

The Link

Are We Together?

The importance of unity among God's people — By Pastor Todd Childers

After visiting Uganda for a seventh time, I have found that the friendships that began in 2012 have not only lasted but have grown stronger with each passing year. While I am not considered an expert in the Lugandan language, I have attempted to become fluent in general conversation and greetings. In many languages, most sayings can be meant as a statement or a question, depending on how it is stated. A common saying in Uganda is, **"Tuli Wamu,"** pronounced "Tooly Wha-moo," for us American English speaking people. The meaning can either declare that, "we are together," or question whether we are on the same page. While our trips to Uganda are yearly, it has become obvious that most Ugandans are sold out completely in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person the Lord places before us. Jesus Christ prayed for those He called to follow Him to become one, as He and the Father are One (John 17:21). This oneness is required so the world would witness His glory and presence among His people so they would gain knowledge of His truth (vs. 22-23). The Lord's prayer for unity becomes a central theme in the apostle Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus, where he calls for all to remember how we were reconciled to God through the blood of His Son (Eph.2:12-16). Unity among God's children is a prerequisite before the world can witness the Father's ability to perform the impossible. During preaching, I hear many Ugandan pastors ask their church members if they are together, as a way to check to see if they are following the message or in agreement. I hope to implement this line of questioning during sermon delivery if the Holy Spirit prompts as a way to regain the attention of those distracted. But while we are discussing mission work of sharing the gospel light of salvation through Jesus around the globe, I would like to ask all who read this newsletter, "Are We Together?" Let us be of the same mind as Christ Jesus our Lord, seeking to be obedient in following Him in all that do. Then the question becomes a declaration statement to all that "We Are Together," **"Tuli Wamu!"** My prayer is that the whole world would witness the unity of the church and experience salvation by grace through faith in Jesus as LORD. **[Pastor Childers has been a faithful and important team member for a number of years. MLI is very grateful for his contribution and leadership to missions in Africa.]**

UGANDA 2019: The 2019 Uganda trip was a blessing for both Ugandans and for the USA Team! Souls were saved, believers edified and God glorified. Thank you so very much for your prayers and support! Truly the team was ONE (wamu - together) in Christ. Pictured below, the team spent time with the deaf ministry in Kamuli. Mission Link International is the main (key) support for this critical mission. Other than administration and general support, MLI donors also gave 30 metal beds, 30 mattresses and 30 sheets.



AARON



KATHY



MARY



JOHN

We had several newcomers to join our team this year. Pastor Aaron Mansfield from Catawba Baptist Church; Dave and Kathy Segars and Mary Shupe. Also visiting with us was Bryan and Wendy Frady (former MLI team members in 2012 and now IMB missionaries.) They were with us for two evenings. John Neisen from Minnesota, who was with MLI back in 2004, was amazing!

Both John & the Frady's blessed our team! We also had Pr. Euticals from Nairobi, who picked up computer equipment to be installed by the MLI team. For 5 days we had Pr. Anthony & Hope Ndambuki from Eldoret, Kenya. Pastor shared with the team each evening.

News Brief

THE USA TEAM IN UGANDA MADE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY: Thanks to the many prayers and the support of faithful friends coupled with an empowered team, much was accomplished in 2 weeks! Below are some of the accomplishments:

*Deaf Ministry was blessed with 10 triple decker metal beds, 30 four inch mattresses and 30 bed sheets (funded). *We have secured a large plot in Itukulu village for the future building and a milling machine for our widows (land funded). *An injection of funds for Basana Village (Pastor Timothy) primary school (over 500 kids) to work on boy's quarters. Work has commenced (funded); *Solar and flooring for Itukulu primary school's boarding quarters; *Esther's house being constructed continues to move forward (donors continue to fund); *Jinja Hill Church with Pastor Willy has now metal roofing for their church (funded); *Pastor Wasawa's house is funded having cement floor installed as well as windows and door. (funded); *Uway Church has begun constructing a church (Phase one—funded); We will soon need 40 metal sheets **\$435**; *Medicine, soap and rice given to Bugembe Prison where the team ministered (funded); *Three leadership conferences for men, women and children taught by our team (funded); *A large number of Women's pads, 900 underwear, children's clothing distributed in various places (funded); *Luncheon, soap & monetary gifts from donors for widows event (funded). *Pastor James Senyonjo widows for home (funded). *Many English/Lubanda Bibles purchased & distributed (funded). *On the 10th in Jinja we gave reading glasses, ministered to street kids & ended the day at the hospital giving soap & sugar (funded).

