

The Link

Broken to be Made Whole

God does not want our success; He wants us—Charles W. Colson

Most Americans are familiar with the Watergate debacle resulting in Nixon's impeachment. When President Richard Nixon was accused of illegal activities, some important men in his circle were also indicted. One of those high profile people on the President's team was Charles (Chuck) W. Colson. In 1969, Colson was appointed as Special Counsel to President Nixon. He was deeply involved in the Whitehouse scandal, and in a few short years serving the President, was knocked off his political pedestal and disbarred. As a result, Colson served a seven month prison sentence for his part in the Watergate coverup. He was brought low—a broken politician. While serving his brief stay behind bars, the Lord performed spiritual surgery on his heart; Colson became a "Born Again" "sold-out" believer. During his incarceration, Colson witnessed the utter failure of prison reform. It was not long after his release from jail that he initiated a ministry called Prison Fellowship that eventually would help bring much needed reform to American prisons. The world saw a powerful political figure losing both his reputation and political standing. Yet, God pulled Chuck from absolute destitution to make him a powerful evangelical figure that would eventually bring change to both prisoners and prisons.

Chuck Colson discovered true life through brokenness. What appeared to be the destruction of a super intelligent and gifted man, became a stepping stone to Christ. Like a seed covered with dirt, Colson had to be buried to find true life. He realized that "God does not want our success; He wants us; He does not demand our achievements; He demands our obedience. The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of paradox, where through the ugly defeat of a cross, a Holy God is utterly glorified. Victory comes through defeat; healing through brokenness; finding self through losing self" (Loving God by Charles W. Colson Copyright 1987). Not all people who stumble and fall learn from their experiences. Many remain in the slough-of-despond, and would rather die than fall from their pedestal (throne). King Saul was a prime example.

Saul, the first King of Israel, was eaten up with pride. In **1st Samuel 15:1**, the Prophet Samuel came to Saul to anoint him as King and to deliver a Divine directive from God. The Lord commanded King Saul to punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel. God said to King Saul through the Prophet Samuel: "Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy ALL that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey" (**verse 3**). Therefore, Saul went and defeated the Amalekites, YET

sparing the life of King Agag as well as keeping the best sheep, oxen and lambs (**verse 9**). King Saul demonstrated partial obedience which in reality is disobedience. On his way back to Gilgal, he proudly set up a monument in Carmel for himself (**verse 12**). In **verse 13** we read: "Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, 'Blessed are you of the Lord! I have carried out the command of the Lord.'" Yet, Saul "utterly" disobeyed the command of God and thought it best to spare King Agag and some of the prime animals to sacrifice unto the Lord (**verse 21**). God declared that He was sorry that He made Saul King! "Then Saul said to Samuel, 'I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice'" (**verse 24**). Charles Colson penned, "...He does not demand our achievements; He demands our obedience."

Like King Saul, there are many self seeking individuals in the world that will "utterly" die defeated and empty. Though Saul was sorry for his disobedience, there was no change of heart—no true repentance as revealed in his request to Samuel: "I have sinned; but please honor me now before the elders of my people..." Saul was sorry, but not broken. "Self" remained on the throne.

When an individual is truly broken and made new (born again), they will declare like the Apostle Paul, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (**Gal. 2:20**).

We often wonder why a sovereign God allows a person to go through hardship and life-threatening events. Yet, at times God must use a megaphone to open the ears of a spiritually defiant person. It goes without saying that our physical, mental and spiritual battles many times are self-inflicted. Yet, God uses difficult moments and crushing events to amplify His voice to bring us into right standing with Him. CAUTION: The opposite can also be true where our hearts grow cold. God broke through Colson's tough, intellectual exterior resulting in his conversion. What appeared to be a tragic end to Colson's life as he sat behind steel bars proved to be a wonderful blessing. God uses pain and hardship to bring us low in order to raise us up. He strips us of all we cherish and value to dress us up with eternal attire. Without question, God's love comes to us in different forms not to break us, but to make us; not for destruction, but for construction, so we can be healed and made whole.

