

The Link

The Right Righteousness

It can only come from the Lord.

During our recent trip to Uganda, I encountered a large group of people that were overtaking the public roadways in and around Jinja. These people seemed overjoyed as they ran through the streets, singing and dancing. It was a Sunday morning, and pastor Jackie and I were both in our friend's vehicle. It was not until after I inquired about the crowd and what they were shouting that I realized why Richard picked us up much earlier than usual to travel to church on a Sunday morning. Richard explained that these people had traveled to Jinja to see this so-called prophet of righteousness named David. The people believe his claim to be the "only" teacher of righteousness and the only "true prophet in the universe" (their own words). Richard knew there would be a crowd near the road we were traveling but not to the extent of their size. Some had received word that their prophet was entering Jinja a certain way, so they ran in that direction to greet him.

It still amazes me how people are desperate to believe and follow someone that claims to be God's chosen spokesperson. Solomon said it best, "**there is nothing new under the sun,**" and this includes seeing false prophets leading gullible people down the wrong path (Eccl. 1:9). However, not to turn this into a political rant, the world has the same problem as these followers of a self-proclaimed prophet of righteousness. Millions of people in America have been swept away into the religion of politics because they believe they are following a party that is morally righteous on specific topics rather than their opposition. However, the sad fact is that unless Jesus is the center of any party's platform, they are all immoral to a certain degree.

We were all created with a choice to either follow our own definition of righteousness or the righteousness which can only come from our Creator God. The problem with choosing what is moral or righteous, based on our limited intellect and wisdom, ends up leaving humanity in worse shape than before. In the case of the masses that follow another person or thing, their righteousness becomes their own. For example, this false prophet that came to Jinja flying in a helicopter is the one that gained fame a few years back for caning his people. Sadly, there are numerous videos of these churches claiming, in their defense, to be beating the unrighteousness out of people. This tragedy

alone should give us an even stronger passion for teaching the Bible in its entirety. The Bible even tells us that God gave it to us for "**teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work**" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Does the Word of God tell us to seek righteousness or become righteous? Yes, it does. However, God tells us how to go about it, and it certainly is not through anyone other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Most of Jesus' ministry was combating the self-righteousness of Jewish leaders during His time here. Our Lord gave us this grave warning: "**For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven**" (Mat. 5:20). He then told us, "**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**" (Mat. 6:33).

If our righteousness comes from anywhere other than seeking God's holiness through our humility in submission to Him, then it is anything but God's righteousness. Abraham was considered righteous in the Lord's eyes because he believed God and submitted through obedience to God's directives. So, it is by faith that we believe in the Lord and all His promises. This reciprocal love, along with the leading of the Holy Spirit within, guides us into obedience to please our Lord and God. Therefore, the Apostle Paul implored the Corinthian church to be reconciled to God, no longer led by their flesh, so they could fully understand what Christ did for them (and us) through the Cross. "**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**" (2 Cor. 5:21).

I pray that our righteousness is from God through a life of submission to Christ as LORD.



Todd

Todd and Emma in Mafubira

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Dr. Rick Sadler, Pastors Todd Childers, and Jackie Carver had a successful directors trip to both Uganda and Kenya in October. They visited the widows, churches & schools, and participated in feeding the widows.
- During October's trip, the first prototype Earth-bag home was dedicated.
- Our MissionLink.org website is taking on a new look, with more pages added to help raise awareness and provide donors more information on our projects.
- Our feeding campaign has become a blessing to many. The goal is to help those suffering from hunger due to the increasing cost of basic food items. This project can be viewed at: www.missionlink.org/feeding

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

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Name: **KEVIN BYAMUNDO** is 86 and has 5 grandchildren.

Husband deceased: Her husband died in 2000 from high blood pressure.

Testimony: Thankful for God's protection, food, soap, through Mission Link.

Challenges: Her house lacks windows, sickness, school fees for grandchildren while meeting basic needs.



Oct. 14, 2022: Earth Bag Home Dedication

Top left: Pastor Jackie and others laying hands on Widow Nulu and the newly completed earth-bag home as they were both dedicated to the LORD; Top-right: Sister Nulu beaming with Joy; Bottom: frontal view of earth-bag home.

Project: While MLI would love for every widow to have a new home, we have to abide by rules and regulations of Uganda to protect the widows. Eligible widows, or their family, must own land and allow us to build on it before they are considered.

Costs: \$4,500 is the goal. We learned valuable lessons from this initial build. This total allows for a latrine and also indoor lighting.

UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS:

UGANDA = FEB. 3-17, 2023

Evangelism & Encouragement trip. The cost is \$3,000. We have 9 onboard and there is still room for you. Call Todd 540-871-0517

KENYA = JUNE 2-16, 2023

Medical Clinics, Conferences, feeding widows, etc. Planning for a team of 12. Sign-Up by Jan. 15, 2023. Costs = \$3,200

For more information visit:
www.missionlink.org/missiontrips

Mission Link Objectives & Ongoing Projects

- **MLI CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTERS:** As our #1 objective in East Africa, we are compelled to be obedient to the Great Commission in making disciples, that makes disciples, of our LORD Jesus. This is being fulfilled through our school's pastors/teachers as they travel to remote villages to train new pastors through Bible and Theological courses. We currently have a **\$500** need to purchase more training books for our students to offer to them at half our cost. Donations will also help us feed the students during their weeks of class.
- **WIDOWS MINISTRY FUND:** As our number of MLI widows has grown over the years, any amounts given here are appreciated and will be used to provide for the many unadopted widows.
- **MEDICAL FUND:** Thanks to donors who have given to this fund. However, much more is "always" needed as we help the sick and injured regularly, as explained by the Lord JESUS in Luke 10:30-37.
- **MANY NEEDS MET LAST MONTH (sampling):** tires for pastor's vehicle; medical & tuition needs met for staff; solar system & financial aid for Deaf school; fed +120 widows; and many more.
- **GENERAL FUND:** This fund allows MLI to help with most ongoing and urgent needs, as they arise. Every donation given to MLI helps us to minister to many individuals and situations when it counts.

Mission Link is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.



Mission Link Feeding Project

Our campaign to raise funds to help with the ongoing problem of hunger in Uganda is off to a good start. The Goal is to raise **\$3,000** to use solely for supplying food to those in need for the remainder of 2023. Bottom line: the more we raise, the more people we can help that are struggling to feed their families. You can donate online at: missionlink.org/feeding or mail in with the designation, "Feeding."

"For I was hungry and you gave me food" - Matthew 25:35a