

## UNENDING LIFE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

### Present views/opinions about life after death

- Death is accepted as a reality of life for everyone and thus it's unavoidable.
- Some people believe that after this physical life they will exist in spiritual life.
- Some people refuse the idea of unending life since no one has ever died and returned e.g. the Hindus burn the body to ashes to prove that there is no resurrection.
- Death is seen as a mystery i.e. it's very difficult for human understanding and explanation.
- Some people think that the idea of unending life is used to control the behaviors of human being while in the physical life.
- Some people believe that the physical life determines ones spiritual life. Good conduct is rewarded with a better life and poor conduct sends one to suffering.
- To some people death is considered cruel and brutal as it robs people of their beloved ones like parents, children relatives and important friends.
- Some people look at death as a permanent solution to too much suffering hence increased cases of suicide in society.
- There is a lot of sadness and sorrow when righteous person dies unlike when a wicked person dies. This explains why faithful Christians are remembered after death.
- Christians believe in judgment after death and so the righteous would go to heaven and the wicked would go to hell.
- The living persons prepare themselves for life after death by living a moral life through repenting sins, praying and receiving Holy Communion.
- People isolate the dead as a way of sending them to a new life after death i.e. they are buried in far places.
- To some people the death of young people is very painful than that of mature people. It is believed that a person has to go through all the life stages i.e. birth, youth, marriage and death.
- Catholic Christians believe in purgatory where the souls are made pure of their forgiving them and then enter heaven.

### CAUSES OF DEATH TODAY

- Many people die due to old age. They live up to a time when their bodies become tired and worn out.
- Diseases and sicknesses like malaria, cholera, heart failure and HIV/AIDS, kidney failure e.g. Dr. Lukwiya died of Ebola, Ofwono the tallest Ugandan died of diabetes.
- Political instability in form of wars and strikes that claim people's lives e.g. many Ugandans died as a result of LRA rebels in northern Uganda.
- Accidents of vehicles, drowning of boats, air crashes e.g. The French plane that fell in the Atlantic Ocean killing over 200 people on board in 2008
- Capital punishments where people are sentenced to death by the courts of law after being proved guilty of their crimes like in the case of Saddam Hussein of Iraq who was hanged and died.
- Some people commit suicide i.e. they decide to take away their lives due to frustrations by taking poison, self hanging, shooting one self, drowning in water or jumping from storied buildings.
- Domestic violence resulting from quarrels and misunderstandings within families leading to death i.e. husbands beat their wives to the extent of killing them.
- Some people are given poison in food, drinks by self individuals e.g. it's alleged that Col. Noble Mayombo was poisoned to death by unknown people.
- Natural calamities such as earth quakes, land/slides, famines, floods, e.g. the landslides that killed many people in Bududa in 2009
- Drug abuse and taking overdose lead to death
- Mob justice of the people, when the mob takes the law into their hands to punish suspects after beating, stoning and burning them

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- Armed robbery where victims are killed with the intention of destroying evidence.
- Death is caused by abortion where the fetus is deliberately expelled from the mother's womb.

### **HOW CHRISTIANS PREPARE FOR UNENDING LIFE TODAY**

- By following the Ten Commandments for guidance in daily life.
- By preaching the gospel in churches, door to door, on streets taking the example of Jesus.
- By organizing and attending fellowship meetings where Christians share their experiences and encouraging one another.
- By loving God and their neighbors as instructed by Jesus during His time.
- Through regular praying to God for guidance and expressing their Christian needs.
- By carrying out charitable work to help the needy with the basic needs of like food, shelter, clothing...
- By confessing their sins so that God can forgive them and live righteous lives e.g. Catholics go for penance and protestants and born again prefer public confessions which is done once in life.
- By praising and worshipping God as a way of glorifying Him and preparing for life after here.
- By participating in Holy Communion as instructed by Jesus.
- The sick are being anointed by the church leaders to obtain blessings of God in their last stages of life.
- Through fighting for Truth and justice in society even when it requires suffering or death.
- Through paying the tithe to the church as a way of expressing their loyalty to God.

