

The Link

Is All Our Righteousness Dirty?

Does living righteously have any significance to God?

The Bible states in [Isaiah 64:6a](#), "...all our righteousness are as filthy/dirty rags..." Paul states in the Book of Romans, "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one" (KJV—[Romans 3:10](#)). Paul further clarifies righteousness as it relates to salvation in [Titus 3:4-6](#), "But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, **not** on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being **justified by His grace** we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (NASB). Again Paul clearly states in [Ephesians 2:8,9](#) that we are saved by His grace and **NOT** by works. LISTEN: If you think that your righteousness has something to do with your salvation, then you possess an unbiblical view of redemption. In other words, our righteousness as it relates to salvation is filthy (worthless); it does not make you right—acceptable—before a Holy God! GRACE ALONE! **Question:** If our righteousness has nothing to do with obtaining salvation, then what significance does righteousness have in God's eyes? In the Christian's life?

Salvation is clearly God's imputation/gift of Christ's righteousness/grace that "empowers" the believer to live righteously. Again, we are not saved by our good works or right living, but we are saved to do good works—to live right ([Ephesians 2:10](#)). In [Isaiah 64:6a](#) (cited above) it states that our righteousness is filthy. Yet, the verse before it, [Isaiah 64:5a](#), the writer announces that doing right or living right is joyous: "You meet him who rejoices in doing righteousness, who remembers you in your ways" (NASB). When a person accepts Christ as his/her personal Savior, he/she is uniquely placed in right standing with God based solely/squarely on the righteousness of Christ. In other words, when God the Father looks at you and me, He sees us through the righteous blood of His Son Jesus Christ. **UNDERSTAND:** My righteousness has no merit/significance regarding salvation. It is tainted/filthy! Yet, the righteousness of Christ placed upon my life gives me power to live in a way that brings glory and honor to God. Many places in the scriptures exhorts the believer to "live rightly." Why? Because there is a great danger of quenching and grieving the Holy Spirit, if we allow sin to infiltrate our lives ([Ephesians 4:30](#); [1 Thes. 5:19](#)). Drifting back into an unrighteous lifestyle results in the loss of our witness—loss of our saltiness/effectiveness—literally quenching the power of God who lives in our clay vessel. Yet, living "rightly" affirms our love for God: "If you love me, you will keep My commandments" (NASB [John 14:15](#)). "By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother" ([1 John 3:10](#)). "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" ([James 1:27](#)). "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" ([James 5:16b](#)). Dr. John MacArthur states: *Rebuking sin in others without an accompanying lifestyle of righteousness is the greatest hypocrisy.* Living a righteous life points to God who lives within a believer's heart. We are made right before God through the imputation of Christ's righteousness which gives us the power to live righteously before a lost and dying world.

Rick

God Gave MLI Over 6 Million—UNBELIEVABLE!

God gives us exactly what we need when we need it !!

God is amazing! "...for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him" ([Matthew 8:6b](#)). Yet, God will even do more than we ask or think. "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us" ([Ephesians 3:20](#)). I am often reminded that I am constantly before God and He knows everything about me. He has every hair numbered. That means when I brush my hair and lose a few more precious strands, God will automatically recalculate. Why the details? Because He cares about every facet of our lives!

Widow Apiyo Mary Clare (pictured left) reported to us the cost of her operation. Our office calculated the total cost as 2.2 million (plus). Returning from her visit, Mary said it would be 60 million shillings. WOW! The next day Thomas (our bookkeeper) said that she had the figure confused and that it would be 6 million for the operation. When we received the estimated cost directly from the hospital, it was 4.6 million for the procedure (operation). Added to this will be the cost of having an attendant to go with her (the African way) to make sure she is cared for during the 5-6 day stay in the hospital. Medicines, pre/post visits and transportation to/from the hospital with her attendant will bring the cost to over 6 million shillings. This will be almost 3x's the amount originally needed. Typically, when the cost fluctuates it causes a critical issue for MLI and for the donor(s). Going back to our donor base to revise the cost sometimes causes doubts and concerns. In some cases it brings into question integrity regarding both the recipient and/or the ministry. Yet, African culture consists of many cultural variants and obstacles! Many times I have to go back and revise the cost of projects. Yet in the case of Widow Mary, God knew how much we needed and has given us enough to cover all the expenses and then some. Any surplus will be placed in the much needed "medical fund" for future medical issues. Thank you so much for the outpouring of assistance for Widow Mary. She is VERY happy and extremely grateful to God! Pray for her operation....



