

The Link

How Big is Your God?

The stronger your perception of God, the greater your faith

We live in a chaotic world that is falling apart. Major trouble spots cover the globe: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Congo, Iran/Israel, China/Taiwan/South-China-Sea, and Russia/Ukraine. Added to this is the global pandemic (Covid-19), hyperinflation, record-setting temperatures, floods, earthquakes, famines, to mention a few. To top it off, America has lost its moral compass and is seriously divided over many issues. Cultural norms have flipped causing great concern among evangelicals. Without question, the spirit of America is low! People are anxious, fearful and many are depressed having little or no hope. If you want to stimulate your mind with worry and anxiety, watch thirty minutes of the nightly news. Seriously, we must pause (“**be still**”) and recalibrate our view of God. The Psalmist puts it this way, “**Be still (literally stop striving), and know that I am God**” (Psalm 46:10). How well do you know God? Do you ever slow down and take time to contemplate the grandeur of our heavenly Father? How big is your God??

A boy asked his father “Dad, how big is GOD?” Looking up at the sky his father saw an airplane and asked his son, “How big is that airplane?” The boy responded, “It’s small Dad! You can hardly even see it!” Then the father took his Son to an airport hanger. Standing in front of one of the airplanes, the father asked, “How big is this airplane?” The boy responded, “Oh Daddy, this airplane is enormous!” At this point, the father said to him, “That is how it is with GOD! “How big HE is depends on the distance between you and Him!” The closer you are to God, the bigger HE is in your life!” (Illustration cited on many internet sites—adapted.)

The world attempts to reduce and belittle the power and majesty of God. For example: The theory of evolution, taught in schools as fact, discounts the biblical narrative in Genesis as mere fiction. The world cannot logically grasp the biblical account of creation—that God spoke everything into existence in 6 days and rested on the 7th. Their “god of science” blinds their eyes. They insist there is a scientific explanation for everything. When I was in seminary, our Old Testament professor taught that Moses and the children of Israel actually crossed over through the Reed Sea in swampy knee-deep water rather than through the parting of the Red Sea. A student raised his hand to comment. He said, “Professor, it is still a miracle because all of Pharaoh’s army drowned in knee-deep water!”

LISTEN: At this point, you may have concluded that I am misinformed and ignorant. I beg to differ! As a child once said, “My God is so big that the universe cannot contain Him, yet so small that He lives in my heart.” That is my God!

You see, while the world continues to make a downward turn, I am keeping my eyes on the Creator of the universe, who is much bigger than my finite mind can ever imagine. Hence, regardless of what happens in this world, “**God is MY refuge and MY strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore I will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling**” (Psalm 46:1-3). The scriptures are filled with examples of those who comprehended the awesome grandeur and splendor of God: **Daniel** in the lion’s den; **Joseph**, who his siblings persecuted; **Moses** humbly standing before mighty Pharaoh; and my favorite example is where young **David** stood before a towering giant named Goliath. At an early age, David understood the presence and power of God when defending his father’s sheep from wild animals. He also knew that the Lord was his shepherd as well (**Psalm 23**). Consequently, David boldly and courageously stood before a taunting belligerent giant. Many teach that David faced Goliath with a slingshot and a few stones. NO!—it was much more than his simple weapon. In reality, David was confident of victory and knew that nothing in the world could defeat his God. In contrast, most Christians have a weak perception of God. It does not take much for believers to cower, forgetting who lives in side them. David knew the meaning of “**be still**” when he wrote the 23rd Psalm: “**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the “still” waters; He restoreth my soul.**” Sincerely, you and I must quit striving and rest (“**be still**”) knowing that “**...greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world**” (1 John 4:4).

How big is your God? Whether you live in American, Africa or Afghanistan—God is BIGGER than anything you and I will ever face in this lifetime! “**Therefore, I will not fear, even if the earth be removed!**” (Psalm 46:2a). Our perception/knowledge of God will increase through reading His Word and prayer; as we draw closer to Him through studying His Word and prayer, our view of God will grow. Remember, we must take the initiative to draw near to God! The Epistle of James states, “**Draw near to God and He will draw near to you**” (4:8). If you take this verse seriously, I promise you that your perception of God will increase and your faith will enlarge. Take time (be still) and get to know God on a deeper level.

Rick

UGANDA REMAINS IN FULL LOCKDOWN. Ugandans are still facing hunger and extreme financial difficulties. Ugandans are praying that by the end of September all churches and schools will be open. The President is taking a hard stance against the spread of Covid making it mandatory that all visitors be tested both coming in and exiting the country. Fines are issued for those who do not wear a mask in public and who disobey the curfew. FYI: At least 51 people who fled Afghanistan have landed in Uganda. Please keep Uganda and Ugandans in your prayers.

FLASHBACK of RECENT ACTIVITIES—PARTIAL LIST



When life is difficult, remember there are those praying for things we take for granted.
We have so much to be thankful for.