### **HOW CHRISTIANS VENERATE/REMEMBER THE DEAD**

- By canonizing those Christians who died in faith as saints for example St. Peter, Paul, Uganda Martyrs like Joseph Balikuddebe, St. Charles Lwanga...
- By setting up monuments where such Christians were killed for remembrance.
- By having special days set aside to remember them e.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> June is Uganda martyrs day, 1<sup>st</sup> November is all saints day, 16<sup>th</sup> February is for remembering Archbishop Janani Luwum.
- By giving names of the saints to the newly baptized Christians like Mary, Elizabeth, John, Peter...
- By holding memorial services for the dead members of the Christian community in order to continuously dedicate them to God.
- By making pilgrimages to the Holy sites where the saints died and were buried for example every 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Christians make a holy visit to Namugongo where the martyrs were burnt.
- Through writing books about the death in which the activities of the death are talked about and the living are called upon to copy their example.
- By composing songs of praise in the names of the dead which are regularly sung in churches like that of the Uganda martyrs.
- By naming many churches after the saints for example St. Peters Basilica in Rome, St. Peters church, St. Jude, St. Andrews around the World.
- Through founding schools and hospitals after the saints for example St. Anthony's hospital in Tororo, St. Paul's college-Mbaale, St. Mary's college – Kisubi, St. Peters college-Tororo.
- Through burying the dead in the church grave yard especially the bishops, priests and archbishops...
- By naming public places names of the dead for example St. Balikuddembe market in Kampala.
- By preserving the body of dead by keeping it from decaying by use of chemicals e.g. the bodies of Bishop Angelo Negri and Kinyangire were placed in Gulu Cathedral.
- By visiting the grave yards of the dead and praying through them e.g. the grave yard of Father Ngobyamba more so the by the living Catholics while seeking for blessings.

### **WHY SOME PEOPLE DOUBT UNENDING LIFE**

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- The influence of formal education where the elites look at life as circle i.e. one is born, lives, dies and then decomposes.
- The influence of material wealth where the rich concentrates on accumulation of wealth instead of doing what it takes to have unending life.
- The influence of science of science and technology disapproves life after death.
- Some people have limited faith in Jesus and thus do not believe in life after here.
- The delayed coming back of Jesus Christ makes some people to doubt life after here
- The confusing views concerning life after here make people doubt its existence.
- The Christians who have died in Christ have failed to come and hence non-believers doubt the concept of life after death.
- Death is hard to understand by the living persons hence doubting the existence of life after here.
- Death is associated with a lot of sorrow which makes to doubt life after here.
- Some people simply look at death as a way of shaping peoples behaviors when still alive in order to create peace and harmony.
- Some people think that the body is destroyed and never to re-appear.

### **How people respond positively towards unending life**

- Christians especially those who believe in unending life have put all their faith in Jesus Christ.
- Through confessing their sins in order to have everlasting life.
- They develop strong belief in the judgment day and resort to living moral life.
- They live prayerful lives throughout their life.
- They preach the gospel in order to save others from perishing in hell.
- Through committing their time in fellowships to be encouraged in daily life.
- They praise and worship God and encouraging one another.
- They carry our regular bible studies as a way of understanding God the more.
- They extend charity to the needy like paying for the basic needs of life
- They compose songs of worship and praise like Pastor Wilson Bugembe and Judith Babirye.
- They conduct holy journeys to holy places

### **HOW PEOPLE RESPOND NEGATIVELY TOWARDS UNENDING LIFE**

- Church leaders have turned to be greedy by making churches as businesses.
- Christians have involved themselves in sexual immorality like homosexuality
- Christians have developed the spirit of selfishness yet Christianity calls for sharing.
- There is power struggle which makes people to doubt unending life.
- Many Christians have involved themselves in worldly things instead of Godly issues
- Some have resorted to science and technology as a solution to their problems
- The educated have gone ahead to oppose unending life because everything goes with proof yet unending life has no proof.
- Some people have resorted to magic and witchcraft since there is absence of miracles in churches.

