

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

The Link

We Absolutely Need Each Other

"No man is an island, entire of itself"

Centuries ago the English Poet John Donne wrote the famous line: "No man is an island, entire to itself." It is absolutely true! I have actually heard people quote the idiom: "I have lifted myself by my own bootstraps." It means my success in life is a result of my efforts without outside assistance. WOW!! Without question that person is totally blind and filled with ugly pride. Mission Link International **IS NOT** the result of one person. The Board of Directors have all contributed their time, wisdom and resources to sustain the ministry. There is not room in this short newsletter to express in detail what I am touting. However, let's take, for example, producing the **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**. MLI's VP, Wendell Drumheller, prints all the envelopes each year for the mailings. We are talking thousands! The equipment we use is also maintained by him and some services/pieces are donated. Then someone has to compile (put together) the articles and needs list. Then there is the folding and stuffing of hundreds of mailings each month by volunteers (see pic top right). After that, someone has to use their vehicle and energy to transport the mailing to the Post Office. Next, the cost of paper, ink, bulk mailing stamp, etc. is contributed by our faithful donors. Yes...many of you reading this have given to this ministry—some for many years—yet, I am so very grateful for each contributor who has given a one-time or for a long-time gift. Again, the newsletter production is only one of many examples! **CAN YOU NOW SEE THAT THERE ARE "MANY PEOPLE" ON MY ISLAND!** Though all our board members are exceptional, space only permits me to share about two—two who have recently submitted their typed testimonial.



Outside of my wonderful wife and awesome father, Glassell Williamson, office secretary and administrator, has made it possible for the office to function especially when I am out of country. She recently wrote: "As a 9 year old girl I gave my life to God accepting His Son as my Savior. Since that time, He has called me to serve Him in many ways.... I had always been interested in missionary work, but never thought God was calling me to become a missionary." Glassell has not only watched over the office and the bookkeeping, but she has been involved first hand with mission work in several countries.

"I have been to Uganda, Kenya and Peru during the last 14 years of my life. I thank God for those years. If He does call you to go, Mission Link is a great organization to partner with. The blessings and experience you will receive will be beyond anything you will ever experience. Your life will be changed and your faith will be enriched." Needless to say, for more than 15 years, Glassell has forsaken her "easy chair" for a life of missions. PTL! There is room to share about another board member.



Back in 2000 I asked retired Urologist Dr. Jim Masloff to consider directing a MLI medical team to Uganda, East Africa. Leaving the medical practice after 40 intense years, one would assume that leisure, golf and travel would be next in line to occupy his life. Yet, Doc, as we affectionally call him, answered the call to be on mission with the Lord: ".....Rick Sadler asked me to consider leading

Merry
CHRISTMAS



Board of Directors!

Top Right to Left: Wendell Drumheller, VP; Dr. Jim Masloff, Medical Dir; Jeff Dalton CPA/Treasurer; Jack Sadler, Dir
Bottom Right to Left: Candy Sadler, Dir; Glassell Williamson, Sec; Garry Rund, Dir; Charlie Kardos, Dir. (Not pictured is Dr. Rick Sadler, Pres.)

a medical team to join MLI. After prayerful consideration, I accepted the challenge..” What awaited Doc in Africa was disease, sickness, malaria carrying pest and poverty unlike anything seen in America. For over 12 years he organized and planned for mission trips to Africa to establish a medical platform whereby the Gospel could be preached, lives saved and churches planted. In the course of time, Dr. John Cramer came on board to share in the responsibility of team physician. After several trips together, Doc passed the baton to Dr. John while continuing to prepare the medical teams for mission trips to Africa by securing vital medicines, bandages and equipment. Doc submits, "The past 18 years have been some of the best years of my life. There is no better place to be than being in God's will. He has saved the best for the last. Truly, one has to step out of his/her comfort zone to find this joy."

Our board, donors, prayer warriors, volunteers and all those that sincerely believe in what MLI stands for have empowered the mission. I must declare it from the mountain tops, **WE ABSOLUTELY NEED EACH OTHER!** From the bottom of my heart, thank you so very much and have a Merry **CHRISTmas** and a blessed New Year!

Rick

News Brief

For over twenty (20) years, MLI has served in various countries especially in East Africa. It has been a special privilege to see Africans saved, churches planted and missions supported. As our board met on November 27 for the annual meeting, we celebrated what God had accomplished in 2018. Your contributions have enabled Mission Link International to become a viable ministry in East Africa, especially in Uganda. No doubt there are bigger and better ministries to support, but many of you have chosen to give an offering toward MLI's endeavors. Thank you for trusting Mission Link to carryout the GREAT COMMISSION in East Africa. Our desire is to see African leaders grounded in the Word of God and to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Below are general funding compartments for your giving consideration. The greatest of these is the **General Fund** where MLI has the latitude to place funds where most needed.

