

The Link

What does Rick do while in Uganda?

I was once asked what life was like for me when in Uganda, East Africa?

Mission Link International resides in the midst of the impoverished nation of Uganda. When a “white skinned” person (known as a Mzungu) walks on the streets of Uganda, the vast majority assumes that he or she is very rich. Americans are viewed as living in the land of “milk and honey.” It significantly affects the way MLI can assist. For example, regarding a street boy named Zach, MLI has tried to help him in a variety of ways. Recently, he was jailed being accused of stealing a phone and attempting to cut another youth with a knife—two separate charges. Our attempts were stymied for the following reasons: Though the claimant realized Zach did not steal the phone, he was willing to drop the case if given 450,000 shillings (\$140). He finally settled for 100,000 shillings. Concerning the skirmish with the knife, the claimant was willing to drop the case for 100,000 claiming this amount was paid to the police to have Zach arrested. The police having been exposed to my “white skin” also demanded 120,000 shillings. Another example of “white skin” issue is concerning a “land grab” targeting the leper property (land purchased for the purpose of growing maize to feed lepers). The surveyor creating the plat and title had eaten our funds (4.5 million shillings). Though the property is now titled, the government is still waiting for final payment from the surveyor of one million shillings. The neighbors also had witnessed “white skin” purchasing this large parcel. Even though we gave part of the property for a community football field, several “plaintiffs” were fuming about the placement of the boundary markers on one side of the property. The ring leader, who excited the neighbors, told MLI’s Director that he wanted part of the property for himself. The sad thing, the gentleman had no issue with our property other than he was “fighting” for the community. The neighbor who contested the boundary complained that the markers were on a public access, and he demanded the markers be moved. MLI came up with a viable solution costing no one. Realizing no shillings would be involved, the neighbor suddenly changed his story. Now he insisted that the land markers in question were no longer public access, but actually his land, and he wanted compensation. The government official, also part of the scam, agreed. To bring a resolution, we surrendered 1.6 million shillings. The government official insisted the check be made out to him. I had our attorney present when the agreement was drafted. Each time money is involved, it is like stepping in financial quicksand. Even when helping street kids, the cost grows. Derrick, who we have in mechanic school, recently called needing money for food as he was not being fed but one meal per day. He also expressed needing a rug for his room, a wash basin, soap, overalls, transport, etc. Another street boy, Moses (in primary seven), had his shoes stolen and needed another pair and a backpack. Our staff person, Mzee John, has medical needs and grandchildren needing school fees. A pastor associated with MLI has become a diabetic, and we have tried to help him with his debilitating disease. **The “giving river” is overwhelming!** Our security guard, staff, MLI church members and friends of the ministry are literally crying for school fees. One of our staff had a golden opportunity to work in Dubai requiring 1.5 million (\$450). Whether it is 10 year old little boy saying in broken English, “I’m hungry” or a single mom crying in my office because she can’t pay school fees or neighbor who’s wife delivered a baby but cannot be released from the hospital until the bill is paid are financial stress points for MLI. Our staff, widows, student pastors (etc.) all depend on MLI. With the recent drought causing food prices to escalate and the general rise in the cost of living, MLI is inundated with requests for assistance. I hope this short essay coupled with the pictures below will give you a taste of what my life is like when residing in East Africa. On behalf of our board of directors, I want to personally thank you for your prayers and gifts to MLI. Your investment and prayers are making a difference!

Rick



(1-3) Graduation in the village of Nansololo; (4-5) Widows of Itukulu and Mafubera given soap, beans as well as many given monthly support. All enjoyed a time of Bible study, prayers, testimonials, singing and fellowship; (6) Rick preached at Pastor Charles’s church and was given flowers by the members. MLI is helping Pastor Charles with diabetic medical needs; (7) Rick stranded at night on Lake Victoria. Pictured are natives trying to repair the old boat engine; (8-10) MLI’s street kids placed in school (Derrick, Asam, Moses); (11) Land/money grab by neighbors at the Leper Farm (see article above for details); (12) Deaf school in Kamuli given school supplies from a donor & the administration given monetary support; (13-14) MLI’s recent church plant on Kadomola Island. A MLI student pastors this church plant; (15) Land given to MLI for the next church plant on the Island of Yuwe; (16) MLI gifted a crippled lady with transportation.

MISSION LINK'S NEWS BRIEFING:

STREET KIDS FUND NEEDING A BOOST: Zach, who has been on the street since he was a small boy, recently was arrested by the police. He was falsely accused of stealing a phone, and he also was involved in a street fight with another street boy. MLI paid the police and plaintiffs in order to secure Zach's release. Moses, though he has a donor, had shoes stolen (MLI purchased new shoes). He also needs a backpack and some pocket funds. Another street boy, Derrick, was blessed by a donor affording him an opportunity to attend mechanics trade school. Though rent has been paid for 3 months and tuition for a year, he has ongoing needs. MLI just gave him overalls, wash basin, rug/tarp for his room, a lock, soap, etc. Your gift will help him purchase some additional clothes, tools and a tool box. Joshua, 10 year old (paraffin & glue sniffer) lives on the street near our office. We feed him daily and contribute to some of his needs. He also showers at our headquarters and receives encouragement from the staff. There are many others who live on the street, & it is truly overwhelming. ANY GIFT TO THE "STREET KIDS FUND" OR "GENERAL FUND" IS GREATLY APPRECIATED—PLEASE.

PHASE II — MLI SCHOOL IN ELDORET, KENYA — I realize that this is a repeated plea each month and may be a little redundant. Yet, it needs to be completed. Rick did not visit the engineer this trip due to lack of funds to commence construction. We are not discourage believing God's timing is the best. Construction will begin when we have sufficient funds. Any amount given is appreciated.

