

The Link

To Tell the Truth....

There was a syndicated game show that ran from 1956-68 called "To Tell the Truth" where four celebrities tried to discern from a panel of three contestants who was authentic and who was deceptive. Two of the three were lying imposters claiming to be authentic. Through questioning, the celebrities' goal was to determine the one person who was genuine. The imposters tried through deception to convince the celebrities and viewers that they were the "real deal." This was a game show—a test of wit, but deception/lying is not a game! It is a prime indicator of one's character. In our world, lying, cheating and deception permeates our culture like a deadly cancer. Yet, in some circles it is tolerated—accepted—expected and even rewarded.

The Olympic swimmer, **Ryan Lochte**, made the news when he deceived the authorities in Rio about being robbed. Consequently, he lost millions of dollars in endorsements when sponsors dropped him, yet other venues turned a blind eye to his evil ways knowing that Lochte's notoriety, though tarnished, would be a major attraction. To highlight this point, Lochte is slated to be featured on *Dancing with the Stars* in an upcoming episode. **Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, President Obama**, and **most political figures** are known for saying one thing and doing another. The public does not condone deceptive politicians, but they expect and tolerate it. Deception even touches the pulpit. Many pastors proclaim a prosperity message only to support their large salaries, and their multi-million dollars toys—mansions with gold fixtures, jets, jewelry, cars, antiques, etc. Ted Haggard, former Pastor of New Life Church in Colorado Springs, preached against gays and gay marriages yet was exposed by his lover as being bi-sexual. My gay brother, David, lived a lie for many years until he came "out of the closet" ten years ago. He is no longer living a lie, but he is now believing a lie that God made him gay. Uganda is KING when it comes to lies and deception. I have numerous examples to share, but allow me to share just one. I was sitting in the back of our van with a pastor from Kenya while the passenger sitting in the front next to the driver was describing ways to cheat Americans. The driver said to the passenger that an American was going to help him with school fees by giving him 200,000 shillings (\$65). Unbeknownst to the passenger, my Kenyan friend was interpreting their conversation. The passenger suggested: "Don't say 200,000 shillings but \$200." Deception/dishonesty is a way of life in Africa & deeply entrenched in the culture. Yet as we examine all the lies/deception surrounding us in this world, one must look in the mirror at the deceptive ways that we conveniently overlook, or that we are simply blinded to.

When I was at **Bush Gardens with our grand kids**, little Adeline was 1/2" too short for some of the "fun" rides. Immediately it was suggested that we put her hair up on her head and then re-measure her. Well Amelia, her 7 year old sister, blurted out: "That would be a lie—that is not honest.) WOW! If we could only have that kind of sensitivity and integrity. **LISTEN**: We dampen the power of God in our lives because of our deception and "white" lies. It is true...death and life are in the power of the tongue (**Proverbs 18:21**). If our words go beyond a simple YES or NO, the truth most like becomes colored. Jesus drives this home in the Sermon-on-the-Mount: "**But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; and anything beyond these is of evil.**" In other words, if one attempts to go beyond "YES or NO" there is a danger of tainting the truth. I remember an African verbalizing appreciation by saying, "Thank you Pastor Rick for praying for me." It would have been easy to have said, "You are welcome." Yet, I said to her that I had not prayed. **She seemed to be offended** at my lack of prayerful concern. That is why we tell "white" lies to avoid confrontation and embarrassment. There are times I fall into the "white" lie conundrum. For example, when my wife ask, "Do you think I've gain weight?" A smart husband will go into survival mode and say something like, "Do you really think you have gained weight? You look fabulous!" We also are accustom to telling 1/2 truths (which is no truth). For example, we had a Ugandan employee steal funds normally used to pay the security company. He apologized to our staff for making late payments to the guard company. Well—his statement was true, but the late payment was due to his stealing funds that were to be paid to the security company. He failed to tell the whole story—his theft. Another form of lies is **gossip** and false **flattery**. People spread junk about others not realizing that every word uttered from their lips are eternally recorded. Our words follow us (Matt. 12:36). Many times we use flattering words for our advantage. An African said, "We flatter Americans so we can receive something from them."

It all started back in the garden when **Satan lied to Eve**. "Did God really say...?" Satan knew exactly what God said, yet his mission was to trip up the first man and woman. The Bible clearly states that Satan is a deceiver and a liar—the father of lies (**John 8:44**). Regardless of whether our lies are whoppers or minuscule, our tongue is a portal to the inner man exposing "the real me." Our tongue can quench the power of God residing in our lives. Saints—be very careful with your words and make them few (**Eccl 5:1ff**). I have only scrapped the surface of this subject. In closing there are several key facts that must be communicated to Christian leaders in Africa regarding deception. **First**, the adversary's greatest weapon is deception. In the last days Jesus stated that if possible, even the very elect will be deceived. Satan is cunning. **Secondly**, watch your life or you may fall into the same trap as Eve. It is very easy to fool ourselves in believing that our subtle (colored) words/actions are pure. There is much in **ALL** of our lives that is tainted and slanted. All I can say is THANK YOU GOD FOR YOUR WONDERFUL GRACE. **Dear Father...help us not only to "Tell the Truth," but to live out the truth. May our words never grieve the Spirit or quench His power in our lives.**

Rick



NEWS BRIEFING: Some have wondered where Rick & Candy live. Over three years ago they sold their house in Charlottesville and moved to a little town three hours a way in Pearisburg, Virginia. Since then, they have been upgrading their 60 year old home. When Rick is in the USA, the weekends provide an opportunity to repair and replace. They have put a privacy fence up, a carport, rewired the house (with the help of a good friend), a few utility buildings built, garden beds, etc. Presently, Rick & Candy are working on a patio in the back and doing some landscaping around the foundation in hopes to stop a leaky basement. For certain, there is a lot of work to do, but great progress has been made. Pray that God will continue to give Rick & Candy strength to complete the task.

