



SEPTEMBER 2021
rozheyms.org

ALABASTER MINISTRIES



UPDATE

Dear Friends and Partners,

I am beside myself with joy as I hear what has been unfolding in Malawi because of wells. *"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field shall honor me, the dragons, and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise."* Isaiah 43:19-21

This is exactly what has happened in our mountain village. When we first started going up there was hardly a road and then the government came in and started to work on it. We bought our land and had the rig come in and drill. We can survive for prolonged periods of time without food but we cannot survive without water. No one should try to survive without the LIVING WATER and without being continually washed in the water of the Word.

God is a God of order. He knows all things and directs man to do things and to be properly placed so that His will for us, for groups of people and for nations can come to pass. He will always use humanity to put His plan into action so we need to be tuned into Him in order to be used by Him.

The well, when the water blew out of the earth, was a physical manifestation of what we should be like after we have drunk from His well. God already had His spiritual leader in place for that area. Because we did what we said we would do the villagers are saying, "They kept their word about the well so what they tell us about their God must be true. Let us go to their church and hear about their God."

The church is growing daily and they are now drinking from the river of LIVING water and continuously being washed in the water of the Word. What an amazing tool for evangelism!

In third world nations we often have to dig for water. Last trip there I watched an elephant digging in the riverbed for water for her and her baby. That will bring water which will ensure survival for them. It is brackish and not too clean Then we have the well that has been dug out by hand – we drop a bucket and wind it back up. It is life sustaining and needs to be boiled before using but it takes a lot of work to get it out of the ground. There is enough water for me and my family to survive each day. OR we can bring in the big rig, drill through the rock, and hit the artesian well which blows out of the earth and is pure and feeds the whole village with no work involved. Which well are we? Have we allowed the Holy Spirit to drill through our hard hearts so that we blow rivers of LIVING WATER to the multitudes?

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 most wonderful name of our Lord Jesus and hope this finds you well. The Lord keeps bringing us from glory to glory through various undertakings which are all made possible by your selfless support to this ministry. The work is going on well regardless of the hurdles we have had to overcome from the rigors of the pandemic and government legislation to the unfavorable Nsanje heat waves. Our dearly beloved elderly group is also doing so well and we pray to the Lord to preserve them as we are eagerly looking forward to seeing all of them in the upcoming distribution exercise.

We had been reporting of the chaos and civil unrest in Malawi throughout 2019 to 2020 following upsets in political differences. We thought the dust was all settled in court but that confusion seems to be brooding all over again as the two opposing sides are pitted against each other in another court tussle. We pray that the Lord may preserve His people from the confusion and animosity that comes out of political affiliations.

It is time to prepare our fields for another planting season and we are praying for unmerited grace as we take to the fields again. We have not had a terrible dry season as was the case in 2020 where a lot of cattle were dying from the heat and the land was almost impossible to cultivate. The first rains have come and that allows for some vegetation to grow before waves of the El Nino and la Nina winds hit us. Overall, we are praying for a favorable rain that will soak the ground and give us a good crop. We have received reports of food reserve shortages among most of our elderly group since they do not have the strength and financial capacity to farm like they used to in their heyday and only plant and harvest a little. We are hoping the anticipated distribution can offer some much-needed respite from their struggle.

A good and solid foundation is the threshold of any vibrant and successful organization. It was only a few months ago when we first acquired land in Nthondo for the Bible school. It was just a bushy place on the side of a mountain. The events that have followed since the acquisition of this piece of property has been a massive groundbreaking and landscaping exercise made possible by your generous support to the ministry. We were all so excited at this development and so was the entire village. The Senior chief in the area congratulated pastor Shadreck for through him God has opened his area to a kind of change they have never seen before. The Lord really uses a few united people to achieve great and unimaginable things.

After we had celebrated the landscaping, we were almost faced with the dilemma Abraham and Isaac had when the boy Isaac said, "Father, we have firewood, we have fire, but where is the sacrificial lamb?" We had finished the landscape but desperately needed water. No sooner had we reported that the landscaping machines had successfully returned from the mountains than we received word to start searching for a borehole driller who would be able to go up the treacherous terrain and do a proper job. It was difficult and some started to doubt this eventuality as the contractors kept turning us down after a single visit to Nthondo village. In came Mr. Richard Stambuli and boldly said, "My mission is to help bring water in areas where there is none, and it is in those places that are hard to get to that our services are mostly needed." I thought there is the LAMB that was caught in the vines! He successfully drilled one borehole for the Bible school and another for the village. Hallelujah.

Good things always take a little time to come so long as we have the right temperament to patiently wait in anticipation of fulfillment. It was not easy getting the drill rig up to the mountains so much so that two vehicles were chained together to tow the rig as its operator maneuvered across sharp bends and steep hills. We had a breakdown just two miles away from the property and we were stuck there for two days since the only place they could find spare parts was Blantyre. Upon fixing the rig, we started drilling the first borehole and one hundred meters into the job I hear the deafening silence when the operator declared it a dry hole. I watched the entire village sink in misery and despair as their hope for water was completely shredded. We decided to move to a new site the next morning and I called pastor Shadreck, the village chief and his local government council to pray and break bread with us. The rig operator brought his machine and began to drill. A short while after we had prayed those drill rods went down faster than usual and sure enough, we struck water at 85 meters.

I was instructed to get a second borehole for the village to everyone's amazement. No one had ever helped in this way before and there was so much singing and dancing. The chief brought a goat for the village to feast, and that is a rare treat. I would like to thank you our dearly beloved, on behalf on the entire Nthondo village and Pastor Shadreck, for the support you have given to provide not one but two boreholes. We could have gone to Nthondo with plenty of other gifts but fresh clean water is by far what was needed the most. For this I say thank you very much. I pray that many others

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.

