

The Link

Where Are Your Eyes?

It is not what you are going through but what you are going to!

Back in 1999, one of our board members gave me a nugget of wisdom to contemplate in the midst of my struggles and trials. Let me explain: At times, I have a tendency to give too much attention to the "small voice" of doubt. I began looking at my circumstances wondering if God really understood what I was going through. In reading the Old Testament and especially the Psalms I can readily see how the Psalmist as well as the men of old had their moments of doubt/discouragement only to discover "once again" that God never forsakes those who belong to Him (Romans 8:38, 39; 2 Timothy 2:13; Psalm 91:4; 2 Thessalonians 3:3). Never forget that Christ walks with us through each and every trial and event of life. Yet, a wave of doubt is always poised to crash down upon us at any given moment. It is so easy to drown in the sea of discouragement and doubt. I am reminded of the story of the Apostle Peter who dared to step out of the boat and walk on the stormy sea toward Jesus. You know the story...it was not long before Peter began to descend into the violent dark churning waters. QUESTION: When did Peter begin to sink? It commenced when he took his eyes off of Jesus. The writer of Hebrews highlights the Savior's remedy to the tsunami of despair. Hebrews 12:2 states this about our Lord, "...**who for the joy set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

How was Jesus able to endure the cross which was the most horrendous death that anyone could ever face in the Roman empire? In fact, our Lord was not only going to be nailed to a cross, but He was willing to take our punishment and sins (2 Corinthians 5:21). The key for Christ, who was also fully human, had to do with the placement of the eyes of His heart! Jesus endured because He knew where He was going — BACK TO GLORY — "**who for the JOY set before Him.**" In a "worldly" sense, many employees do this every week. Let me explain: How many times have you heard someone at work declare, "I can't wait until the week-end!" Work many times is difficult, pressure filled and monotonous; people look for a reprieve on the weekends—working in the garden, going fishing, spending time with the kids, etc. They are able to sail through the week knowing that Saturday/Sunday is coming.

LISTEN: No one is void of stress, difficulties, temptations, challenges, mental/physical fatigue, financial pressures, etc. **Regardless of what you are going through, don't forget what you are going to!** Dear people of God, heaven awaits you and me, "if" we have trusted our lives to the Master. Allow me to remind you that in Heaven there will be:

NO storms of life **BUT** eternal peace

NO sorrow/sadness **BUT** unspeakable joy

NO sickness or disease or death **BUT** a new body that will never grow old or see death

NO segregation (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.) **BUT** perfect harmony and unity

NO Sin **BUT** pure holiness

NO SATAN **BUT** surrounded by the Lord's army of angels with the loving triune God sitting on Heaven's THRONE

The very focus of heaven will be the "Lamb that was slain." Rev. 21:23 declares, "And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb." What a place! When life is all said and done, you and I will be residing in the heavenly city with our Jesus. John 14:1-6 is a constant reminder of the place our Lord is preparing for those who are born of the water and Spirit. Don't forget, life on earth is only a blip in eternity. In many ways it is preparation (getting us ready) for what is to come. When I pastor a church in Charlottesville, Virginia our chairman of deacons, Bill Sillett, shared with me an interesting request when he is placed in his casket. He wanted a fork placed in his hand. Bill recalled a story that was written in Guidepost:

My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, "keep your fork." It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!

Whatever life throws at you, do not get bogged down with what you are going through, but keep your eyes on what you are going to. In other words, the best is yet to come!

Heaven Bound,

Rick

News Brief

GENERAL FUND: Your gift to the general fund is a vital source and blessing. We are grateful for the trust you extend to our office to place your gift where it is most needed. The key ministry that Mission Link accomplishes is the training of pastors and church leaders. It is the GREAT COMMISSION.

WE PRESENTLY HAVE THREE UGANDAN SCHOOLS TO TRAIN PASTORS AND LEADERS: MLI has

MLI schools in three villages: **Budondo** Class has 13 dedicated students who will graduate late October. They just finished the manual on personal spiritual life which has had a great impact on the men. Though salvation is free, there is a cost in following the Savior. **Biuwhezu** Village Class has 18-21 students. Many have been in bondage due to false teachers taking advantage of them by selling them anointing oil and proclaiming a false prosperity message. They are learning to trust the Bible. Our teachers travel many hours to reach this village. In the third class there are 15 students in **Bunyiiro** (Iganga District). They have just gone through manual one: *Study Methods and Rules of Interpretation*. The class is very strong and enjoying the powerful teachings from our instructors. Your contributions to the General Fund support the Great Commission—Making Disciples.



