

# The Link

## Where is America Headed? Are We Losing Our Witness to the World?

The title of this article may turn some people off, but that is only because they have their head buried in the sand. America is changing morally, spiritually and culturally at an unprecedented rate that is literally making my head swim. People are worriedly asking: "Where is America headed?" If you would like to know what the United States of America will look like in a few years, you only need to peer across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. A few years back, life on the European continent was alien to our traditional way of life, BUT NO LONGER! I recently read an article that literally drove me to momentary despair. Allow me to explain. The picture to the right that resembles a teenager's room or maybe a hotel suite are neither! **It is a prison cell!** It actually has three (3) rooms: One for living, one designed to be a study and the third room is equipped for the purpose of daily exercise (not to mention a decent and private bathroom facility). This is the home (prison cell) of mass murderer and Nazi Anders Breivik. In the summer of 2011, Breivik killed 77 Norwegians leaving 300 Norwegians with a multitude of injuries. Using a bomb and lethal weapons, he wounded and executed hundreds of innocent victims many of which were teenagers. For his heinous and merciless crime the jury awarded Breivik ONLY 21 YEARS in solitary confinement (though he can converse with prison guards). He has been given an apartment (cell) furnished with exercising equipment, tv, a computer, playstation, books, microwave, comfortable bed including various furnishings. Breivik recently took the Norwegian Correctional Center to court claiming his **human rights** were violated because—according to a Daily News article written by Sara Malm— "He was fed the same food two days in a row and placed in a whole cellblock to himself excluding him from the company of other prisoners.... He had been treated worse than an animal and he complained about cold coffee and having to use plastic cutlery." The news reporter goes on to say, "The 37 year old sued Norway over his 'inhuman prison conditions.'" Breivik testifies that "I am a victim of cruel and inhuman treatment in the Skien Prison...being treated worse than an animal...with frequent strip searches and often handcuffed while moving between cells." All of this, he claimed, violated his **human rights**. The Nazi criminal won the law suit! The court ruled that Breivik was indeed subjected to "inhuman and degrading treatment" and the court was ordered to pay over \$40,000 for Breivik's legal fees. Unbelievable? This is only the tip of the iceberg, yet if space allowed many more examples could be unearthed. I recently met a pastor at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, and he told me that he was placed in prison because he preached that homosexuality was a sin. Christianity has literally become lukewarm in this dark continent. Sadly, many European Churches no longer view the scriptures as authoritative yet for many "true" believers it continues to be the holy standard for a Christian's life. I believe that the United States of America will soon surpass our European neighbors as we move toward Christ's return.



**QUESTION:** Is America too great to crumble? WAKE UP! We are on the edge of a fatal precipice that will usher in worldwide calamity. Allow me a little space to prove to you that America is indeed on the brink of self-destruction by sighting a few sobering facts concerning our country— \*Marijuana soon will be legalized in all states. \*Every non-profit ministry/mission/church will be forced to accept homosexuality as normal or lose their tax exempt status. (Sadly, those engrossed in such deviant behavior will not rest until they make every Christian profess that bad morals are now acceptable in the eyes of God and the church.) \*Assisted suicide is now the topic of discussion among liberal medical professionals. \*According to one web site, 30% of all web traffic is to pornographic sites. \*Many American families are following the financial pattern of our government being overwhelmed and succumbed by debt. Our country will soon be 20 trillion dollars in the red with no signs of a reversal. \*The killing (murder) of innocent citizens have increased and \*the racial divide has broadened. \*Babies are being aborted for the sale of body parts. I could go on and on and on, but if you are like me, the statistics only make me a little anxious and depressed. No wonder antidepressant usage has dramatically increased by 400% from 1988 to 2008 according to [medicaily.com](http://medicaily.com). Where can we go to find real peace, hope, relief and answers in these difficult times? Simply—GOD'S WORD!

