

Have a
Merry Christmas
and a
Blessed New Year



Does My Life Show That I Love God?

Actions speak louder than words!

When Jesus Christ was facing death on the cross, Peter denied Him three times (3xs)! In response to Peter's denial, the resurrected Lord was not condemning nor condescending to him. In other words, He did not rake Peter over the coals for denying Him. The past was the past. Jesus was interested in the "now" and the "future." Yet, Jesus took advantage of the opportunity to help Peter grow and to look introspectively by asking him three questions: 1) "Do you love (agape) me?"; 2) "Do you love (agape) me?"; 3) "Do you love (phileo) me?" Christ's surgical procedure was to cut through the spiritual muck to the heart issue—LOVING GOD!

LOVE IS AN ACTION WORD. Each time Jesus asked Peter the question, He followed it with a command to action—tend/shepherd My people (Christ's bride—the church). Real biblical love for God will impact every facet of a believer's life. This is spelled out in the Great Commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with **ALL** your heart, and with **ALL** your soul, and with **ALL** your mind and with **ALL** your strength (Mark 12:30)." In fact, this Great Commandment is so important, that it is cited in each of the gospels. Loving God involves the total man—**ALL**! God is not satisfied with partial love or partial obedience or partial allegiance. He desires **ALL** of you and me. God demonstrated this **ALL** encompassing love for the world when He left the portals of heaven and entered into history 2000 years ago (John 3:16). Jesus (God), the greatest missionary ever, came to earth to rescue His creation.

I once heard a story about a little boy who constructed a toy sailboat out of balsa wood. Upon completion of his craft, he went to a small river behind his house to test his new creation. As he set it carefully into the water, the current caused the little boat to drift away from the shoreline. Then suddenly the wind caught the small sails and took it down stream. The loss of his creation saddened the little boy. One day while walking downtown with his mom, he past a pawn shop where his little boat was displayed in the store's window. He slipped from his mother's hand and ran into the store exclaiming to the shop owner that the boat in the window was his and that he would like it back. The shop owner took it from the display and said to the little boy, "that will be three dollars." The little boy went away sad, but determined to earn enough money to purchase his sailboat. After several weeks of raking leaves, and doing extra chores around the house, he earned enough to purchase back his little boat. He returned to the store going immediately to the window where the toy boat was displayed and carried it to the counter with his three dollars. The store owner, seeing the little boy clutching the boat with loving hands, received payment for the toy boat. As he turned to exit the store, the lad stated: "You are doubly mine! I created you and now I have bought you back."

This is a marvelous story of what Christ had to do to rescue lost humanity. God created the world but in the garden Satan deceived & captured the first man and woman—Adam & Eve. Because He loved us so very much, God devised a plan to buy us back. The cost? We cannot possibly know the total cost, but it took God's only Son to enter history in order to make the full payment. God's love for His creation moved Him to action. It all began in a stable where heaven and earth kissed in the form of a little baby boy named Jesus.

Love is an action word. When a person states "I love you," what does that really mean and how is love fleshed out in everyday life? I often say to my wife of forty-four year: "I love you." Yet, if I have eyes for another woman, or flirt with my neighbor's wife or allow my thoughts to wonder in lust, I must ask myself just how deep is my love for her? Many men have stood at the alter and declared love for their new bride; yet, love must have action—a variety of expressions. Loving one's wife means being faithful (eyes for only her) as well as holding the door for her (showing respect), spending time doing the things she loves (concern for her wants/desires) and also loving her with words of encouragement. This is LOVE IN ACTION, and I am only scratching the surface regarding the subject of marriage. If we say to our children, "I LOVE YOU," but never demonstrate that love, the words have very little meaning to their little ears. Yet, helping them with school work, pitching ball in the back yard, sharing bedtime stories, going shopping for a dog or cat, speaking words of encouragement, praying and sharing a daily devotional and even disciplining them when necessary all demonstrates love—in action. When we say to God, "I love You," if genuine, it will be evident in the way one lives and speaks. Again, the Great Commandment beckons us to love God with **ALL—the totality of our being**. The fodder for this all encompassing love comes as we deepen our understanding of the **cradle**, the **cross** and the **cost**. Hence, the greatest gift that we can give to Christ during this special season and new year is our **ALL**. The Apostle Paul penned our prayer for 2017 in **Ephesians 3:14-21**.

