

# The Link

## I Want to See God

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God—Matthew 5:8*

**D**o you REALLY want to see God? Most Christians allow the impurities of the world to cloud their vision of God. Yet, this reminds me that the foundation of our faith is firmly rooted in a person's heart. The Bible states in **Romans 10:9,10** "...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confess, resulting in salvation" (NASB). True believers are given the righteousness of Christ (**2Corinthians 5:21**). The tongue confirms that Christ has redeemed a person by their profession of faith in Christ. Jesus declares in **Luke 6:45**, "The good man out of the good treasures of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart." Though salvation begins with the heart, the lips reveal the actual condition of the heart. Jeremiah states: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to His ways, accord to the fruit of his deeds" (**17:9,10**). Someone reading these words may conclude that salvation is based on something we do. NO! Salvation is purely by GRACE—a gift given to a person who truly repents, believes, and trusts their life to the risen Savior. Yet, our calling is to "...work out (NOT WORK FOR) our salvation with fear and trembling" **Philippians 2:12**). The intense battle begins when a believer sets his/her course to follow Christ. The adversary seeks to make you and me ineffective/nonlethal disciple. Satan does not want you to be salt or light in a world of darkness. He is threatened by those who take their Christian walk seriously and who desire to live a holy life. Passionate followers of Christ attract the attention of Satan. I am not talking about those in religious circles that push their legalistic standards on others, and who try to pour cold water on a Christian's liberty. (Note: Those who seek the Lord with all their heart will understand and be cautious not to allow their liberty/freedom to be a stumbling block to others.) True Christians are in love with the Savior and seek to please Him, to glorify Him, and to know Him better in this life. They are thirsty, hungry for a deep intimate fellowship with the Lord. Moses was so passionate for God that he wanted to see God in all His glory. Abraham is another biblical character that was hungry for God willing to leave the comforts of his home at age 75 in obedience to the call of God. In **2 Chronicles 20:7** and **Isaiah 41:8**, Abraham was called "a friend of God." Were they Perfect? No! Yet their love, faith, and passion for the Lord drew them into a close intimate relationship with HIM. James wrote in his epistle: "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you" (**James 4:8**). Simply stated, we are to love God above every love in life—to love Him with ALL of our heart, ALL of our soul, ALL of our mind, and ALL of our strength (**Mark 12:30**).

I submit that the average Christian today does not have a desire to see God—to grow intimate with Him—to be holy as He is holy. Why? Because believers are trying to court both the Lord and the world. The Bible calls this kind of relationship "Lukewarm" (**Revelations 3:15,16**). LISTEN CAREFULLY: Most believers need to increase their "spiritual temperature." So much in life clouds our vision and hinders us from growing close to God—to see Him. **ASK YOURSELF**: How often does my heart/mind ascend to God's throne? How do I spend my resources and my time each day? What amount of time do I spend turning the pages of my Bible? How much do I love others with the love that Christ has imparted in my heart? Though God has redeemed the believer, there are daily attacks (battles) that wage war on every redemptive

heart in order to steal one's joy, peace, and effectiveness in this life. As I reflect on my life, I often cry out like the Apostle Paul: "O' wretched man that I am" (Romans 24,25). What is the answer to my/our plight?

First—I am reminded that "...there is NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (**Romans 8:1**). [CAUTION: There is a difference between condemnation, which is a tool of satan, and conviction, which is the Holy Spirit speaking about a specific sin or situation in a believer's life.] I must daily guard my heart—my eyes and my thoughts. Allow me to illustrate: Like the Covid Pandemic, we are told to wear a face mask, wash our hands constantly, and be careful about getting too close to others who may be infected. We must vigorously guard our bodies that we do not become infected with the virus. When it comes to our spirit life, Paul states, "...I buffet my body and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified" (**1 Corinthians 9:27**). The same approach and care must be taken regarding our spiritual hearts. Each day, we are to saturate our spirit with the things of God. Also, pray asking the Lord to give you a hunger, a thirst and a desire for a pure heart. Though there is little space to unpack all of the verses preceding verse 8 in Matthew 5—blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God—spend several evenings studying the beatitudes. **Matthew 5, 6 and 7** probe the depths of how we should live as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many issues in the world attract the believer, but the central problem and target is the heart. Jesus states in **Matthew 15:19,20a**, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adulteries, fornications, theft, false witness, slanders. These are what defile a person" (NASB). LISTEN to the writer of Hebrews in **Hebrews 12:11-14**: "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed." (**Heb. 12:11-14**) NASB.

As our heart grows in purity/holiness, our vision of God sharpens affecting the way think, live and view creation & people. For example:

- o Our awe of God heightens as we gaze upon His creation. We sing with the Psalmist: "O Lord our Lord how excellent is thy name in all the world! Who has set thy glory above the heavens.... When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou has ordained; what is man that thou art mindful of him?" (**8:1,3,4a**) KJV.
- o When seeing a giraffe in Africa, I marvel at God's creativity and imagination creating an animal with a long neck and stilted legs.
- o There is greater clarity as I see a man on a street corner with a sign saying: "I am hungry." Rather than look with disdain wondering why he does not find a job or being concerned about how he uses collected funds, my heart is flooded with empathy. Above all, I am reminded that GOD LOVES the homeless person. (Side Note: Many believers will quote the verse pinned by Paul: "...if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either" (**2 Thes. 3:10b**). Yet, we fail to understand that many beggars are caught up in addictions, mental issues or having lived a life of abuse.) Developing a compassionate/merciful heart begins when we realize God's unfathomable mercy and forgiveness in our lives. The sensitive and mature believer takes the posture of a "first responder" and attempts to rescue the fallen—both saved and those who are lost.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Consequently, a clearer vision of God makes a significant difference in our Christian journey Hence:

- o Each day the believer will carefully examine their thoughts, words and actions making sure they are Godly—God-driven—God-ordained.
- o A love for the scriptures (the voice of God) intensifies and will guide the believer toward purity/holiness as they put into practice biblical teachings. The Bible is replete with passages encouraging believes to live a life pleasing to the Lord. Paul reminds us in **Colossians 3:5**, "...consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry." Consequently, pulpits around the world must highlight not only God's goodness, mercy, and cleansing power, but also warn followers of Christ about drifting back into old habits and sins. (**NOTE:** Satan is not satisfied until he destroys the Christian's peace, joy and testimony. Meditate on **Psalm 51** to capture the devastating effects that sin has on David—"a man after God's heart.")