Rick

MLI is very grateful for your prayers and support

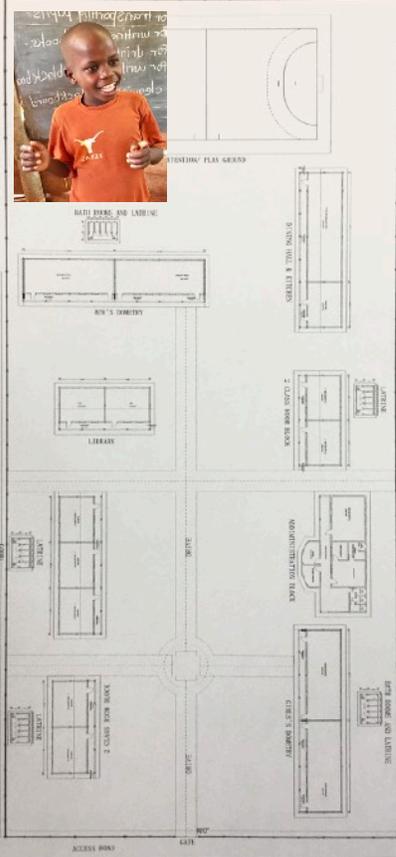
These are exciting times both in Uganda and in the USA due to the upcoming presidential elections in both countries . Consequently, the spiritual and physical needs are great. The MLI Board is very grateful for ALL donors do for African Missions. God Bless You!



Milling Bldg: The roof structure is now finished and is ready for windows, doors and cement floor. **Help is needed to complete Mill!**



Jinja Hill School: MLI recently purchased a hand washing system required during the covid-19 pandemic.



MLI Classes Starting Again: Pastor James restarted one of MLI's schools in October. Class size is down due to Covid-19 but the spirit is high!



Blankets & Sheets: Mission Link recently distributed sheets and blankets to some of the poorest widows.

UGANDA NEWS

Below are a few highlights of Uganda's pandemic and the upcoming election.

- ◆ The Ugandan electoral commission has not given a specific date for the next election, though it will be sometime in February 2021.
- ◆ The Ugandan music sensation, Bobi Wine (38), is running against President Museveni.
- ◆ The Department of State maintains a **Level 3** travel advisory for Uganda recommending that travelers reconsider travel to Uganda due to COVID-19. The number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise in Uganda. Travelers in Uganda should exercise increased caution due to crime and kidnapping.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

As of October 28, 2020

- 11,621 confirmed cases
- 101 DEATHS!
- Recovered—7400

NOTICE: Again, **November** 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!



Additional Needs

Mission Link is covered up with African needs. Even while writing this newsletter, I had a text from a pastor in Uganda who is getting married. He asked if MLI could help with the cost of his wedding. Though my answer was no, I did agree to pray for him. Below are a few pressing needs.

- Drums (pictured right) have been purchased for the new MLI church plant in Budondo. Land has been acquired and now we need a **temporary structure**. GBU!
- **General Fund:** This fund gives MLI the flexibility to place funds where most needed. Not only are we covered up with daily needs, the cost of administration continues to increase. Thank you!



Deaf School

For a number of years, Mission Link's donors have supported the deaf school in Kamuli, Uganda. In 2020, MLI purchased land for a new school facility to be constructed in the foreseeable future. The sketch above was drafted by an Ugandan. Due to the proposed size and cost, it will be scaled down to match the budget. Please pray that the much needed school will be realized.

Pastor Herbert and Elizabeth direct the school in Kamuli, Uganda. Before the pandemic, they had approximately 40 students meeting in a flimsy lapboard building. Donors have purchased dorm beds, but living conditions are poor.



Thirty (\$30) a month brings great happiness & needed provision for our African Widows in Uganda!

Monic Mauli: Monic was born in 1964 and has 5 children. Her husband died of malaria in 2003. Monic is grateful to God for having benefited from MLI projects of piggery, soap and a stove. She fellowships at a Catholic Church in Itukulu. Her challenge is the meeting of basic needs for her family. Please pray for



Pictured left is **Pastor Timothy Sentongo of Basana Village**. Pastor Timothy is an African giant! At 6'3, weighing 370 pounds, he commands the attention of those who live in his village. He is pastor of a church and he has established a school of over 500 students. He recently had a serious issue with his bladder and kidneys. Please keep Timothy in your prayers regarding his health and medical bills. Pictured right is Dr. Moses. He had prostate issues, but is now doing great. Doc has helped MLI for many years with our medical teams. He and his wife are great friends of Mission Link International.

