

# The Link

## WALKING IN THE WAY

*Are you following Jesus or on your own path?*

In the last newsletter, Dr. Rick covered the topic of Truth and how we are set free by knowing the source of all truth (**Jesus**).

Likewise, let us also ask the important question, “How do we know which path (**or Way**) we should go in life?”

For many who label themselves Christian today, the concept of walking with God seems to be watered down by the world’s effort to make our faith less offensive. A growing number in the church have become deceived into thinking that if they had simply said a prayer (however recent or long ago), they must be walking with the Lord. There is a *difference* between walking by faith in Jesus vs. blind faith in gaining eternal life without Jesus as the beginning, center, and end of that faith.

The word of God has much to say regarding our walk, or choosing the right path. From the Old Testament, the Psalmist asks for mercy and blessings so that the world would witness “**the Way of salvation**” (**Psa. 67:2**). The bible’s historical account reveals, for the most part, how the New Testament apostles walked in obedience by following the Lord as fishers of men (**Mat. 4:19**). They taught that salvation was only in Jesus and that He was above every other name. The boldness they had caused people to refer to them as disciples of “**the Way**” when reporting them to the authorities (**Acts 9:2**). Looking back, we can see why the Lord told us that He never changes and this includes His offer of salvation (**Mal.3:6**).

We can learn great lessons from the lives of the apostles and why they cared more about sharing Jesus than what others thought of them. Also, the apostles acted in the same manner as the prophets of the O.T. but were empowered by the Holy Spirit. As the apostles were persecuted and cast down for walking in “**the Way**,” we can have assurance the Lord will be with us just as He was with them. “**The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand**” (**Psa. 37:23-24**).

The Lord spoke such wisdom through Solomon teaching us that man cannot understand which way he should go. “**A man’s heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps**” (**Prov. 16:9**). Therefore, even though we may plan our way, it is indeed the Lord who is directing our steps (**Prov. 20:24**). We must fully trust in the Lord, placing our lives in His hands, then He will direct us (**Prov. 3:5-6**).

Now, to share a small part of my testimony. After my spiritual birthday, Dec. 5, 1992, there were many years of walking through dry and desert places. During this time, I had to learn great lessons that taught me that I was not really in control of my life. However, things drastically changed when I totally surrendered to the Lord and sought His will for my life. I heard and answered the call into the gospel ministry in 2000. Then after being led to pastor in 2005, the Lord took me out into deeper water (faith) in 2012 when He called me to join a Mission Link team to Uganda. Through my involvement with missions in Africa over the last ten years, the Lord has called me to help Mission Link Intl. move forward as the new Assistant Executive Director.

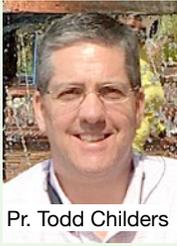
I could have never planned such an adventurous journey. Of course, there are many stories of God working all things out for his glory throughout the years. However, I would have missed out on experiencing these significant events in my life if I had not become intentional with seeking the face of God and His will for my life. The most exciting part, The Lord has more things planned along “**the Way**,” which is in Christ Jesus!

My brief testimony was not included to make much of me, but to point out that none of us are perfect or even walk in a straight line when it comes to living by faith. In fact, I miss the mark often but then the Holy Spirit restores and reminds me it is Jesus, and Him alone, that we are following to show others **the Way** of salvation. King David fell often, and yet his cry the Lord was, “**Create in me a clean heart, ... Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, ... Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You**” (**Psa. 51:10-13**). David’s main concern was that he would get back on the path the Lord had for him so others would gain eternal life. Oh Lord, may we walk in such a manner.

So, are you “Walking in **the Way**, following the Lord Jesus?” Think about it. We can only answer this question honestly after seeking His face with our whole heart, which I encourage everyone to do. May the Lord guide your every step from this moment forward to bring honor and glory to His holy name. My prayer is for you to be encouraged in knowing “**that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ**” (**Phil. 1:6**).

Todd

**MLI NEWS FLASH:** Mission Link continues the process of transferring Ugandan assets to our “new” Board of Directors in Uganda. The Board of Directors for the “new” Ugandan NGO (**Mission Link of Uganda**) will be Pr. James Mafabi of Mission Link Christian Church, Pr. James Abalyawo, Head Administrator for MLI Christian Study Center; Elder Thomas Kunya, MLI Financial Manager; Pr. Todd Childers, Assistant Executive Director of Mission Link Intl. & Board member of MLI USA; Pr. Jackie Carver, Pastor of Community Fellowship Baptist Church in Rustburg, Va. & Board member of MLI USA. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Mission Link International, we are pleased to announce that **Pastor Todd Childers** joined the MLI staff on August 1, 2022. God is continuing to work dear friends!



