

The Link

Forgotten Identity

What determines our identity?

Today, the answer of identity comes from many circumstances mixed with some fact that molds people's opinions. While much of the information gathered from those questions can be helpful, one key piece is still missing from the equation that brings a solid conclusion. That key happens to be the most critical factor and is none other than the "Word of God."

Historically, any nation that began trusting in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel) flourished and prospered. As the Psalmist wrote: "**Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD**" (Psa. 33:12). However, they became an example to the nations once they strayed from following His statutes and commandments. Much of the Old Testament is about Israel learning this over and over as they continued to forsake the LORD and then finding themselves enslaved to an ungodly people causing them to cry out to the LORD. Psalm 107 shines a light on this while revealing how faithful the LORD is to His people. Four times in this Psalm, it states: "**Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses**" (vs. 6, 13, 19, 28). When the chosen people of GOD turn from being obedient to their loving Father in heaven, they essentially forget who they are and attempt to behave like someone they are not. Likewise, this is exactly what has been happening since the Garden of Eden when people live sinful lifestyles, not wanting to be held accountable, and begin to believe the lies from darkness about their identity.

Yes, God did choose the Hebrew people to walk with them, provide for them, and bless them. That was all contingent upon their obedience to His commandments. "**Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him**" (Deut. 8:6). However, there was also a grave warning issued along with those sweet promises. "**Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish**" (Deut. 8:19). The LORD is still upholding His part of the covenant He made for all who will live by faith in Jesus, the Son of GOD, who came from heaven to earth to demonstrate His great love for all who will call Him LORD (Rom. 5:8; Gal. 2:20). No longer should we to be identified by the family we were born, the color of our skin, the language we speak, but by who we confess is our Lord and live to please (Rom. 10:11-13). Because of this, we all have the opportunity to become part of the family of God and play an intricate part of His kingdom work here on earth.

There is freedom from being confused about who we are or striving to find our place in this world. While it appears many have it all together, the fact is that many struggle with feeling insignificant and that their life does not matter. Not totally yielding to God brings the shadow of shame from being identified by our sins. God not only says that is incorrect, but He performed the greatest act of love through the death, burial, and resurrection of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to open the doors so that you and I could become His children. The Gospel of John 1:10-13 says, "**He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**" Those that are born-again are no longer identified by the sins of their past as the Lord has washed, sanctified, and justified them in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6:11).

My prayer is that every person reading this article knows that they are indeed a child of God, adopted into His family, and having the assurance of salvation that comes only through Jesus Christ (John 14:6; 1 John 5:13). **And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life** (1 John 5:20).

God's word has the final say about who we are "in Him." Do not listen to the voices of this world that aim to sow seeds of confusion and destruction. Instead, trust and rely solely on who God says you are as you draw closer to Jesus.

Todd Childers
CEO, Mission Link

FEBRUARY’S UGANDA MEDICAL MISSION TRIP UPDATE

Our small team of 7 witnessed God at work on this mission trip by:

- ◆ 5 days of medical clinics held in 5 different remote villages
- ◆ Over 1100 people to be treated by medical doctors with medicines
- ◆ Over 200 people received reading glasses
- ◆ Adults and Youth were fed in 5 different villages
- ◆ Biblical teaching and the gospel preached for 9 days by our pastors
- ◆ Hundreds of Widows, Street Youth, Deaf students, were fed and loved
- ◆ Hundreds of hospital patients were prayed over and given gifts of love
- ◆ Many more wonderful things occurred, too many to list here

We would love for you to join a future trip to experience God’s hand at work.



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

Name: **FLORENCE NAMUGERE** is 58 and has 3 grandchildren.

Husband deceased: Her husband died in 2018 from throat cancer.

Testimony: Thankful for God’s salvation and her provisions through Mission Link.

Challenges: Rents land for farming and her house lacks windows and doors.



In the village of Kasolwe, our Youth workers were greeted with an overwhelming crowd of children. The pastor reported they had approximately 700 children waiting to be taught biblical messages. "... to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Mat. 19:14)



Picture Left: Angie Dunn worked tirelessly helping to fill our doctor’s prescriptions for each person treated. Picture Right: Glynda Carver and Richard Caldwell helped fit many Ugandans with reading glasses.



Picture Left: Pastor Jackie Carver delivers the gospel message on Yuwe island as we held the medical & vision clinic outside the church. Picture Right: Sister Lynn Agin-Spence shares a word to the crowd gathered in the village of Namegera. We Thank the Lord for gifting us with many talented workers for the Lord’s fields.

- UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS -

KENYA Trip: JUNE 2-14, 2023

Goal is to provide Medical Clinics, feeding widows & children while sharing the gospel of Christ. Costs is \$3,500/person. For more information or to sign-up visit our website.

UGANDA Trip: Feb. 1-15, 2024

Planning is underway for a Uganda Medical-Evangelism Mission trip. For those interested, email todd@missionlink.org so you will be included in future announcements.

Website: www.missionlink.org/missiontrips

A Sampling of "Praises" for Needs Met and Ongoing Projects

- **MLI CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTERS:** As our #1 objective in East Africa, we are obeying our Lord’s command in making disciples that make disciples. THANKS to a donor for helping us with **books** and **meals** for our students during their weeks of study. **PRAISE THE LORD.**
- **WIDOWS SUPPORT FUND:** MLI is constantly caring for a growing number of widows in Uganda. We would like to say **THANKS** to many of you that have given to help us bless all widows in need. Your generosity is appreciated and needed.
- **WIDOW HOME PROJECT:** This unique project is for providing a home to a widow in need that owns land or is provided. The cost is set at **\$4,500** per build. **A NEW Home will begin soon, PTL!**
- **MEDICAL FUND:** Our receptionist’s younger brother was severely burned with boiling water and has needed much medical care. Many others have needed help in receiving treatment from malaria and typhoid. Please consider donating to this important fund.
- **MISSION TRIP ASSISTANCE:** Our next trip to Kenya scheduled in June will be more costly than Uganda. Will you consider helping with our costs to perform much needed medical clinics in a region that has suffered from famine and drought over the last year?
- **SPECIAL PROJECT:** Pastor Paul Akise, one of our MLI School Co-teachers, is in need of help to complete his house by adding electricity. This will consist of 2 power poles and 1 power meter, totaling \$1,200 USD. Any contribution to help this man of God would be most appreciated and help the kingdom of God as he ministers and teaches new pastors.
- **DEAF SCHOOL:** Walls still need some plastering, ceilings installed, and we are still working on bringing power and a decent road to the school.
- **MISSION LINK STAFF:** (Updated) Some of our staff in Uganda could use support from a sponsor (church or donor) monthly or annually. Here are a few suggestions: **\$40/mo.** for: Emma Isabirye (Property Mgr.), Esther Nalugonda (Widows Director), Seera Mirembe (Cook). These funds will be used for meeting needs, ongoing education expenses, and normal duties as part of the MLU team. These four have been part of our MLI Ugandan family for many years and faithful to the Lord.
- **GENERAL FUND APPRECIATES GIFTS of ANY SIZE,** which helps us meet the needs above and so many more.