

The Link

Dark Light

How can the light that is in us be darkness?

Jesus states in **Luke 11:35**—“...watch out that the light in you is not darkness.” A similar statement is also found in Matthew’s gospel (called the Sermon on the Mount) where Jesus instructs His disciples, “...if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness” (**Matt. 6:23b**). This passage in Matthew is sandwiched between verses speaking of possessions and money. The Lord makes a clear pronouncement in **Matthew 6:24** that one CANNOT serve both God and money; the two do not mix! **FACT: There is nothing wrong with having money/things as long as money/things do not have you.** In **Luke 11**, Jesus is addressing a “mixed” audience—His disciples, religious leaders (Pharisees) and the general public. As mentioned above, Christ states, “...watch out that the light in you is not darkness.” In life there are things that do not mix. Allow me to illustrate by sharing personal childhood story.

When I was growing up, my brothers and I managed to find creative ways to get into trouble. Our youngest brother, David, had pulled the water hose next to the family car playing GAS-STATION ATTENDANT. He proceeded to open the gas cap and fill the tank with water. Unfortunately, our mother attempted to start the car only to discover gas and water do not mix.

The gospel passages cited above are a sobering reminder that light and darkness do not mix in a believer’s life. When light and darkness are present in a person’s heart, the scriptures declare: “...if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!” What does that really mean? The context gives us an idea! Jesus warns that a person must be careful what he/she allows to take residence in their heart. In fact, there are many warnings/examples given by Christ that will make the light in the believer dim/dark. For example, **Luke 11:37**, Jesus is having lunch with the Pharisees (a religious group). They “marveled” that He did not “ceremonially” wash before the meal (**vs. 38**). Jesus countered with a strong rebuke in **verse 39** saying, “...Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness.” A few chapters later, Jesus healed a person on the Sabbath. The religious Pharisees were grossly indignant that Christ would perform a miracle on the Sabbath (See **Luke 13:10ff**). Yet, they saw nothing wrong with pulling an ox out of a mud hole on this sacred day. Jesus warns His followers in **Luke 12:1** to “beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.” In other words, dark **hypocrisy** and **judgmental** attitude does not mix with light. Jesus adds another warning dark element in **Luke 12:15**, “...beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he/she possesses.” Satan uses television/movies, our neighbors possessions/wealth and a host of other temptations to drive the believer to covet and to be discontented. Jesus adds another

ingredient that does not mix with the light; it is the cares and worries in this life as depicted in **Luke 12:22ff**. We are told not to be worried about life (i.e. food, clothing, length of days, etc.) **THE WARNINGS ARE NUMEROUS:** Religious hypocrisy, being judgmental, coveting, anxiety, worldly concerns and DARK images that are transported through the EYE to the heart. They are all detrimental to the LIGHT that resides in us. In **Matthew 6:22,23** Jesus declares, “**The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!**” ALL believers deal daily with the onslaught of darkness that tries to diminish the light within us. **Though Satan cannot steal our salvation, he can work to dilute our effectiveness and damage our testimony.** Allow me to share a personal example to highlight mixing light and darkness:

When building my house, the size of the septic field was determined by the number of bedrooms (not bathrooms). To save money by shortening the size of the septic field, I told the inspector that Matt’s room was an office. Previously, I told the electrician that it was my son’s bedroom. After the inspector left, the electrician crushed my spirit. “You are a pastor and you lied to the inspector!” Woe! I had to apologize to the electrician and confess my dark deed to the inspector before peace would return to my heart. The light in me had become dark and my witness was compromised.

I Peter 2:9 reminds us that we are a “...special people, that we may proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light;” Living right has present and eternal consequences. When we choose to live in disobedience to the Word of God, our light is lessened, the Spirit is grieved/quenched, intimacy with Christ is subverted, and we are seriously in danger of drifting. **CAUTION:** “...watch out that the light in you is not darkness.” Without question, believers do the greatest damage to the cause of Christ by drifting back into the world. Worldliness and the Christian life do not mix. The GREATEST darkness is when a believer proclaims Christ with his/her lips while acting like the world. You have heard people say, “If that is a Christian, then I have no desire to be one.” When believers are judgmental, worry/anxious, love money as well as other worldly vices, it all weakens the light within. “**If the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness.**” What saddens our Lord are professing Christians who have a divided heart—two faces—A Sunday face and a worldly face. May Christ be the very reason we live, whereby **it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me** (**Gal. 2:20**). “**Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life**” (**Proverbs 4:23**). **Rick**

We are off to a great start in 2021. Thank you for your prayers, support and encouraging notes!