### **UNENDING LIFE IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA**

*Death is the transformation of one' s body into spirit. Is the loss of physical life to spiritual life.*

*In ATS, death for the elderly was counted very normal and went with great celebration. Death of a young person was considered abnormal and was questioned so much.*

### **CAUSES OF DEATH IN ATS**

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- Natural death where one outlived on earth, the very old people.
- Disrespecting the spiritual being could cause death of a person for annoying them.
- Insulting God and dishonoring His mighty place through words or deeds.
- Violation of oath which were religious binding and could cause death if take falsely.
- Violation of taboos like marrying a close relative, could lead to death for other to learn from.
- Breaking of blood pacts that obliged one to respect the life of such relationship established.
- Disrespect of elders due to their curse, so it was a must to respect elders.
- Immoral acts like rape, murder annoyed the gods and God himself hence causing death to the victim.
- Society condemnations like a young who got pregnant among the Bakiga was thrown into river Kisizi
- Witchcraft, in form of poisoning, casting an evil eye on someone, bewitching on the path.
- Devine will, a belief in God deciding to take away an individual from the spiritual world
- Diseases in the society after failure of medicine/treatment
- Natural calamities like floods, landslide, earthquake...
- Accidents befalling an individual in the society.
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## **UNDESTANDING OF DEATH IN ATS/ THE DEAD WERE NOT DEAD IN ATS**

To Africans, the dead were not dead but continued to live as the living dead. Death was seen as mere sleep or change of state from physical life to spiritual life.

### **The following can show the connection that existed between the living dead and the living Africans;**

- To the Africans life after here meant going to another spiritual world/life from the physical life.
- The dead were considered active members of the family and clan who kept close and in contact with the living.
- The dead could appear to the living through visions and dreams to communicate out their interests.
- The dead could be buried with their material items to use in the next world e.g. among the Egyptians, the king would be buried with the favorite wife and property.
- The dead were given decent burials for example shaving of hair among the Japadhola, the dead were washed and shaved so as to go to the next world while clean.
- Through giving names of the dead to the living newborn children e.g. among the Baganda, children were given the ancestral names basing on the baby`s appearance
- Burial grounds were put in cool and conducive place to protect the dead from hot sunshine and heavy rainfall e.g. Among the Baganda they would be buried under a big tree.
- Through offering sacrifices to the dead e.g. among the Japadhola, the ghost would appear and asked for sacrifices.
- Through whispering to the dead and consulting them on sensitive issues e.g. the Bemba of Zambia would talk in low tones to dead at the graves.
- Through sharing with the dead e.g. among the Baganda, wine and food would be shared at official special occasions.
- Making them into special objects like stools, sticks and spears and were regarded holy e.g. among the Zulu people of South Africa
- The dead were buried near the homes e.g. among the Basamia of eastern Uganda, the dead were buried in the courtyard to show that they were still part of the family.
- Through constant visit to the burial grounds of the dead.
- Through singing and dancing to please the dead.
- The head of the family upon death would be buried facing the house e.g. among the Acholi to keep watching over the family members
- Through constant cleaning of burial grounds of the dead to keep them safe and in a good place.
- Through praying to them in order to get life, blessings inform of wisdom. Child bearing, success...
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- Through organizing funeral rite after some time of death. Through building special houses for the dead, shrines.

### **IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITS IN AFRICAN TRADITION**

- Spirits were believed to live in the under-ground, forests, mountains, caves and in the sky
- They were part of living Africans
- They were a medium through which Africans communicated to the gods and the God the creator
- The spirits monitored the activities of the Africans
- Through the spirits, Africans were able to seek for forgiveness from their God
- Africans expressed their needs to the gods and God through the spirits e.g. Africans prayed for fertility, many wives
- Africans acquired blessings through worshipping and pleasing the spirits
- Africans consulted the spirits concerning major decisions in the society
- It was through the spirits that Africans maintained good contact and relations with the dead members of the family e.g. among the Bemba of Zambia, they would be consulted through whispering to the graves.
- They provided success to the Africans in form of good harvest, successful hunting and trade
- Spirits were used by medicine men to perform functions like curing diseases.

### **HOW AFRICANS VENERATED THE SPIRITS AND ANCESTORS**

#### **How did the Africans worship/show respect to the spirits and ancestors?**

- They maintained the graves of the dead and showed respect to them
- They named their children after the ancestors
- They invoked their names during prayers
- They ensured proper burial ceremonies to show them respect
- They took care of widows and widowers
- They kept good relationship with the spirits and ancestors
- They participated in ceremonies like marriage
- They built shrines for worshipping them
- They offered sacrifices to them to appease them
- They consulted them on major issues in the family
- They carried out initiation rituals like circumcision among the Bagishu.

