

The Link

Crossing The River

Because He lives ALL fear has gone!

Recently, several of our grandchildren shared with their dad: “Why does Pappy talk about dying and going to Heaven? Is he dying?” The unadulterated truth is—I AM DYING. The dying process started at birth, and now that I am 70 years old, the end is approaching. It goes without saying, life has a beginning and an end. Every person is moving toward death, but no one wants to talk about it. Some think it is morbid to make mention of death, and most want to avoid the subject altogether. Everyone wants to go to Heaven (**Crossing the River**), but no one wants to die. Yes, I want to live on earth as long as possible, but I know my eternal future will be with my Lord. So why do God-fearing Christians shy away from this topic—at times thinking it is morbid? Many fear death! They are frightened (and sometimes paralyzed) to do anything that might harm them or end their life. Yet, the Bible clearly states that God has appointed a time when death comes knocking at each person’s door.

Pastor Todd Childers, MLI’s new executive director, is taking volunteers to Uganda in February. Each volunteer has dealt with life threatening scenarios, moving in faith to visit a distant land. The participants have conquered various fears. For example: The fear of flying thousands of miles over land and sea at 36,000 feet above the earth; they are free of anxiety from possibly contracting malaria, typhoid, ebola, or a severe case of covid; the danger of being an American from the USA—a target for thieves; or anxiousness when asked to witness to a lost person or to speak before a large group of Africans. Fears are conquered knowing God is sovereignly in control. The Bible declares: “**And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are CALLED according to His purpose**” (**Romans 8:28**). Anyone who is genuinely Born Again, understands that God has “**freed those...held in slavery by their fear of death**” (**Heb. 2:15**). So many in this world are bound (in shackles) due to fear. However, the only ones who should fear death are the billions who have rejected the free gift of salvation.

There are several kinds of deaths spoken of in the Bible.

1. There is **spiritual death** introduced into the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve: The Lord God commanded the man not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or he would surely die (**Gen. 2:16,17**). They disobeyed God’s command! Consequently, though Adam and Eve were still physically alive, spiritual death came into the world through their sin. Interestingly, though spiritually dead, they could still communicate with the Lord.
2. There is also **physical death**, as pictured throughout the Bible. Most adults have attended a funeral service seeing firsthand the mortality/finality of human flesh. Death visits every living thing. **NEWS FLASH!** According to a recent article, Jeff Bezos—the founder of Amazon, is on a mission to conquer aging. He has established and invested billions in an anti-aging company believing his corporation will discover the “fountain of youth.” Being Mr. Bezos does not name Jesus Christ as his Lord & Savior, he should fear that he will experience both physical and eternal death one day. There is no escaping the aging process, and there is no way to avoid the eternal flames of Hell other than by accepting the redeeming work of the cross.
3. Finally, there is the **second death**: **Rev. 21:8** - “**But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death**” (See also **Rev. 2:11; 20:14**). The fear of God should reside in every heart regarding the one “who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell” (**Matt. 10:28**).

We read in the Bible that believers are to keep their eyes on the things above, where Christ is seated (Read **Col. 3:1-8**). Born-again people should be heavenly-minded, exalting that their names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life! We have victory over death and will experience Life-to-Life!! Jesus reminds Martha of this fact in **John 11:25, 26**: “**I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies; and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.**” Then he says to Martha, “**DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?**” God is also speaking to each person reading this article—Do you, as a believer in Christ, genuinely believe that you will have LIFE ETERNAL when you breathe your last breath? The Hymn “Because He Lives” says it all.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, ALL fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives.

The bottom line—The shackles are loosed when the fear of death is settled. Consequently, we are free to live life to the fullest, knowing Heaven awaits us when our life is completed on earth. Remember, because Christ holds the future, “life is worth the living just because He lives.” Jesus says it best: “**Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful**” (**John 14:27**). Therefore, go forth in 2023 and live life to the fullest without anxiety or fear, knowing God holds every authentic Christian securely in His hands (**John 10:27-30**).

