

The Link

Self Examination

When examining my heart, there are times when I am stunned, appalled and dismayed!

Many years ago, my wife Candy had a malignant cancer called melanoma. Fortunately, the doctors caught this deadly intruder in time. Since that dramatic experience, my wife frequently looks in the **mirror** to “self-examine” making sure that a dark patch does not reappear somewhere else on her body. Just like physical cancer that attacks the body, spiritual cancer can invade our hearts. The Epistle of James reveals that the Bible is our “spiritual mirror” whereby we can daily examine our hearts: **“For if anyone is a bearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a MIRROR; But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was” (James 1:23-25)**. This may be a key factor why the Bible collects dust in our homes—It convicts us! The Bible is a **MIRROR** revealing our true spiritual nature and condition. God’s Word is like a surgeon’s scalpel cutting through our superficial exterior to expose **“the thoughts and intensions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12b)**. Another revealer of our “heart condition” is the level of love and care given to hurting humanity especially those in the family of God.

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him” (1 John 3:16-19).

When reading **I John 3:16-19** (verses 16–18 I had memorized), I was stunned by **verse 19**—**“We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him.”** My “degree” of generosity is an indicator of how much I love God and others (the GREAT COMMANDMENT). How easy it is to share a word or even a prayer with suffering humanity, but fail to reach into our pockets (our wealth) and share our resources. Most of us give out of our “surplus,” but rarely do we give sacrificially—to where it hurts. The enemy that guards our wealth is greed & fear.

Yes, the inner voice speaks loud and clear that we must save for retirement and be a good steward of our resources. We watch over our money like a buzzard hovering over its decaying dinner. I must confess that there are times I fail miserably at helping those in need. When I studied **I John 3:16-19** (cited above) verse 19 literally arrested my soul.

In Africa I am surrounded by poverty unlike anything seen in the USA. Yes—we have poor in America that need help as I have heard countless times from believers; but most of our poor do not live in leaking, moldy, rat/snake invested mud huts filled with crying children sick with malaria having no money to purchase medicine. If you could join our team February 2-15, 2019 you would begin to understand deep destitute poverty. (I could do a comparison of life in Africa with those who are poor in the USA, but space does not permit it.) **I MUST ASK MYSELF A SOBERING QUESTION:** Have I closed my heart to the cry of those in need who constantly knock at our gate at MLI’s Jinja office? How I approach and deal with suffering humanity (especially the household of God) reveals “if I am of the truth” (**vs. 19**). **[KEY FACT: I am not saved by my good works, but saved by grace to do good works.... My works validate my faith.]** Though my personal possessions are small compared to many in the USA, I wonder--have I kept too much for myself...my pleasure, my security and closed the channel of blessings to others? I must also ask myself, have I given only the crumbs that fall from my table or have I given sacrificially? Self examination is not only revealing and painful, but necessary. It reveals who I really am. One day I will stand before Jesus and give an account of what I have placed upon the foundation of Jesus. **“The King will answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me” (Matthew 25:40b).**

Rick

FUTURE HOME OFFICE OF MISSION LINK INTERNATIONAL — TAKING SHAPE

For two months MLI prayerfully tried raising funds to purchase the new building. Yet, God enabled MLI to be able to purchase this new facility in Pearisburg, Virginia. Already, we have churches in the area interested in helping us. We are soon planning to gut much of the massive dialysis water system and electrical grid. This is more extensive than I imagined. However, there is a Christian plumber that is employed by Virginia Tech and his friends volunteering to take on this major task. I did not think we would start renovation this soon! Hence, we could use help in renting a dumpster for trash removal as well as supplies that our volunteers will need to replumb/rewire. Candy and I continue to see God’s hand regarding this acquisition. This is an exciting time for Mission Link International. I’m so very grateful for your assistance!



News Brief

Staff Teachers Needs: **Paul Akise**, though he has recently been given a gift towards his salary, is still needing a monthly donor for his salary of **\$90**. Julius Lusinda, our teacher in Tanzania, needs **\$90** a month as well; however, **any amount monthly** will really help. Our teachers are discipling Christian leaders in obedience to the GREAT COMMISSION. **This is FRONTLINE MINISTRY.**

Street Kids Fund: **Azam** requires **\$160 x 3** yearly fees...Azam really really really needs a donor—Azam wants to be a doctor one day. **Nathan:** He also needs **\$190** for an operation on his arm (right wrist). He was running from the police and fell and broke his wrist.