OR

Cash App: \$alabastermin

OR

Venmo: Rozella Heyns@Rozella-Heyns



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REPORT FROM PASTOR SHADRECK:

SHADRECK LEANING ON THE NEW HAND PUMP

Water is essential to all living beings of the world. There are many communities who struggle every day to get access to clean water. Sometimes women and children walk long distances to get water which creates a lot of problems in our communities. Before we had a borehole in my village, women and children used to walk fifteen miles with clay pots and twenty-liter plastic containers to fetch water. Our education system was poor because children were always at the water wells, girls got raped, families were broken and the tragedy went on for years until the government sank the first borehole in my village. You can imagine five hundred families coming to fetch water from one borehole - that was a struggle. The well soon ran dry and it took some time before a second borehole was sunk.

I have seen how a water crisis affects women and children who carry the huge burden of collecting the water, taking care of the house, the sick, and on top of that, the children while men are out farming on the land, hunting, or just sitting under a tree enjoying African brewed beer. The lack of good clean water makes public health a fundamental problem since it also depends on the availability of safe water, good sanitation, and hygiene which can only be achieved by a steady reliable source of clean water. It has been proven that access to clean safe water can turn problems into potential, unlocking education, economic prosperity, and improved health. I am short on words with which to express my deepest joy and gratitude for the gift of two boreholes in my village. I remember how we struggled to find water when I was a child. I know just how much my parents sacrificed just to make sure we had water at home. We had one borehole close to my house and even that was not enough to cater for the growing population in my village.

(Ed Note) I have stayed in Shadreck's village, there is one well and the village has a population of nine hundred people.

These two boreholes have come as a blessing to me and the entire village. I would like to thank Pastor Roz for bringing all of you to our doorstep and changing our lives in the manner that you have. Just by virtue of you our brethren supporting this ministry, I say I have seen your faces in those young men who were jumping up and down carrying heavy rods and making sure that we bring water from the deep. I have seen the face of God in the youth and the old as they danced in jubilation at the sight of clean water gushing from the foundations of the earth. You have really made us feel the supernatural touch of God. These boreholes have been a great evangelism weapon in my village and I pray that you bless others with the same grace. There is no measure that could ever define the love and support you have given us. May the Almighty God bless you always. AMEN

ROBERT KANKOCHE – YOUTH LEADER:

May you be blessed in the most wondrous name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit wherever you are and in whatever you may be doing. The Lord has been truly faithful to us in Nsanje and continues to preserve us through these trying times. We are continuing with the dynamic youth program as we strive to build a bridge between the young and the elders in the church. Our aim is to radically make HIM known in the mountains and in the valleys and there is no better way to do this than to invest in tomorrow's torchbearers.

I have discovered through our quarterly youth gatherings that our individual experiences and stories before we knew the Lord and our testimonies after we embraced and were soaked in the richness that is in the living reality of Christ; can be a powerful tool in teaching the Word. Pastor Francis and Pastor Shadreck emphasized this when they taught us about the success of a narrative. Our African heritage makes it easier for us to learn and absorb new material faster through stories. A Nigerian author by the name of Chinua Achebe once stated that, to be human, one must have a story. We can see that the universal language of humanity is a narrative. Every person has a story to tell and each experience is unique.

The Bible has a grand tale; the most beautiful stories ever told in my opinion are found in the Bible. However, the Bible is not just a book of stories; but reveals ONE grand narrative from the beginning to the end. The stories Jesus taught changed many lives and they continue to do so today. I have noticed in our sessions that at times people are hesitant to sit in on scripture teachings but will listen to a story and testimonies. Sometimes it could be that there are new believers and others who saw Christ as non-factor in their lives and may begin to see Him in the light of someone telling a story. Make our testimonies powerful! What God has done or is doing in our lives should always make for an extremely powerful testimony. We focus on what we were before instead of giving expression to what God has done in our lives to totally change them. Man often seems to emphasize the negative instead of the positive so we speak of the negative when we should be looking at a positive situation. The glass half full instead of the glass half empty.

I once worked as a security guard in Lilongwe and my manager was a college graduate. He told me that after having invested four years of his life in reading so many books, he had no interest in reading after he graduated. It is common knowledge that most people do not read let alone read spiritual books, including the Bible.

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ROBERT KANKOCHE

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Looking at our youth group, we have those who are educated and those who are illiterate which makes the idea of having a strong reading culture a little difficult to comprehend. But this is beside the point that most young people do not read. Most young people are like my former security manager who preferred audio books or narratives because they are less tedious and more convenient and fit the busy schedules of most young people of our day. There are many people in the world who can read but choose not to. Our education system in the rural areas where we lack a lot of learning materials and strong foundations like our friends in towns, produces a lot of oral learners. In this case Oral learners are people who can read but learn best by non-literate means, such as hearing stories, seeing pictures, or watching films. Therefore, sharing narratives from the "Grand Tale" we find in the Bible has become a wonderful tool in our youth ministry. I pray the Almighty Father continues to grow our boundaries together in this wonderful family that is Alabaster. God bless you.

ALABASTER MINISTRIES
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KANSAS CITY MO 64154

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The amazing jubilation of the crowd as they watched the water come in. This is a video so for those who receive this by email you should be able to watch it. It is an extremely exciting response for me. This has increased our church congregation. Their attitude is that if they do what they say they will do then their God must be real. Now that is what I call a powerful testimony.



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

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