Rick

Merry
CHRISTMAS



The Directors of Mission Link International are very grateful for all the prayers and consistent support given for both projects and to the General Fund in 2016. God has accomplished much this year through all our faithful friends. Wishing you an awesome Christmas celebration and a very blessed New Year!

Top Left to Right: Wendell Drumheller, Vice Pres.; Jim Masloff, MD - Medical Director; Jeff Dalton, CPA - Treasurer; Jack Sadler

Bottom Left to Right: Candy Sadler, Glassell Williamson, Sec., Garry Rund; Charlie Kardos (Rick Sadler lower right corner)

MISSION LINK'S NEWS BRIEFING: TWO GRADUATIONS ARE PLANNED FOR THE MISSION LINK INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTERS IN JANUARY. Due to Rick's emergency return to the USA, the graduation ceremony for two village schools have been postponed until January. We will need "at least" **\$450** for the **Mubende** graduation and **\$225** for **Bwingi**. Though we have had a few contributions, much is still needed.

AFRICAN WIDOWS MINISTRY: MLI desires to distribute soap, paraffin/wicks (for light) to our widows. Please...**ANY AMOUNT** is appreciated!

UNDERWEAR & SANITARY PADS NEEDED (KEEP THEM COMING): We have several groups working on this project, but more is needed. Paige Lipscomb, a member of MLI's February medical team, is collecting women's **underwear** (Most—Medium & some Small/Large). Also, volunteers are needed to sew/make reusable sanitary napkins (Email Paige for instructions: plip08@gmail.com). All is needed by **Jan. 12, 2017**. PLEASE recruit helpers!

PAIGE LIPSCOMB TRIP FEES: (Needs **MET!**) Paige is a college student needing assistance for her trip to Uganda in February. She is heading up the above project teaching women's health. She is worthy of our support. Any gift of any size will be greatly appreciated.

MZEE JOHN: Our 83 year old security guard still needs help. Due to termite infestation in his old home, he has been forced to build a new house. We now hope to complete his house by the end of November. There is **\$400** still needed. John is worthy and very faithful and a hard working African.

WEDDING—FINAL CALL FOR ASSISTANCE: Philip (MLI's Director) & Jackie III have postponed their wedding date until **Dec. 10th, 2016 AGAIN** due to lack of support. They are grateful to those who have given thus far. Their budget needs are being considered by friends and church members, but poverty makes it very difficult for most Ugandans to contribute. Hence, **any gift** (great or small) will be appreciated. Let's help Phil and Jackie to tie the knot!

NEW TEACHER TO TRAIN PASTORS: We are wanting to expand MLI's pastor village schools and consequently must secure another teacher. Raymond Mayega, a former student of Mission Link Christian Study Center, is being considered for this position. The school will be in the evenings in a village called Kitigoma. We will need approximately **\$100** each month as well as some additional funds toward his travels.

PHASE II MLI SCHOOL IN ELDORET, KENYA (ANY SIZE GIFT IS APPRECIATED & WE CANNOT START UNTIL WE HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS): Starting budget is **\$7200+** to put up a metal frame & roofing (no walls). When completed, students from all over East Africa will come to learn the Bible under the leadership of Pastor Anthony Ndambuki. Praying this phase will be completed in 2017. Also, we need to begin constructing pastor's home.

DEAF SCHOOL: (On going needs) MLI has become the much needed "link" for the deaf school in the Kamuli District. Pastor Herbert and Director Elizabeth are both very grateful for the help given by Mission Link thus far. The ongoing monthly need for food is around **\$370**. Any funds left over from the feeding is applied to help pay other expenses that are listed. **Monthly needs:** Food **\$370**; dorm for kids **\$70**; salaries for 5 teachers in total is **\$250** (gross minimum). There are other expenses, but this is a start. Thank you!

