

# The Link

## Be Wise and Receive the Christ Child

*The Wisemen's (Magi) journey to Christ is also the believers pathway to eternal life*

**T**he story of the wise men seeking the Savior of the world has been told countless times from pulpits. However, there are some facts/misconceptions that you may not be aware of:

- The Bible reveals that the wise men were firemen. The scriptures state that the wise men came from a "fire" (Humor—actually "came from afar").
- The wise men were three (3) in number. Actually, the only reason Bible scholars suggest the number three is due to the three gifts given (gold, frankincense and myrrh). But the Bible never states the number of wise men.
- Some pictures/paintings depict the wise men coming to a stable. It is believed Jesus was between one and two years of age when the wise men visited Him at Joseph and Mary's HOME. The fact that Herod wanted to slay all babies two years and under may indeed shed light on Christ's age.

**KEY POINT:** The story of the wise men told in **Matthew 2:1-12** gives a snapshot of how the Spirit draws men/women to discover the "only way" to eternal life.

It begins with God as the **INITIATOR**. **JOHN 6:44** states, "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and will raise him up on the last day." In other words, I am utterly incapable of saving myself. God must take the initiative to draw lost humanity to Himself. For example, God initiated the calling of Moses by way of a burning bush. The Apostle Paul was abruptly confronted with a great light (Christ) and a voice from heaven. I am reminded of my wife's encounter with Christ when she heard the preaching of the Gospel by Evangelist Billy Graham. The Bible states, "...so faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). The fact is, the Word is the power of God (His method & intervention) in revealing and drawing people to the Savior. Paul states in **Romans 1:16**, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Amazing Grace! Today, the "bright star" that attracts people to Christ is the Bible. The Word of God is a key component in cracking open hearts & opening spiritual eyes. **God is the Initiator**, followed by the **Inquiry**.

After God **INITIATES** a call, the next step is the **INQUIRY**. A person begins to follow the light given to them. Again, Moses is a prime Old Testament example when confronted with a burning bush that was not being consumed. In **Exodus 3:3-4**, we read, "Moses said, 'I must turn aside and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burning up!'" When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush..." Without question, man seeks for many things in this life: A spouse, a better job, and wealth; peace and happiness; self-worth; hope; etc. Yet, most of the world drinks from the wrong well. King Solomon discovered that the world's tantalizing offerings are empty—ALL VANITY (**Eccl. 12:8**). The Magi sought the King of the Jews. "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem..." (**Matt. 2:1ff**). The wise men were willing to leave the familiar—their family and fortune—to fearlessly follow the star. **Jer. 29:13** states, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with ALL your heart." When the Magi came to King Herod, Herod was an insincere seeker. To his credit,

he rebuilt the temple and became a Jew, so that the Jews would favor him. Yet, King Herod killed his wife, murdered three sons and two brothers. (Nice King!) Herod wanted to find the Messiah—King Jesus, but for the wrong reasons. In **Matthew 2:8**, Herod said to the Magi, "Go and make careful search for the Child, and when you have found Him report to me, that I too may come and worship Him." Interestingly, Herod believed the prophetic scriptures quoted by the priest regarding the coming Christ. The fact is, he wanted Jesus, King of the Jews, killed. **God is the Initiator motivating/enticing a person to Inquire (seek).**

**Then comes the INVITATION when an individual invites Christ to be their Savior and Lord.** Like Herod and the religious community, the Devil believes in Christ and the scriptures and trembles. I have known people confessing and believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, but not personally ready to **invite** Him to take up residency in their lives. Similarly, even nominal Christians will say they believe in the Bible, but rarely read it, or they confess they believe in prayer, but very seldom have a heart-to-heart talk with God.

**SIDE NOTE ON PRAYER ILLUSTRATED:** Back many years ago, saloons were common in towns. In one particular town, a saloon was built near a church building. The members were furious. They began to pray night and day that the saloon would burn down. Prayers went on for weeks. Finally, one stormy evening the bar was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The bar owner sued the church for damages. The church members pleaded not guilty. They testified that they had nothing to do with destroying the saloon, though they prayed for its destruction. The judge ruled in favor of the church, but added a final comment: "It appeared that the bar owner has more belief in prayer than the church."

"And the wise men came into the house and saw the Child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him" (**Matt. 2:11**). Though not found in the text, I believe they were greeted by Joseph & **INVITED** into the house to see the Christ Child. The wise men chose to enter the house. They knew they had found the Messiah—the Savior of the World. The **INITIATOR**, the **INQUIRY**, and the **INVITATION** led to an **INNER CHANGE**.

An **INNER CHANGE**—a new direction for their lives took place. **Matthew 2:12**, "And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their own country by **ANOTHER WAY—NEW WAY**." When a person comes to Christ, they leave the "old way" and begin on a new path—"A **NEW WAY**" of life. "Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a **NEW creature**; the **OLD** things passed away; behold, **NEW** things have come" **2 Cor. 5:17**. Jesus is also the **ONLY WAY** to be redeemed. **John 14:6** states, "I am the **WAY**, the truth and the life, **NO ONE** comes to the Father except through me." The world hates Christianity for that one fact believing that there are many paths to Heaven. **LISTEN CAREFULLY:** There is **NO** other way to Heaven; there is **NO** other way to experience true joy; there is **NO** other way to live in this life and know peace and contentment other than through **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**. I pray everyone reading this article has had an **INNER CHANGE**. Merry Christmas!!

