

Missions Analysis

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### **Introduction to Missions Analysis**

The content of this paper will be to introduce a missionary, Patrick Kizehe, who has committed his life to the Great Commission, and to make a comparative analysis of what it is like to take part in missions practically with what we discovered and discussed in class. Patrick is an incredibly inspiring person and has unique life experiences that have gotten him caught up with God's story. He currently lives with his wife and five children in Canada, but his story is far from the story of a typical North American man. Patrick was the son of a traditional tribal leader in the Congo. As a result of political and civil unrest from the residual effects of the Rwandan genocide, his entire family and tribe was displaced when he was a young teenager. His mother and brothers fled their wealthy home and ran for their lives. They came to a village at the edge of the border between Congo and Uganda, and they did not find refuge there. His uncle was shot to death, and they had to flee that village again, leaving the body of their uncle behind. They finally crossed the border to Uganda, which has opened its borders to all refugees. There, he was handed two machetes and two tents, and the man pointed to a small plot of land. He said, "That is your new home." Coming from a family of great wealth and position, Patrick had never held a machete in his life, and he has never had to build his own tent before. They gave his family a bag of rice and beans, and were told, "This is your food for the month." He recalls that unless it was by the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, there was no way that those two bags would last for a week for them. Yet, by the wisdom of his mother, they did not starve. She carefully determined the portion and timing of their meals, so they did not go hungry. When he was telling his story, he said that the moment he realized that he was a refugee, that is when the call to help refugees in Uganda was first planted. He had personally experienced the devastating loss of family, economic, and life status, was rejected and stoned by his own people, and found refuge in

a strange land with a completely different culture. Though they have the same skin color, the cultures of Uganda and the Congo are completely different. Sounds awfully familiar!

In the midst of the extreme and dramatic life change and loss, hope came through two nameless missionaries. On Christmas day, Patrick wished that he could just have a normal Christmas. As a young kid, anyone would hope for a Christmas full of presents. Patrick hoped that Christmas would be normal for him and his family, but he had nothing. Two white women missionaries came to their tent on Christmas day and handed Patrick what would be equivalent to \$20 today, and it changed his life. He thought, “Wow, even though we lost everything, there is hope!! Hope for a ‘normal’ Christmas!” Those missionaries that visited Patrick and his family at the refugee camp in Kampala, Uganda, did not just give him \$20. They gave him hope. This is why today, Patrick has committed his entire life to give refugees in Uganda hope, because he was once in their shoes. The hope that came in the form of \$20 multiplied and has impacted hundreds and hundreds of refugees in Uganda. I hope to spotlight Patrick and his non-profit organization, Giving Refugees Hope in Uganda (GRHU), and the impact that he has had on many lives to show how mission is done in a real world perspective.

### **Interview Setting**

The interview was done with Patrick Kizehe over Zoom on Apr 21, 2023. Patrick was with his eldest son on a month-long trip to Africa and was in Uganda, outside of Kampala at the time of our interview. He is also visiting Kenya on this trip. Patrick has focused his humanitarian efforts toward the Kyaka II Refugee settlement, where over 100,000 refugees live. Uganda is very open to refugees and has been one of the few African countries to keep its borders open to refugees mainly from South Sudan, Burundi, and Congo.

### **Missions Description**

Patrick defines missions as bringing hope to the hopeless and fulfilling the immediate felt needs of those who have lost everything. He is compelled by compassion, and it shows in the practical ways that he contributes to better the lives of those in Uganda. The way that we have discussed missions in class transfers in the ways that Patrick does mission work. The definition of missions can be summarized in the life of Jesus as described in Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." James 1:27 also says this, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." The mission work that Patrick and GRHU does translates these verses and quotes into reality.

Most of the mission work that Patrick does can be categorized as humanitarian. He has set up sponsorship programs for children without parents, and he also set up children's homes for those who have been abandoned by their parents or parents have both been killed or died from sickness. He recently renamed the orphanage to "children's home" because he says that they are not orphans because he is their father, his wife is their mother, the people who work there are their parents, and most importantly, God is their Father. He believes that every word spoken over people has the power to change their lives. So he no longer calls them orphans and no longer calls the children's home an orphanage. Their identity does not just change when they are adopted because they have already been adopted into God's family.

The sponsorship program is not just limited to the children in the children homes, but they are also provided for children in families with low to no income. The program is a \$35 per month commitment to anyone who wants to sponsor these children. This monthly commitment

covers their meals twice a day, education at school, and a uniform. 100% of the donation goes directly to the child, and hundreds of children have been able to get sponsorship, be fed, and go to school for an education.