Pr. Todd Childers

**UGANDA TRIP SCHEDULED FEB. 3-17, 2023:**

We are still working on the logistics for the trip and hopeful for a team of 15 or more people. If you would like to join the team (cost \$3,000) or have any questions, contact Todd Childers. Email: todd@missionlink.org // Tel: 540-339-7890

**LEADERSHIP TRIP:** Rick, Todd, and Jackie Carver are headed to Uganda Sept. 29 through Oct. 14, 2022. After 6 days in Uganda, they will visit Kenya to spend time with Pastors Anthony Ndambuki in Eldoret and then Euticals Wambua in Nairobi. Prayers and support are greatly appreciated.

**A Sampling of Mission Link Projects and Needs**

- **MILLING MAIZE FOR WIDOWS:** MLI has purchased corn to mill for food last month for our widows. A donation will help us do the same in May. **ANY AMOUNT** Thank you!
- **REMODELING MLI'S HEADQUARTERS:** There remains some remodeling of office spaces to be rented by the public have been completed. This will make MLI headquarters self-supporting. Your gift of **ANY AMOUNT** will be much appreciated. ALSO—(Rick's) room is being fixed where he will stay when in the country. **We need a laser printer and several computers.**
- **WIDOW'S HOUSE PROJECT:** MLI's newest project of building a widow an earth-bag home is nearing completion (see picture below). We will begin working on the house latrine in first week of Sept. We learned valuable lessons from building our first prototype and will need approximately **\$4,500** for each earth-bag home project moving forward, to include a latrine. We remain hopeful prices of materials do not continue to rise as they have in 2022.
- **TUITION:** MLI teacher George Stanley is enrolled part-time in Seminary. He needs **\$100** for tuition and requirements to reimburse the donor.
- **MEDICAL FUND:** Thanks to donors who have given to this fund. However, much more is “always” needed. **ANY AMOUNT** will be much appreciated.
- **SCHOOL FEES:** Many Africans are stressed to raise funds for school fees. **ANY AMOUNT**
- **DEAF SCHOOL:** —**ANY AMOUNT** still needed to complete the school (plaster walls, install ceilings, wiring and road work to the school.)
- **THE GENERAL FUND APPRECIATES ANY SIZE GIFT TO MEET PRESSING NEEDS**
- **MANY NEEDS MET LAST MONTH—Sampling:** Mission Link aided in the monthly feeding of albinos; medical support to various individuals; school fees support for many; Funds given to help feed students at our remote MLI's Christian Study Center school in Kitgum; Widow with poor vision provided light by small solar panel and battery from donor; wedding gift towards Pr. Emmanuel wedding; Pr.Paul Akise support towards his house construction project; Deaf School's water well was completed, Praise the Lord (July); many more provisions were met through our presence in both Uganda and Kenya.



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

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



**Name:** **AGNES NAMBI** was born in 1932. Her 2 children are deceased, leaving her with 3 grandchildren. **Husband deceased:** Her husband became blind and died in 2006 of high blood pressure. **Testimony:** Agnes is extremely thankful to God for MLI care and provisions. She was born again early in life. However, a grandchild takes her to the Seventh-Day Adventist. **Challenges:** Sickness (High blood pressure, paralyzed legs, and dizziness) and basic needs. She lives in a borrowed home and the owner needs her to move out. She owns no land.

**EARTH BAG HOMES**



Many African widows live in homes made of mud and sticks. Living in damp harsh conditions is depressing and unhealthy. Mission Link has been working on completing our first widow's home made with polyurethane feed bags filled with dirt. Pictured left is a recent picture of the home with the new metal sheet roof being capped off. MLI looks forward in building at least 2 (maybe 3) more homes in 2023. Please pray and consider supporting us in this effort to bless widows in need.

**Mission Link Christian Study Center is continuing with remote learning**



Under the leadership of Pastor James Abalyawo, MLI's school continues to grow and reach new areas for Christ. Please pray for Pr. James as he travels to Northern Uganda's Kitgum District, which is 8 hours on a bus and then 2 hours on a motorcycle. The multiplication of fellow workers in God's kingdom is one of MLI's primary objectives. Prayers & Support are appreciated.