Rick

**Merry CHRISTMAS** The Directors of Mission Link International are

very grateful for all the prayers and consistent support given for both projects and to the General Fund in 2021. God has accomplished much this year through our faithful friends. Wishing you an awesome Christmas celebration and a very blessed New Year! **Top Left**



**to Right:** Wendell Drumheller, Vice Pres.; Jim Masloff, MD - Medical Director; Jeff Dalton, CPA - Treasurer; Jack Sadler, Dir.,

**Bottom Left to Right:** Candy Sadler, Dir., Glassell Williamson, Sec., Garry Rund, Dir.; Charlie Kardos, Dir.; (Rick Sadler, Pres. not pictured)

**UGANDA TRIP - FEBRUARY 4 -18, 2022**

**TEAM:** The nine (9) team members had their first meeting on November 29th. Needless to say, there is great excitement returning to Uganda, East Africa. The challenge is the spread of the “new” Omicron Virus. We are not sure how it will affect the trip. Already, the TEAM will require three (3) PCR Covid Test. Also, forms must be filled out online with the Uganda Embassy USA, Brussels, Belgium, and Kigali, Rwanda. Please be in much prayer for the team as they prepare for travel. Also, lift up Pastor Todd Childers as he directs the mission. Pastor Todd Childer’s email is: [musumbatodd@gmail.com](mailto:musumbatodd@gmail.com)

**Rick’s Trip** to Uganda will be January 27 thru February 24, 2022. He will assist the African staff in setting up for Pastor Todd and the USA Team.

**BEFORE 2021 ENDS—Assistance is Needed for the Following**



○ **DEAF SCHOOL:** MLI has several temporary road blocks regarding the deaf school: Electrical Power is still an issue; finishing up construction of the buildings (putting up ceilings, screens to keep mosquitos out; bed frames and mattresses for staff; landscaping, additional funds for road construction to the deaf school (some neighbors demanding compensation for road touching their land and government compensation for intervening), etc. **ANY AMOUNT APPRECIATED**. Also, we are grateful for those who contribute to the Deaf School’s monthly budget. School opens up January 2022!

○ **DOCTOR SAM:** SAM has helped MLI with many projects (PLUS standing with MLI when securing our headquarters) has a critical need to improve his home. MLI has been given \$900 and \$700 remains. Sam is much loved among our many volunteers!



○ **PASTOR PAUL AKISE’S NEW HOUSE:** Paul, one of MLI’s teachers, recently got married. MLI has assisted him in purchasing property (pictured left). The structure is good, but needs doors/windows, cement floor and plastered walls and a pit latrine. It will require at least \$4,000 to make it livable.

○ **MLI’S HEADQUARTERS REMODELING:** MLI is in the process of making our large compound self-supporting. We are segregating the large building for rental purposes to help us pay for security, utilities, maintenance, taxes, etc. We are also fixing a room whereby Rick and others can stay. Your gift of **ANY AMOUNT** will be much appreciated.

○ **WIDOW’S HOUSE TO BE BUILT:** Rick and MLI’s new board member, Pastor Jackie Carver, will begin the process of building a widow an earth-bag home. We hope to build the home for \$3000 or less. Your assistance will be the “model” home that will foster other homes to be constructed by volunteers from America and Africans.

○ **MEDICAL FUND:** Our medical fund is dry. We are constantly being asked to help Africans with medical needs. **ANY AMOUNT** will be much appreciated.

○ **THE GENERAL FUND APPRECIATES ANY SIZE GIFT TO FINISH OUT 2021.**

**NOTICE:** Again, **December** is a continuation of MLI’s cell phone collection. Please ask your family, friends, Bible study group and church (Pastor) to donate old cell phones (“**especially**” old iPhones) to Mission Link. Also needed are laptops, tablets, electronic & keyboard. Thank you for helping!



**Thirty (\$30) a month brings great happiness & needed provisions for our African widows in Uganda!**



**Name:** Edith Nabirye was born Oct. 8th, 1957. She raised 5 children (3 deceased), and 6 grandchildren stay with her. **Husband Deceased:** Her husband died of intestinal failure after an operation in 1992. **Testimony:** Edith is thankful to God for her mud thatched roof house. She is also thankful for the care and support through Mission Link (food, beans, soap, etc). Edith is born again (2009) and fellowships at Itukulu Baptist Church. **Challenges:** Edith lacks basic needs in her home & education fees for grandchildren. She would like a small plot to enable her to farm.

**A Wonderful Example of the Awesome Blessing from a Gift From the Medical Fund**



Dr. Moses Batwala said, “Today we are very happy as Shadia gave testimony of her new found relationship with Christ—From Muslim to being a Christian! He shared that Shadia experienced new life in Christ after her successful surgery. The operation cost about 1300 dollars, but funds were raised to satisfy the hospital’s financial requirement. Moses said that Shadia’s grandmother was testifying about the love of Christ in her village. Dr. Moses asked me to pass his thanks to those who sponsored the girls operation. This is the power of those being helped in Uganda from MLI’s medical fund—Those in need SEE the love of Christ in ACTION!