

The Link

WARNING!

A terrible disease has infiltrated the entire world that is worse than Covid-19

FEAR OF CORONA HAS GRIPPED OUR WORLD! Almost five million worldwide have died from the virus. Uganda has reported 3200 deaths during the two-year pandemic. This is labeled as one of the worse epidemics in world history. The virus has spawned a spirit of anxiousness. People are unsure about the science behind the virus. They wonder about the effectiveness, efficacy, and safety of the smorgasbord of vaccines. Numerous people are financially stressed and stretched finding it challenging to pay bills. Hospitals are overcrowded. Some medical centers are mandating staff to be vaccinated or be fired. Many variants are surfacing across the globe. Our planet is an anxious place to live. Despair, doubt and dread fill the minds and hearts of many. If we are not careful, the myriad of world events can redirect us from God's plan and purpose to focusing solely on our lives. Hence, the question remains: How should we as Christians respond to all the negative news surrounding us? Maybe we should: Turn off the TV or ingest some antidepressants or partake of some "homemade brew" so we can be numb to our environment. As we say in Africa, "What is the way forward?"

The Bible states in **Matthew 6:27**, "And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" (See also **Philippians 4:6,7**) There are times that a person is so gripped with fear and anxious thoughts that spiritual and mental paralysis sets in. Episodes of worry can overtake an individual to where he or she may seek external relief rather than seek their sovereign God WHO IS in control of all world events. In fact, some have chosen not to travel abroad due to fear. Consequently, MLI mission teams have gotten smaller.

Pastor Todd or I cannot guarantee that a person traveling with our MLI team will be void of disease, pain, or even death. The airplane could fall out of the sky, or one could eat tainted food and become ill, or a person could be robbed. I can assure you that God will never leave you or forsake you. In fact, for anyone or anything to get to you, the enemy must go through our all powerful-Savior. He is the one that holds His children in the palm of His hand (**John 10:28-30**). Does being in God's will assure us of safety? Ask Paul that question (**2 Corinthians 11:23ff**). He was in prison, flogged, beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked, suffered hunger, sleepless nights & the list goes on. His life ended when he was beheaded. Paul finished the race the way God intended, but it was not a "bed of roses."

The question that one should ask themselves: "Is this God's plan and purpose for my life?" We may find that the most difficult and dangerous assignment is indeed His plan. Let me say it plain and simple. We should want to die with our running shoes on, not our bedroom slippers. We should not allow anything to thwart His plan and purpose in our lives. Not even Covid!

As I close, let me share with you something far worse than the Covid epidemic—**THE SIN EPIDEMIC!** Sin has infected every human being on the planet. Sin was introduced to the human race

by Adam and Eve. Consequently, no one is immune. The disease (sin) is of the heart, and if not dealt with, it will result in something far worse than physical death—eternal death! Covid can only kill the body but cannot touch the soul. Unlike Covid, we have a cure for THE SIN VIRUS, if people will accept the remedy. The cure is simple: **Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.** However, believing (Greek—pisteuo) is more than intellectual assent. It means to trust/commit one's life to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible states that even the devil believes and trembles. He knows the Bible, and he understands the power of the cross, but he can not—pisteuo—commit his life to Christ. An authentic believer must repent of their sins and accept Christ's atoning redemptive work on the Cross. Then the true believer can say with the Apostle Paul: "**Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?**" **Question:** What does it mean to trust one's life to the risen Savior?

Unlike Covid, we have a cure for THE SIN VIRUS, "if" people will accept the remedy.

Many years ago, there was a tightrope artist whose name was Charles Blondin. In 1859, he famously crossed Niagara Falls on a stretched rope. There are many variations of the story found on the internet, but this is my rendition. On this particular day, Blondin drew a tremendous crowd to watch him do the impossible. He first crossed over the treacherous waters blindfolded to the Canadian side and then back to the cheering crowd. Next, he took a man sitting on his shoulders and carefully inching his way across the dangerous windy Niagara Gorge. The grand finale was taking a loaded wheelbarrow onto the rope and cross over to the other side. Blondin turned to the people and asked, "**Do you believe I can carry a person in the wheelbarrow across to the other side?**" The people responded with a resounding YES—WE BELIEVE! Then Blondin unloaded the million-dollar question, "**Who will sit in the wheelbarrow?**" There was complete silence. Moments later, a man stepped out from the crowd and sat in the wheelbarrow. Blondin carefully made his way on the stretched rope to the Canadian side. The question that we must ask ourselves is, "Who really believed?" Was it the crowd who said verbally, "we believe!" or the one who said, "I believe," and therefore he sat in the wheelbarrow?

