

The Link

A Life Pleasing to God

Am I living the kind of life that pleases God? How can I please God??

Every mature Christian realizes that their life has been bought/redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. Change of ownership starts when one truly understands that sin separates them from a Holy God. Repentance (literally a turning; a change of mind) takes place in a person's mind & heart when they accept Christ's free gift of salvation. In other words, **SELF IS DETHRONED AND CHRIST IS ENTHRONED**. Paul describes the transformation like this: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by **FAITH** in the Son of God..." (**Gal. 2:20**). In other words, "To live is Christ and to die is gain" (**Phil. 1:21**). The desire and passion is to live a life PLEASING TO GOD. The BIG question that arises: "How can I please God?" The scriptures give a very simple but profound answer—By exercising **FAITH** in God who resides in a believer's life. The Bible has some very sobering words to say about **FAITH**. **Hebrews 11:6a** states: "...without **FAITH**, it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to please God..." Many examples in chapter 11 of Hebrews demonstrate "God-pleasing **FAITH**." Enoch's life so pleased God that he never saw death. Noah built a large boat due to the upcoming flood. I feel certain that he appeared like a fool. Abraham left everything at age 75 but was unsure where he was going. Abraham was also willing to plunge a dagger into the chest of Isaac, his only son, in obedience to the voice of God. When we probe the New Testament, we discover Jesus had moments when He literally was excited over the display of "working **FAITH**." In **Mark 2:1ff**, Jesus is teaching in a home in Capernaum surrounded by a crowd of people. Four friends were carrying a paralyzed man. As they approached the house, they could not enter due to the huge crowd. They climbed on top of the house and literally dismantled the roof lowering their friend in front of Jesus. **Verse 5** states, "When Jesus **SAW** their **FAITH**, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." The paralyzed man stood up healed. In **Matthew 8:5ff**, Jesus is approached by a soldier (centurion) who has a deep concern about his paralyzed servant. Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?" The centurions replied, "...just say the word, and my servant will be healed." Christ was amazed! "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great **FAITH**."

LISTEN! Life is all about pleasing God. The primary focus in life is not to become rich so one can retire early and "enjoy" the closing years playing golf, going on multiple vacations, and indulging one's favorite hobby(s). I am not saying that these things are necessarily bad; however, the focus must be Christ's agenda, not mine. This requires great **FAITH**. In other words, living a life with little or no **FAITH**, it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to please God. If you willfully choose to passionately seek the face of God, desiring to live a life pleasing to Him, He will present opportunities to stretch and grow your **FAITH**. At times, you will sincerely wonder and question: "HOW CAN I DO THIS?" This is when the Lord whispers to you, "All things are possible for one who believes" (**Matthew 9:23**). Never forget that the One who spoke the heavens into existence is the very One who lives in you. Nothing is impossible when engaging your **FAITH in GOD!**

FAITH JOURNEY OF MLI JUNE TEAM: Our June team stepped out of their comfort zone to travel to an African country—Uganda. The team faithfully believed that they were called—that the money would be available—the plane would not drop from the sky—possibility covid/malaria/typhoid attacking their bodies—could be a target for thieves who believe all white Americans are filthy rich—etc. I have heard that number one fear is death. Second to death, is public speaking. Sharing one's faith, speaking before a large crowd of people, and witnessing one-on-one are all intimidating to most volunteers. Each team member knew that there would be situations that would test their resilience and **FAITH**. **Examples of FAITH stretching:** Arriving at the Entebbe airport when customs demanded \$2000 for the items carried by the team! Customs wanted a bribe from "rich" Americans. Team Leader Pastor Todd (pictured lower left) stood firm and said no! During the trip, one team member was infected with covid, and two volunteers returned with the dreaded virus. Traveling on the second largest lake in the world was daunting, not knowing if a storm would test the stability/durability of the small wooden boat. When dropped off at the airport, their flight was canceled due to engine problems. The team was delayed a day returning to the USA.



The Epistle of James states, "**FAITH without works is dead**" (**2:26**). A living **FAITH** can be seen, just like Jesus declared when the four men were lowering a paralytic to be healed. The text states that Jesus **SAW** their **FAITH**. May I suggest to both young & old? Make your life's ambition to be pleasing to God. If you do, you will be amazed at where the Lord will take you, the things He will ask you to do some things beyond your ability and means. But when life is over, you will hear the praises of God—*Well done good and FAITHFUL servant...enter into the joy of the Lord* (**1 Cor. 4:5; Matt. 25:21,23**).

Rick



Mission Link International



Earth Bag Homes

MLI has started to construct their first EARTH-BAG HOME for a poor widow. We are over budget and need an additional \$900. If successful, more will be built.

www.missionlink.org

Editor of "The Link" is rws

Mission Link Int'l
Christian Study
Center in Kamuli
Graduated 22
Students
July 2, 2022



A Quick Look at Several Critical Needs

There is not much room for listing needs. I am grateful for our donor family trusting MLI's use of the **GENERAL FUND** to meet ongoing and pressing needs—\$ Any Amount. Through Christ, you are blessing Africans!.

* Short fall of **\$900 earth bag home**; * Assistance with **Pastor Emma's wedding**; * **Pr Stanley \$720** to finish seminary; * **Deaf School—\$ Any Amount** to finish floors and walls with concrete and to install ceilings. Also needed is wiring and bring electric power or solar—**\$17000** will go a long way to complete the school. Also, monthly budget needs some additional assistance (**Note**: This month we are installing a well for the school! at **\$5400** dollars. PTL!); * **MLI Christian Study Center** will be conducting classes in Northern Uganda. Class size is expected to be 70 Plus! Transport for teachers and food for students is greatly needed for the year. Each month we will need **\$200**; * **Medical Fund** is a critical need—\$ Any Amount; ***Street Kids** are a constant need. MLI has several in school, housing one on campus, monthly apartment rent for another (Joshua-\$15), plus various ongoing needs—\$ Any Amount; **Albino Ministry—\$ Any Amount**; **Widows** need to plant another growing season of maize (corn) on the maize project land—**\$225**. PTL!!



NOTICE: Again, **JULY** is a continuation of MLI's cell phone collection. Please ask your family, friends, Bible study group and church (Pastor) to donate old cell phones ("**especially**" old "**reset**" iPhones) to Mission Link. Also needed are laptops, tablets, keyboard. Thank you for helping!

Thirty (\$30) a month brings great happiness & needed provisions for our African widows in Uganda



Name: **Agnes Nambi** was born in 1932; she raised 2 children and 3 grandchildren who are staying with her. **Husband deceased:** Her husband became blind and died in 2006 of high blood pressure. **Testimony:** Agnes is extremely thankful to God for care and provisions through Mission Link. (She thanks MLI "100xs" for provisions). She said she was born again early in life. However, a grandchild takes her to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Agnes really wants to go to Itukulu Baptist Church. **Challenges:** High blood pressure & paralyzed legs. She lives in a borrowed home (living with someone) and needing to move out.



Pastor Anthony from Eldoret, Kenya with the June 2022 USA Team



Pastor Todd & Dana traveling on Lake Victoria with team member & Africans to visit several MLI church plants