GRADUATION IN TANZANIA: Instructor and former student Julius Lusinda has just celebrated their fourth year of pastor/leadership classes in Tanzania. (Graduating class is pictured left.) Julius has an unquenchable desire to disciple his people. He graduated from the MLI pastor's school in Jinja six years ago. **PERRY JAYNE GIRLS CENTER, KENYA:** Pastor

Euticals Wambua, Andrea Ideker (the late Perry Jayne's daughter) and her two grandchildren are at the Perry Jayne Girls School (pictured right) for the dedication-celebration service on August 3rd. Government officials, the newspaper, and over 300 people came together to praise God for the new school. Andrea was excited to be present for the festivities. She stated: "Each building was dedicated and prayed over. The girls all in uniform preformed plays, dances and sang, all of which they had written themselves. We left there with so many new relationships and hearts full of love for those who teach, guide, discipline and care for those special girls." PTL!!



WIDOW PROJECTS: Our **Itukulu widows project** is ready to proceed with constructing a simple building on our recently purchased land. It will house a small facility for the milling machine and grain storage. **Your contribution of \$1150 (or part) will go along way to get us started.** **Esther's House** is being constructed and making progress (**Please continue to fund**). **"General Support for Widows: You may not wish to adopt a widow, but prayerfully consider "General Widow Support for Itukulu."** MLI will divide these funds among those who do not have a sponsor. All who attend MLI widow meetings will receive a small financial gift until they receive their sponsor.

OTHER MLI PROJECTS: (**Uway Church:** Sides need to be placed on the church with either metal or brick. A sheet of metal cost is about **\$9 each**. **Sam Choli**, a medical worker and friend of MLI, needs your help to fence in his compound so he can raise chickens for an income and to keep thieves from stealing. Sam needs **\$1650** to make this a reality. **Needed: 2-motherboards/CPU's; bike pump; MLI carpenter—Vincent needs table saw motor—Model` RM872; Office portable phone—4-phone set; 2-laptops.**

REMODELING USA MISSION CENTER: We are presently raising funds to remodel our new mission center in Pearisburg, Virginia. We continue to need both volunteers and monetary assistance. (*Note:* Additional info is below.) Giving your **skill(s)** to help finish the remodeling will help MLI move in 2020. **Also, thank you for the donations thus far!**

OTHER IMPORTANT NEEDS: The **Medical Fund is LOW** and is constantly being drained. **Any amount is appreciated.** Also, please keep the **Street Kids Fund** coming. MLI Church Plant—Kigera—really needs a permanent structure. Help this growing village church build a more permanent structure—**any amount appreciated.** **Monthly salaries for several staff members \$50 & two staff teachers \$90 & and two pastors at \$70** (Pastor Emma and Pastor Wasawa).

ASSORTED NEEDS: One staff **motorcycle** needs to be replaced as soon as possible. — **\$1500**—**OTHER NEEDS**— **Cement floor** for Kadomala Church **\$375**; **Shelia, MLI's receptionist**, goes to school on the weekends. Tuition per term is **\$125**. (There are 3-terms per year.) She is learning accounting. Many other needs not listed continue to knock at our door. Pastor James and the receptionist need to **update** their **OLD computers**. **THANK YOU** for strengthening MLI w/ your gift & encouragement!

NOTICE: for Sept
 is a continuation of MLI's cell phone collection. Please ask your friends, Bible study class, church, and family to donate their old cell phone. Thank you for helping!

Pearisburg Construction Team: Two-Thirds of the plumbing has been completed! However, we still need a plumber, an electrician, carpenters, ceiling & floor tile, painters & laborers to remodel the MLI office/warehouse in Pearisburg during the Summer of 2019. Funds greatly needed for building materials as well as help with feeding volunteers. Two churches are slated to help in August/September. A "team of one" having spare time is welcome to assist with various projects.

UGANDA: Pr. Todd Childers will be spending 2—weeks with Rick in Uganda leaving USA on September 24. Rick will return on October the 29th. A MLI pastor's school graduation is scheduled & Pr. Todd will host a leadership conference.

February and June Trips for 2020 to Uganda: It is time to sign up for our two African trips to Uganda —February 1—14 and June 13-26. Email Rick for additional information— thelinkoffice@gmail.com



Thirty dollars (\$30) a month brings great happiness to an African Widow! Will you prayerfully consider adopting this dear widow? THIS IS THE 3RD MONTH LISTING

Aidha Mutesi was born in 1962 and is 57 years old having six (6) children. Her husband died of an heart attack 9 years ago. Aidha use to be a drunkard, but **God saved her through Mission Link widow's fellowship.** She praises God for the support from MLI of some basic needs. Aidha is taking care of orphaned children which has not been easy. Her house is in need of renovation and children needing school fees which are two critical needs.