

The Link

A Theological War is Raging

There is much confusion in the body of Christ regarding scriptures



Returning from Africa, I spent one week packing a truck and moving my son-in-law, daughter and kids (David, Heather, Amelia and Adeline) from Miami to Quantico, Va. There was no time to recover from "jet lag." David Vicks is a Commander in the United States Coast Guard and will be attending the War College at the Marine Corp Base in Quantico. (This is the same duty station where I served back in 1972.) David will be learning more about the philosophy and strategy of war. The United States Armed Forces stand in readiness to come against any foe that would threaten the sovereignty and freedom of our beloved country. Sadly, our national leaders seem to be oblivious to the real threat—the internal threat. We have clearly lost our moral compass and "forgotten our moral boundaries." What is extremely disconcerting is the division that exist in both the country and in the church. Without question, Satan is the author of this confusion and division. However, this is not just an American phenomenon, but global. The prime target is the Bible—Divine Truth. It is the same satanic lie given by the serpent to Eve: "...you shall not surely die...ye shall be as gods..." To distort, dilute and doubt the Word of God is the devil's key tactic. This is spiritual warfare that God has equipped believers to withstand!

The Apostle Paul penned in Ephesians 6:10ff that believers must put on the "FULL armor of God." The offensive weapon is the "Sword of the Spirit" which is the Word of God. The WORD is under severe demonic attack. I had the opportunity to preach in a church that was vastly different from any I've encountered in East Africa. The leadership believed in the essentials of the faith (Deity/humanity of Christ, the virgin birth, the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, etc.); however, the pastor had "new revelation" which cannot be embraced with a person's five (5) senses. The leadership claimed to have a sixth (6th) sense which is necessary to truly understand the depth and true meaning of scriptures. In other words, historic biblical teachings that have been studied and proclaimed from numerous pulpits over the centuries are now being challenged which is very disturbing. Though biblical truth has been challenged throughout church history, the adversary's attack (satan's last stand) is upon us in full force. Don't forget that Satan tried to use/twist scriptures in chapter four in both Matthew and Luke to deceive Jesus. The Devil knows the Bible better than any Christian scholar. The African leaders and many congregants in the church where I preached have been given "new apostolic revelation." According to the pastor they are writing the 29th chapter of Acts—ongoing revelation. Some examples of their scriptural distortion are below:

1. They believe that physical death will never knock at their door, but that they will be taken up like Enoch or Elijah. The pastor submits that Paul died needlessly disregarding the prophetic warning by Agabus (Acts 21:10-12) not to go to Jerusalem. The co-pastor of this church stated: "If Paul did not believe in his own gospel, this is the generation that is going to walk in the fullness of God. I am living for righteousness unto God, and death has no place in the presence of God, I am in the Holy of Holies right now." [**However**, all the Apostles experienced physical death as well as millions of Christians. Though the physical body goes back to dust, the spirit lives on—life-to-life (John 11:25, 26.) "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" Psa 116:15.]
2. A believer who sins need not to pray for forgiveness though Jesus taught otherwise when teaching the disciples the Lord's prayer. [**However**, we are warned by Paul not to grieve the Holy Spirit nor quench the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19). Though the relationship with our Savior is secure (if truly born again), fellowship with God can be disrupted. Also, sin in a believer's life can ruin one's witness. Jesus states in the Matthew 5:13 that our salt can lose its saltiness. We must keep short accounts with God.]
3. God desires all people to have health and wealth; no one who exercises faith has to be sick if they take hold of verse 5 of Isaiah 53 which states: "We are healed by His stripes." The believer chooses health or sickness. [**However**, though miraculous healings still occur today, sickness can sometimes be due to sin (See: John 5:1-14; I Corinthians 11:30; James 5:14,15). Yet, sickness/disease (accidents) are a part of life. Key—we are to glorify God in whatever comes our way. Also, our bodies do get old and wear out!]
4. Salvation bestows deity on those who believe—they become a god. [**However**, this is the same lie that was told Adam/Eve in the garden! Also, the very first commandment states that the Lord God is ONE. Mormons and JW's also believe that they become a god. Jesus also stated this in John 10:34,35...which was a quote from Psalm 82:6. Space is not allowed to exegete this passage. Please check several commentaries regarding the interpretation of these verses.]
5. It is not necessary to preach about sin (adultery, greed, hatred, etc.). They believe in teaching the "good news" not the "bad news." They submit that the Holy Spirit will speak to one's heart about sin without verbal correction from another. [**However**, they forget that the Holy Spirit uses the believer, the church, and scriptures to speak to a person who is tangled in sin (See: Matthew 18:15ff; Gal. 6:1ff; 1 Cor. 5:1ff). Also, please read where the Lord addressed the seven churches in Revelation two (2) & three (3). The Lord highlighted the sinful failings of the Body of Christ and in many instances calling for the church to REPENT.