### **BURIAL RITUALS IN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

- Washing the dead body with water or traditional medicine so as to go to the next world while clean.
- Shaving the bodily hair so as to begin a new life in the new world.
- Cutting off the bodily nails so as to begin a new life in the new world.
- Putting oil or butter in the mouth, nostrils and any other bodily openings
- A hole was made in the grave so as to allow the spirit to move in and out freely in some societies.
- The dead were buried with material things like clothes, foodstuffs to use in the next world
- They could sing and dance in order to help people overcome the sorrow and the pain caused by death.
- They slaughtered animals and birds as a way of overcoming the pain of death
- There was lighting of fire e.g. among the Banyoro and batooro, they would light the candle for 3 days for women and 4 days for men.
- In some cultures women tied some leaves either on their heads or around their waists.
- Some people smeared their bodies with white clay like among the Masai of Kenya as a sign of mourning.

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- In some cultures, when one partner had died, one could sleep with the dead partner to show much respect for him or her.
- There was celebration of funeral rites as the climax of the mourning and this made the mourners forget the sorrow and pain.
- They buried the dead facing specific directions like the Baise of Ngabi clan of the Basoga buried the dead facing the east because the dead had to return where they came from.
- They tied their waists firmly so as to become firm as they mourn like in Buganda the orphans are tied with banana fibers around their waist to be firm.

### **Similarities between African and Christian ways of preparing for unending life**

- Both preserve norms of society like circumcision in traditional African and baptism in Christianity
- In both, there is calling upon good members who died in times of hardships
- Both require dedicating one's life to God as a way of preparing for eternal life.
- In both good relationship with God and neighbors brings about eternal life.
- Shrines and churches are built to worship God respectively.
- In both, repentance is encouraged in preparation for life after here.
- In both helping the needy is considered as a way of seeking for God's blessings
- Giving back to God is called for in both
- In both names of the dead are given to the children in preparation for life after here.

### **Differences**

- Prayers are said through Christ while traditional Africans prayed through the ancestral spirits
- Africans required pleasing and consulting the ancestral spirits while Christians need to serve the interests of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Giving food to the ancestral spirits is required in ATS while Christians participate in Holy Communion.
- Accumulation of wealth was required for life after here in ATS while in Christianity heaven requires simple life and poor but faith.
- Fulfilling social obligations like marriage prepared one for life after here while in Christianity only dedicating one's life to God's work is enough
- Africans buried the dead with material wealth while Christians simply need God's grace in life after here.
- Christians believe in the resurrection of the dead while Traditional Africans thought that resurrection was through rebirth of children
- Africans honored the dead by offering sacrifices to them while in Christianity, Jesus was last sacrifice and for all
- Christians believe in heaven or hell while Africans believed that the dead continued to live as family members.

## **BIBLE TEACHING ABOUT UNENDING LIFE**

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

*The Israelites had very limited ideas about unending life as life which is the greatest gift being threatened by death. They had hope and fear about unending life...*

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- They believed that the dead went to a place called Sheol, a place where full of darkness, no knowledge, wisdom, and light and thinking. (Ecc. 9:5-6)
- They feared to die young and go to sheol e.g. King Hezekiah feared to die when Isaiah told him, however he prayed to God and he was added more 15 years (Isaiah 38:9-20)
- In trying to reduce the fear for death, they tried to live and enjoy life fully (Ecc. 3:12-13)
- They looked at life as fragile and so they decided to enjoy it when still alive (psalms 144:4)
- They looked at having children as a way of continuing their life which thought it was a blessing from God. (psalms 127:3-5)
- The OT expresses Heaven as the best place to live in and the earth has nothing which is better. (Psalms 73:25)
- It teaches that those who die will resurrect either to eternal life or eternal suffering (Daniel 12:2)
- They put their trust in God so as to keep them alive and their children
- The OT teaches that the names of faithful will be written down in the book of life and saved for everlasting life. (Daniel 12:2)
- The faithful people will rejoice at the end of the world life (Isaiah 25:9)
- The dry bones in the valley during Ezekiel' s time getting flesh means that there is life after death (Ezekiel 37:1ff)
- They had hope in the heavenly city of Zion as a place of total fulfillment with no more crying, suffering and death.
- It teaches that there is time for everything including the time of birth and time of death (Ezekiel 3:2)
- They looked at death as a punishment that God had given to Mankind which he willed to Adam and Eve.
- They looked at life as useless and looked at it as a way of chasing wind before they would all die (Ezekiel 9:7-10)
- Death was looked at as a means of resting from the troubles of the world e.g. Job desired to die because he was undergoing a lot of pain

