism in water symbolizes dying to sin being as we were buried with Christ from all worldly pursuits and rising into Christ and boasting the newness of life in God our Father. The old man that was derived from the fallen nature of Adam must be put off for the excellence of Jesus Christ. The body of iniquity in its entirety ought to be put off so that the believer may not be subjugated to the principalities of this world, but rather be freed from its slavery. ALIVE in God that he may be able to enter into eternal rest.

It is clear from this text that we, out of our own volition, become servants to a master of our choosing whether it be sinful dispositions borne in our hearts, our actions, or spiritual regeneration implanted in our hearts. I remember watching a blacksmith in my village as he made his precious knives. I had seen another smith work in Chididi a few years ago and I could not help but notice that the smiths had different ways of doing things but one thing was common among them. They both melted iron and poured it into a mold to get their desired shape. First, we see iron that had a different shape adopting a new shape as it is first purified by fire and poured into a new mold. The believer takes on a new shape and becomes a new creation when the old man is put off for the excellence of Jesus Christ. When we are still lost in that miry clay, we plough and sow iniquity, reaping the same which in any case does not constitute to be called fruit at all. However, we are justified by faith, through the abundance of grace that Christ purchased for us on the cross that we might be molded into new creations, preserved for His purposes, and prepared to be reunited with the Groom on that dearly awaited day.



Pastor Eric's fields for planting sweet potatoes with maize (corn) in the background. The sweet potatoes in this area are the best I have tasted anywhere in the world.

We plan on encouraging the churches to plant small market gardens so they have crops they can distribute to the elderly and for those who find it difficult to support themselves.

Now that we have a truck, we can use it to transport items and charge for the transportation costs.

We would also like to start farming goats which are drought resistant. These we would sell to the Moslems during Ramadan as they love to eat goat during this time. Prov: "The wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous." It will be wonderful to use those finances to build the Kingdom.

Chickens will also be a way to raise money. I call them road runners because they are so tough you can hardly tear the meat of the drumsticks. The African people love them. They love the entrails of an animal and are happy for you to eat the filet. Go figure!

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PASTOR ERIC NDALUZA

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. My family and I are all well and pray that it is the same with you our dearly beloved friends.

The staff of Alabaster Ministries were treated to a week at Lake Malawi recently. We had a wonderful time of relaxation and the most wonderful part was the fact that we had time to sit by the Lake and pray together. It has given us the opportunity of getting to know each other even more than we already do. We were also able to "brain storm" on new opportunities and ideas for the future of the ministry in Malawi and some of these included how we could help make money here for the extension of His wonderful Kingdom instead of relying totally on overseas funding. It is time for us to do our part instead of always coming with a "give me, give me" mentality.

We are approaching another farming season and being a farmer myself, we have started preparing our fields to be ready for planting as soon as the rains get here. We have had our fair share of food security challenges in the past and we are grateful for your support in that area and pray the blessings of God to be with you for your generous provisions. I have been doing my meetings although differently from what we were used to. We have adopted house meetings to curtail the spread of COVID and preserve our elderly. It takes some time to make my rounds through the villages following the new procedures. However, the house meetings have proved to be overly exciting as well as highly beneficial. We will surely continue with small groups which also present a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other more and further strengthen our fellowship.

We regret to report that we have lost two of our friends all due to illnesses unrelated to the current pandemic. We had the opportunity to visit the dearly departed a few days before the fact and had wonderful fellowship with them together with the Tengani church congregation. We are sad in our loss as well as happy to have had the opportunity to have known Jeter and Alice in this life. They were to us a beacon of light and a source of happiness. We shall always remember them for their spirit in leading others to worship, to live hospitably well with one another, and for the excitement they brought to the elderly group in our meetings. May the Almighty God Bless you always.