Mission Link has been busy caring for Africans in both Uganda and Kenya. Our brother Euticauls Wambua has been helping many people during the pandemic in Kenya. Also, Pastor Anthony Ndambuki has been meeting needs as well. Below is a partial list of needs that have been met over the past four weeks. Thank you so much for standing with MLI during these challenging times.

- Food and home supplies were provided for Albinos
- Sizable food supplies to three Islands and various villages (Tongolo Village; Kiryowa Village; Wanyange Village, Kadomola Village; Yuwe Island; Number One Village; Kagoma Village (30 pastors)

- Ugandan Staff received funds for various needs:
 - Culvert for Philips driveway to his home; replacement fan to keep mosquitos away while sleeping
 - New Phone for Esther (Widow's Director). Her phone was stolen and she could not send our office photos and reports concerning the Widows Ministry. Esther also needed funds to visit the liver doctor in Kampala. She may have a serious liver issue. Please pray for her.
 - Pastor Emma: This summer we purchased land and a house for Emma. The house needs many repairs as it does not have doors, widows, cement floor or latrine. Last month we took care of building a latrine and this month doors and windows.
 - Thomas renewal of driver's license and finalized 80 percent of payment for a garden plot. He is still needing two million shillings to finish payment.
 - Pastor James received a new garden sprayer and garden maintenance
 - Pastor Wasawa was helped with pesticides for his garden
 - Pastor Paul Wandera given funds to purchase maize flour for 35 police officers that he is sharing with next week. Pray that many will be saved.
- Widows received support in the following ways
 - 115 widows received sizable food supplies. FYI: Often, widows care for many grandchildren!
 - Additional land purchased for Widows in Itukulu (near the Mill) to grow maize. The land was also cleared in preparation for planting maize seeds
 - Rent and medical needs to some widows given this month
- Pastor Senyonjo supported for Theological studies by purchasing a much needed modem. He also is discipling an Anglican pastor referred to him by MLI.
- Additional deaf school land purchased (47' x 950') located next to the main acreage. This is for food production; buildings being fitted with glass for both widows and doors to keep mosquitoes out. Also chalk boards being constructed and latrines being finished.
- Many medical needs have been supported
 - Esther (widow's director) has liver issue and being seen by doctors in Kampala
 - Pastor Peter's children are sick. Peter is an Anglican Priest.
 - Nasser's son lost six teeth in an accident—the procedure is expensive
 - Elderly man James (member of Pastor Paul's Church) was helped with treatment
 - Pastor Pascal (Kadomola Island) malaria treatment
 - Pastor Willy's daughter (Martha) medical bills for Asthma
 - Pastor Timothy Sentongo cancer treatment needing more Chemotherapy (Pray for him)
 - Connie...Assistance with appendectomy
 - As well as other medical issues
- Pastor Willy of Jinja Hill Baptist needed help with rent for teachers. Being schools are closed, there is no income to help pay the bills. In fact, schools are still required to pay salaries of teaching staff which is next to impossible.
- Street Kids:
 - Abraham's Albino mother needed both food and treatment. His mother gave him up when he was a child. Abraham lives in the MLI compound; now that he is born again, he cares for his mom. We also supported Abraham's business in making chips (fries) to sell.
 - Zack's food, rent and malaria treatment.
 - Mutebe Abraham rent support

UGANDA TEAM TRIP - FEBRUARY 2022

Email: Pr Todd musumbatodd@gmail.com or email Rick thelinkoffice@gmail.com for information.

FALL TRIP: September 30 through November 1, 2021 I (Rick) will be traveling to Uganda. Please pray for my travels. The visa is a little more difficult to secure as the government must closely scrutinize my travel. Covid testing is mandatory in the USA, plus when I arrive in Uganda and before I return to America.

NOTICE: Again, **September** is a continuation of MLI's cell phone collection. Please ask your family, friends, Bible study group and church (Pastor) to donate unused 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!



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.

FUNDS GIVE FOR PROJECTS

Praise the Lord for needs met! MLI's generous donors assisted with critical needs. Funds are available for: Fresh water **well** for deaf school; **Desks** for deaf school with metal base; completion of teachers **quarters** and boys/girls dormitories (inside) for deaf school; widows **mill office**—Office desk, two chairs and office supplies; Mission Link Church Kigera—**Generator**.

"SAMPLING" OF NEEDS:

- ✳ **Pastor James** needs assistance fixing (rebuilding) motorcycle **\$160**
- ✳ **LOCKDOWN ASSISTANCE:** Uganda's lockdown is oppressive. Many need funds for food, rent and medical as well as a host of other needs.
- ✳ **Tires for Van:** Any amount is greatly appreciated! Mission Link's van **STILL** needs—**\$400** for 4 tires (or better tires **\$550**). This is a critical need!
- ✳ **Emergency medical fund:** Additional funds needed—A major increase in medical issues.
- ✳ **THE GENERAL FUND:** THANK YOU FOR HELPING MLI THROUGH THE GENERAL FUND!