Living close to their daughter, son-in-law and three grand kids has made the move worth while. However, the three hour drive to Charlottesville each week and back has been a challenge. In the future, Candy hopes to have the opportunity to increase her time on the mission field working with Rick. A revised plan is for Candy to retire in less than 2 years giving her freedom to do more hands on work in East Africa. A few major goals are—to complete a 1 or 2 volume study manual for the village schools, help make the widow's ministry self-supporting & finish the pastor's school in Eldoret, Kenya. There is much to do in the next 5 to 6 years, but God is able! However, they also realize that God may have a different plan. Pray that Rick & Candy stay flexible and available. **"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED MONTHLY SUPPORT. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL!"**

MZEE JOHN: Our day-time security guard who is 83 years old, has been ill for a month. He is improving and hopes to return to work soon. We hopes to finish his house when Rick returns in September. There is **\$625 needed** to complete his home. John is worthy and very faithful honest and hard working.

PASTOR PHILIP: He still needs over **\$2000** to complete his house. **Thank you** for the gifts given toward Phil and Jackie's **WEDDING!** The first week in October they will tie the knot. He **still has a long ways to go to have sufficient funds for their wedding.** **Any gift** (great or small) will be greatly appreciated.

UNDERWEAR AND SANITARY PADS FOR WOMEN: Paige Lipscomb, a member of MLI's February medical team, needs **donations of women's underwear** (Most—Medium also Small & Large). Also, volunteers are needed to sew (make) reusable sanitary napkins (Email Paige for instructions: plip08@gmail.com). Needed by January 5, 2017. PLEASE—ask the women in your church to help make pads for the needy women in Uganda. Thanks!



PASTOR GEORGE: He is a teacher who simply needs **\$180 x 6 terms (\$180 per term)**, to finish his education for a teaching certificate. THIS IS AN INVESTMENT not only in George's career, but also for the students that he teachers. Helping a person to obtain a career gives him/her a solid future. He is an assistant pastor working with Pastor Timothy.

PHASE II MLI SCHOOL IN ELDORET, KENYA: Starting budget is **\$7200+** to put up a metal frame & roofing (no walls). When completed, students from all over East Africa will come to learn the Bible under the leadership of Pastor Anthony Ndambuki. Praying this phase will be completed early 2017. Also, we need to begin constructing pastor's home.



DEAF SCHOOL: We have become the "link" for a deaf school in Kamuli District. There is no government assistance given to these physically challenged kids. Pastor Herbert, a teacher in the SBC Seminary, is helping to head this up. We have had assistance w/food for several months **\$370** (but it is an ongoing need). **Monthly needs:** Food **\$370**; dorm for kids **\$70**; salaries for 5 teachers **\$250** (minimum). There are other expenses, but this is a start. Thank you!

Pastor Timothy of Basana Baptist and Primary School: Pastor Timothy has built a school that now has over 400 primary students. MLI has built desks, repaired their well several times and assisted Pastor with his children's university tuition. He is needing to **build a kitchen** for food preparation at \$1650. We have \$850 from a friend/donor of MLI, but the balance is still needed (**\$800**) when Rick travels to Uganda in September. Rick hopes to work with Timothy and church plants on Buvuma Island (Lake Victoria) in October.

GENERAL FUND (VERY IMPORTANT): The GENERAL FUND gives MLI flexibility to take care of operational expenses & needs/projects—and there are many! Without this fund, it would be very challenging to operate & assist the numerous needs we encounter "literally" day-by-day. **When you give to projects or people, would you please give (specify) a little EXTRA to the general fund. God bless you!!!**

Pastor Euticals Wambua from Kenya will be in Charlottesville September 15 and 16. Several things are needed: 1) **A ride back to Fredericksburg on Friday**; 2) a **laptop windows computer (\$400)**. Pastor will be staying at Dr. and Mrs. Masloff on the 15th. Please call our office for more details.

WIDOWS MINISTRY: MLI will be distributing monthly support for widows in September. Many do not have support. Rick would like to give the ladies some rice, maize and/or sugar. If the dry season continues, widows will need some help with food. **ANY size GIFT** will greatly help and will be much appreciated!

LOOK AROUND THE HOUSE, ASK YOUR FRIENDS AND AT CHURCH

Cell Phones, Digital Cameras, Laptops, Christian Books

We are in need of your old cell phones & 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! **KEEP THEM COMING!!!**

FIVE 4 OR 5 SEATS REMAIN FOR THE UGANDA 2017 TRIP



TRIP DATES ARE FEB 11-24: The MLI Office would like to have all 28 seats filled by the first week of October. The cost is \$2850. Mission LINK has only 28 tickets reserved. A \$100 **non-refundable** deposit will secure your place on the team. If you have any questions, please call Rick at the MLI Office at 434-984-1995 or call his cell phone is 434-981-9101 or you can write an EMAIL - 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. **Pictured left** is children's ministry dir. Terri Hansen with John Dezio & translator—Regan sharing the Jesus story in a village. **NOTE: We still are in need of a chaplain to join us to train Ugandan chaplains.** Please pray as well as spread the word!

Widow Fidah Needs a Sponsor for 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.

Fidah Nangobi: In 2010, Fidhah's husband died from diabetes. She is very grateful for MLI's love and support. Since joining the widow's group in Itikulu, she has gained from the piggery project of MLI. "God has been caring for me through MLI." Fidhah fellowships at Itikulu Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Kadoko Geoffrey.