

Pastor Brian's  
Midweek Message  
May 11, 2022

**"ON A MISSION FROM GOD"**

*"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*  
(Matthew 28:19)

A couple of Sundays ago we had our "Compassion Sunday", as we are connected to Compassion International in sponsoring impoverished children in all areas of the world in the name of Jesus Christ. In this event we have sponsored an additional 14 children, bringing our TLC total to 35! Our guest speaker that day was Michael Kirungi, a graduate of the Compassion program who is now investing his experience, education and resources, along with his bride Flavia, also a Compassion alum, in planting a church in a remote village not far from their home in Ggaba, Uganda. Here is a picture of Michael, Flavia and their children.



Just before His ascension back to the right hand of our heavenly Father Jesus gave His disciples, and His Church, our marching orders. We know them well as "The Great Commission". Our Lord begins by saying "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." That might sound rather odd on the surface, connected to what comes next, but I believe that Jesus is emphasizing the importance of what He is about to command His disciples to do. His authority is supreme, so we really ought to take heed of what He tells us to do. That commission is to go, to all the world, and proclaim the Gospel of Christ. We are to be disciples who make disciples, bringing Jesus to the people so that by the power of God the Holy Spirit they

too might believe and receive the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life in Christ Jesus. We are to baptize and teach, continue to teach the full counsel of God given in the Scriptures. We have a mission right here outside our doors and extending outward to the entire planet. Acts 1:8 adds this "sending" from Jesus immediately before His ascension. *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* We have a responsibility to proclaim Jesus to the ends of the earth, and until the end of the age. With that charge in mind our Church Council here at Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida yesterday voted unanimously to support the church planting mission in the rural area of Mityana, Uganda where there are no churches. Crime runs rampant in the area and many consult "witch doctors" for spiritual guidance. There are infrastructure needs that must be met in order to build the church, such as a well for the community for clean drinking water and extending electric power lines to the building site. The council has directed \$3,030.00 from our missions budget be sent to the "Mifik Global Mission" to cover the cost of the electrical lines being extended and installed. You may not be aware of it, but TLC also sponsors a missionary to the area of Ingria in NW Russia, not far from St. Petersburg, an area with a large population of Lutherans of Finnish descent. Rev. Jerry Lawson, who not long ago served a congregation in Fort Myers, is there with his family as a professor at the Lutheran seminary in Ingria to raise up pastors from amongst the believers. Last year we sent \$4,000.00 in support that had been budgeted. Along with this, we also earmark half of our mission budget to go directly to the Synod out of a total budget of \$9,000.00.

The bottom line is that in supporting Michael and the church plant in Mityana, we don't have in the budget sufficient funds to fully cover our ongoing contribution to Rev. Lawson's mission. We have decided to place a "gift box" in the church for anyone who would like to help maintain that level of support for the "Mission to Russia". Once we have raised enough to do that any additional gifts will be directed to Uganda for a well to be dug to provide the clean water the community desperately needs. This is totally a free will effort. No one is to feel compelled by anything or anyone other than the Spirit of God to give. By giving we will be further accomplishing the mission that Jesus gave us and showing his love to people that we likely will never meet until we enter into God's Kingdom of Glory...heaven. I encourage all of us to pray and give as the Spirit moves us.