### **NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT LIFE AFTER HERE**

- Jesus said he was going to prepare for us a place in his father' s house (John 14:1-3)
- Believing in Christ assures us of eternal life e.g. Jesus said “ I am the way, the truth and the life...”(John 14:6)
- Having fellowship and caring for those in need is a source of eternal life e.g. in the story of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke' s gospel
- Being born again with water and the spirit brings eternal life for example Nicodemus was told by Jesus to be born again in order to receive eternal life.
- Christians are called to celebrate and share the Holy Communion as sign of eternal life now until we go to the heavenly kingdom.
- Jesus defeated death by rising from the dead hence giving hope and victory over death based on God' s love for his people.
- Jesus` resurrection brings hope in life after death for all who believe him
- Knowing Jesus is choosing everlasting life and failing to know him is a way of choosing eternal hell.
- Jesus taught about final judgment for all mankind. The righteous would inherit Gods kingdom and the wicked to inherit eternal fire.
- Repentance of sins and turning away from sins is rewarded with eternal life since one is put right with God.
- Giving assistance to the needy assures one of life after here e.g. Jesus told the rich man o sell his property and give the money to the poor in order to have eternal life
- Death is the gate way to eternal life and so one has to first die in order to have eternal life.
- Accepting the invitation of Jesus and his message bring salvation and eternal life e.g. Zaccheaus accepted Jesus' invitation and he rewarded by Jesus.

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- Jesus raised the dead to life which proved his power over death e.g. he raised Jairus` daughter, Lazarus
- God sent his only son to die on the cross for the sake of liberating mankind from the bondage of sin
- The way an individual live on earth prepares one for fullness of life in the kingdom of the father (revelation 22:1-5)

**SUB – THEME: SUCCESS**

**UNEB QUESTION 9**

**SUCCESS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION**

*Success refers to achieving ones desired or set goals within a specified period of time.*

*Success differs from person to person depending on one` s set goals, visions, priorities and opportunities.*

**Important values to consider in achieving success/ones goal**

- Hard work
- Commitment and faithfulness
- Persistence
- Discipline
- Dedication/determination
- Self sacrifice
- Honesty
- Self drive
- Cooperation
- Patience
- Planning
- Education qualification
- Prayer
- Talent development



## **ELEMENTS/UNDERSTANDING/INDICATOR OF SUCCESS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION**

- Attaining academic qualifications like certificates, diplomas, degrees, PHDs and having them is an assurance to good life.
- Having a lot of wealth in form of cash, cars, land, and nice housing and other property e.g. Mr. Mulindwa Moses owning St. Mary's ss-Kitende, Bobi Wine owning Busaabala beach.
- Having a good paying Job in good institutions like Bank of Uganda, KCCA, Uganda Revenue Authority hence leading to a better life.
- Achieving victory in competitive elections` especially members of parliament since one is assured of payment for 5 years plus much good life.
- Being famous in the society like celebrities e.g. Musicians like Joseph Mayanja A.k.a Chameleon, Bobi Wine the Ghetto president and many people admire them.
- Having a successful marriage relationship with a faithful wife and disciplined children is considered as success.
- Fulfilling cultural obligations like circumcision of boys among the Bagishu is considered as success today.
- Living a religious life serving God as a musician, priest, and pastor praying, fasting and helping the needy with the basic needs of life.
- Having a big leadership post in society e.g. MP honorable Kyagulanyi ssentamu, current speaker of Parliament-Hon Rebecca Kabaaga.
- Being talented in a given activity like Music, football, radio presentation and fashion show, all these bring prestige and honor to a person in society.
- Recovering from a long time sickness
- Being released from prison
- Having children in a marriage relationship
- Having ones prayers answered by God in form of Job promotion, personal property, victory.
- Having political peace and stability in the country
- Having economic prosperity in the country
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## **SUCCESSES UGANDAN HAVE ATTAINED SINCE 1962/INDEPENDENCE**

