

The Link

Trust the Lord

"Trust in the Lord with "all" your heart and lean not on your own understanding..."

The Bible is the most valuable book we will ever own. There might be many books that would sell for more, or in a particular moment instruct you better—such as a bomb disarming manual. But for the overall path of life, the Bible is our best instructional guide that will faithfully direct our path. God knows every detail of our lives at every moment in life. In A.W. Tozer's book, The Pursuit of God, he reminds us that God is unchanging because there is absolutely no perfecting perfection. If God grew or advanced in His nature, He would not be perfect. Therefore, we can "trust" the all-knowing and all-powerful God. He knows all that is to be known, therefore we can "trust" Him. He is intimately aware of our individual circumstances, and how they all fit into His big plan and purpose for life.

One of my many "favorite" Bible verses is Proverbs 3:5-6: **Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.** I call this my life verse. This passage has helped as well as haunted me for years. Allow me to explain by highlighting a few words.

Let's examine **FIRST** the word **TRUST**. Webster says it is a reliance on the integrity and veracity of a person—or in this case, God. Webster goes on to relate **trust** to confidence. In my early working years, I was a boilermaker on a couple of large power plants. I was confident in my ability to handle my body and could walk steel beams way up in the air. Now that I am much older, my confidence in such heights was diminished, realizing I can even stumble on flat ground. I used to **trust** in my ability, but now I am confident that my ability many times is faulty, causing me to stumble. Regarding my life as a disciple of Christ, there is a major change in where I place my **trust** day-by-day.

The **SECOND** word that impacts me greatly in Proverbs 3:5-6 is the word **ALL**. In the familiar hymn "**I Surrender All**," the writer repeats the phrase and closes the chorus with "**All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.**" I think most sing it without realizing the depth of its meaning. We are literally saying to God that there is nothing I will hold back from You, including my time, money, thoughts, desires, etc. The list is long and somewhat overwhelming when we take the time to ponder it. I have concluded that I have never truly given God **all** of anything in my life because of my sin nature. It is just impossible. I intend to, but I have to admit I don't! Nevertheless, as long as I have breath, I will not quit trying.

The **THIRD** word that apprehends my attention is **UNDERSTANDING**. Trusting the Lord with all my heart

becomes very difficult because of "my own" **understanding** getting in the way. Every step I take in this life, I do so with "my own" **understanding**. This has really been prevalent in the last five (5) weeks since I broke my fibula when I laid down my motorcycle. I had planned an evangelistic mission trip to Daytona that suddenly God changed. Every painful step I take on my broken ankle reminds me that my sovereign God knows (**understands**) why the accident took place even though the event disrupted "my" plans. (My ankle is much better now, but still not painless.) Again, the above example is a picture of how God directs us through this life. My **understanding** of situations and circumstances is limited compared to His. God has a better **understanding** of my life than I could ever imagine. I cannot trust my **understanding**, but I can rest in His sovereignty.

So, where am I going with all this? Mission Link International has been a valuable part of my **trust** walk with God. Traveling with Rick to Uganda since 2003 has taught me much about love, service, and trusting God. Each mission trip requires a fresh **trust** that is built upon my past experiences of **trusting** God and His Word.

As a result of reading this article, maybe you are hearing God say, "you can **trust** Me with your life and circumstances." Maybe it is **trusting** Him to join MLI in June on their next mission trip. Maybe it is to pray, and sacrificially give. **Trusting** in God with **all** your heart, not leaning on your own **understanding**, will most likely mean following a different path than is natural or comfortable for you. The Lord's path (ways) will not always make sense, but it does to an all-knowing God. Jesus said "**If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up His cross daily, and follow Me.**" Those who followed Jesus 2000 years ago walked a new path. Some believers were called to get in a boat, while one made a decision to get out of the boat and walk on water. I don't know which path is yours, but I pray you will "**trust**" and seek His path for your life with "**all**" your heart, even if you do not fully "**understand.**"

Pastor Jackie Carver

Jackie Carver is the Pastor of Community Fellowship Baptist Church in Rustburg, VA and a Board Member of Mission Link International (MLI). Since 2003, Jackie has spearheaded the evangelist segment of each mission trip to East Africa.





Pastor Anthony Ndambuki is very grateful for the assistance given for the "3" classrooms. The rooms have been constructed. There are still a few needs for the classrooms: Painting, window glass and wiring.

\$1325 needed to complete the "3" classrooms. **Also:** In the very near future, MLI will begin to raise \$7,700 to build a simple home for Pastor Anthony. He lives in a tin building that heats up during the day. Thank you for loving Pastor and family.