PASTOR EUTICAUL WAMBUA OF KENYA (TEAM FORMING FOR JULY 2017): All interested parties please contact Rick: thelinkoffice@gmail.com. Total trip cost is determined by group size & the price of summer tickets ("group rates"). The trip will vary from **\$3250** upward. The cost includes ticket, visa, insurance & all in country expenses as well as funding some project cost (plus what we can raise). We will need at least 12 participants leaving from Dulles to secure group rates. All skills needed. For those who plan to travel outside our group, the cost will be approximately **\$1375** for in country expense.

MLI TEACHER NEEDS HELP: Pastor George Stanley needs assistance to be self supporting. George has started a fish farm. He needs help with feeding the Tilapia. We want to commit **\$45** a month for 10 months to help him be successful with this project. He is trying to be SELF SUPPORTING.

MARY - A BAKER: Most team members remember Mary for the cup cakes and cookies she baked for us to enjoy last January. She is trying to establish her own business. She now has a store (room) but needs a **STOVE costing \$975**. A MLI donor has committed to **\$550** leaving **\$425**. We are also going to collect items to bring to her in February: Bread, muffin & square tins; mixer; juice extractor; measuring cups; utensils; & more. Please drop items off at MLI.

GENERAL FUND (VERY IMPORTANT): GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND gives MLI flexibility to take care of operational expenses & needs/projects/crisis—and there are many! Without this fund, it would be very challenging to operate & assist the numerous needs we encounter "literally" day-by-day. When you give to projects or to a national, would you also consider giving (**specify**) a little EXTRA to our general fund. Thank you!

GENERAL ITEMS NEEDED for UGANDA TRIP—Needed by January 12th: Used Key Boards (Usually \$50 per unit used); Strong Table Saw (\$300); 2 Hand Saws (\$15 per); Chisels (\$17); Router Bits; 2 Small Amplifier; 2 Converters (\$75 per); Kitchen Maid Mixer, mixing bowls and other kitchen items (help an African named Mary to be self-supporting). Also, funds for transport & feeding 200 pastors for a pastor conference; women's underwear (**critical**); baseball caps; small testaments; pens; soccer balls; balls; children's bible school or Sunday school teaching materials. Also need old cell phones.

LOOK AROUND THE HOUSE, ASK YOUR FRIENDS AND AT CHURCH

Cell Phones, Digital Cameras,

Laptops, Christian Books

We are in need of your old cell phones & digital cameras. Please drop them by the MLI office OR mail them to: 1677 Avon St. Ext, C'ville, VA 22902. Christian books/Bibles also needed for next shipment to Africa. Thank you so much! KEEP THEM COMING!!!

Please Continue to Pray for Iris Jo Wall

Brain Stem Tumor: Rick and Candy's 4 year old granddaughter is one brave soul. The planned surgery has been postponed as the doctors at the UVA Hospital continue to consult and contemplate the next course of action. The tumor is too big for radiation and the next MRI on 12/28/16 will determine the next step (waiting or surgery). The tumor is next to the brainstem and surgery will be complicated. Pray that the tumor will shrink or vanish. We are thankful for the professional care Iris Jo is receiving from UVA Hospital in Charlottesville.

Uganda Mission Trip February 11-24, 2017 — We have a total of 24 volunteers signed up to travel to East Africa. We still have two (2) tickets reserved for someone reading this newsletter. Please contact Rick, if you are interested in joining MLI in Africa: Phone number is 434-984-1995 or thelinkoffice@gmail.com



Widow Elizabeth Byakika **Still** Needs a Sponsor for Monthly Support

For **\$30** a month (just a dollar a day) you can make a difference in the life of a widow. Your support will help pay for school fees, medicine, home-based businesses, food, and much more. **So very little makes a BIG difference.... This can be a Christmas gift for Jesus!**

Elizabeth Byakika: Elizabeth is 68 years old and has 4 children. Her husband died of a heart attack 11 years ago. "I thank God for protection, care and support through Mission Link International receiving soap, stove, water filter and medical care." Her challenges are her grandchildren.