- Economic growth and development
- Political stability
- Emancipation of women
- Enforcement of human rights
- Improvement of education like UPE and USE programs
- Improved transport and communication services
- Improved medical provisions
- Industrialization leading to creation of many jobs and tax base for the country
- Urbanization
- Good Governance with democracy.
- Formation of NGOs like TASO, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Uganda Aids Commission...
- Free mass media
- Technological advancement like use of internet everywhere in the country.

## **SUCCESS IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA**

### **Indicators/understanding of success in Traditional Africa**

- Having a good relationship with ancestral spirits since they were believed to be sources of blessings.

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- Fulfilling the cultural norms of the society e.g. circumcision of boys and girls among the Kikuyu and Nandi brought great joy and was success because children were initiated into their society.
- Having a lot of material wealth in form of land and cattle e.g. among the Banyankole, Karamojongs, a man with a lot of cattle was considered successful, a man with a lot of land in Buganda.
- Having a good harvest was an assurance of food security in a family e.g. in Buganda, maize and beans which were put in the granaries ensured food security and this meant success.
- Having good health openly showed that one was in good terms with the gods and God and hence living longer. So all elderly people were called successful.
- Having many children who were considered as sources of joy, labor and wealth e.g. among the Buganda, a man with many children was accorded a lot prestige and respect.
- Having many disciplined wives proved successful living. Women were a source of labour, wealth and respect to men and they would qualify for leadership
- Achieving Victory in a war which ensured peace, protection of life and property in society.
- Being elderly and wise brought a lot respect because their wisdom and guidance guided the society on many issues
- Performing a heroic action brought Happiness in the community e.g. after killing a fierce animal like a lion in Buganda made one to be greatly praised.
- Sharing resources communally brought a sense of security and eliminated suffering e.g. a pregnant woman in Buganda would be allowed to enter any person`s garden to get something to eat.

## **SUCCESS IN CHURCH HISTORY**

### **HOW DID THE APOSTLES OF JESUS ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

*When the apostles received the Holy Spirit on the day of the Pentecost, they became strong in the preaching of the gospel as instructed by their master Jesus.*

*They achieved the following successes.*

- They preached the gospel of Jesus Christ both to the Jews and gentiles e.g. St. Paul preached to the Corinthians, Romans, and Galatians.
- They founded churches in areas where they preached e.g. St. Paul founded churches in Corinth, Galatia, and Rome
- They conducted fellowships in which they met and shared the word of God and encouraged one another e.g. Peter and John had Christian fellowships in Samaria and Jerusalem
- They carried out charitable work by helping the needy, widows and orphans with the basic needs of life e.g. Barnabas sold his property to help the needy.
- They settled disputes among Christians e.g. St. Paul settled the issue of eating food offered to idols, issue of prostitution in his letter to the Corinthians.
- They encouraged others to be self reliant e.g. St. Paul made tents to earn a living instead of depending on the church.
- They wrote encouraging letters to distant Christians e.g. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, Romans, and Galatians to make them remain strong in Christ.
- They performed miracles which brought glory to God e.g. St. Peter and John healed a lame man who used to sit at the beautiful gate.
- They accepted suffering for sake of the gospel e.g. St. Paul, Peter, and John were all arrested and killed because of preaching the gospel.
- They appointed deacons to administer and preach the gospel among the gentiles since Christians had geographically and numerically expanded.
- They baptized new converts into Christianity e.g. Peter baptized 3,000 people in Jerusalem which expanded the church numerically.
- They trained others to help in preaching the gospel e.g. Paul trained Titus and Timothy
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- They laid hands on the Christians to enable them to get God's blessings e.g. Peter and John laid hands on Christians in Samaria and received the Holy Spirit.
- They shared the Holy Communion together in memory of Jesus' body and blood which promoted Christian Unity and faith.
- They met for prayers as a way of communicating to God and getting ready for the second coming of Jesus.
- They conducted catechism lessons in which they taught Christian principles of love, prayer and faith to the new converts.