A Sampling of Mission Link Projects and Needs

- **MILLING MAIZE FOR WIDOWS:** MLI has purchase corn to mill for food distribution among MLI's many widows. Pray that the rains come for the new planting of crops.
- **KIVUBUKA CHURCH PLANT (R-Pic):** MLI's newest church plant is doing well. Basic items are needed. Pr Paul Akise is the pastor as well as a MLI teacher. **ANY AMOUNT**
- **REMODELING MLI'S HEADQUARTERS:** We continue to remodel in April constructing office spaces to be rented by the public. This will make MLI headquarters self-supporting. Your gift of **ANY AMOUNT** will be much appreciated. ALSO—My (Rick's) room is being fixed where I will stay when in the country. **We are also needing small desk top computers or 4 good laptops.**
- **WIDOW'S HOUSE TO BE BUILT:** Rick and MLI's new board member, Pastor Jackie Carver, will begin the process of building a widow an earth-bag home (see picture below). We hope to build the home for **\$3000** or less. Your contribution will assist MLI with the first "prototype." The design will be used to construct future homes by volunteers from the USA. Some funds have been raised. Surplus funds will be used to build house number two).
- **MEDICAL FUND:** Doctor Moses Batwala needs **\$440** to pay teachers in the month of April.
- **MEDICAL FUND:** Thanks to donors who have given to this fund. However, much more is still needed. **ANY AMOUNT** will be much appreciated.
- **SCHOOL FEES:** Africans are stressed to raise funds for school fees. **ANY AMOUNT**
- **PS EUTICAULS—Kenya** —Thanks to donors for recent funds given to meet the food crisis.
- **DEAF SCHOOL:** — **Funds** still needed to complete the school and road to the school.
- **THE GENERAL FUND APPRECIATES ANY SIZE GIFT TO MEET PRESSING NEEDS**
- **MANY NEEDS MET LAST MONTH—Sampling:** School fees for kids; helped with 2 staff home construction needs; 3rd classroom in Kenya; various medical needs; kitchen constructed at MLI compound; Tongolo Church plaster walls/cement floor; restoration of Joans home Buvuma Island; seminary needs for Paul and George (staff); Feeding Albinos; refurbished Busana's community well; Deaf School budget needs given; Mary Kunya's Cafe furniture; Pastor James garden plowed; Maize purchased to be Milled for MLI widows—etc.



TEAM TRIP SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 3-17: There is excitement growing! If you would like to signup for the June trip (cost \$2,950) or if you have questions about the upcoming trip to Uganda, please contact Pr. Todd Childers: musumbatodd@gmail.com

RICK'S TRIP: I am ticketed to be back in Uganda May 17 through June 24, 2022 to prepare for the June Team and doing catchup on the following: Preparing foundation for Widow's "earth-bag home," shifting offices spaces at MLI Headquarters in Jinja, working with our transitional attorney, graduation of MLI Pastor's school, etc.



NOTICE: Again, **April** 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: Josephine Bakita was born in 1971. She has 6 children and 4 grandchildren—The grandchildren are staying with her. **Husband deceased:** Died of throat cancer- 2011. **Testimony:** Josephine is thankful to her God for her house that she built through wages received tending other people's gardens. I am grateful that I still have strength to manage other people's gardens. I am also thankful to God for provisions through Mission Link. Josephine was born again in 2009 and fellowships at Itukulu Baptist Church. **Challenges:** Josephine lacks some basic needs and funds to assist her with educational requirements for her grandchildren.

DOCTOR MOSES BATWALA

Dr Moses and his wife started a primary school on the outskirts of Jinja. Their mission is to give children an excellent education and to teach them the Bible. Because of the oppressed economic conditions in Uganda, raising money for school fees is very difficult. Consequently, Dr. Moses has students that can not afford to pay school fees and the requirements needed. This means that the teachers are not paid. Doc is needing **\$440** to help meet teacher's payroll.



Earth Bag Homes for Widows

Many African widows live in mud homes which is a haven for various kinds of critters—rats, snakes, termites as well as being vulnerable to thieves. Living in damp harsh conditions is depressing and unhealthy. Mission Link will be designing and developing simple houses for widows made from polyurethane feed bags filled with dirt, stacked in a circle (or rectangle) and covered with a coat of cement. Pictured left is a sample of the design. However, MLI's structure will most likely have a metal roof/door and smaller windows.

Our hope and prayer is to raise **\$3,000** in April for the first prototype. We hope the final design can be constructed at a lower cost. Thank you so much for your assistance!

Please Help
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