Every person is infected at birth with the terrible disease called sin and is destined for eternal destruction. Yet, the Father so loved us that He sent us the life giving vaccine. If we truly repent of our sins believing (committing our lives fully to the Lord Jesus Christ), we will live forever with God. Jesus stated that "**...everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.**" May God protect you both physically and spiritually! I pray that every person reading this newsletter has placed their lives in the hands of God. He is the only One that can carry you to the other side—Heaven.

Rick

Mission Link International is staying very busy!!



Shadia Namuganza is 20 years old, an orphan born to Muslim father, needs a critical operation. **Dr. Moses** is caring for her. We need **\$225**. (\$150 is raised)

A widow in Itukulu is excited to receive donor funds from MLI as well as soap/food.



Pastor Anthony Ndambuki of Eldoret, Kenya is building a school. The first phase requires 3 classrooms costing **\$3500 x 3**. The government is requiring each private school to build permanent structures. Pastor Anthony & wife Hope are wonderful servants.



House/land purchased by MLI for Pastor Emmanuel. We need funds for ceiling and to plaster floor and walls. **Any Amount**

Staff quarters at the deaf school are plastered. We also need to install a ceiling/plaster in boys/girl's dorm & classrooms. **\$**



Mafubira widows receiving funds/food

MLI was given funds by a ministry called "**Faith Riders**" for the purchase of motorcycle helmets for MLI staff, pastors and bodabodas (motorcycle taxi).

Abraham has been attending cooking and barista classes. **Isaiah Abalyawo** also will need tuition for this semester **\$268**.



Staff transitional meeting. MLI is in the process of building office spaces on the property for renting to make the building self-supporting. Your assistance is very important. This will cost **\$4500-5,000 USD**. Any amount would be **greatly** appreciated.

Our Teacher, **Paul Akise**, has been given a house/land by MLI. In the future, the land will provide space for the church plant and school. **Need house renovation.**

Many **Albinos** have received sunscreen to protect their skin.



UGANDA TRIP - FEBRUARY 4 -18, 2022

The FEB trip is ON! We have potentially 9 to 10 on board or praying about the trip. Now is the time to sign up. We have scholarship funds for each person. Please lock in with a non-refundable \$100 deposit. Though there are a few extra hoops to go through, it promises to be another exciting, growing time. Please connect with Pastor Todd for further details and instructions. Email: Pastor Todd musumbatodd@gmail.com

LAST CALL TO SIGNUP FOR THE FEBRUARY TRIP TO UGANDA

On Nov. 1st, Rick returned from Uganda. Much was accomplished during the rainy season. Please continue to pray for our African families.

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 old cell phones ("**especially**" old iPhones) to Mission Link. Also needed are laptops, tablets, electronic & keyboard. Thank you for helping!

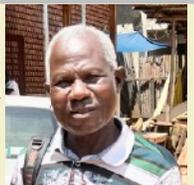


Thirty (\$30) a month brings great happiness & needed provisions for our African widows in Uganda!

Name: Edith Nabirye was born Oct. 8th, 1957. She raised 5 children (3 deceased), and 6 grandchildren stay with her. **Husband Deceased:** Her husband died of intestinal failure after an operation in 1992. **Testimony:** Edith is thankful to God for her mud thatched roof house. She is also thankful for the care and support through Mission Link (food, beans, soap, etc). Edith is born again (2009) and fellowships at Itukulu Baptist Church. **Challenges:** Edith lacks basic needs in her home & education fees for grandchildren. She would like a small plot to enable her to farm.

Special Need

Dr. Sam, who has help MLI with many projects, has a critical need to improve his home. Sam needs **\$1600**.



"SAMPLING" OF NEEDS:

- ★ **Mary Kunya:** Needs assistance w/ her cafe located in MLI compound. Tables **\$190** and chairs **\$215**
- ★ **EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND:** The "pot" is empty but the **MEDICAL** needs are great! Thank you for your **GIFTS!**
- ★ **THE GENERAL FUND:** THANK YOU FOR HELPING MLI THROUGH THE GENERAL FUND!
- ★ **IRENE**—Widows Director Itukulu needs **\$225** to replace the dirt floor with cement!