GENERAL FUND: This allows our mission to move funds to areas of greatest need. Mission Link has ministries in operation that need continual funding. Like any church or non-profit, MLI has operational and ministry expenses. **A year end gift will really boost and prepare us for 2019.**

MISSION TRIP ASSISTANCE: MLI is organizing for two trips to East Africa this winter: **Uganda** February 2-15; and **Kenya** February 23 - March 7. We really need help with both trips.

UGANDA: **1) Join our team!** We have several tickets for late comers. If you feel a nudge from God to join us, you have until December 9th to respond. We can offer you a partial scholarship. Email me (rick) at thelinkoffice@gmail.com; **2)** We will be purchasing special toiletries for women regarding their time of the month. Each **toiletry packet is \$5** in country; **3)** We will have three (3) locations setup for leadership conferences. Our team pastors will be the instructors. **You financial assistance in helping us feed the attendees is needed.** Your gift of **any amount** toward the conferences is important and appreciated.



"God Saved the Best for Last"
Dr. Jim Masloff

KENYA: We need some additional **team members!** Two computer labs will be installed in both the Korogocho Slum and in the new secondary school in Mwingi. We will be working with Pr. Euticauls.



MEDICAL FUND: Recently, Pastor James (Director of MLI Christian Study Center) contacted me to say he had back and chest pains. At the time our medical fund was zero (presently some funds have been contributed to this account), so our office took from petty cash to send him to a medical facility. The doctors were not sure what was causing his issue. Needless to say, I began praying for Pr. James. A week later he said God had healed him completely and he could now travel to the western part of Uganda to establish another teaching point. However, there are other Africans that God has not chosen to heal. Pastor Wasawa, who helps us organize ministry on the Islands, has issues with his back. His family members also continue to need ongoing care. Pastor Phil (pictured left) needed dental care. Good medical care is lacking & greatly needed in East Africa. Giving **any amount** to the Medical Fund is greatly appreciated.

GENERAL AND ONGOING NEEDS: There is not enough room to display all the needs; however, any size gift toward the following will be appreciated: **Pr Wasawa's house** for cement floor and doors/shutters—**\$485**; **Any amount** for **Esther's house**; **MLI's Church Plant Kadomala \$165** for doors/shutters & **\$260** for cement floor; **monthly salaries** for several staff **\$50** & staff teachers **\$90**; **Street Kids** have numerous needs (clothing, food, place to sleep, etc.)—**any amount**; **MLI Office—Uganda** (security, taxes, electric, water, etc.)—**any amount**; upkeep, oil, gas & maintenance for **MLI's 1997 Ugandan vehicle—any amount**; **Deaf School—any amount**; many computer keyboards/mice needed for **Kenya computer lab** (need by January 15); Pr. James Senyonjo's **windows** for his house **\$190**; **MLI Church Plant—Kigera and the Uway Island Church** are ready for a permanent structure—**any amount**. Pr Emmanuel, a faithful MLI pastor, wants to purchase property. He will need at least **\$1300**. The **NEW MLI office** in Pearisburg, Virginia is in transition. I know for some giving to this "internal" project is not seen as essential or exciting as giving funds directly to an African to build a church facility. However, it is the central hub of Mission Link that keeps ministry moving forward. **Any amount appreciated.** Above all, please keep MLI in your prayers.



Cell Phones: We need phones! We are able to use some phones in Uganda and the rest are sent to a recycling center. Please ask your family, friends and church to collect cell phones especially those with SIM cards. Also, if you have laptops, electronic keyboards or Christian books, we have a home for them as well. This is a simple way to assist MLI. *GBU!*

Evangelistic/Church Planting Trip Feb. 2-15, 2019: Several tickets still remaining for the Uganda Trip until Dec 9th. Please email Rick if interested or if you have questions about the trip: thelinkoffice@gmail.com .
Kenya Team: February 23rd thru March 7th, 2019. We need help with computer installation and handymen. Email Rick if interested. Cost is Appx. **\$2500**.
Pearisburg Construction Team: We need specialized assistance (Electrician/Plumber/Carpenters) to help MLI remodel the Office/warehouse in Pearisburg. If interested, please email Rick: thelinkoffice@gmail.com .

Special Prayer:

Candy is recovering well from knee replacement surgery. **Heather** is having colon surgery on December 5th.
Uganda & Kenya Teams February & March
Wendell Drumheller, VP of MLI is doing better with severe case of gout.
Thank you so much for your faithful prayers. Please pray for our strength & wisdom



Bring Happiness to an African Widow for only **\$30** a Month! **Will you prayerfully consider adopting this dear widow for Christmas?** She needs a loving family.

Monica Byalutalo: Monica is 74 years old and the wife of our former staff member Mzee John. Two weeks before John's passing, John & Monica's daughter (Florence) passed away having been struck by a motorcycle while walking on the road. Now Monica is responsible for caring for Florence's 3 grandchildren—feeding, clothing and school fees. Plus, Monica's health is not good having difficulty walking due to her hip. She finds it challenging to care for her home and to maintain a garden for food. Please pray for her as she shoulders all her responsibilities.