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KALIBU ELDERLY CLINIC

ANOTHER MASSIVE MIRACLE SUCCESS

Everyone loves a success story and here is a great success story carved out of enormous odds. It is one thing to achieve a goal when financing is freely available but altogether another matter when you have to take care of the pennies. For those who have FAITHFULLY supported the work of Shekinah/Kalibu, as many have for years, you have a real and equal stake in this great success, with our heartfelt thanks. We could not have done this without you.

Standing in the middle of the remote African bush miles from anywhere is a magnificent hospital and clinic and geriatric centre. What makes someone to go into a remote and hostile environment where there is no running water, no electricity, not a single shop for miles and no roads or infrastructure of any description? What makes one to build a hospital and clinic in such a place that is so dry and dusty as to almost be a desert; where snakes are often found in the homes of the people and where water is more precious than gold? What drives a man or woman to look at such anomalies of life and endeavour to bring answers and solutions into such hostility? I trust that it is true love; the Jesus-type of love that permeates the depths of the spirit and not the humanistic carnal love of the 21st Century which is so often only about money.

Part of the motto of Kalibu Academy is, "RAISING A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS..." Future leaders must be trained and part of leadership is about having responsibility and respect for people. Poor little rich kids anywhere in the world live isolated, pampered lives with little to no regard for their fellow human beings. Elderly people everywhere have become the marginalised group of society. For so many, the elderly are burdensome to be pushed aside and pretend they do not exist.
Here in Malawi and much of Africa, the elderly are accused of being witches and wizards when their spouses die. Great numbers are beaten and abused by their children and grandchildren. Material blessings that might be given to them are robbed by younger family members. Traditionally, the elderly were part of the village community and enjoyed the right to be fed and housed and taken care of until they died. But, with the changing demographics as younger people flock to the cities and towns, the elderly are little more than a nuisance who are left to fend for themselves.

With the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa, the elderly end up being saddled with their own grandchildren and great grandchildren because many of the parents of those little ones have died of the disease. Hardships most of us cannot even begin to imagine are already the lot of the elderly. Apart from being forgotten and abused, most of the elderly are sick and afflicted. Many cannot walk and rely on friends and neighbours to supply them even with drinking water. So many have told us they do not remember when they last had a bar of soap with which to bathe. Numbers of them cannot reach our hospital in their own district where medication is free let alone find money for transport and simple antibiotics in more distant clinics in the past.

I remember taking care of my elderly mother who eventually died of Alzheimer’s. How I loved her and pampered her even when she was so aggressive and mean with that affliction. To make her condition more comfortable, I engaged 24 hour nursing for her so that she was never alone. After she passed to be with the Lord, I took all the nurses who had helped to dinner and blessed them financially in gratitude and thanks for how they had cared for my mother. During the dinner, the nurses asked if they might share testimonies about having taken care of mother. Each one in turn thanked me for demonstrating such love to my mother and being an example to them of a dedicated son. Their testimonies, fourteen in all, were heart-wrenching and moved me to tears. When I go to our geriatric centre, and see the appalling condition of most of the elderly, I think of my mother, and my heart goes out to them. If only I had more resources...

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:**

Kalibu Ministries set up the elderly work in Malawi because of the grannies and grandpas being forgotten. Almost all foreign Ministries and Non-Governmental organisations work amongst children and orphans but the elderly are entirely another story. The leadership of Kalibu Ministries wanted the students of Kalibu Academy to have a HANDS-ON social responsibility in their society. It was decided to focus on the needs of the elderly and these needs are HUGE!
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The ministry to the elderly took the form of a two-pronged attack. First, we decided on reaching into an inaccessible area to build a hospital, clinic and geriatric centre. Such an enormous undertaking should have been only in a dream but it became a reality because of the empowerment of the love of Jesus and the driving force of the blessed Holy Spirit. The second aspect of the elderly project was to visit and take care of the elderly in their home villages by loving them and helping to carry some of their burdens. Both of these aspects are now a reality as I write this. This project has nothing to do with Alabaster Ministries which actually emerged out of this vision and no finances were ever diverted from Alabaster.

