

The Link

Adrift

Warning! Take heed to your life that you do not drift

There are too many believers that have started well but finish poorly. Some have drifted from the faith ending life with a mountain of regrets. When the Apostle Paul was in the Roman Mamertine Prison awaiting execution, he wrote a letter to his spiritual son that could have been entitled: **TAKE HEED TO Your Life**. In fact, in both letters to Timothy, he warns and encourages his spiritual son to be strong in the Lord. He cautions Timothy that “...the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith...” (1Timothy 6:10 NKJV). Paul also warned Timothy to “...flee youthful lust and pursue righteousness...” (2Timothy 2:22 NKJV). In 2Timothy 2:1ff, Timothy’s spiritual father encourages him to be a—“good soldier of Jesus Christ willing to suffer hardship and not to entangle himself in the affairs of everyday life...so he may please Christ who enlisted him.” The Apostle emphasized studying and knowing the scriptures (2Timothy 2:15). This verse is a follow-up of what he shared with Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:16: “Pay close attention to yourself (**TAKE HEED**—NASB) and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you” (NKJV). Sacred pulpits around the world must sound the alarm that the adversary is prowling/roaming and seeking to destroy the testimony of the followers of Christ as well as dilute the Word of God. Believers must **TAKE HEED** (to be on guard) to their lives. Over 80 passages in the Bible incorporate some form of the phrase “**TAKE HEED**.”

- “Therefore we must give the **more earnest heed** to the things we have heard, lest we drift away” (Hebrews 2:1 NKJV).
- “Therefore let him who thinks he stands **take heed** that he does not fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12 NIV).
- “...**take heed** to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it” (Colossians 4:17 NASB).
- But **take heed** (be on guard) to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly” (Luke 21:34 NIV).
- “**Take heed** to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Timothy 4:16 NKJV).

TAKE HEED: The world is constantly drawing the believer to be self-absorbed rather than self-controlled. Paul warns the believer about this in 1 Corinthians 9:27, “...I buffet my body and make it my slave lest possibly after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified” (NASB). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus compares Christians to SALT. You and I have heard preached many times that salt flavors, purifies, and keeps things from decaying. Yet, Jesus stated that if the salt (the Christian life) loses its saltiness (becomes tasteless), “...how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men” (Matthews 5:13 NASB). In other words, a believer can destroy his or her testimony (lose one’s savor/saltiness) by drifting back into the world. One of the most recent examples happened to renowned apologist and evangelist **Ravi Zacharias**. Though deceased, vultures are descending upon this man’s legacy. In other words, Satan is dismantling the life and ministry of this servant of God because of

his dishonesty and unfaithfulness to his wife. His “embellished” credentials and immoral lifestyle have caused his salt to “lose its saltiness,” and his life and ministry are being “trampled underfoot by man.” Thousands of followers who have been helped by RZIM ministries are hurt, disillusioned and confused. Before you and I yield to the temptation to join the RZIM critics, allow me to share an even greater caution and concern.

It is true that Ravi’s ministry has been discredited, suffering irreparable damage. The world now knows the carnal secrets of this man of God. Yet, this should cause all believers to **TAKE HEED** to their personal lives—the secrets and hidden motives nested in their hearts. A Christian may be able to hide his/her personal sin(s) from others, but one day every detail will be on display before our God. Let me remind you that we are saved purely by His GRACE, but what we have placed upon the foundation shall be scrutinized by our Lord. Is this a picture of condemnation? No! No! (Romans 8:1) Yet, there will be a time of examination in the presence of a loving merciful God. Therefore, be careful about the merciless stones we throw at Ravi. **LISTEN!** If our minds/hearts could be exposed like a Hollywood movie, we would all be terribly embarrassed. We should demonstrate great mercy and compassion for those who have stumbled/fallen; for one day all that we have placed on the foundation of Christ shall be scrutinized by the testing fire of God (1 Corinthians 3:12ff). Even what we perceive as good and accomplished for God’s glory may result in ashes..

