

PRESS RELEASE

June 6th 2018

Washington DC

In honor of June 13th, International Albinism Awareness Day, Mclean Bible Church and The Salif Keita Global Foundation INC. will be hosting a dinner and panel discussion. The theme suggested by the United Nations this year is "Shining Our Light to the World". The diverse panel will discuss the "Spiritual and Scientific" aspects of albinism in order to raise awareness and bring more education about the genetic condition. The event will take place on June 13th 2018 from 6:30 pm to 9 pm in Community Room D of Mclean Bible Church located at 8925 Leesburg Pike Mclean VA 22182. For more information, please call 240-421-3681.

About Albinism

Albinism is a hereditary congenital anomaly characterized essentially by the partial or total absence of pigmentation of the skin, the hair and the eyes. People with albinism are, unfortunately, poorly accepted in Africa and therefore marginalized in society at the least. In addition, they are sadly sometimes mutilated or even downright slaughtered in some countries. In December 2014, the UN enacted June 13th as International Albinism Day to raise international awareness about the condition.

About Mclean Bible Church

MBC is a Christian organization located in Washington DC metro area and is passionate about showing God's love and telling His story. Those who worship at MBC represent differing political views, backgrounds and life experiences. MBC cares for everyone, including people with intellectual and physical disabilities, those suffering in poverty, young people in crisis and others who are neglected or overlooked.

About The Salif Keita Global Foundation INC.

Salif Keita, a Malian singer with albinism and a four-time Grammy nominee, says: "Being albino in Africa is a daily struggle to survive". In many countries throughout the African continent (eg. Tanzania, Kenya, Mali and Burundi) being born with albinism is considered a curse. Albinos are thus targets "of choice" in the realization of "magic" rituals. These false beliefs lead to the worst horrors: the albinos are indeed regularly mutilated or even downright slaughtered by sorcerers. Their members and their blood are used to make so-called lucky charms or concoct magical potions that are supposed to bring success. Using the intimate parts of an albino is for example supposed to bring power. In addition to being victims of discrimination, attacks and mutilations, albinos are at increased risk of skin cancer and vision problems. From their perspective, their existence on the continent is a real hell.

A black man in white skin, Salif Keita remembers an unhappy childhood filled with insults, humiliations, frustrations and contempt because of his color. His sister's death from skin cancer and the birth of a daughter, who is also an albino, motivated him to use his notoriety to help victims with this condition. For the past thirty years, he has been fighting for respect, emancipation, social and professional integration of albinos and for the recognition of their rights. Through the Salif Keita Global Foundation created in 2005, the Malian singer improves the daily life of albinos in Africa and other continents. The foundation creates positive media educational campaigns and supports the albinos of Mali and the sub-region by organizing telethons and distributing, for example, tubes of sunscreen and school materials to children who have the condition. The foundation also pays the costs of ophthalmological and dermatological consultations of certain patients with albinism and advocates for their rights on the national and international levels. Through his foundation, Salif Keita has lobbied international institutions successful for the recognition of the plight of people with albinism including the recognition of the International Day of Albinism Awareness enacted by the UN in 2014. "Like all human beings, albinos need to be loved and considered normal people," the Malian singer suggested. His album La Différence is dedicated to all victims of albinism in the world.