In a real sense, our country has no present or future leadership. This was Israel's scenario! According to the Book of Judges, they had no one at the helm who could point them back to God. Israel shifted away from following God and was no longer interested in a supreme leader—THE KING of KINGS AND THE LORD of LORDS. Judges 21:25 sums up the situation: "In those days there was no king (godly leadership) in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." God wanted to be their leader, but Israel rejected Him. Eventually, they substituted the leadership of a Heavenly KING for an earthly king—Saul. I DO NOT believe that America desires a God fearing leader. The signs of the time declare that people desire what is right in THEIR OWN EYES NOT WHAT IS RIGHT IN GOD'S EYES. **My final words:** We must not waiver from God's Holy Word. PERIOD! Confess with your lips & with your life the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that God will send America a national leader that will be more dependent on the Holy Spirit's strength and wisdom than human strength and human wisdom. **Finally, SOBER UP AND REALIZE THE END IS NEAR!** Jesus stated that we would not know the DAY or HOUR of His return, but we would know the SEASON. Hear the seasonal words/warning of Jesus and continue to WATCH and PRAY: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved." (Matthew 24:4-13)

Rick

**NEWS BRIEFING:** Mission Link International continues to meet the challenges on the mission field. Below is listed some news worthy happenings and projects. Your support has been tremendous and we are very very grateful. PLEASE pray over this "news briefing."

- **LAND PURCHASED FOR LEPERS:** Mission Link International oversees the Leper Ministry directed by Pastor Geoff Hubbard. Pastor Geoff raised the funds for this project. On April 27th, Mission Link purchased property for 41,500,000 shillings. Over \$14000 was contributed for this project! Pastor David Tusubira is the Ugandan director who oversees the feeding of lepers. In the future, David will plant maize on the 9.6 acres purchased to feed lepers on a regular basis. We are grateful to God that the door was opened to secure this outstanding property.
- **CRITICAL: HOUSING FUNDS NEEDED FOR PASTOR JAMES ABALYAWO WHO IS OUR HEAD TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR:** Rick is desiring to finish Pastor Jame's home while in Uganda (May 17 thru June 30). Pastor James has been one of the most faithful men of God under MLI. Listed are critical needs and hopeful items. **The List of Needs:** Finish painting (in/outside) is \$1450; water tank and shower is \$160; Pit Latrine is \$190; External Kitchen (wood/coal outside house) is \$900; Trimming out house - \$575. James has little or no furniture, so anything toward furnishings will be a GREAT blessing. LET'S TRY TO GET HIS FAMILY SETTLED VERY SOON. **If we can raise an additional \$1625**, we can move James into his new home less furnishings (which can come later).
- **OUR STREET KIDS:** Pray for Zach that we can get him settled in mechanics school while Rick is in Uganda. Joshua is on the run (back in the streets doing drugs). Isam, 9 years old, is loving school. Pray that we can find a home where he can reside during school breaks.
- **CHICKENS PROJECT (Pictured):** Rick will be directing his staff to finish the interior of the chicken coop. He will also travel to Kenya to purchase an incubator. We are grateful to First Baptist of Ch'ville VBS for sponsoring this widows project.



- **PHASE II MLI SCHOOL IN ELDORET, KENYA:** We are very grateful for the \$925 donation for paint contributed for the MLI school/church in Eldoret, Kenya. Painting is almost completed and pictures are forthcoming. Rick will be traveling to Eldoret to meet with the engineer. We hope to put phase II under roof in 2016 (this does not include the walls or floor, but only footers, roofing and metal framing). We will need substantial funds (\$7200—this figure may be further revised) to begin Phase 2. This Phase will eventually house the dorm, bathrooms, kitchen and dining hall, office, etc. When completed, students from all over East Africa will come to learn the Bible under the leadership of Pastor Anthony.

