

# THIS HOPE

## Making Jesus' Kingdom Visible

### APPETIZER: Celebrating our World Vision Partnership

Our partnership began in 2011...

- About 2000 children sponsored in Mposa and Chamba, Malawi
- Additionally, we've provided \$100,000 to support both an Early Childhood Development Centre and Savings & Loans groups.
- In 2016 we began supporting World Vision's *Raw Hope* program. We've given \$350,000 to date.
- Cyclone Idai hit Malawi in March 2019 – thankfully all Meeting House sponsored children are safe. Together, we contributed more than \$40,000 to the relief efforts ensuring families have access to clean water and other necessities at this time.

### DINE IN: Let's be Real

Luke 4:14-21; Colossians 1:19-20; Matthew 11:4

Matthew 25:31-40

- In **Matthew 23-25**, Jesus teaches on the reality of his Kingdom
- Jesus rebukes the hypocrisy of religious leaders (Matthew 23)

"When people look at the church, they should see the very embodiment of Jesus. When people look at the church, they should see the One who declared – in word and deed to the leper, the lame, and the poor – that His kingdom is bringing health to every speck of the universe."

~ Corbett and Fickett (When Helping Hurts)

As a follower of Jesus...

- The way I live makes Jesus' kingdom visible, real – our faith is to be embodied and involve real life in all its messiness
- My compassionate engagement flows from a place of authenticity, gratitude, and seeing my own abundance
- I desire to see hope, healing, and reconciliation occur in places of brokenness

Making this personal:

- Pastor Philip Gai, World Vision Representative (Ontario)
- Dr. Fabian Lwanda, Krystaal Music

### TAKE OUT: Accepting the challenge. What can I do?

- Reach out to someone who is experiencing brokenness
- Be an advocate and care for persons and communities on the margins – the hungry, homeless, refugees, imprisoned, oppressed
- Give to The Meeting House's Compassion Fund to support the *Raw Hope* program
- Sponsor a child through World Vision
- Pray – Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Please visit the information tables in the lobby to learn more about how you can help support children through our partnership with World Vision in Malawi and around the world.

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. What did you sense God saying to you through Sunday's message?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2.
  - a. Read **Matthew 25:31-40** and compare with **Matthew 11:1-6** and **Luke 4:14-21**. What are your first impressions of these passages?
  - b. What do you think the significance is that these passages “bookend” (at the beginning and conclusion of) Jesus' ministry?
  - c. If Jesus were teaching today, what needs, vulnerable persons, or groups might he identify (looking at **Matthew 25:35-36**)?
  - d. What do these passages teach us about what it means to be a follower of Jesus compared to what might be commonly assumed by people who are unfamiliar with the Church?
  - e. What is God's Kingdom? What is our role in making it visible?
  - f. How did God speak to you through Philip and Fabian's stories? What is one thing you can do to intentionally remember their stories, and the many people with similar life experiences, amongst your busy daily routine?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. What is God saying, encouraging, or convicting you about this week? How are you responding? How can you share with others that it's Jesus' kingdom that motivates you to pursue compassionate living in our world?