Rick

News Brief

Staff Teacher's Needs: **Paul Akise** is still needing a donor for his monthly salary of **\$90**. Our teachers are discipling Christian leaders in accordance to the GREAT COMMISSION. This is FRONTLINE MINISTRY.

Street Kids: Any gift toward helping street kids is very much appreciated. They have ongoing needs. (i.e. **Azam** requires **\$160 x 3** yearly fees...Azam really needs a donor—Azam wants to be a doctor one day.

Mose needs STEEL TOE BOOTS while being train as a mechanic. Needed is approximately **\$65**.)

Homes to Complete: **Pastor James Wasawa of Tongolo** has the roof, soffit and gable installed (pictured right)! He now needs doors/shutters and cement for the floor to make it livable for Veronica and 8 children. Regardless, the family has to move in. We estimate **\$700** will finish the work leaving only plaster to apply to the interior walls in the future. **Esther** (MLI's Widow's Director) has been gifted land by MLI to build a house. Funds continue to come in for our wonderful sister in Christ. Thank you!



The training center and church on Buvuma 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...but we still have a ways to go.

Medical Fund needs to constantly be replenished. It is often being tapped.



The Deaf School has been gifted additional rooms for their growing school (pictured left). Pastor Herbert and staff are so very grateful for the significant monthly support and the new classroom. The children are so very happy. Please visit our www.missionlink.org and see several pictures of the school.

Pastor James Abalyalo, MLI's Head Teacher, is purchasing 1.5 acres to grow crops to feed his family and to provide needed income for school fees for his children. MLI has funded \$1250 with a remaining balance of **\$775**.

Graduations: MLI pastor's school in Kaliro, Uganda and in Tanzania will need some funding (please). Tanzania needs **\$225** and Kaliro **\$125** to supply refreshments, certificates and transport. Regarding 3rd graduation, Rick will be the guest speaker for a former student who started his own school.

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

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!

TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT! MLI has about six (6) years left in the present facility before we must vacate. MLI has a unique opportunity to move into a permanent building! The city assessment on this new facility being considered is **\$185,000** and the seller has agreed to a purchase price of **\$78,000 — \$107,000** difference!! There is 2400 square feet having two bathrooms. (Our present location is 1500 square feet with no bathrooms.) The new office will be within two (2) minutes of Rick and Candy's home in a prime and visible location in Pearisburg. In other words, when Candy retires in April of 2019, we will not have to travel three (3) hours to Ch'ville each week even though we will still maintain the office for up to two years until we refurbish interior of the new facility. Volunteer teams will be recruited to assist with this project. Our board is unanimous in moving forward, but we sincerely need everyone's help. Closing is June 22.



This is a huge step for MLI. We will need each of you to stand with us to make this a reality. This is a one time unique opportunity for MLI. Will you consider a one-time gift to help us with the purchase of a permanent location? This represents the HUB of all we do in East Africa. Thank you so very much for standing with us. **Rick**

MISSION LINK IS NEEDING ALL OUR FRIENDS TO HELP WITH A ONE-TIME GIFT

Cell Phones: MLI recently submitted 150 phones for recycling. Thank you!! We still need lots of phones...especially iPhones and phones requiring a SIM Card. Please ask your family, friends and church to collect cell phones. Also, if you have laptops, piano keyboards or Christian books, we have a home for them as well. This is a simple way to assist MLI. Thank you!



Mission Trip May 13 - June 19, 2018: I (Rick) will be in Uganda for 5 weeks participating in two (2) graduations and a conference on a small island in Lake Victoria called NUMBER ONE. There will be weekly opportunities to minister in churches as well as working with our staff and projects. Each day is filled with appointments and discipleship opportunities. Please pray for a productive time as well as witnessing opportunities. I am grateful for those who help make this trip possible through MLI's general fund. PTL!

Special Prayer: My wife (Candy) & daughter Heather are coordinating surgeries. Candy will have knee replacement after I return from Uganda & Heather will have intestinal surgery in Sept. (if permitted to wait). Pray for healing of Heather's intestines & liver. Also, pray for our VP (Wendell) who suffers from gout.



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.