I conclude with Paul's admonition: "Therefore, since we have these promises dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverences for God" (**2 Corinthians 7:1** NIV). God has given us the power/ability to peel away those things in life that cloud our spiritual vision. May God help every believer be holy as He is holy that we may have a better depth/understanding/vision of our God.

Rick

**News and Needs!** The cry for help comes from many directions. Sickness, school fees, food, etc. are major issues.

**CURRENT "SAMPLING" OF NEEDS:**

- ★ **Widow Florence** (pictured) serious head injury; procedure may be **\$2800—\$4200**. Florence has traveled with our Director Esther for CAT SCAN, blood work, etc. By the first of June, we should know the course of action. Your help is requested.
- ★ MLI Director **Philip Tenywa** needs help w/ muddy entrance to his dwelling—**\$375**
- ★ Bookkeeper **Thomas Kunya**: Tom wants to complete his house. Several needs remain: One remaining pressing need is outside plastering **\$700**
- ★ **DEAF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: CRITICAL—THE ROAD** entering the new compound needs help vehicles can not pass in the rainy season. Pastor Herbert has now received an estimate of **\$1450**. **Other needs:** Plastering the walls inside **\$5,500** and outside **\$6,000**; Painting (**?**); VERY SOON we need a water-well **\$6,500**; security poles/fencing and guard-house (**?**); school furnishings!—desks, chalkboard, etc. (**?**). **Any amount appreciated.** Additional land can be purchased for **\$2500** (40' x 910') used for the garden that students can help maintain. The school will also need additional monthly support to meet growing needs.
- ★ **MLI's driver, Nasser**, needs assistance to start an income making project. The cost is **\$875**
- ★ **Flavia** needs monthly budget support of **\$335** to care for Albinos. This is her mission in life!
- ★ **Emergency medical fund:** Additional funds needed—A major increase in medical issues. (**?**)
- ★ Tires for MLI Van greatly/seriously needed: **\$400**
- ★ **THE GENERAL FUND:** THANK YOU FOR HELPING MLI THROUGH THE GENERAL FUND!



**QUICK NEWS: WIDOW'S MILL:** Still need motor starters and meter from power company. Maize land purchased for widows and soon to be cleared in preparation for next rainy season.

**FEEDING AGENDA:** In June MLI will be assisting Pastor Timothy and **Basana School** (500 students) with food. MLI will be assisting the **Albinos** with feeding. MLI Team will be distributing food to **widows**, feeding **Street Kids** and distributing food to **Boda Boda** (motorcycle taxis).

**EUTICAULS WAMBUA OF KENYA:** Recently, donors raised \$19,000 to save a child's life who had a hole in his heart. Pastor reported that the operation was successful! Praise the Lord!!

**TEAM PRAYER:** Please pray for the team as they plan to plant a church; to encourage a MLI church plant on the Island of Yuwe; two conferences using a special evangel truck having a tent, chairs, sound system and baptistry; revival services at Kagira—a MLI church plant; spend time with street kids, widows and a visit to the new deaf school to encourage staff and children. Above all Terri and team will be doing activities with many groups of kids. We will also dedicate both the widow's land for growing maize, maize mill, and deaf school. The team will also visit new MLI staff homes—Thomas & Mary Kunya and Pastor Emma's home. May God's anointing be upon MLI in both travel and ministry.

**UGANDA NEWS**

**TRIPS TO UGANDA**

**Rick's Deployment** —May 27, 2021  
**Rick's Return**—June 25, 2021

**MLI Summer Trip Deployment** directed by Pastor Todd—June 4-18, 2021. Please lift up to God: Pastor Todd, Pastor Jackie, Terri Hansen, Richard Caldwell, Lynn Spence and Rick Sadler. Also, pray that the team has a safe & fruitful ministry.

**MLI's February 2022 Trip.**  
 Email: Rick [thelinkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:thelinkoffice@gmail.com) or email Pr Todd [musumbatodd@gmail.com](mailto:musumbatodd@gmail.com) for information. There is a \$200 scholarship for those committing to the February trip by Sept 1, 2021. A \$100 **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, June 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: Florence Kasule** was born in 1957 and has 2 biological children and 7 grandchildren of whom their parents died. **Husband deceased:** He died in 2010 of cancer. **Testimony:** Florence is grateful to God for her salvation and protection on her life. She is also thankful to God for providing her with a large family of 9 dependents. She is thankful to God for the provision through mission link before and after covid outbreak. **Challenges:** Florence has limited provision due to many dependents (school fees, beddings and clothes). Her house is weak and may collapse; health issues—sick with ulcers and kidney problems and is limited to how much work she can do.

**HELP! New Mailing Address**

MLI is having issues with delayed forwarding of USPS mail! The mail remains slow and will be extremely slow if mailed to our former address. Please use the following address for future mailings to Mission Link Int'l:

**MISSION LINK INTERNATIONAL  
 PO BOX 338  
 PEARISBURG, VA 24134**