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BLESSED ASSURANCE by Mike Jones

People would ask Linda and I when our children were growing up in our house, "How did you get such well behaved children when mine are giving me fits?" My usual answer was, "We won't know until about twenty years later how we've really done." I've changed my answer. We don't know how we have done as parents until about thirty or forty years later. Every time the slightest negative thing happens, whether academic achievement below expectations, jobs, business, health, raising of our children's children, etc., the devil whispers in our ear, "That child is going to hell!" I know the devil is a liar. My biological children are well over thirty years of age, love the Lord, exceeding my life at their age by far, and have shut the devil's mouth. They stand strong on their own faith in God, leaving me with the pleasure of thanking Him. But the battle is not over. We have received forty, fifty, sixty, and more orphaned children to live in houses we built, and totally dependent on us as our biolog-

ical children were at their ages.

All of the orphaned children were brought to us in troubled times. They all have big families, but no one to take them in. They have stories of tragedy, despair, sickness, disease, trauma, physical challenges, and spiritual attacks. Their own relatives sent them away to live with strangers. And the devil sends discouragement to attack saying, "Who do you think you are? You don't have money! You are not educated! Do you think you can change anything, when these people have lived this way for hundreds of years?" We can live a month or so without food. We can live maybe a week without water. We can live a few minutes without air to breath,

but we can't live at all without hope. Hope closes our ears to the voice of the enemy. The substance of hope comes by faith. Faith makes all things possible for our children.

We received a child named Blessed some years back. He is now a young man waiting for his High School final results, which will determine where he goes next in life. He came to see me while in Kalomo buying seeds. The rains are about to come. I was overcome with joy in knowing Blessed bought seeds to plant, not knowing where he would be, so his relatives would have food because he was planting for them. The devil ran away like a dog, tail between its legs.



MIKE CONTINUED, with Linda's update.

Rushing to make sure everything needed for while I'm in The States is in order, Constance came with a relative to get school fees. The little girl miraculously healed of meningitis is now a teenager, a young lady. Her relative spoke proudly and humbly at the same time saying, "Constance is a good girl, never giving us any trouble, doing good in school, and active in church." The devil picked up speed in his running away.

Every year around Christmas time, me and Linda bring Komana her school fees for the coming year along with a little bag of gifts for Christmas. This is the girl that fell into the septic tank when she was four years old, died, and miraculously came back to life. She is twelve years old now and has been living with her relatives in a very rural area where we always have trouble finding. Since I was going to be in the States this

Christmas, I squeezed in the time to see her before my departure. With help from the local people, I found her at home with her usual big smile (confirming the meaning of her name). Her relatives, gleaming with joy, described Komana as a delightful child, never causing trouble, doing good in school, and had just gotten back from the children's church choir practice. I got her picture and drove home feeling like I had just prayed "the sinner's prayer" with a thousand people.

The "whispers" of the devil telling us how much of a sorry failure we are, and going to hell, and might as well just live life for yourself only come when we have taken our eyes off of Jesus. But when our eyes are fixed on Him, He floods us with encouragement, and confirms His calling and great life He made for us to enjoy. He will send YOUR Blessed,

Constance, and Komana.

Yes, these children and young people are your encouragement and confirmation, as you are our partners that gave selflessly to reach the least of this world with the abundance of Christ Jesus. In material things, we minister to the impoverished. But in real life, the one full of love, joy, peace, and all of the things money can not buy, they are behind no one. Remain Faithful,

UPDATE ON LINDA: I'm expecting the doctors to confirm her healing when she undergoes a PEP scan later this month.



Prayer

For good rains in good time .
For schooling loses from covid-19 closings
For God's covering the ministry while I'm out..

Praises

For Linda's soon confirmation of healing.
For covid-19 no where near us.
For the Light of Christ through MOT-MOT.

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