There is so much theological distortion and confusion in the Body of Christ both in Africa and around the world. Even the American church is divided over free will verses the sovereignty of God, spiritual gifts (continuationism verses cessationism), inerrancy of scriptures, mode of baptism, women pastors, divorces/remarriage, drinking, homosexuality, abortion and the list goes on-and-on. The leaders of the African church I described above states that "most believers are spiritually ignorant—blinded." They submit that I am saved but blinded to "truth" and missing out on the true blessings God. The core issue is where people are placing their eyes. This "new apostolic gospel" is all about "getting" from God rather than what I can "give" to God. Even Jesus stated that He did not come to be served but to serve and give His life. Sincerely, I will be the first to admit that I am ignorant and a babe in the faith. Yet, I can clearly see there is a war raging for the heart & souls of men and women. I do not have all the answers, but I do clearly comprehend the battle that is before every believer. The war is raging! Make sure you are prayed up and know the scriptures. And above all, don't go out into battle without putting on the FULL Armor. May God's peace and power rest upon you in these final days. **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 **Perry Jayne Girls School** will have its official dedication service in a few weeks. Many of you who read this newsletter have sacrificially given to this project. On behalf of Pastor Euticauls Wambua—thank you so very much!

WIDOW'S 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. Footers followed by brick walls will be the first phase. **Your contribution of \$1150 will go along way.** (Also: Adjoining plot for growing maize is now available for **\$725**). **Esther's House** is being constructed & continues to move forward (**donors please continue to fund**). **"General" Support for Widows:** You may not wish to adopt a widow, but you may desire to give to support widows in general. We have many ladies begging for support in the village of Itukulu. The need is overwhelming! If you desire to help, please mark your contribution **"General Widow Support for Itukulu."** MLI will divide the funds among those who do not have a sponsor. At least, all who attend our meetings will receive something. Thank you.

OTHER MLI PROJECTS: (Uway Church: Sides need to be placed on the church with either metal or brick. **Your contribution of any amount is appreciated.** **Dr. Sam Choli**, who has been a friend and medical work associate with MLI for many years. Sam has help MLI on many occasions with the MLI medical campaigns. He is in desperate need of fencing in his small plot for the purpose of raising chickens (for income purposes) and to keep thieves out. Sam needs **\$1650** to make this a reality.

REMODELING USA MISSION CENTER: We are presently raising funds to remodel our new mission center in Pearisburg, Virginia. We need both volunteers and monetary assistance. (Note: Additional info is below.) **Thank you for the donations thus far!**

OTHER IMPORTANT NEEDS: Please continue to support our **Street Kids & Medical Funds; MLI Office—Uganda:** MLI is replying for NGO status in Uganda for 5 years)— **\$735 is needed immediately;** MLI Church Plant—Kigera really needs a 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: Pictured Left is poor elderly street lady who sleeps under a light post each night. Our widows and elderly live in deep poverty and need someone to love them. **Any gift to the widows fund** is GREATLY appreciated. Pictured right is **Mr. James Talenga Needing Hernia Surgery:** A 56 years old peasant farmer is in need of an operation. The wife ran away from James leaving him to raise two daughters. James recently accepted the Lord. The youngest of two girls is in primary 3 and struggling with **school fees \$40** each term (also pictured right). Will you help James with a gift of **\$110**? One staff **motorcycle** needs to be replaced — **\$1500**—**OTHER NEEDS**— **Cement floor** for Kadomala Church **\$375; Julius**, a street person, is learning to read/write and needs tuition for next term at **\$95; Shelia**, MLI's receptionist, goes to school on the weekends. Tuition per term is **\$125.** She is learning accounting. **MLI's ground rent** (tax) is **\$600.**



Perry Jayne lived to give! Before he died, he gave most of his wealth to build a Christian school in Kenya because of his great love for God and for Africans kids.



I asked God, "Why are you taking me through troubled waters?" He replied, "Because your enemies can't swim."

NOTICE: June and July are Cell Phone collection months. Please ask your friends, Bible study class, church, and family to donate their old cell phone. Thank

Pearisburg Construction Team: (Update) 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. Our transition date has been moved to 2020.

February and June Trips for 2020 to Uganda: February 1–14 and June 13-26. Contact our office for additional information. More detailed information forthcoming.



Thirty dollars (\$30) a month brings great happiness to an African Widow! **Will you prayerfully consider adopting this dear widow?** She needs a loving family.

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.