- **TEACHING STAFF NEEDS A MOTORCYCLE:** MLI's staff needs a motorcycle, helmet, insurance, etc. for cheap transportation (critical). I (Rick) would love to have this expense before leaving for Uganda May 17th PTL—\$500 given toward motorcycle. (\$1000 still needed)

- **DEAF SCHOOL:** PTL—\$350 has been raised for the next term. Rick will attempt to visit the school when in session. Again, there are very few institutions for the deaf in Uganda. This school is just starting and needs your prayers and support.

- **DUPLICATOR:** We are grateful for the gift of \$240 for a DVD duplicator for our staff member Andrew Ibudhi. He will incorporate this machine in his computer repair business.
- **ATTORNEY STEPHEN MUZUUSA OCCUPIES MLI OFFICE:** Attorney Muzuusa has started a law firm in Jinja, Uganda. MLI has donated an office space that will enable him to establish a business in Uganda. Our prayer is that he will become self-supporting. He in turn will take care of all legal matters for MLI Uganda pro-bono.
- **GENERAL FUND:** This fund gives MLI flexibility to take care of operational expenses and various needs/projects—and there are many. Without this fund, it would be very difficult and challenging to operate and assist the numerous needs we encounter.
- **OFFICE CHAIR:** Rick is desiring to transport an chair on his next trip to Uganda. He believes \$90 will secure a suitable chair to replace his old office chair. The covering has worn thin.
- **MEDICAL NEEDS:** We are grateful for generous gifts for various medical needs: (i.e. Root canal; a girls w/ skin disease; a boy suffering from a blood disorder, pastor's wife hospital visit, etc. etc.) Thank you!
- **PASTOR'S HOUSING:** It is our desire to assist pastors constructing a simple village home. We are hoping to raise at least \$1200 for each house. Pastors will make their bricks and MLI will supply cement and metal roofing. This is a trial project assisting with national pastors with building their home. Pastors typically have very little income and need external support.

**LOOK AROUND THE HOUSE, ASK YOUR FRIENDS AND CHURCH**

**PHONES, DIGITAL CAMERAS, CHRISTIAN BOOKS NEEDED!**

We are in need of your old phones and digital cameras. Please drop them by the MLI office OR mail them to: 1677 Avon St. Ext, C'ville, VA 22902. Christian books/Bibles also needed for next shipment to Africa. Thank you so much!

## UGANDA 2017 MISSION TRIP

**TRIP DATES ARE FEBRUARY 11 - 24, 2017 TO UGANDA, EAST AFRICA** — Mission Link International is planning on its 15th medical/evangelistic trip to Uganda, East Africa. The cost is \$2850. Mission LINK has 28 seats which includes KLM Airline ticket, visa, insurance and most of in-country expenses (transportation, hotel, breakfast/dinner, etc.). A \$100 **non-refundable** deposit will secure your place on the team. Anyone submitting their deposit to the MLI Office by August 31st, will receive a \$100 scholarship. The first 10 deposits will receive an additional \$50 reduction. If you have any questions, please call or write Rick: MLI Office is 434-984-1995 or Cell is 434-981-9101 or EMAIL - [thelinkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:thelinkoffice@gmail.com). Regardless of skills or giftedness, we can utilize anyone who desires to be on mission with God. This is an opportunity of a lifetime.

**Rick will be in Uganda May 17 through June 30. Please pray daily for the mission. Thanks!**

## Sponsor a Widow with Monthly Support

For **\$30** a month (just a dollar a day) you can make a difference in the life of a widow. Your support will help pay for school fees, medicine, home-based businesses, food, and much more.

**Namukose Edisa** was born in 1956 and lives in the village of Itukulu. Seven years ago her husband died of heart failure. Edisa thanks God for the good things provided through Mission Link International (Piggery project, stoves, water filter, medicines received in 2015). Edisa fellowships at Itukulu Baptist Church and her pastor is Pr. Geoffrey Kadoko. Her present challenges are: Renovating her house and her four children's school fees.