### **WHY THE UGANDA MARTYRS REGARDED AS SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIANS**

*In 1886, a large group of Christians was killed on the orders of Kabaka Mwanga when they decided to obey God other than the rule of Kabaka Mwanga. They are considered as successful Christians because of the following;*

- They accepted baptism into Christianity as assign of commitment to God e.g. Andrew Kaggwa, Charles Lwanga, Joseph Mukasa were baptized in 1882
- They worshipped and believed one God the creator of the universe and abandoned the ancestral spirit of Buganda.
- They accepted Jesus Christ, son of God as their personal savior e.g. Kizito Omuto accepted Christ and to be burnt for the sake of the new faith.
- They obeyed and lived according to the Ten Commandments with a lot of commitment and abandoned the worship of Buganda gods but one God.
- They always met for fellowships in order to get rooted into the word of God and also helping them to remain encouraged during persecution.
- They regularly prayed to God to give them strength and courage during their Christian experience of persecution.
- They preached the good news of Christ in order to expand Christianity e.g. Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe converted many people into Christianity while serving a catholic leader.
- They composed songs of worship and praise as their commitment to the Christian faith e.g. Denis Ssebuggwawo was made the patron of choirs and musicians.
- They explained the scriptures about the kingdom of God to help many people turn away from the worshipping of other gods.
- They opposed the ungodly demands of Kabaka Mwanga e.g. the demand of Homosexuality by Mwanga which annoyed him and killed the pages in the palace.
- They baptized new converts within the palace e.g. Charles Lwanga baptized the pages at Munyonyo especially those who were going to be killed.
- They played a great role in establishing the Catholic and Anglican churches in Uganda especially Joseph Mukasa who was killed at Nakivubo, Charles Lwanga who was killed at Namugongo
- They had a lot of faith in Jesus Christ who died for man's sins with strong belief in the resurrection of the body.
- They accepted to take on Christian leadership to preach the gospel e.g. Charles Lwanga, served as a catholic priest.
- They encouraged their persecutors to accept Jesus Christ and repent their sins.
- They accepted to die for the sake of their faith e.g. 25 catholic and Anglican Christians were burnt at Namugongo in 1886 at the orders of Kabaka Mwanga.

### **BIBLE TEACHING ON SUCCESS**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT**

*What was considered as success in the Old Testament?*

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- Success meant following God`s laws as commanded by Moses e.g. they followed the laws regarding the celebration of Passover and they were saved from death in Egypt.
- Success meant producing children e.g. Sarah and Hannah became successful and happy after God blessing them with children.
- It meant having material possessions e.g. the Jews were successful after possessing the land of Canaan and Job was considered successful for he had a lot of cattle and other property.
- Winning battles was success among the Jews e.g. when David defeated the Philistines and captured the covenant box, this made the Jews very happy and successful.
- Having a good relationship with God by doing what God required, this brought success in the life of the Jews.
- Recovering from a long sickness and living longer e.g. Job recovered from sickness and recovered whatever he had lost, King Hezekiah recovered from sickness and God added him more 15 years to live.
- Having wisdom from God. E.g. King Solomon used God-given wisdom to serve God's people by developing Israel.
- Having one's prayers answered by God e.g. when God answered the prayers of Hannah and Sarah for children, they considered themselves successful.
- Having one's sacrifices accepted by God e.g. Abel had his sacrifices accepted by God.
- It meant following the Jewish rituals like circumcision which was a requirement to all male Jews.
- Success means observing the Sabbath and celebrating special events like the Passover.
- Success meant having a large family with parents, children and other relatives e.g. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Lot.
- By accepting God`s call by the prophecies e.g. Moses who was called in the burning bush at Mount Sinai.
- Through building worshipping places for God e.g. King Solomon offered sacrifices during the dedication of the Jerusalem temple.
- Being liberated from slavery e.g. the Jews were successful when Moses led them out of the Egyptian slavery.