The sponsorship program is also available to widows. Many women have lost their father, brother, and husbands to wars, and many have horrific stories of watching them getting hacked to death by rebels. Men have been the breadwinner of their families, and without them, many women were left with no way of making a living or help for their children. The widow sponsorship program is also a \$35 per month commitment, and it goes directly to their vocational training. They have training available to be a seamstress or hairdresser. Patrick told me that there have been dozens of success stories of women learning to sew or do hair, and many have started their own business. His website says, “Such employment grants each woman not only the dignity and empowerment of having her own career, but also the opportunity to provide clothing, food, medical fees and school fees for herself and her children.”<sup>1</sup> The sponsorship for widows greatly increases the overall health and mental health of the women in the program and also changes the lives of their children. Patrick told me that they have chosen sewing and hairdressing as vocational training because those two trades are something that will always exist in Uganda. He said that African ladies always want to do things with their hair, whether it’s hair cutting, weaves, braids, wigs, etc. He said, “Whatever the need is, we will always shift to that. We will never prescribe their needs.”



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.grhu.org/sponsor-widow>

The picture above shows the women learning how to be a seamstress, and the picture below shows the women how to be a hairdresser. Another challenge is providing childcare for the younger children while the women go to school.



Some other projects he is working on are feeding programs and discipleship. One of the constant challenges in the refugee camps is food shortage. Food is always running out at the camps, but Patrick has built partnerships with rotary clubs, the government, other local and overseas churches, and pastors inside and outside the compound in order to bring together resources. These partnerships have contributed greatly to the longevity and the success of all of the missional efforts that Patrick has dedicated his life to. He said that without partnership, there is no way that everything that is being done would be able to get done. It is also through partnership that he has built a discipleship school outside of the refugee camp.

He has built a new building outside of the refugee camp and in a “neutral” space so that all of the training, discipleship courses, schooling, and sponsorship center can be done. He does not only include refugees, but he welcomes everyone to participate in the programs GHRU offers. This neutral zone creates a space for people to not be recognized as insiders or outsiders. The sense of belonging is for everyone. Patrick is deeply aware of the prejudice that tore his country apart and is also deeply aware of the differences of cultures people have. The prejudice

that tore families, communities, and nations apart is not welcome or proliferated in these programs.

I asked Patrick about his 10 year vision and what he expects to see in the upcoming year. He is working to set up a school (elementary, middle, and high school) that can provide education for more children. He said that he already has teachers who are willing to commit to being part of this project. He is also working to build a hospital because many people have illnesses that can be simply treated. Many people are suffering and dying because the nearest hospital is just too far away. There is no medical center near the settlements, and there is also simply no insurance or any way for them to afford the trip and treatment. He also wants to continue building the training center and program for the women so that they can be empowered to provide for their families. He also wants to expand in evangelism as the discipleship training centers grow. And eventually, he wants to bring all of this into Burundi, which is the poorest nation in the world. He currently is working with some people in Burundi to make connections to make all of this possible.

### **Missions Analysis**

I felt incredibly honored to interview Patrick. He is doing many amazing things for the kingdom, and he is marked by the humility of Jesus and compassion of the Father. Throughout our class, I often thought of Patrick and the mission work he is doing. In every effort to make people's lives better, Patrick remembers the hope that was handed to him on Christmas Day by those two missionaries. He remembers how God met him in the cry of his teenage heart that just wanted to have a normal Christmas. When he was at the lowest of lows, God met his need.

Patrick is impacting so many people's lives, and it comes without any requirement or restriction. I asked him about how the gospel is proclaimed in his mission work, and he says that everything they do is in the name of Jesus. They pray and make it known that the organization is

Christian, but they do not limit it to Christians. In fact, they have people coming from all different backgrounds because needs are not limited to people who are Christian or not. Needs do not have prejudice like we do. So they also do not require anyone to profess any kind of faith or even denounce their faith. There are many Muslims who come through the training centers and sponsorship programs, and their lives are changed. Some of them do not give their lives to Jesus, but many do. Many have come in worshipping the name of Allah, but they leave knowing that it was Jesus who provided for them. The discipleship programs are often filled with those who have given their lives to Christ after going through vocational training. The way I see it, I think that Patrick is doing an amazing and arduous work to restore lives in Uganda.

### **Biblical Foundations**

My understanding of missions can be encompassed with a few Bible verses. James 1:27 says, “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” Pure religion according to God is to visit orphans and widows in their trouble. The widows and orphans are those who were left without any status, without a provider, without legal status, and the lowest in society. Matthew 25:31-46 emphasizes that Jesus identifies with the hungry, thirsty, the stranger, marginalized, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned. Jesus identifies with those at the bottom of the social and economic ladder, and he always starts his ministry there. Psalm 9:18 says, “For the needy shall not always be forgotten; the expectation of the poor shall not perish forever.” God remembers the poor and forgotten. He sees those who are looked over. Luke 10:9, Jesus says, “And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’” Therefore, we should also be sent out to proclaim that the kingdom of God is near, at hand, and heal the sick. Mark 16:15-18 says,

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Jesus tells us to preach the good news to everyone, cast out demons, speak in tongues, be protected, lay hands on the sick and heal them. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus gives the disciples the Great Commission and commands them to make disciples and teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded them. Missions is preaching the kingdom, where there is healing and restoration, and demonstrating the kingdom, through miracles, signs, and wonders, and meeting the felt needs of those who are in need and systematically neglected.

