

ALABASTER

Newsletter | March Issue



WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Thirteen years of Alabaster Ladies Ministry! What began as a small conference at the All Saints' Cathedral upper parking lot, is now a fully-fledged ministry impacting the lives of women across generations.

A few weeks ago, as I walked off from a prayer session, a lady wearing the Alabaster t-shirt walked up to me. Excited, she started to share her story. She had attended the conference many years ago and at that time, her marriage was in trouble. She had been living with a man she called her husband, but he was unfaithful to her. Despite of his unfaithfulness, he had heard about the conference and paid for her to attend. The teachings and prayer sessions greatly impacted her life. She found grace and resolved to make her home stable. After the week-long sessions, she desired to attend the luncheon but could not afford it. However, the night before, she received a card with her name on it – someone sponsored her attendance to the luncheon. After the conference, her husband noted the change in her and began to spend more time at home and about three months later, they celebrated their wedding. This and many other testimonies are why Alabaster exists. Through the ministry, marriages have been restored, long awaited babies born, salvation for lost souls, appointments to work, financial breakthrough and deliverance from bad habits.

Last year, the ministry embarked on an uphill task to begin “heater” room sessions. We established that the foundational success of every ministry is based in the power of prayer. Every Tuesday, we gathered for an hour to intercede for the ministry and the ladies' needs. Further, we had the privilege to host three ladies' overnights in which we conducted teachings, deliverance and prayed together. The number of ladies attending the overnights grew which depicted the need for women to gather and pray.

The objective of the ministry is to create a platform for mentorship. Each year, we onboard a new cohort to coach women through various aspects of their lives including spiritual disciplines, relationships, stewardships and building a Christ Centered home. This year, we on boarded sixty ladies which is the highest number so far - a testament to the growth in the program.

The ministry also celebrated many firsts last year, from the production of monthly podcasts whose listenership grew through the year, to publishing our very first newsletter as part of the

conference package, then engaging in our first session with the Teens for Christ and finally, to hosting our first ladies fellowship which cuts across interest and ministry groups. The introduction of these activities demonstrated the ministry's capacity to adapt with the times and the growing need to make the gospel more available and reach women at every level.

As is our custom, the ministry hosted a week-long annual conference which was held in August. Over 350 women attended the conference both online and physically. During this week, over 50 ladies committed their lives to God, a testimony we celebrate.

At the beginning of 2024, the ministry hosted the Vision Casting Fellowship where we shared the guiding word for the year, “Divine Enablement” from Psalms 119:17-18. This scripture encourages believers to make the word of God central to their life and walk in the abundant supply of grace.

We also launched the 4th cohort of the mentorship program which onboarded the largest number since we commenced the program. In line with creating avenues for spreading the gospel, we have launched bi-weekly devotionals to provide our readers with much needed thought provoking bible study material. Our monthly podcasts are also a feature to look forward to as we share topics not ordinarily taught on the pulpit.

We had our Q1 overnight on 8th March. The world over was celebrating International Women's Day, and we joined the celebrations in a night of prayer, worship, and teachings.

We have numerous activities planned out for the year that will engage many women and it is our desire that souls of women will be impacted to become effective witnesses for the Kingdom. I present to you our first newsletter issue for the year 2024.

Diana Angwech
Alabaster chairperson

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

ALABASTER CONFERENCE - 2023

The Unshakeable! On August 4th the Alabaster Ladies Ministry hosted the 12th Conference with over 350 ladies attending both physically and online. The program included theme exposition where we explored Hebrews 12:22-29 by Ms. Rachel Mugarura-Mutana highlighting the trials, hardships and pitfalls that many Christians face along the journey of Salvation. We hosted a deliverance overnight and a lunch hour session by Rev. Patricia Laaki who spoke about the power in the blood of Jesus. We enjoyed teachings and preaching from various renowned speakers whose knowledge of the bible and faith inspired ladies to live a life worthy of their calling.

Similarly, the conference held a worship evening session where ladies engaged in deep intimate worship and teaching by Ps. Carole Buyego.



For the first time, the Alabaster ministry hosted a teens session that saw a spill over into the teens ministry with the aim of mentoring the younger generation.

We also hosted a professional's breakfast to empower women in their career path. Some ladies who were struggling in their workplaces learnt to be diligent in the marketplace and become a priest in their area of calling.



