

# The Link

## Home Sweet Home?

*Many in Uganda have primitive living conditions*



**A**braham, a street boy, lived under the steps of an old dilapidated house built when Uganda was a British protectorate. The only thing that separated him from the elements was a tattered cloth covering the entrance. Rats and snakes occasionally visited the dark damp hole. One night Abraham was startled by a loud squealing noise originating from under his thin moldy mattress. Lifting the bedding up, he was shocked to find a large snake devouring a rat. During the rainy season, his

bed, clothes and books would often get wet due to leaks and blowing rain. There were other visitors to Abraham's den; thieves would often steal his few possessions, including a mattress and blanket. Several years ago, I discovered this youth living near where I resided. His brother, who sold chapatis (bread) on the street, also lived in the same abandoned house with multiple families. When his brother moved from Jinja to Kampala, Abraham had no one to help him with food and school fees. His mother, Rosemary, is a poor albino living in another village. His father lives near the Kenyan border having multiple wives. Mission Link International came to Abraham's rescue and gave him a room and bedding at the MLI headquarters. MLI takes care of his school fees, medical issues, food and clothing. Now that he has lived in our compound for well over two years, he has become a great asset to the ministry. Mary Kunya, who operates a bakery in our building,

has taken him under her wing, becoming a surrogate mother. She has ministered to his needs, even teaching him how to cook. Above all, Abraham is developing a Christian character and is involved in the life of MLI Church.

Many kids living on the street have a parent or a relative but cannot stay at home for various reasons. In many cases, dad will marry another woman who literally hates her husband's children. In Abraham's case, his dad had married four wives which is allowed in the Muslim tradition. His mom, Rosemary, struggles to feed herself, having little or no funds for school fees. At age three, Rosemary handed her son to Momma Jane, who ran an orphanage. When Jane died, Abraham had to leave the orphanage at age 13 to live with his older brother Geoffrey. Abraham and his elder brother struggled to survive in the old dilapidated house.

I asked Abraham what he missed growing up. He described walking in town and seeing fathers playing ball with their kids. He missed having a dad. When I am in Uganda, Abraham prepares lunch for me several times a week. We also go out for lunch and chat about many things. He is thankful that he did not follow the typical street kid's habits of drinking, smoking and using drugs. He now has a mission in life and truly desires to be the best he can be for the Lord. Though Mission Link's mission is focused on helping widows, a deaf school, and training village pastors in the scriptures, we have helped a number of street kids who knock at our door. In fact, we now provide a space for an American missionary who works with street kids.

MLI is very grateful for contributions to the General Fund that affords our mission the means to care for youth like Abraham.

**Rick**

**UGANDA IS IN FULL LOCKDOWN.** Millions are facing hunger and extreme financial difficulties. Because of the rapid surge of Covid, President Museveni has ordered a total lockdown of the country. Outside of the capital city of Kampala, hospitals have changed very little in the 24 years that I have been serving in Uganda. Hence, the lack of sufficient oxygen bottles and critical care beds are few for a population of 47 million. Consequently, beginning June 18th, 2021, the country has gone from partial to a total lockdown. The lockdown restrictions create many challenges for Ugandans: **All churches/mosques, schools, and non-essential stores are closed for 42 days. All taxis, motorcycle transport, and the use of private vehicles are restricted. Other than trucks and emergency vehicles, no one is allowed to crossover to other districts. Only 10% of workers are permitted to occupy businesses and NGOs. Masks are mandatory, and the curfew is 7:00 PM to 5:30 AM. The police and military have quickly squelched uprisings and protests.** The Daily Monitor (a national newspaper) describes the situation this way: **"Uganda is facing a major stress test and is struggling to cope. The economic and societal stress being felt across the land during this latest lockdown is slowly turning into a political crisis."**

Due to the lockdown and 90% unemployment, Ugandans will find it difficult to pay rent, utilities, medicines, and secure food for their families. Mission Link Headquarters is inundated with cries for assistance. Though we have just entered into this second lockdown phase, people are begging for assistance. Please consider giving a special gift toward helping Ugandans with food and special needs (medical, rent, etc.). With the sudden spike in sickness and deaths due to Covid, **Mission Link is in dire need of your assistance.** Thank you!