### **Compare and contrast**

I think that my understanding of missions and Patrick’s understanding of missions is similar. The target of his efforts are the widows and orphans that James talks about in his letter. Patrick also provides for the hungry, thirsty, the stranger, marginalized, the naked, and the sick that Jesus talks about in Matthew 25. The stranger in this context would be the refugees. Without the supernatural help from the Lord, Patrick would not be able to do all of these things for all of these people. His work is a testimony of itself of the Lord’s goodness for His people. Patrick believes that dignity, physical needs, and soul should be restored to people who have lost everything. I do not have empathy or compassion for many people, but I definitely have empathy and compassion for people who have lost their homes, families, and dignity.

### **Potential weaknesses in the missions approach**

A potential weakness in this approach is that there is little to address the absence of fathers in a whole generation of children who grew up without their fathers. I do not know much about African cultures, but I bet the role and felt need of a father is missing. I wish I asked

Patrick more about this, but I believe that God really shows himself as a Father to his children. He is faithful and fathers His children.

I also wonder if there is business competition among the women. I wonder what can be done to mitigate the competition of so many other people with the same skill. I also wonder if the need for hairdressers and seamstresses is so prevalent that competition is not as much of a problem.

### **Perceived strengths in the missions approach**

The strengths of this missions approach is that people, specifically women and children are being taken care of. Women are being taught real world life skills that will help them make a living so they can provide for themselves and their children. Children are given the opportunity to learn. Lack of education often leads to lack of opportunity. Lack of education keeps people in poverty. If these children are given an opportunity to learn, they will have more opportunities. And more opportunities lead to becoming a functioning member of society. The lives that are being changed will have a ripple effect of changed lives at the least. The hope is that the change will be felt within the city and country.

### **What insights did you gain from this exercise?**

I gained so much insight through this exercise. First, I realized how much of a blessing it is for myself and the missionary to talk about the work that is being done. Patrick was very happy and willing to do this interview because it was spreading awareness about his work. The more people know about it, the more the vision is spread, and the more people will know how to get involved. Second, I recognized how important the partnerships and relationships played a part in his mission work. It's true, without favor among people, there can be significant delays and blocks that just get in the way of getting things done. Partnerships also prolong the longevity of the mission. Patrick is certainly not alone in his efforts to restore lives, communities, and a

nation. It's impossible to do things alone. I could tell that he treasured every relationship. He did not mention them by name, but I could see him thinking of certain faces when he mentioned his partners in the government, other pastors, the leadership in the settlement, his team, and his support overseas.

## **Summary**

### **Personal Impact**

This course has challenged me to have a heart of obedience to Jesus. It is so easy to become overwhelmed by all of the needs in this world and worrying about how and when it will get all done. It's also easy to get distracted by figuring out how to do everything and what to do. But, God doesn't expect us to have all the answers. In fact, He doesn't even ask us to have all the answers or figure it out. All He requires is a yes in our hearts and a willingness to participate in bringing the restoration of His Kingdom on Earth. My current church has modeled missions within its biblical perspective and in the ways that we discussed in class. One of the things I want to continue seeking advancement in is in my neighborhood. We have been making weekly efforts to go on grocery outreaches. We also did free ESL classes for 12 weeks, and we were able to pray and cultivate community with them during that time.

### **Missions Possibilities?**

If I could choose a mission field to get involved in, I would go to China to preach the gospel. There are still so many people who have never heard of Jesus, and in China, everything gets censored by the government. There is no way that people in China would know about Jesus unless it was through word of mouth. Another place I want to get involved in is North Korea. I want to go to places where people do not have basic human rights and limited freedom. Places like China and North Korea are nations that have dehumanizing governments, and I want to be

able to tell people about a better Kingdom that can set them free from the inside out. North Korea is a nation that will not say they need anything from the outside, but there is a severe lack of food, resources, and medicine that humanitarian NGO can contribute to. Eventually, I want to end up in one of these countries to reach the unreached and call it my people and my home. Until then, I am committed to be involved with Patrick's ministry as we garner support, financial partners, and intercessors in the United States.

References:

Giving Refugees Hope in Uganda. <https://www.grhu.org/sponsor-widow>.