

The Link

An Attitude Adjustment for 2022

Christians are called to develop a Christ-like attitude putting others first!

The scriptures are being fulfilled throughout the world as “end-time” events unfold. Paul writes to his young protege, Timothy, regarding the last days: **“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,...” 2 Timothy 3:1-4.**

There is a plethora of discouraging stories in the daily news that illustrate the words of Paul. For example, there are senseless killings and violences, increase drug activity; large throngs of people looting stores stealing millions of dollars of merchandize; the unprecedented division among Americans causing us to wonder if a civil war is on the horizon; looming wars throughout the world; and increasing hatred for Israel. ALL the above illustrates the plight of our nation and world. The 21st century has birthed many who are lovers of self, lovers of money, acting unholy, unloving, brutal, reckless, without self-control...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. There is no doubt in my mind that the world is moving away at a rapid pace from the “Great Commandment” to love God and neighbor. Though our nation was founded on biblical principles, we are becoming more self-centered than God-centered.

Forty years ago, I attended a men’s retreat in Windy Gap, North Carolina. Rev. Dick Woodward, a quadriplegic from Virginia Beach, was one of the keynote speakers. Pastor Woodward shared the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) that has been embedded in my mind for all these years:

30 “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

Pastor Woodward described three philosophies in the Good Samaritan story:

1) **The Thief’s Philosophy of Life:** What is mine is mine, and what is yours is mine whenever I can take it.

2) **The Religious Elite’s (Priest and Levite) Philosophy of Life:** What is mine is mine and what is yours is yours. You have your troubles, and I have mine...so please do not bother me. I imagine the religious elite had many excuses not to help the injured traveler. Listen to some of their thoughts—**“The foolish man was unwise to be on this road alone!”**; OR, **“The traveler is pretending to be injured. It is a trick/ ploy to rob me—it is too risky to help him!”**; OR, **“if the traveler is dead and I touch him, I will be unclean for seven days and will have to go through the Jewish purification rites.”** In other words, religion is more important than rescuing an injured or dying man.

3) **The Good Samaritan’s Philosophy of Life:** What is yours is yours and what is mine is yours anytime you have need for it.

It is interesting that Jesus picked a Samaritan as the hero in this story. Samaritans were considered “half-breeds”—Half Jew and half Assyrian. The Jews hated Samaritans because of intermarriage! Yet, the Samaritan traveler saw a need, and was moved to take the risk, time and expense to rescue the injured man.

The Apostle Paul lays the foundation in **Philippians 2:3-5** for the Christian life using Jesus as the prime example: “

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this ATTITUDE in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,...” John puts it this way in First John 3:16-18: **“By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or tongue but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;”**

The Son of God gave us a perfect example of possessing a proper attitude toward others. Jesus left the throne room (the heavenly city) to rescue a world drowning in sin. God could have left us to rot in darkness; yet, God’s love was on full display as Christ entered history through the virgin Mary. His entry point was a cold, dirty manger, followed by being raised by a carpenter in a simple town called Nazareth. At age 33, Jesus laid down his life to redeem His creation. He came offering sinful people a way to escape eternal damnation. Christ placed the interest of others above His interest.

As a believer, our attitude must improve! We must be concerned for the interest of other! As we enter a New Year, the family structure is falling apart; the church is progressively losing its footing in an ever-changing culture; the love of many is growing cold and is being replaced with a “me-centered” mentality. Even the exclusivity of the biblical path to heaven (salvation only through Christ) is being challenged and, in some cases, rejected. The scriptures are seen as outdated and old fashion. Those who hold to the teachings of Christ are being met head-on with abuse. If revival should ever break out in the American church, it will come as a result of persecution against God’s people. Freedoms will be restricted, the debt will continue to increase, and the dollar will fail, which will bring on a world currency. What has been characterized as wrong/bad will be seen as good and the good seen as bad. Satanic deception will increase, fear and confusion will grip the planet. Are we concerned about the world’s plight?

Many are in love with this world and will compromise their biblical conviction to survive. Vast numbers will be deceived to accept anything that appears to be the answer to the world’s problems. However, the heart of true believers will not be overcome with despair. **The ANCHOR will hold!** They will be confident that their sovereign Redeemer is in control. Hope and security in the Savior will be the strength of all those trusting fully in Christ. True believers will not abandon others but will be the shining light having both the attitude of Christ and the Samaritan.

As we enter the New Year, I hope and pray that we will have the attitude of Christ and put the interest of others above our own. The attitude of laying down our lives for one another needs to be our focus as we continue to look for Christ’s return. The victory is His as we stand united in faith, hope, and love.

