

The Link

AWESOME ANNOUNCEMENT—MUST READ!

A special “one of a kind” donor has given the greatest and biggest gift !!

I am so very happy and grateful to make an announcement regarding an awesome gift that has been contributed. Many of you have sacrificially given to Mission Link International, but the announcement of this awe-inspiring gift trumps all gifts ever given. As I ponder what this person did, it brings both tears to my eyes as well as indescribable joy to my heart. In fact, I cannot get this donor off my mind and all that he has done for me personally. My excitement over this one gift is not intended to belittle the many offerings by our donors to this ministry. I am very very grateful for their love, prayers and benevolence. Yet this special donor has absolutely blown me away. This person literally gave up everything in order to bless me and others. In fact, without this donor Mission Link International would not exist. Though what I am sharing with you will be offensive to many people, I am confident that you, the donor/reader, will rejoice with me. I have permission to share the donor’s name and the amount given.

Many years ago, this special person left his Father’s side to rescue men, women and children from eternal destruction. He came as a perfect man to take upon Himself the sins of the world. The donor is known as the Savior...Messiah...Emmanuel (God with us). Jesus Christ is His name, and He entered history to take both our sins and punishment. The Lamb of God demonstrated his love on Calvary’s cross by giving His life so we could have everlasting life. The Good News...the gift is free to anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord. For the Bible states in Mark 8:36: **“For what does it profit a man, if he should gain the whole world but lose his own soul.”** Our good works, benevolent gifts and religious behavior could not restore our relationship with God. This is why we call the day Jesus died GOOD FRIDAY. When Jesus physically rose three days later, it gave believers a reason to celebrate His bodily resurrection. There is no greater gift and there is nothing in this world that gives me greater joy and peace than knowing my future is secure. We now have the awesome privilege and responsibility to offer this gift to our family, friends and all those we come in contact with day-by-day. Praise Jesus for his indescribable gift to me and to you and to the world. **“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son; that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”**

Rick

Many Widows are Hurting!

African widows have so little and struggle so so much

When in Africa, I am overwhelmed by the voluminous flow of Africans that have physical complications. Some are stricken with leprosy; others are deaf or blind; many have malaria, ulcers, hernias, heart disease, HIV, etc. When our February USA team visited the main hospital in Jinja, it was staggering to witness the number of Africans that have been injured due to transportation. There was one ward full of broken bodies where many had fallen off a boda (motorcycle transport). Most women sit sidesaddle on motorcycles consequently sustaining serious injuries when they fall off. A pothole, mechanical malfunction or colliding with another vehicle never ends well when riding the back of a motorcycle. Typically, passengers are left in the middle of the road bruised and broken as the motorcyclist flees the scene of the accident. (They run fearing the crowds or having to pay for the passenger’s hospital bills.)

Pictured right is Widow Apiyo Mary Clare age 47. Her husband died of an unknown disease. She was kicked out of her house due to failure to pay rent. She was involved in an bus accident (not on a motorcycle as reported a few weeks ago) where many died. Mary suffered a broken leg, but did not have the resources to receive proper medical attention. Our guesstimate to medically fix her leg is approximately \$650 which covers transportation, operation, meds and follow up appointments (though it could be more). Mary is in intense pain having great difficulty walking.

Mary is a poor widow living in the village of Mafubira. Over the years she has been a regular attendee to the MLI widow meetings, though not Born Again. Before the accident, she had been involved with men and indulging in alcohol. After the accident she gave her life to Lord.

Some of the doctors had suggested that they amputate her leg. However, there are doctors that are confident the leg can be saved. Mission Link wants to rescue this struggling widow. Your gift toward restoring her leg will be much appreciated. God bless you!



