

The Link

Unhitched from the Old Testament!

Is the Old Testament important when sharing the Gospel with the lost?

A few months ago, Pastor Andy Stanley shared with his church of 30,000 members that effective evangelism requires that we “unhitch” from the Old Testament. Essentially, Andy was stating that the God of the Old Testament is too difficult for people to understand/grasp. Stories of Israel being ordered by God to kill men, women and children, or a man being swallowed by a large fish, or that the world was created in 6 days are ALL too difficult for the unconverted person to comprehend. Yet, Jesus made it clear in **Matthew Chapter 5:17,18**: “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” **KEY**: In **Luke’s Gospel chapter 24**, the resurrected Jesus demonstrates the importance and power of the sacred scriptures by sharing with the two men on the road to Emmaus stories/prophesies from the Old Testament. In fact, the biblical history lessons given by Christ so impacted their lives, they later said, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us” (**Luke 24:32**)? The men were so elated by their visitation of Christ, they immediately went back to the other disciples to share what they had experienced. Later in this chapter, the risen Savior appears to the disciples. Jesus showed them the nail scarred hands and other marks of His crucifixion proving he physically rose from the grave. **Verse 41** states that “they still could not believe it.” AMAZING! In **verse 44**, Jesus once again shared a history lesson covering the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Him. **KEY**: Why was Christ’s Old Testament presentation so essential?

FACT: There are over **300** specific prophecies of the Messiah’s first coming. Hence, to “unhitch” from the Old Testament is to weaken the very foundation upon which the New Testament is written. In **verse 45**, the two men on the Emmaus Road had their eyes opened. The combination of the Word and the Holy Spirit acted like a huge iron hammer (**Jeremiah 23:29**) smashing through their confused and unbelieving hearts. **FACT**: The scriptures have the EXPLOSIVE POWER to enable the spiritually blind to see! The Apostle Paul says it best: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (**Romans 1:16**) The writer of Hebrews emphasizes that the LIVING WORD can cut through the coldest toughest heart: “The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow...” (**Hebrews 4:12a**). Like a skilled surgeon, Jesus skillfully wielded the sword of the Spirit “which is the Word of God” (**Eph 6:17b**) demonstrating to His followers that He was the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

FACT: There is nothing more powerful than the WORD OF GOD. According to **John 1:1**, Jesus, who is the WORD, is God (“and the WORD (God/Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us” **vs 14**). In **Matthew 4** and **Luke 4**, Jesus fasted for 40 days followed by Satan’s onslaught of temptations. **FACT**: Satan not only knows the Bible better than any theologian, he is an expert at twisting/distorting it. When Satan tempted Jesus, he skillfully used the Scriptures. Jesus masterfully countered with the Scriptures. **FACT**: A Christian who does not constantly read, study, ingest, meditate upon the Word of God is tasty prey for the adversary. Please take time to contemplate **Ephesians 6:10ff**. God gives Christians the “full armor” to wear that they may stand against principalities and spiritual wickedness in high places. The offensive weapon that believers have at their disposal is the “...sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God” (**vs 17**), coupled with prayer! (**Vs 18**). Unfortunately, many believers do not take time to read/study/apply the Word of God. **FACT**: Many contemporary church goers do not even carry a physical Bible anymore. Bible apps are now downloaded on cell phones mixed with worldly interruptions (messaging, phone calls, games, evil vices, etc.) Though convenient, I believe it is another step away from neglecting the WORD. Across the ocean in East Africa, the devil is also working skillfully introducing deceptive substitutes for biblical truth.

The WEST has introduced prosperity gospel in Africa. A number of churches are focused on prosperity—money, healing the sick, exorcism, and even testimonials of people raised from the dead. Much is focused on what God can do for me. Poverty, sickness and oppression can breed this kind of hunger for a man centered distorted gospel. Jesus points this out clearly in **Luke 16:19ff** by sharing the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The story highlights the intrinsic POWER of the scriptures. The Rich man dies and is transported to hades (a hellish place) and Lazarus dies and rests in the bosom of Abraham—a heavenly place. In torment, the rich man looks up and begs Abraham to send Lazarus back to warn his five brothers about the reality of hell. “But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets (the scriptures); let them hear them.’ But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead’” (**Luke 16:29-31**).