Pastor Anthony and Hope are in serious financial needed: \$3600 is needed to pay off a bank loan used for erecting a primary school & rebuilding their simple metal home. We now have \$1600. **Only \$2000 more to go!!** Please keep lifting this situation up before the Lord.

REMODEL USA MISSION CENTER: We are presently **raising funds to remodel** our new mission center in Pearisburg, Virginia. We need both volunteers and monetary assistance. Much of the internal walls have been removed and ready to replace floor and ceiling tiles, paint, install shelving and fix some plumbing and electrical. Email Rick to invest a day or two this spring/summer (thelinkoffice@gmail.com).

MEDICAL FUND: Giving **any amount** to the Medical Fund is greatly appreciated. MLI continues to have ongoing medical needs. Unfortunately, the clinics and hospitals do not compare to what we have in the USA. Yet, the Ugandans make the best of a bad situation.

GENERAL FUND AND ONGOING NEEDS: Monthly salaries for several staff members **\$50** & two staff teachers **\$90**; Street kid Nathan is in school but the place where he stays floods. (We are now in the rainy season.) His wet cloths were stolen while he was in school. He needs a place to stay for at least 12 months **\$110**; **Julius...a street young man** has been funded for one term (3 terms in a year.) Each term is about **\$100**. Your assistance with a term is much appreciated. He will begin his first term soon to learn to read & write. **MLI Office—Uganda** (security, taxes, electric, water, etc.)—**any amount**; MLI Church Plant—Kigera needs a permanent structure—**any amount appreciated**. **Widow's project:** Land has been secured in Itukulu by our attorney. A small building, two power poles and milling machine are now needed—**any amount**. A milling machine will cost approximately **\$1100**. Poles and running lines will be approximately **\$375**. A building will be anywhere from **\$3800 to \$4800** provided bricks can be "hand made." **Pastor Stanley's** upcoming marriage in May! **Help!!**



Team is next to the Nile falls; team in front of Esther's house; Bugembe Prison gifted soap, medicine, rice and the Gospel proclaimed; MLI Uway Island Church; Kid's ministry conference; Itukulu & Mafubira Widows; a student sharing the Word at the graduation ceremony in Bugiri. Two MLI graduations held February 16th (Buvuma Island, Lake Victoria) and 19th (Bugiri—one hour from the Kenya border).

 If you have used cell phones laptops, electronic keyboards or Christian books, we have a home for them as well. This is a simple way to assist MLI. God Bless You!!

Kenya Team: February 23rd thru March 9th, 2019. A total of 38 computers will be installed for two computer labs for Pr. Euticals Wambua. The first lab will be updated in the Korogocho Slum of Nairobi and the second will be installed at the new secondary school in Mwingi, Kenya
Pearisburg Construction Team: We need specialized assistance (Electrician/Plumber/Carpenters) to remodel the MLI Office/warehouse in Pearisburg during the Spring/Summer of 2019.



Thirty dollars (\$30) a month brings great happiness to an African Widow! **Will you prayerfully consider adopting this dear widow?** She needs a loving family.

Name: Manjeri Nabirye is 64 years old (1956) and cares for 3 children. Her husband died of motor accident 2015.
Testimonial: I thank God for my salvation and for care and support through MLI. Manjeri Fellowships at Itukulu Baptist Church (Pastor Kadoko).