

Happy New Year!
*May God's Favor &
 Blessing Be Upon
 Your Life*

The Link

New Year "Revolution" NOT "Resolution"

Just don't read the Bible through, but live it through!

Many will make a New Year "resolution" to read the Bible through in one year. It is a noble endeavor that should be undertaken by all believers. Powerfully, the scriptures not only introduce us to the Savior, it also gives every believer a Divine recipe on how to live the Christian life. For many Christians, it begins and stops with just reading the Bible (and/or hearing a sermon.) SEIZE the following words penned by the writer of Hebrews: "For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard." Many read the Bible through in a year, but their life remains unchanged. **The Word of God must be untied with FAITH.** It would be better to read and study the Bible in its entirety in 3-5 years so it can be ingested and digested. This means: Marking your Bible by writing down your thoughts in the margin; keeping a Bible dictionary, commentary and other resources close at hand; try memorizing a verse a month (jotting on a small card a verse that really grips your soul) and throughout the day reviewing your Bible reading. Many times we don't take time to mediate on the Word. The Psalmist declares that if we mediate upon the Word day and night, *we shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth His fruit in His season; and his leaf shall not wither (Psalm 1).* This heavenly formula makes the Word come alive and actualized when combined with faith. ("Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" Romans 10:17.) How does one combine faith with the reading/hearing of God's Word? You read the Word, believe the Word and then apply the Word to your life. Let me give you a sobering example.



As I reported in a previous newsletter, Pastor Emmanuel (Emma) had a serious life threatening motorcycle accident last October resulting in a near death experience. An Angel of the Lord told Emma to return to his body because his assignment on earth was not finished. When the pastor recovered from his injuries, I delivered a stern warning to NEVER operate his motorcycle without a helmet. I purchased for him another helmet repeating to him explicit instructions to never operate the motorcycle without a helmet. Exactly 8 weeks later Emmanuel had another accident on the same dusty road that again landed him in the hospital with a broken nose, repeated head trauma and a bruised conscience. He chose to disobey my clear instructions for a variety of reasons—It is not comfortable; it is too hot; and I'm only going for a short jaunt; etc. Pastor Emmanuel is a good and godly pastor who was trained in the Mission Link Christian Study Center six years ago. He pastor's a MLI church plant and is faithful in teaching and shepherding the people of Kagira MLI Church. He visits and cares for his people. Yet, he chose not to heed my instructions which landed him back in the hospital. Do we still love and appreciate Pastor Emma? Yes! Are there consequence to his actions? Yes—Injuries, medical cost to the ministry and he lost the privilege of using his motorcycle for a season. Like my instructions to Pastor Emma, God has given believers a Divine guide to pattern our lives after. When we read the Bible and "faithfully" follow its teachings, we will be endowed with spiritual strength and heavenly peace.

Let me remind the reader that God gives us clear biblical instructions on how to live. We choose whether we will follow or not. If we choose to disobey His Word, we can grieve and quench the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives (Eph. 4:30; 1 Thes. 5:19). We all have a tendency to hear the Word, but don't act upon it. When things go wrong, we wonder why...yet we did not follow His Word. For example:

- Many raise their family to know about God, but do not really live in a way that reflects the gospel...being lived out day-by-day, Then when Tommy strays, parents wonder why? Mom and Dad will reflect that recall, "We took Tommy to church, prayed at the dinner table and taught him right from wrong. Yet, could Tommy see the Gospel fleshed out (not perfection, but authenticity)?"
- There are those who abuse money. They do not have discipline to save and they extend themselves beyond what they can afford with cars, homes, clothes, restaurants, entertainment and stuff. Their credit cards show little discipline and their giving to God is sparse.
- Many have health issues, yet they spend much time in front of the TV and consume an over abundance of junk food and do little to care for their bodies. Some even indulge in smoking and drinking. Then when sickness comes, they cry out to God for healing.
- Some are anxious about everything! They worry about world events, afraid of catching some disease, fearful of stepping out of their comfort zone. This person has not fully comprehended the scriptures and that he/she can BANK (and have faith) in God's Word.

Joshua was given explicit instructions on how to have success in leading two million people into the Promise Land; he had to do three things as found in Joshua 1:8...1) You shall **meditate** upon the Word day and night; 2) You shall **mouth** (speak) the Word (what fills one's heart shall be on their lips); 3) You shall **move**/do His Word (act upon the Word—this is combining the Word with faith).

In 2018, let's do more than make resolutions that usually are forgotten in a few weeks. Let's start a revolution and go beyond just reading the Word and unite it with faith—live it out. We will discover life taking on new meaning and purpose. Joy and peace will return in abundance, and the Lord will be glorified in our bodies. LISTEN...The Lord is speaking...open your Bible each day so your soul can be nourished by combining the Word with faith/action. This New Year, JOIN THE REVOLUTION!

Rick

News Brief

I AM GRATEFUL TO ALL WHO GAVE A YEAR-END GIFT TO MISSION LINK'S GENERAL FUND. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!! Also, thank you for helping Pastor Jackie and Glynda Carver. Their trip is now covered!!