Finally in **Luke 24:45**, Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. **FACT**: The WORD of God is food for our spirit, and it is literally the VOICE of God. **Stay “HITCHED UP” TO THE OLD TESTAMENT** and share the “whole” council of God! You can be absolutely sure that if the Old Testament gave a clear picture of Christ’s first coming, then special study should be made regarding prophecies of His second coming. Amen!

Rick

News and Needs! The MLI family has empowered MLI with their prayers, gifts and words of encouragement!



ZOOM CHURCH SERVICE IN UGANDA
Pastor Jackie (Left) and Pastor Todd (Right) ZOOMED in from the USA to mid-week services at Namalisa Evangel Church. They shared a Bible lesson translated by MLI's National Director Pastor Philip Tenywa. The turnout at the church was excellent and the spirit was exciting !!



Deaf School



This is the 2nd building under construction. It is both staff quarters (left) and the boy's dormitory (right). Above are five of the seven classrooms. The roofing materials for this building has been purchased and will be installed in a few days.



One of our faithful team members has been given a gift to help finalize the **Milling Project**. I believe the additional **\$8000** will bring us across the finish line. Though there are a few final things to finish regarding the building, the machinery is the most costly. Our Ugandan director is exploring a business in Kampala for another quote. Two powerful 3-phase milling machines are required.

- CURRENT "SAMPLING" OF NEEDS:**
- 🔔 Pastor Sam has vital need of a keyboard for his church. A good used one is—**\$275 +**
 - 🔔 MLI Director **Philip Tenywa** needs help (culvert-stone) w/ 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 are — Inside painting **\$400**; Outside plastering **\$700**; Floor tiles **\$840 (PTL — Tiles gifted!!)**.
 - 🔔 **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** is now underway (see report above). In the future we need a water-well **\$6,500**; security fencing and guard house; and school furnishings. **Any amount appreciated.**
 - 🔔 MLI needs **\$450** signage for new office building.
 - 🔔 **March food distribution—MLI has funds to feed widows, albinos, street kids and staff!**
 - 🔔 **Pastor Anthony Wambua:** has requested an iPad (new or old)
 - 🔔 **Pastor Geoffrey of Itukulu Baptist Church** has critical need of an electric tri-cycle. He is crippled in one leg and had an accident several years ago damaging his good leg. Pictured above is a tri-cycle that we purchased for a widow. The one Geoff needs has an electric motor powered by a battery (\$325 to \$375). Pastor Geoff has also started a school a few years ago that is growing.
 - 🔔 **Dr. Moses** still needs assistance for salaries, supplies, food, etc. for his school. **Any amount....**
 - 🔔 Tires/servicing for MLI Van: **\$400**. MLI also needs assistance w/ our motorcycle maintenance.
 - 🔔 **THE GENERAL FUND.** THANK YOU FOR HELPING MLI THROUGH THE GENERAL FUND!



UGANDA NEWS

TRIPS TO UGANDA

Rick's Deployment —March 4-April 11, 2021
Rick's Deployment—May 25 -June 27, 2021
MLI Summer Trip Deployment directed by Pastor Todd—June 5-18, 2021. The cost with scholarship and reduced ticket cost is \$2100 (includes \$870 ticketing). Please contact Pastor Todd, if you are interested. Email: musumbatodd@gmail.com

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

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

As of February 23, 2021

- 40,213 confirmed cases
- 333 DEATHS!
- Recovered—14,578



NOTICE: Again, **March** 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! If you have posted to our old address since December 24 to the present, we may have not gotten your mail yet. Please use the following address for future mailings to Mission Link Int'l:

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