After lengthy applications, interviews, negotiations and investigations the Finnish Foreign Ministry awarded us €350,000 over a three year period. This money was strictly governed how it was to be spent and Shekinah/Kalibu/Out of Africa (in Finland) Ministries was required to match that figure by 50%. Given all of our other responsibilities and the vast demands on our meagre money, this was a huge obligation. But, once again if a work is really of the Lord, He is responsible to see it through. To date, I am delighted to report that the contribution of Shekinah/Kalibu/Out of Africa far surpassed the 50% matching requirement to almost 100% and our promises and commitments in all other fields of ministry never diminished especially in the area of our pastoral support that has actually doubled. A little really does go a long way in the miraculous hands of the Almighty Lord.

We suddenly had an army of volunteers who wanted to help run the administration of the project. Each came with his or her idea of how things should be done but none had any experience of how things are actually done in Africa. This became nightmare number one. When sincere Christians are suddenly given a little authority because they are supposed to be expert administrators or accountants for example, a whole project can be plunged into disaster. Feelings get wounded, emotions run wild and self rises up where one would never expect it. Sweet Sister So and So suddenly becomes vicious and protective and Brother Most Holy turns into a dictating tyrant, all in the name of Jesus. In Africa, people and workers saw only Dollar signs. Everybody’s personal expectations were soon dashed to pieces. Firing and dismissing people who have nothing but selfish motives is never pleasant and leaves a trail of bitterness.
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LAND NIGHTMARE:
On the field in Chinchere where the project was going to be established, local Malawians were seeing money to be made in selling their land, bricks, sand and labour all at fat rip-off prices. The land negotiations became a veritable NIGHTMARE. One and another thought that by holding out to sell they would get more money. Finally, it came to a point whereby we declared that we were withdrawing from Chinchere to another area. The local Member of Parliament did absolutely nothing to assist us but wanted all the recognition and glory especially when we finally had the official opening. Then there was the pressure of the fact that the FFM required a certain level of the work to be accomplished by the end of year one. Six months into the first year we had achieved nothing because of the land squabbling. Finally, after hard negotiations and some arm twisting, we had the land. What a glorious moment when we travelled out to Chinchere one Sunday morning and dedicated the land to the glory of God as we laid an altar of stones and then redeemed the land by celebrating communion. We were required to have a license from the Malawian Ministry of Health to operate but to get that all important document the officials naturally wanted to see buildings. The FFM wanted to see the license but the Ministry wanted to see buildings. A real catch 22!

WATER:
Water was the next biggest and critical issue. We called in the drillers and they simply laughed at us. "There is no water in this area," they crowed with a resigned attitude of, "You poor fool, do you really know what you are doing?" We marched the land and prayed and prayed and prayed. The Lord had never failed us before and He was not about to fail us then. Like the elders under Moses we walked around and commanded, "SPRING UP O WELL." Guided to a corner of the property of about 10 acres, we told the drilling team, "HERE." They were carrying their seismograph charts and their electronic gadgetry all of which seemed to scream, "NO WATER." The drillers argued incessantly until I declared, "Hey, who is paying for this? If I want to pay you to drill where there is no water and waste my money, is it not my business?" They began and drilling was easy because the soil is sandy and soft. Passed 30 feet, no water passed 60 feet and still nothing. They continued drilling passed 90 feet and the local people were clucking like chickens. This was their way of declaring that the white man is crazy and wasting his money. They were all shaking their heads and laughing until suddenly they hit rock. "Keep on drilling," I commanded, "Remember, I'm paying."
Soon after hitting the rock, a torrent of water sprang out of the ground just as in the day of Moses. Shouts of victory went up as the water sprang up. Once again, the Lord had proved that HE is the great geologist who created it all and the only thing we need to do is to listen to Him. We had the water and then we could start to build.
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THE BUILDING:

I am a visionary and always think ahead. The constraints of limited finances are not a part of my order of operation. I have really learned to, "BELIEVE THE LORD." I drew up the plans for this hospital and clinic and we laid them out one morning. As I looked at the building layout on the ground, it appeared large but I was not going to compromise. God would surely do it as he has done so many times before and come through with the finances. The FFM did not want a huge amount spent on buildings but without proper buildings in which to operate, the Malawi Government Ministry of Health would not give us a license. Another catch 22 situation. Everybody started complaining about the size of the project and when money starts to get short and pressure is on, Christians get nasty and show their true colors. We pressed on regardless and the Lord opened His storehouse. As ever, there were no huge donations but the faithful donations from you as you marvelously obeyed the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Brick by brick the hospital and clinic began to take shape and it was BIG. But, once again, a great victory was won. The Ministry of Health gave us the license and asked us to make rooms available to them so that they might operate an Under 5 years clinic, an HIV/AIDS clinic and an antenatal clinic. What an amazing victory and what rejoicing as we were instruments of the Lord to bring this light into a very dark place.

OFFICIAL OPENING:

The elderly from far and wide came to celebrate the goodness of the Lord in the provision of this magnificent facility. The official opening was a grand affair with Government Ministers in attendance and a program that wholly glorified the Lord, the true Provider. Students from Kalibu Academy worshipped and danced as they rejoiced for the elderly. What an enormous achievement had been accomplished and everyone was truly excited. The building was dedicated to the glory of God. Hundreds of elderly were served a wonderful meal and each received a hamper of provisions to take home with them. Indeed, those who sat in darkness had seen the light of the love of Jesus. The dedication celebrations reminded me how David had danced before the Ark and sent the people of Israel home with bread, meat and wine. What a victorious day it was as all rejoiced in the completion of phase one of this amazing project.
**ONE OF A KIND:** The local administrator of the project suddenly began to receive invitations to speak at various conferences held by Government, Non-Governmental organizations and the United Nations. It became abundantly clear that this geriatric facility is the only one of its kind in the eleven countries of the SADEC (Southern African Development) region and perhaps in sub-Saharan Africa. This is no mean achievement and the centre has set a new trend of thinking towards the elderly. Hopefully, this will translate into a "hands-on" approach in the development of such facilities throughout the SADEC region and beyond.

The clinic is a TERRITORIAL GOVERNING entity in the midst of darkness. This means we are establishing a power house for the Lord in the midst of the ruling darkness of the area. The light is now shining in that darkness and rolling back the powers of Satan and his hordes. This is not just another hospital/clinic but a place of refuge, love and strength to an elderly population that has all but given up hope. We have brought glorious hope in the midst of despair. Many are attracted to this hospital/clinic from far flung places. It is a lighthouse in a dangerous and forgotten place and the people are, for the first time, seeing the true love of Christ being manifested. Now, it is evident why the facility had to be so large. A few rooms would not have made any impact on the officials, the leaders in the area or the people.

**STUDENT SUPPORT:**

In fulfillment of the vision, the students of Kalibu Academy are deeply involved in keeping the fires of life burning at this project. Each week at the chapel service of the Academy, the students take up an offering which wholly goes to the hospital and clinic. This offering is part of the pocket money of the students and nobody is under any kind of pressure to give. With this money, we are able to purchase the much needed medication for the elderly. What a wonderful testimony to the sacrifice and love of Christ this has become. Not only are the students giving of their precious pocket money each week, but each Sunday, teams of students go to visit these elderly in their homes. They take with them a packed lunch which they then donate to the elderly with whom they sit and chat and listen to their heartaches and burdens. The students share with them, minister to them and pray for them. There have been some outstanding results of the Lord at work through the ministry to the elderly but this is part two of the whole elderly project.
FURTHER VISION:

The hospital and clinic are only the beginning of what is a growing vision. This next phase of the project is to build a proper operating theatre where minor surgical procedures may be performed.

We already have an ambulance to bring patients into the clinic and all the facilities are in place to handle surgeries, except the operating theatre. We need your ongoing support to make this happen. We also need to build a house for a doctor and two houses for nurses so as to make the whole theatre project viable.

Please consider partnering with us in this adventure. What an impact this hospital has made in the whole region. The elderly are openly sharing how Jesus has dramatically changed their lives and how the love of both staff and students to them is as if Jesus has come to visit.

If you would like to support this project send your gifts to:

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