FEBRUARY TRIP NEEDS TO UGANDA: We currently need the following assistance for the various projects and team assignments:

#1—There will be three (3) conferences for pastors and church leaders. There will be morning tea/biscuit, lunch and afternoon tea. We will also need to help some with transportation for participants and special gifts as door prizes. One thousand dollars (\$1000) is the minimum needed for the 3 conferences.

#2—Any help given toward our Saturday morning gathering of the street kids will be much appreciated. If funds are available, we will have a meal, games, clothes and prizes. (**\$—Any amount**)

JUNE TRIP NEEDS TO KENYA: (Critical) Our major trip focus is to establish a quality computer lab at the new high school being built by Pastor Euticauls Wambua of Kenya. We need funds to purchase keyboards, monitors, computers and accessories. MLI has made available several stow containers to carry equipment in February that will later be transported to Kenya. We must have funds to purchase and package our stow bags by mid January.

OTHER NEEDS: (#1) Julius Lasinda, a graduate of the MLI Training Center, is MLI's teacher in Tanzania. We must raise his salary of **\$100** a month. Four (4) people giving **\$25** month can make this happen. **(#2) Pastor Paul** (pictured left) is our new teacher. We need to urgently raise his monthly salary of **\$100**. Again, four (4) people giving **\$25** a month or three (3) giving **\$33** dollars a month can make this happen. When you support Pastor Paul and/or Julius, you are supporting the great commission. **(#3) Zach** (pictured right), a street boy living in Jinja, has been helped by several friends by purchasing his paintings. We also would like to raise support for his monthly tutoring. MLI has funded his first term to help him read and write. We now have been given a more accurate figure for his schooling that includes supplies...**\$96** per



term (3 months). We are hoping to give Zach two years—six terms. **(#4) Pastor Wasawa** of Tongolo is building a simple two room house for his family of 8. He is being forced to move from his present home. Our goal is **\$1200**. Much funding remains before installing a roof, door and wooden shutters. Yet...it still doesn't appear that we will have enough to place concrete on the floor. The project is across the lake on a steep hill. He also would like to place some cement plaster on the walls. However, his family will have to move in before it is finished. **(#5)** MLI has purchased land for **Esther** (widow's director), and we would like to build her a simple house. **Any \$ amount** toward the building of her home is appreciated. **(#6)** The training center and church on Buvuma Island (Kadomola) has made 1000's of bricks (pictured right). They now need **cement** costing from **\$9.40 to \$9.80** per bag. Will you consider buying a bag of cement? **(#7)** Our **medical fund** needs to be replenished. Just recently Pastor Emmanuel was admitted to the hospital (see page one of this newsletter for more details). We are constantly needing this fund to help our staff and others in dire medical need. **(#8)** Please continue helping the **deaf school** which is meeting a critical need. One day we hope to purchase land to help them build a permanent facility. **(#9) Street kid's fund** constantly need our help. Daily these helpless kids are at our compound needing some type of assistance. **Any \$ amount** will be appreciated.



GENERAL FUND: This fund keeps everything moving forward in the USA and in East Africa. Your continued contribution not only keeps the ministry operations functioning, but helps fill in the project gaps. Thank you for believing in and trusting MLI with your mission dollars.

Used cell phones, cameras and laptops are needed. **IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY, ASK YOU BIBLE STUDY GROUP AND OR PLACE IN THE BULLETIN IN YOUR CHURCH OR EVEN HAVE YOUR PASTOR ANNOUNCE FROM THE PULPIT THAT WE NEED CELL PHONES, CAMERAS**



TWO TRIPS FOR 2018

Uganda Mission Trip - February 3-16, 2018 — Please keep MLI Uganda team in your prayers. We still need \$900 to help fund the three conferences planned during the trip. Any overage, will be used to host the Street Kids on Saturday morning February 10th. Also, we will need to purchase soap for our Saturday afternoon hospital visitation.

Kenya Mission Trip - (appx. dates) June 16-29, 2018 Our needs are GREAT and critical. We have received little funding to help set-up the computer lab in June for Rev. Euticauls Wambua's high school. We have the technician committed to be part of the team (VP of MLI Wendell Drumheller) who will direct this project. Our main objective is to establish a computer learning lab. **Funds designated for the purchase of computer equipment is paramount and the reason for this trip.** If you have any questions, please contact Rick - thelinkoffice@gmail.com or call Cell: 434-981-9101 or Office: 434-984-1995. Please remember both teams in your prayers. **If we can purchase some of the equipment before January 15, we can transport it with the team going to Uganda.**



Bring Happiness to an African Widow for only **\$30** a Month! This is 3rd month that Nagudi has been listed. **Will you prayerfully consider adopting this dear widow?** She desperately needs a loving family.

For **\$30** a month (just a dollar a day) you can make a difference in **Nagudi Saidha's** life. Your support for this 65 year old widow will help pay for school fees, medicine & assistance with a mentally challenged child. She is one of the few left in Mafubira village needing help. Adopting Nagudi as your widow will be an answer to her prayers. Will you help her?