DEAF SCHOOL HAS INCREASED ITS NUMBERS! (On going needs) The sponsorship for this school has been a blessing. The ongoing monthly needs for food is around **\$370**. **Other monthly needs:** Dorm for kids **\$70**; salaries for 5 teachers "in total" is **\$250** (minimum). The school has increased the number of students requiring additional funds. Pastor Herbert and Elizabeth are seeing an increase in enrollment. Please pray for the staff, children & school. One day we hope to secure land and build a school/dorms for the deaf children.

GEORGE STANLEY - FISH PROJECT: One of our instructors in the pastor's village school is George Stanley. He spends several weeks a month away from his children and garden. He has been very dedicated and a serious teacher of pastors in different Ugandan villages. He desires to begin a project that will enable him to be self-sustaining; George only needs a boost to make it happen. The following are his requirements to get his fish farm up and running. If you can help him with one or more items, he would be very grateful: Fish cages that will be placed in the waters of Lake Victoria cost \$215 each (4 cages needed); 5000 fish cost 150 shillings each (5 cents each) or \$250; it will cost approximately \$70 per week to feed the fish for 36 weeks to reach maturity. This help will empower George to be more productive in the ministry. The Apostle Paul also at times was bi-vocational having a tent making project. Pastor/Instructor George Stanley is qualified and trained to raise Tilapia.

MEDICAL FUND HAS NEEDS: MLI helps a number of people each month with medical needs. The General Fund is where we reach to secure resources to help Africans. Recent examples: 1) Mzee John (staff) is not able to work and frequents the hospital due to a heart condition; 2) Recently we had a call from the Island late at night to help a stroke victim; a muslim (friend of MLI) came to our office and needed funds to pay the hospital in order to release his wife and new baby; a street boy has scabies and needed treatment; our director's wife continues to have issues with her health (lady issues). She is needing medical assistance from a trained gynecologist.

COMPUTERS NEEDED—1) A Ugandan Bible student still needs a used **laptop**; **2)** Used MAC Books & Windows laptops needed for a computer lab for Pastor Euticals in Mwingi, Kenya for his high school. Our VP, Wendell Drumheller, and MLI Team will install lab in February/March of 2018.

EUTICAUL WAMBUA OF KENYA: Pastor Wambua is grateful for the \$100,000 raised to help rescue Africans during the food crisis in Kenya.

ACCOUNTING FIRM, EXTENDED LEASE AND VEHICLE INSURANCE DUE: We have bill for \$680 to be paid to our accounting firm in Uganda. Also, \$1100 dollars is needed for the extension of our lease for another 99 years; \$90 need for shocks for our van; insurance for vehicles is due as well as a host of other expenses.

UPDATE ON WIDOW CHICKEN PROJECT: A gift has been given to purchase layers (250-chickens). MLI has delayed purchasing chickens until feed prices are reduced. In September, we hope to purchase both chickens and feed.

General Fund

GENERAL FUND: Mission Link International's internal operations and the many facets of ministries we encounter all are paid from the General Fund. Your gift to this fund enables us to meet the vast ministry expenses that we incur on the field. It is truly overwhelming, but your continued gifts gives us the ability to keep the ministry machinery running giving us the ability to meet the increased needs in this impoverished land called Uganda. Thank you so very much for sustaining the mission. We are seeing pastors trained, widows cared for, Africans coming to know the Lord and numerous ministry needs/projects met/completed because of Mission Link's friends. Thank you!

LOOK AROUND THE HOUSE, ASK YOUR FRIENDS AND AT CHURCH

Cell Phones, Digital Cameras,

Laptops, Christian Books

Many iPhone and common cell phones have been donated and are greatly appreciated. Drop items by the MLI office OR mail them to: 1677 Avon St. Ext, C'ville, VA 22902. Christian books/Bibles also needed for next shipment to Africa. Thank you so VERY much!

UGANDA/KENYA FEBRUARY 2018 TRIP

Uganda/Kenya Mission Trip February 2018 — MLI is planning to bring together two trips in 2018. Either there will be two separate trips back-to-back **OR** part of the team in Uganda will extend their stay an extra 8 days in Kenya. (**Note:** Due to group rates, we will be limited to participants working in both Uganda and Kenya.) Some or all supplies will be carried by our Ugandan medical team that will be transported to Kenya. Again, some of our Uganda team may also want to participate in Kenya after finishing the Uganda trip. Tentative dates for the Uganda Trip: February 9-23, 2018 and for Kenya tentative dates are February 25 - March 9, 2018. MLI will put together a computer lab and minister to the kids in Mwingi, Kenya. This is a **MUST DO TRIP**, but very few computers and supplies have been donated (**a critical element for trip**). Contact Rick if you have questions - thelinkoffice@gmail.com

Sponsor a Widow with Monthly Support

For **\$30** a month (just a dollar a day) you can make a difference in the life of a widow. Your support will help pay for school fees, medicine and much more. **So very little makes a BIG difference.... God states true religion is helping a widow! Will you bless this dear woman with a monthly gift? Thank You!**

Testimonial: Kasuga Mwajuma is 60 years old. Her husband died of a strong headache in December of 2000. She cares for three children. Kasuga used to have high blood pressure, but through prayer there is improvement. She testifies that care and support through MLI is a blessing. Kasuga fellowships at Itukulu Baptist Church, a church constructed by a MLI Team in 1997. **Challenges:** Medical needs and children's school fees are a big challenge.