Pictured left is **Paige Horne**. Paige is the KEEPER OF FACEBOOK for Mission Link. She is also a faithful member of Catawba Valley Baptist Church active in both the praise team and choir. Her Pastor is Rev. Aaron Mansfield who has been on the mission field with MLI. Paige is married to Claude for almost 25 years being blessed with a son 24, and two daughters, 22 and 16. One day she and her husband would love to be a part of a Mission Link Team. Thank you Paige for the wonderful work you do for MLI.

Pictured right is **Abraham** and his mother. Abraham once lived in an abandon house with a host of other people. His small cubby was damp and unsafe. He struggled to stay in school having literally no funds. For several years Abraham has lived in Mission Link's compound. We pay his medical, school fees, books, food and clothing. Abraham is born again and active in the MLI Church in Jinja.



The **Milling Project** is making great progress! Over 3 weeks ago, our lawyer approached the power company about the high cost of bringing three phase power to the mill. PTL—the cost dropped almost 10 million shillings!! We still need help with concrete for the floor and 22 million shillings (**\$6,000**) for milling equipment.

MLI Deaf School is scheduled to begin construction on three plus acres of land near Kamuli, Uganda. MLI Staff has organized two construction teams to build the following: 7 Classrooms; Boys/Girls Dormitories; Kitchen/Store; 8 latrines (bathrooms); and Office/Staff quarters (not budgeted nor sponsored.) Pastor Emmanuel from MLI will be on site to keep inventory and to make sure proper materials are used. We will also need to raise funds for the Office/Staff building. Construction will take between 2 and 3 months depending on the rains. The workers will first erect a temporary shelter for equipment and a place for the team to sleep. **FYI:** We will also be in the process of raising additional funds for various needs not covered in our budget: Office-Staff quarters, security fencing, school furnishings, as well as additional building as needed.



CURRENT "SAMPLING" OF NEEDS:

- 🔔 MLI Director **Philip Tenywa** needs help (culvert-stone) w/ muddy entrance to his dwelling—**\$375**.
- 🔔 Bookkeeper **Thomas Kunya** literally watches over 10's of thousands of MLI's funds. Tom carries the weight/responsibility/trust of the ministry. He needs to complete his house. Several needs are — Inside painting **\$400**; Outside plastering **\$700**; Floor tiles **\$840**.
- 🔔 Evangelist **Richard's Kasanka** is now at the Ring Beam of his house. It would be good if we could work toward helping him with the roofing system. **Any amount appreciated.** *
- 🔔 **DEAF SCHOOL** is now underway (see report above). In the future we need a water-well **\$6,500**; Office-Staff quarters; security fencing; and school furnishings. **Any amount appreciated.**
- 🔔 MLI needs **\$450** signage for new office building.
- 🔔 **February food distribution**—We have received funds for February Food! *
- 🔔 **Milling project** did not take into account "3-phase" electrical service complete. We now need to purchase machinery at 22 million shillings— **\$6,000**; plus the floor needs to be cemented.
- 🔔 **Dr. Moses** needs assistance for salaries, supplies, food, etc. to open his school in February **\$\$\$**
- 🔔 Tires/servicing for MLI Van: **\$400**. MLI also needs assistance w/ our motorcycle maintenance.
- 🔔 **THE GENERAL FUND.** THANK YOU FOR HELPING MLI THROUGH THE GENERAL FUND!

UGANDA NEWS

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

Presidential Candidate, **Bobi Wine**, lost to President

Museveni who has reigned for 34 year. The Ugandan election is being contested. Hence, President Museveni will reign for another 5 years until he is 81 years old.



Please pray for Uganda's as they are still dealing with the virus. MLI has help a number of times to feed the hungry. Thank you for your contribution toward helping Africans.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

As of January 25, 2021

- 39,044 confirmed cases
- 317 DEATHS!
- Recovered—13,861

NOTICE: Again, **February** 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!

Catherine Tezikya was born February 21, 1957 and cares for 5 children. Husband died of suicide through self-poisoning in 2009. Catherine is thankful for her salvation! She fellowships with believers at the Itukulu Baptist Church (Pr. Kadoogo). Now that she has Christ, Catherine is able to forgive others. Catherine is also thankful for the provision of God through Mission link during the Covid situation. **Challenges:** She has poor crop harvest most of the times. Lack of house shelter.

HELP! New Mailing Address

MLI is having issues with delayed forwarding of USPS mail! If you have posted to our old address since December 24 to the present, we may have not gotten your mail yet. Please use the following address for future mailings to Mission Link Int'l:

MISSION LINK INTERNATIONAL
PO BOX 338
PEARISBURG, VA 24134