I hurt for Ravi Zacharias, his family and ministry. Yet, I am also reminded that I need to **TAKE HEED** to my life, “keeping my eyes on the things above and not on the things of earth” (Colossians 3:1-3). Though Ephesians 2:8,9 declare the believer is saved by grace through faith in Christ and not of works, verse 10 gives the believer a heavenly mandate: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Believers tend to find inconsistencies in others to elevate “self.” Is that not a grave sin? When we are genuinely saved, unrepentant sins will act like a spiritual cataract that will cloud our vision. If sin goes unchecked, it will dampen and hinder our usefulness and possibly destroy our testimony. **KEY: A life that has truly discovered God’s liberating grace will live not in fear of being kicked out of God’s family but will daily express gratitude for God’s grace through a surrendered godly life.** We should be driven to live for HIS pleasure and for HIS glory. In other words, I simply want my life to bring joy to the One who has brought joy and peace to my life. Praise the Lord! Jesus has taken away condemnation and given us His commendation. I am going to heaven, not as a reward for my goodness—I am going to heaven because of His goodness toward me in that He became sin that I may have His righteousness (2Corinthians 5:21). This is the **EASTER STORY!**

TAKE HEED that you and I seek the Lord, and that we do not drift back into the world. Live in such away that your life does not detract from your calling, but point people to the Savior. Finally, be ready/equipped to help those who are caught in the grip of sin. Do not throw stones but a lifeline.

Rick

News and Needs! 2021 is proving to be an exciting and busy time for MLI. Thank you for your encouragement and support!



(Top Left) Milling Project. Milling machines are now being fabricated; Next 3 pics are funds/food/soap distribution for widows in Mafubira & Itukulu. In the upper middle is a pic of blind Widow (Gladys) accepting Jesus as her personal Savior. Next pic is Flavia

Feeding albinos; bottom pics are of the Deaf School. MLI needs additional funds to finish the work

CURRENT "SAMPLING" OF NEEDS:

- 🌿 **PTLI** Funds obtained by Flavia to assist albinos with food, soap and transportation.
- MLI Director **Philip Tenywa** needs help w/ culvert and 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 remain: Inside painting **\$400**; Outside plastering **\$700**;
- 🌿 **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** (See report above). Electrical power (9 poles) to be brought to school rather than solar—**\$2,225**; simple wiring in buildings **\$575**; plastering the walls inside **\$5,500** and outside **\$6,000**; Painting **(\$?)**; In the near future we need a water-well **\$6,500**; security poles/fencing and guard house **(\$?)**; school furnishings!—desk, chalk board, etc. **(\$?)**. **Any amount appreciated.** Additional land can be purchased for **\$2500** (40' x 910') used for garden that students can help maintain. Stone for muddy areas **(\$?)**; The school will be occupied (kids/teachers) regardless of completeness. **THE DEAF SCHOOL WILL NEED ADDITIONAL MONTHLY INCOME TO MANAGE THE NEW SCHOOL.**
- 🌿 MLI needs **\$450** signage for new office building.
- 🌿 **May food distribution—MLI will need additional funds to feed widows and albinos in May**
- 🌿 **Pastor Anthony Wambua & Hope of Kenya:** They need **\$500** for their primary school registration located in Eldoret, Kenya. They run/operate a primary school for children in their area.
- 🌿 **Pastor Emmanuel of Kagira:** Land for a future house—**\$3400**
- 🌿 **Dr. Moses** needs help for 20 school desk for his primary school— **\$170 & \$250** for miscellaneous
- 🌿 **Emergency medical fund:** Additional funds needed—A major increase in medical issues. **(\$?)**
- 🌿 Tires/servicing for MLI Van: **\$400** plus 4-shocks **\$275**. This is greatly needed
- 🌿 **THE GENERAL FUND.** THANK YOU FOR HELPING MLI THROUGH THE GENERAL FUND!

UGANDA NEWS

TRIPS TO UGANDA

Rick's Deployment —Return April 11, 2021
Rick's Deployment—May 27 -June 25, 2021
MLI Summer Trip Deployment directed by Pastor Todd—June 5-18, 2021. Please contact Pastor Todd, if you are interested

MLI's February 2022 Trip. Email: musumbatodd@gmail.com for information

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

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

- As of February 23, 2021
- 40,734 confirmed cases
 - 334 DEATHS!
 - Recovered—15,147



NOTICE: Again, April 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! The mail remains slow and will be extremely slow if mailed to our former address. Please use the following address for future mailings to Mission Link Int'l:

**MISSION LINK INTERNATIONAL
 PO BOX 338
 PEARISBURG, VA 24134**