JoAnne, native of Buvuma Island: JoAnne is caring for her husband who has had a stroke. She needs **\$180** to purchase 50 chickens to start her egg business to support her husband and family. **Esther** (MLI's Widow's Director) has been gifted land by MLI to build a house. Funds continue to come in, yet much is needed to complete this project. We now have sufficient funds to raise the roof system!

The training center and church on Buvuma Island is in the village of Kadomola. Villagers have made thousands of bricks and have now built the walls of the church with the cement that was given by donors of MLI. **Bags of cement** cost **\$9.40—\$9.80** per bag. Will you consider buying a bag of cement to complete this project? Again, we have used the funds thus far to buy cement for the bricks. Now we need (a must) plaster for the wall and cement for the floor before the rains begin in August. **ONLY \$325 NEEDED TO COMPLETE THIS CHURCH PLANT PROJECT.**

Medical Fund needs to constantly be replenished. This is a critical and necessary fund that is used often. This is a vital need. **The Deaf School:** Mission Link is the MAIN source of funding. There are 38 children benefiting from this school. Pastor Herbert and staff are very grateful for MLI's assistance. We are very GRATEFUL for funds that have supported school operations.

Pastor Euticauls Wambua continues building his large school complex in Mwingi, Kenya.. **Euticauls is in the USA** and would love to speak in your church. Please contact our office if you are interested having our brother share his story/vision: 434-981-1995 or thelinkoffice@gmail.com.

Kenya Computer Lab Funding for 2019: MLI's Vice President, Wendell Drumheller, is heading up this mission in the summer of 2019. We will now need "at least" **\$3000** for the furniture & equipment. Your help is GREATLY appreciated.

Critical Need Pictured left is Pr. Wasawa's house. He still needs **\$585** to enclose the house, plaster walls and put cement on the floor. The floor of his home is cow dung. Also, Pastor and his large family have very little furnishings.

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



PRAISE GOD FOR FUNDS RAISED! **Many needs are being met!**

- **Nathan** had a gift given to take care of warts on the bottom of his feet. He still needs help with corrective surgery on his arm (**\$190**.)
- Funding for **Sheila**, our receptionist, and **Paul**, a MLI teacher, was given helping with monthly wages. Yet, both still need permanent monthly supporters.
- **Chickens:** Money given to purchase new chickens for the widows.
- **New Home:** Our Widow's Director's home is ready to go under roof! Funds continue to pour in for this special project. Esther is very grateful.
- **Pastor James (Head Teacher):** James directs the village schools training pastors and church leaders. The **\$430** needed to complete the purchase of land (7 Million Shillings) was given! The land will help James to support and feed his family.
- **Bricks Laid:** Kadomola church plant had enough cement to lay the bricks made by villagers! Now they need **\$325** to complete the project.

- **Deaf Ministry:** The deaf ministry is being funded by a very generous donor.
- **Medical Fund:** Some money has been given toward the medical fund, but much more needed.
- **Moses'** vocational training (mechanics) is being fully funded though he is struggling.
- Sizable Funds to assist **Anthony Ndambuki**
- **Widow Mary** (pictured right): Mary has had her operation correcting her broken ankle. She is doing great! More info forthcoming.
- **MLI Pearisburg:** We are grateful for the funds given toward the purchase of the new MLI building in Pearisburg.
- **THE ABOVE PROJECTS LISTED:** If your donation has not been cited, please know that we deeply appreciate your support. We are very grateful for ALL gifts given to the General Fund (GF).



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. Thank you!

Evangelistic/Medical Missions Feb. 2-15, 2019:
NOW IS THE TIME to seriously consider joining the Uganda team and to submit your **\$100 non-refundable deposit**. All skill levels and giftedness are needed as we minister in various African villages. Our hope is to plant another church. Please call/email Rick if you desire to sign up or if you have questions about the trip: 434-981-9101 or thelinkoffice@gmail.com. The first 15 to sign up will before September 1st will receive **\$100 scholarship**. This will be an exciting trip working with Africans.

Special Prayer: **Candy** has been asked by her employment to wait, if possible, for her knee replacement. It will be the first week in November. **Heather** is still waiting upon the Lord for PEACE regarding colon surgery. Pray that God will intervene and heal her body. **My Father**, Jack Sadler, has made a full recovery from his heart surgery (valve replacement and 2 bypasses).



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.

Edith Nakisige was born in 1971 and has six (6) children. Her husband died of "dysentery and vomiting" in 2009. Edith thanks her God who has kept and provided for her. She is also happy for the piggery project from MLI and other basics like soap, medical clinic, etc. Edith fellowships at Itukulu Baptist Church. Her pastor is Pastor Kadoko.