The conference was crowned with a luncheon whose theme was fascinators to mirror the topic vessels of honor. The session was conducted by Dr. Ruth Senyonyi whose wisdom inspired the women to live as vessels of honor.



During the conference, about 50 people committed their lives to Christ - a praiseworthy moment in the history of the ministry. There were testimonies of physical and emotional healing that different ladies experienced during the conference, testimonies of marriage restoration and re-direction in relationships.

THE FIRST ALABASTER FELLOWSHIP

Following the successful conference, the ministry provided another avenue for ladies to share in the word beyond the week-long conference. A lady's fellowship was launched in October 2023, under the theme; "Waiting on the Promise" facilitated by Mr. Dan Magumba. The ladies were taught the value in waiting on God as the minister encouraged them with his testimony where he had waited for a child in marriage for 15 years. His wife was expecting at the time of his sharing and the child was later born in December. In his words, waiting is a part of every Christian's journey and that they would encounter seasons of waiting, but in God's mercy and kindness, He would bring good out of it. The fellowship hosted close to 100 women who were impacted by the message resolving to wait through the seasons of their lives.

TEEN'S SESSION

The ministry hosted its first teens session to equip and mentor the teenagers. The first session was led by the Provost of All Saints' Cathedral, Rev. Dr. Can Rebecca Nyegenye, who shared on identity. The young ladies enjoyed the session confessing that their walk with the Lord was challenging and they needed mentors to walk alongside them.

The second session was led by Ms. Diana Angwech, who shared about freedom in Christ making a case for walking wholeheartedly with God as a young person. During that session we shares a testimony on experiencing abuse as a young lady and provided tools to cope with the shame and pain that comes from trauma. Both sessions were attended by over 110 teenagers ranging from senior one to senior six vacation where 30 teenagers committed their lives to Christ. The program was structured to accommodate both boys and girls where the young girls had a separate group session to encourage group mentorship.



ALABASTER OVERNIGHT AND PRAYER SESSIONS

The ministry hosted three ladies' overnights throughout the year. In November, 2023, we hosted Ps. Micheal Kyazze who taught on "Possessing Your Inheritance." He taught on obtaining and maintaining deliverance sharing his example of growing up and being oppressed by evil spirits and finally breaking free. The message highlighted the position of believers, their authority and the need to seek to be free from every oppression.

Over 200 women were in attendance both physically and online. During the session, ladies experienced their healing, deliverance and breakthroughs. These included freedom from painful limbs, body pains and freedom from oppression of the enemy.

PODCASTS AND NEWSLETTERS



The Alabaster ministry introduced monthly podcasts sharing topics that would not necessarily be talked about on the pulpit. Some of the topics discussed last year included; Brokenness, The sick heart, Is God a Chauvinist, Offended by God, The silence of God and Sifting among others. These topics greatly impacted the listeners who

found new grace and joy in their walk with God. Similarly, the ministry launched their first newsletter which became another avenue to share the ministry activities and provide a bible study devotional for the readers.

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/alabasterladies>

HIGHLIGHTS BEGINNING 2024

VISION CASTING FELLOWSHIP 2024

At the beginning of every year, it is the custom of the ministry to share the vision for the year. This year, on the 9th day of January 2024, the ministry held a vision casting fellowship with the year's theme **Divine Enablement**, taken from **Psalms 119:17-18**; Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. The theme was expounded upon by Ms. Diana Angwech who shared key highlights from the scripture. She remarked that to be able to receive from God, the posture of servanthood is necessary. As believers, we must desire to keep the word of God and live life according to the patterns set out in the word. The word of God will be our guide and discerner this year. Further, that the word of God is filled with mysteries, and we need to pray that God will give us open eyes and understanding of the mysteries hidden in the bible. The strategy to behold Divine Enablement this year is rooted in four disciplines;

1. **Humility** – Acknowledge God as sovereign and walk as a servant to His will and purpose.
2. **Prayer** – Surrender all to God and maintain a high view of God.
3. **Dependence on Spirit of God** – Yielding every aspect of our lives to the Spirit of God and submitting to the leading of His Spirit.
4. **Bible study** – We will derive our sustenance when we depend on the absolute truth of God's word.

LAUNCH OF THE FOURTH MENTORSHIP COHORT

The ministry runs an annual mentorship program where women across different generations are paired with one another to inspire and coach one another for a period of a year. The rationale of the program is based on Titus 2:1-3, 6-7 which encourages mentorships of younger generations of women.