Rick Sadler
Former President MLI



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I wanted to write a brief message sincerely Thanking each and every one of you. Without you, there would be no Mission Link. It's true. Yes, I know that the Lord is the One to receive all the credit and glory by working in and through each of us (Eph. 3:20). However, He makes us "New Creatures" (2 Cor. 5:17) to be obedient to the leading of His Holy Spirit (John 16:13). Thank you for standing with us as the Lord continues to guide me in steering Mission Link into 2023 with new ideas and methods for missions while magnifying Christ Jesus as Lord of all.

Todd Childers, Exec. Dir. MLI

"To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." - Rev. 1:6b



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

Name: **FLORENCE NAMUGERE** is 58 and has 3 grandchildren.

Husband deceased: Her husband died in 2018 from throat cancer.

Testimony: Thankful for God's salvation and her provisions through Mission Link.

Challenges: Rents land for farming and her house lacks windows and doors.



Left: Three widows appreciating all who gave to feed them during Christmas and stating they enjoyed the soup.
Right: Picture of Kamuli Deaf School student showing thanks for donors in helping them to gain an education.



Left: Pastor James Abalyawo and his current MLI Christian Study satellite school and students in Agago training to be pastors.
Right: A new brick latrine for the Agago school and church who is hosting our teacher and students. (Cost: \$45)



Left: A concerned mother who appealed to Pastor Todd while he was there in October 2022 for help with her young 8yr old son who has a severe medical condition needing an MRI scan on his right hip but they lack funds.
Right: Mother praising the Lord for a donor through MLI gave to help this mother in her time of need. (Cost: \$185)

- UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS -

UGANDA BOUND - FEB. 3-17, 2023

Evangelism, Youth, & Small Medical trip. With a small team of 8, the Lord has BIG plans as He added Vision & Medical to our program with last minute funding. PTL!

KENYA Trip: JUNE 2-16, 2023

Goal is to provide Medical Clinics, feeding widows & children while sharing the gospel of Christ. Sign-Up by Feb. 1, 2023 with \$100 non-refundable deposit. Costs is \$3,500/person. For more information visit:

www.missionlink.org/missiontrips

A Sampling of "Praises" for Needs Met and Ongoing Projects

- **MLI CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTERS:** As our #1 objective in East Africa, we are obeying our Lord's command in making disciples that make disciples. THANKS to a donor for helping us with **books** and **meals** for our students during their weeks of study. **PRAISE THE LORD.**
- **WIDOWS SUPPORT FUND:** MLI is constantly caring for a growing number of widows in Uganda. We would like to say **THANKS** to many of you that have given to help us bless all widows in need. Your generosity is appreciated.
- **WIDOW EARTH-BAG HOME PROJECT:** This unique project is for providing a home to a widow in need that owns land or is provided. The cost is set at **\$4,500** per build. **A NEW Home will begin soon, PTL!**
- **MEDICAL FUND:** **PRAISE THE LORD** for replenishing this important fund, as we are contacted daily from multiple sources to help many during their time of suffering and illness.
- **MISSION TRIP ASSISTANCE:** By the time you receive this newsletter, our team may still be en route or already on the ground in Uganda. Gifts to this fund makes life-changing trips like this possible. For many years, MLI offers scholarships to help people "GO" to the mission field and witness first-hand GOD at work in Africa, thereby increasing our faith over fear (1 Jn. 5:4).
- **STREET KID FUND:** Many in the USA cannot imagine children (7-8 yrs old) living on the street. However, in many third world countries this is normal. MLI has helped opened its heart and put several Street kids through school. This fund also allows us to do many other things to show GOD's Love to those who are considered the "least of these." **PRAISE THE LORD for all donations.**
- **DEAF SCHOOL:** Walls still need some plastering, ceilings installed, and we are still working on bringing power and a decent road to the school.
- **MISSION LINK STAFF:** (Updated) Some of our staff in Uganda could use support from a sponsor (church or donor) monthly or annually. Here are a few suggestions: **\$40/mo.** for: Emma Isabirye (Property Mgr.), Esther Nalugonda (Widows Director), Seera Mirembe (Cook), Sheila Awebwa (Office Receptionist). These funds will be used for meeting needs, ongoing education expenses, and normal duties as part of our mission team. These four have been part of our MLI Ugandan family for many years and faithful to the Lord.
- **GENERAL FUND APPRECIATES GIFTS of ANY SIZE,** which helps us meet the needs above and so many more.

"Your faithfulness endures to all generations" - Psalm 119:90a