**UGANDA 2021 JUNE TRIP**



(Top Row 1—Left to Right) — Pr Todd preaching at MLI's Yuwe Island church plant; Last day dinner celebration at MLI Headquarters; Terri cutting of ribbon at maize mill in Itukulu; (Row 2) Team traveling by boat; Richard praying with a widow; Milling Equipment; (Row 3) Jackie witnessing to Ugandan ladies; Team visits deaf school hoping to be completed before the end of the year; Team traveling in MLI Van at the end of a long day on Victoria lake; (Row 4) Albinos families helped with food and clothing; Pastor Emmanuel's new home; Team eating lunch on Buvuma Island in Kadomala Village. **The team is very grateful for Thomas/Mary and Philip/Jackie hosting a team luncheon. PTL!!**

**UGANDA TRIP - FEBRUARY 2022**

Email: Pr Todd [musumbatodd@gmail.com](mailto:musumbatodd@gmail.com) or email Rick [thelinkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:thelinkoffice@gmail.com) for information. There is a \$200 scholarship for those committing to the February trip by Sept 1. A \$10 nonrefundable deposit mailed to MLI will reserve your place. Please mail check to:

**Mission Link International  
P.O. Box 338  
Pearisburg, Virginia 24134**

**NOTICE:** Again, **July** is a continuation of MLI's cell phone collection. Please ask your family, friends, Bible study group and church (Pastor) to donate their old cell phone to Mission Link. Also needed are laptops, tablets, electronic keyboard, and cameras. Thank you for helping!



**Thirty (\$30) a month brings great happiness & needed provisions for our African widows in Uganda!**

**Name:** Naigaga Maimuna was born in 1956 and has 3 children. **Husband deceased:** He died in 1992 of asthma complications. **Testimony:** Naigaga is thankful to God for protection of her life. She appreciates the help given by Mission Link International for provisions of food and medical support. Naigaga is grateful to God for saving her from being a Muslim to knowing Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior. **Challenges:** Health issues and a weak body are making it difficult to work in her garden. She also has ulcers and high blood pressure.

**CURRENT "SAMPLING" OF NEEDS MET AND NEEDS TO BE MET:**

**Praise the Lord for needs met!** MLI's generous donors assisted with many needs. First, the road entering the compound of the deaf school graded and applying fresh dirt and rocks! Pastor Emmanuel's house and land were purchased. (Now he is close to the church he pastors—a MLI church plant.) Very expensive milling machine switches/starters purchased. (Soon, a resident of Itukulu village will be trained in how to operate milling equipment.) The 2nd and final payment made for Pastor Wasawa's garden plot—2 acres. Pastor James, the head-teacher for MLI schools, was afforded an opportunity to get a much needed vehicle—1994 Toyota Corolla. Thomas was able to receive funds for painting and electrical work in his home. The team gave Nasser funds to start a driving school in Jinja—this included a business permit to start a school plus six months rent for office space. He is a very happy Ugandan! A set of African drums given to MLI church Plant on Yuwe Island. Flavia was given 6 months support to care for Albinos! Also, Pastor Timothy was given funds to help with the people and school in Basana Village. Even though it was challenging to manage, 120 widows were fed and given soap in Mafubira and Itukulu villages. Income distribution was also given out to widows who had donors.

**★ FUNDS TO PURCHASE FOOD AND HELP WITH RENT/MEDICAL**

- ★ **Tires for Van** The requests for tires for our Mission Link's van is still needed—\$400 for 4 tires (and better tires \$550). (Note: Needs, such as tires, are listed in the newsletter on an ongoing basis until the need is met OR the need is temporarily or permanently removed.)
- ★ MLI Director **Philip Tenywa** needs help w/ muddy entrance to his dwelling—\$375
- ★ **DEAF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION:** We still need funds to finish the school; Any amount given will be appreciated.
- ★ **Emergency medical fund:** Additional funds needed—A major increase in medical issues.