This year, we launched the 4th cohort of the Alabaster mentorship program on Saturday 20th January 2024 with approximately 60 women participating in this year's program. This year marks the highest number of ladies on boarded onto the program.

The program offers wholesome content including; spiritual disciplines, relationships, stewardship, managing finances, identity and ambition, leadership, vision, mission and values, exercise and diet, creating a Christ centered home, dressing for success and parenting, waiting on God for marriage and childlessness. The topics are geared towards empowering women in every sphere of their lives. The mentors are required to attend a weekly prayer meeting only joined by the mentees at the end of the month. The leadership provides training sessions throughout the year to equip mentors with the tools to coach the mentees through the program. We also host quarterly fellowships to foster an avenue for the pairs to learn from each other.

ALABASTER PROGRAMS - JANUARY TO MARCH, 2024

Activity	Date
Heater room prayer sessions	06th February and 20th February 2024 Time: 07:00pm -08:00pm
Mentorship Training	27th February 2024 Time: 08:00pm – 09:15pm
Heater room prayer sessions	05th March and 19th March, 2024 Time: 07:00pm -08:00pm
Alabaster Ministry Overnight	8th March, 2024 Time: 09:30pm-5:30am
Mentees Monthly Lecture	Date: 30th March, 2024 Time: 09:00am

TEEN'S SESSION

Every holiday, the Alabaster ministry joins the Teens for Christ fellowship to build a mentorship program among the younger generation. On the 31st day of January 2024, the ministry held a session with the teens under the theme, "a Transformed life". Approximately 93 teenagers attended the session ranging from P.7 vacists to S.6 vacists. The main discussion was centered on the pressures of the world and the need to avoid conformity to the standards of the world. Group mentorship sessions were held separating the young girls and boys and they were given practical lessons on how to study the bible as a tool to convert the pressures of the world. During this session about 7 teenagers committed their lives to Christ.

ALABASTER DEVOTIONAL



SELF ESTEEM VS GOD ESTEEM?

Trust in and rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, and He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way]. (Proverbs 3:5-6 Amp)

A young lady visited a doctor with a lot of anxiety in her heart because of the growth in her stomach. After scans the doctor informed her that she had fibroids and would not be able to have children if she waited any longer. She was not in any committed relationship at the time but out of fear and in response to the urgency of the medical report, she decided to conceive and give birth. She was now a single mother having to fend for her child handling all necessities including sicknesses of the child without any assistance. As she sat down for counselling, she regretted making that rushed decision that altered the rest of her life and the life of the child.

Similarly, another lady rejected a word from God by her accountability and prayer group and chose to marry a man outside the faith claiming that he was “a good” man. She was expecting her first child on her wedding day.

When we reject God’s word and the path laid out for us in the bible we reject His guidance and wisdom for us to live a fulfilling life. The pleasures of this world are short-lived and do not completely satisfy, once we satisfy one desire, another will always come calling. The world today heavily promotes self-love as a way to boost one’s mental and emotional health. The world encourages self-improvement through increasing one’s self esteem calling it, self-love. In doing so, the world is in essence handing people a crutch upon which they will depend on for the rest of their lives.

The kind of self-esteem that is based on what one acquires and what they possess in the form of intellect, learning, titles, always puffs up individuals. People then brag about their achievements and abilities. Sometimes pride may masquerade in how one responds to criticism. When we disregard others’ opinions in favor of our own refusing to accept a differing view, we exude pride. In instances where we claim to trust God but have a plan B to bail us out, we are leaning on our own strength and understanding.

There was a King of a great empire called Nebuchadnezzar whose might was unmatched, so he built a statute of himself and forced his subjects to worship it. Despite many warnings to humble himself, his conquests and power made him proud. God humbled him by making him like a beast for many years before He restored his mind.

In an era where the mantra is ‘be you’, ‘believe in yourself’ we must be cautious to measure this against the word of God which is truth. While self-care is not wrong, we should find our source of self-esteem in the word of God. The scripture tells us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not to rely on our own understanding but in every situation acknowledge the leading, guidance and direction of God.

Prayer response:

Dear Lord, open my eyes to see any area in my life where I am trusting in myself, my possessions and abilities. Forgive me for relying on anything apart from You. I choose to acknowledge You in every situation I may face today and the days to come and I surrender all to You that you will make my path straight and smooth for Your glory in Jesus name. Amen

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