New Directors of Mission Link International



Pastor Todd Childers has been married to Dana for 23 years. They have two sons (Matthew 30 and Andrew 21) and two grand children. They all reside in Bedford, Virginia. Currently, Todd is pastor of Emanuel Bible Church in Keysville, Virginia. He has been a pastor since 2000. Todd has been actively involved with MLI mission trips since 2012. John 20:21 states, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you." MLI is very grateful to have Pastor Todd serving on the Board of Directors of Mission Link International



Pastor Jackie Carver has been married to Glynda for 39 years. They have three grown kids (Allison 35, Clayton 31 and Joanna 28) and one grandson. Jackie is pastor of Community Fellowship Baptist in Rustburg, Virginia. He has been on more than 16 trips to Uganda/Kenya with Mission Link. Jackie's love is evangelism and has witnessed many accepting the Lord through his preaching of the gospel. His life verse is Proverbs 3:5-6. MLI is very grateful to have Pastor Jackie serving on the Board of Directors of Mission Link International.

TEAM TRIP POSTPONED DUE TO THE SPREAD OF THE NEW COVID VARIANT: The fast spreading Omicron Virus is spreading among both the vaccinated and non-vaccinated. This has necessitated the team to postpone their trip to June 3-17, 2022. If you would like to sign up for the June trip or if you have questions about the up coming trip to Uganda, please contact Pr. Todd Childers:

musumbatodd@gmail.com

Rick's Trip to Uganda will also be delayed. New dates will be decided on in the beginning of the new year.

NOTICE: Again, **January** is a continuation of MLI's cell phone collection. Please ask your family, friends, Bible study group and church (Pastor) to donate old cell phones ("**especially**" old iPhones) to Mission Link. Also needed are laptops, tablets, electronic & keyboard. Thank you for helping!



2022 IS HERE! MLI is Believe for a GREAT Year of Service

- **DEAF SCHOOL:** Though schools will open in January, MLI will continue to finish the deaf school. Although, we have made good progress in 2021, there are still some areas of construction that need to be completed. **ANY AMOUNT APPRECIATED.**
- **DOCTOR SAM:** \$1600 has been raised to assist SAM with critical improvements to his home. Thank you!



- **PASTOR PAUL AKISE'S NEW HOUSE:** Paul, one of MLI's teachers, needs assistance in fixing his home. **\$2200** is still needed to make his home livable and \$1200 for a latrine (outdoor bathroom).

○ **MLI'S HEADQUARTERS REMODELING:** We continue to remodel in January/February constructing office space to be rented by the public. This will make MLI headquarters self-supporting. Your gift of **ANY AMOUNT** will be much appreciated.

- **WIDOW'S HOUSE TO BE BUILT:** Rick and MLI's new board member, Pastor Jackie Carver, will begin the process of building a widow an earth-bag home. We hope to build the home for **\$3000** or less. Your contribution will assist MLI with the first "model" home that will foster other homes in Africa to be constructed by volunteers from America.



MLI Staff Christmas party: Our staff is the heartbeat of Mission Link Int'l

- **MEDICAL FUND:** Our medical fund remains weak and the demand is great. We are constantly being asked to help Africans with medical needs. **ANY AMOUNT** will be much appreciated.

○ **THE GENERAL FUND APPRECIATES ANY SIZE GIFT:** This fund is tapped to meet many internal and external needs. Thank you!!

- **ASSORTED NEEDS MET!** Albinos have been given supplies; new Bibles distributed; funds given to several schools in preparation of school opening; and assistance given to Widows in January.

- **KENYA—PASTOR EUTICAULS** is in the USA. He is very grateful for your prayers and generous gifts for his mission.



Thirty (\$30) a month brings great happiness & needed provisions for our African widows in Uganda!

Name: Catherine Nankwango was born in 1972 and 4 children that are living with her and 1 grandchild. Her husband died of a swollen stomach May 5, 2007.

Testimony: Catherine is thankful to God for salvation She is grateful for God using Mission Link for the various provisions. She fellowships at Deliverance Church in Itukulu Village

Challenges: Catherine has a house full of cracks; the floor is damp and holes where rats can enter. Due to her clan leasing off part of the land for sugar cane, she is left with a small plot not big enough for a garden. She lacks bedding and sleeps on a mat.

Celebrating 50 Years of Marriage



On January 14, 1972, I married my high school sweetheart—Candice C. Jones. Candy was 18 and I was 19 when we said "I do." Two weeks later, I departed for Paris Island, South Carolina for bootcamp in the United States Marine Corp. Though we married young, our marriage was God ordained. Having started 3 non-profit organizations, coupled with 10 years of schooling, plus over 25 years as a pastor and almost 24 years of mission endeavors required a special help mate. Candy and I are greatly blessed with three children—Matthew, Holly and Heather—and 11 grandchildren.

Candy loves gardening, sewing, daily Bible study and serving others. When I am traveling, she oversees the mission office and household responsibilities. Though I do not have any hobbies, over the years Candy and I have remodeled 3 houses. Having worked four plus years in my father's construction business in the mid-'70s, I learned how to wire and plumb a house plus honed my carpentry skills. Needless to say, Candy and I have been very blessed during our 50 years of marriage. We are very grateful to our Lord and Savior for ALL He has allow us to experience.