Rick

News Brief



Staff Teacher's Needs: **George Stanley** has been funded for ONE YEAR! PTL!! **Paul Akise** is needing a donor for his monthly salary of \$90. Our teachers are discipling church leaders in accordance with the GREAT COMMISSION. **Street Kids:** Any gift toward helping street kids is very much appreciated. They have ongoing needs. (i.e. Azama requires \$160 x 3 yearly fees...Azama needs a donor) **Homes to Complete:** **Pastor James Wasawa of Tongolo** has the roof, soffit and gable installed (pictured left)!! He now needs doors/shutters and cement on floor and then he, Veronica and 8 children can move in. We estimate \$700 will finish the work. **Esther** (MLI's Widow's Director) has been gifted land by MLI to build a house. Several have already deposited some funds for construction. **The training center and church on Buyuma Island** (Kadomola) has made 1000's of bricks. They now need **bags of cement** costing from **\$9.40 to \$9.80** per bag. Will you consider buying a bag of cement? This fund is growing slowly. **Medical Fund** needs to constantly be replenished. It is often being tapped. **The Deaf School** needing another classroom has been gifted—PTL! One day we hope to purchase land to help them build a permanent facility. **MLI Church Plant Kigera** is ready for a permanent structure. Any amount toward this need is appreciated. **Second Phase Eldoret Pastor's School.** One day this will be a training center for many in East Africa under the leadership of Pastor Anthony Ndambuki of Kenya.

Any size gift is appreciated. This is truly a GREAT COMMISSION PROJECT...making disciples.

Kenya Computer Lab has been delayed: MLI is the "LINK" for funding this large secondary school. Pastor Euticauls Wambua needs a computer lab for his students. MLI's Vice President, Wendell Drumheller, is heading up this mission. Due to his health, the lack of sufficient funds and the computer building needing more preparation (finishing) has delayed the project once again. Please... We are realizing that we need to construct tables, purchase chairs along with computer equipment. Euticauls needs help finishing the building and we will now need "at least" **\$3000** for the furniture & equipment. Your help is GREATLY appreciated.

CRITICAL: MLI USA OFFICE MUST REPLACE OUR TWO OLD FOLDING MACHINES - \$675



GENERAL FUND—Our lifeline: This fund keeps everything moving forward in the USA and in East Africa. Your continued contributions not only keeps the ministry operational, but helps sustain some of the projects. Thank you for believing in and trusting MLI with your mission dollars. We are grateful!



Top Far Left & Left: Pr. James & Pr. Stanley have had great success discipling pastors & church leaders in the distant village of Katogwe. The graduation was a wonderful day of celebration & gathering of family, friends and government officials.

Bottom Left: Former MLI student, Bishop Paul Wandela, discipled a group of gospel hungry students. We are proud of Paul's leadership in the large town of Mokono. I (Rick) had the privilege of addressing the graduating class.

Right: This was one of our best February trips. Three conferences with church leaders, women and kids of all ages was truly inspiring. The team also worked with MLI's widows, 50 street kids, a time of witnessing in the local hospital and visiting with the deaf ministry. Pictured is our last super in a local restaurant. Praise Him!



Cell Phones are greatly needed. Please ask family, friends and church to collect cell phones. Also, if you have **laptops, piano keyboards or Christian books**, we have a home for them. Thank you so very much for supporting Mission Link International



STREET KIDS: Working with street kids is our newest ministry that came knocking at our gate. We did not have the heart to abandon them. **Azam** wants to be a doctor. MLI has had him in school for almost 3 years. He needs a donor at **\$160 x 3 terms** each year. **Zach** is in school learning to read/write. **Moses** (pictured right) is in mechanics school & doing well. He has a gracious donor, yet he needs another pair of **overalls \$25** and **steel-toe boots size 11 or 12**. The donor purchased a pair, but the Chinese shoes are already falling apart. If you have a used pair, I (rick) can take them in May. **Joshua** (11) remains on the street sniffing paraffin. We feed & pray for him.



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

Minonsi Nambogwe is 78 years old having three (3) children to care for. Her husband died of sleeping sickness 1979. Since the death of her husband, God has kept her and she is happy with the ministry of MLI. She received a stove, pig and also basic needs like soap, medical, etc. Minonsi suffers from High blood pressure and she is too old to work in her garden yet she needs food. Taking care of grand-orphans is a challenge at times. She fellowships with Itukulu Baptist Church.