## **NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON SUCCESS**

### *What is teaching of success according to the New Testament?*

- Success means preaching the good news of the kingdom of God e.g. Jesus preached the good news to the people in Jerusalem, Nazareth and Judea.
- It means accepting baptism as an initial step in joining God`s kingdom e.g. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist at River Jordan.
- It means following God`s laws and Jesus` teachings because one would qualify for the kingdom of God.
- It means resisting temptation of the devil e.g. Jesus used Holy Scriptures to defend Himself against the tricks of Satan.
- It means living a selfless life for the sake of God`s Kingdom e.g. Jesus accepted to carry the cross for the sake of liberating mankind from sin.
- Success means forgiving one another instead of revenge e.g. Jesus forgave those who opposed him during his ministry and he was successful.
- It means being born again in faith e.g. Jesus` conversation with Nicodemus at night about being born again and accepting Jesus Christ.
- Success means praying to God faithfully e.g. Jesus prayed and multiplied the 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread and were enough to feed over 5000 men.
- It means accepting the invitation of Jesus e.g. Zaccheus got salvation the day he welcomed Jesus in his house and life.

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- It means having faith in God and Jesus` teachings e.g. the Blind man was healed by Jesus because of his faith in God and Jesus.
- It teaches about talent development e.g. the first and second servants were rewarded by their master because they used their talents very well

### **HOW JESUS` LIFE APPEARED A SUCCESS DURING HIS MNISTRY AMONG THE Jews**

- Preached the good news of salvation e.g. preached the good news while in the temple at Nazareth
- Helped the needy with the basic needs of life e.g. he fed the 5000people on 5loaves of bread and 2 fish
- Healed the sick e.g. the blind man, paralyzed man and the crippled woman.
- Associated with sinners e.g. Zaccheaus the tax collector, the sinful woman, children, ate food with them and called them friends.
- Befriended both men and women e.g. Martha and Mary, Lazarus were all his friends
- Through raising the dead e.g. Lazarus, Jairus` daughter which gave Glory to God
- Defended the weak in society e.g. protected the adulterous woman who was going to be stoned to death by the Pharisees
- He protected and defended the Lord`s temple by chasing out the people who had turned it into a market.
- Uplifted the status of women e.g. he accepted the woman`s anointing, appreciated the offering of the woman in the temple.
- He defended the rights of children when he called them to be near him and said that the Kingdom of God belongs to them.
- Respected those in authority by supporting the paying of taxes to the roman government
- Forgave those who opposed and those who crucified him on the cross
- He died on the cross and resurrected from death which was a source of hope for life after here
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as promised to His disciples.
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### **HOW JESUS` LIFE APEARED A FAILURE TO THE JEWS**

- Jesus accepted to be baptized by John the Baptist yet baptism was meant for sinners but the messiah.
- Jesus was coming from a poor background yet the Jews expected a messiah to come from a rich family e.g. his father was a carpenter
- He was tempted by Satan yet the Jews never expected the messiah to be tempted by the devil.
- Jesus associated with sinners and social outcasts e.g. he associated and ate food with tax collectors, lepers and prostitutes and called them friends.
- Jesus` teachings appeared to be conflicting with Moses` law e.g. he changed the law of divorce, adultery and associated with sinners.
- He used a lot of authority when he was cleaning the temple by over turning people` s tables.
- Jesus felt hungry and thirsty e.g. during his interaction with the Samaritan woman when he asked her for water.
- He faced a miserable death after being undressed, beaten, spat on, beaten up, and finally being crucified on the cross.
- Jesus was unmarried yet the Jews expected a messiah who was married.
- He taught in parables which were hard to understand by the Jews and some were directing attacking them.
- Jesus was denied by his close associates e.g. Simon peter who denied Jesus three times
- He was betrayed by his own disciple, Judas Iscariot after being given man.
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### **SUCCESS WHICH JESUS WON FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM**

- Gave them power to perform miracles.

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- Jesus reconciled the Jews and the gentiles as equal before God.
- Believers got the Holy Spirit after Jesus` ascension to heaven
- Given power to resist temptations of the devil.
- Believers received hope for life after death.
- They got power over death and Satan.
- They received the good news of Gods kingdom
- They received salvation through Jesus death
- Jesus liberated his followers form the bondage of sin
- They received the forgiveness of sins
- They got the power to stand persecution for the sake of the kingdom of God.
- They got the right to be called God`s children