

Have a
Merry **CHRISTmas**
and a
Blessed New Year

The Link

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Some gifts cannot be given unless someone dies

Early in her life our daughter Heather was placed on a list to receive a donor's liver. Yet the only way she could receive this precious life giving gift was when someone died. There are thousands waiting to receive a liver or a heart from an individual who indicated they were willing to donate their organs upon their death. This is a very **GREAT GIFT** to bestow on another!

Recently, CNN reported a heroic event involving a crippled airplane and Captain John Meffert, an off duty fire-fighter. While driving by John Wayne International Airport in Orange County, California John Meffert noticed a low flying airplane struggling to reach the runway. Suddenly, the plane skidded across the highway engulfed in flames and scraping the front of Merffert's vehicle before coming to an abrupt halt. Instinctively, John jumped out of his car & raced toward the burning plane. Quickly surveying the wreck, he saw a passenger's head wobbling in the window of the burning plane. With little concern for his safety, he stepped into the smoke filled inferno to rescue the wife of the pilot. Laying her on the pavement to be cared for by bystanders, he returned to the mangled cockpit to carry the pilot to safety before the flames consumed the airplane. John Meffert was willing to give his life so the two in the plane could escape a horrific death. This was a life saving **GREAT GIFT!** Those who give their organs to save another or the sacrificial rescue by John Meffert so others could live are tremendous displays of love. "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us, we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16). Two Thousand years ago, God's love for humanity moved Him to commission His Son Jesus Christ to give His life for a lost and dying world (John 3:16). Jesus was willing to die in our place so we could experience the gift of eternal life. Every sin we ever committed—past, present and future—was imputed to the Savior that His righteousness could be imputed (given) to us. All those who have accepted Christ are covered with His righteousness. Hence, when the Father looks at a blood bought believer, He sees that person through the righteous blood of Christ. My righteousness is tainted with sin, but Christ's righteousness is perfect enabling all true believers to enter into the presence of God. The gift of eternal life did not cost us a cent, because Jesus paid it all on Calvary's Cross—**THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL!**



The Gospel of Mark states in 8:36: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" If you had the wealth and fame of Bill Gates giving billions to charities, and you attended church religiously each week possessing an impeccable character BUT rejected the saving GRACE of Christ, Heaven WOULD NOT BE YOUR HOME. Each person is born with a sin nature. Whether a person has committed one sin or ten-thousand sins, he or she is separated from a righteous and Holy God. The fact is—God cannot adopt us into His family unless payment is made for our sinful deeds. Jesus paid the price with His precious blood so we could live. The scriptures declare in Acts 4:12, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." The Christmas Child entered history 2000 years ago through the womb of a Virgin. The sinless Lamb of God's mission was to make payment for our sins (to die) that we may live. God desires no one to be separated from His love. Second Peter 3:9, emphatically declares, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, put that ALL should come to repentance."

During the Christmas season as we gather around the Christmas tree to unwrap packages, let us not forget to give praise to our God for sending Jesus who gave us **THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL!** Wishing you a very merry **CHRISTmas** and a blessed New Year!

Rick

Merry
CHRISTMAS



The Directors of Mission Link International are very grateful for all the prayers and consistent support given for both projects and to the General Fund in 2017. God has accomplished much this year through all our faithful friends. Wishing you an awesome Christmas celebration and a very blessed New Year!

Top Right to Left: Wendell Drumheller, Vice Pres.; Jim Masloff, MD - Medical Director; Jeff Dalton, CPA - Treasurer; Jack Sadler

Bottom Right to Left: Candy Sadler, Glassell Williamson, Sec., Garry Rund; Charlie Kardos (Rick Sadler lower right corner)



News Brief

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER A ONE-TIME CHRISTMAS GIFT TO MISSION LINK OF ANY AMOUNT: If each person receiving our newsletter would stretch and contribute a one-time gift to the general fund, it would give us a much needed boost for 2018. The ministry has been overwhelmed this past year with many needs. **God Bless You!!!**

The following list are some of our current needs: (#1) Pictured front/left is Julius Lasinda, a graduate of the MLI Training Center. He is MLI's teacher of pastors in Tanzania. We must raise his salary of **\$100** a month. He will graduate 14 students in January. (#2) Paul is our new teacher (Head Teacher—Pastor James Pictured right). We need to urgently raise his monthly salary of **\$100**. (#3) Pictured are our monthly volunteers who prepare our newsletters for mailing. (#4) Paul Wandera, a graduate of MLI Training Center, has trained 100's of students. (#5) Pastor James and Rick handing a proud student his certificate. The school is located on Buvuma Island in the village of Kadomela. (#6) Rick is helping a street kid, Moses, read an encouraging letter from a donor. (#7) **Pastor Wasawa** of Tongolo is building a simple two room house for his family of 8. He is being forced to move from his present home. He needs **\$1200** to complete his new home. (#8) MLI has purchased land for **Esther** (widow's director), and we would like to build her a simple house. Pictured is Esther caring for our widow's chicken project. (#9) The training center and church on Buvuma Island (Kadomola) has made 1000's of bricks. They now needs cement costing from **\$9.40 to \$9.80** per bag. (#10) **Zach**, a street boy who cannot read or write, has paintings to sell. I have six or more paintings for sale for a **modest contribution**. Your purchase will help him with food, rent and art supplies.

OTHER NEEDS: Our **medical fund** needs to be replenished. **Pastor Jackie and Glynda Carver** need some assistance with **February trip cost**. Also, we are will have three (3) **leadership conferences** during the February trip whereby we will need to feed a large number of people - **\$1000 plus**. **Pastor James**, MLI's head teacher, is needing funds for a **shelter for his two cows** that will be built near his home. In the past, thieves have greatly disturbed him. Previously, someone poisoned one of his cows. A structure can be built for around **\$220—\$250**. Also, please continue helping the **deaf school** which is meeting a critical need; **street kid's fund** needing help as well. Thank you very much! Wishing you and your family a very merry CHRISTmas and a blessed New Year.

Used phones, cameras and laptops are needed. Look around you house to see what you can find. Thank you so very much!

TWO TRIPS FOR 2018
Uganda Mission Trip - February 3-16, 2018 — Kenya Mission Trip - (appx. dates) June 16-29, 2018
 Please keep our Uganda team in your prayers. It is NOT to late to join the team. If interested, contact Rick - thelinkoffice@gmail.com or call Cell: 434-981-9101 or Office: 434-984-1995. Please remember both teams in your prayers. Laptops are still needed my mid-January for the Kenya Project.



Bring Happiness to an African Widows for only \$30 a Month!

For **\$30** a month (just a dollar a day) you can make a difference in **Nagudi Saidha's** life. Your support for this 65 year old widow will help pay for school fees, medicine & assistance with a mentally challenged child. She is one of the few left in Mafubira village needing help. Adopting Nagudi as your widow will be an answer to her prayers. Will you help her?