

The Link

MISSION LINK'S NEWSLETTER



Dirty Feet

Sins can weigh a Christian down

During the final hours before the crucifixion, Jesus took a towel and basin and washed the feet of the disciples. When Christ positioned himself to wash Peter's feet, the disciple bemoaned: "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean..." (John 13:9,10). The blood of Christ cleanses us from ALL sin. Hence, we are completely clean, free from the penalty of sin—spiritual death. Yet, there are times when a believer sins, resulting in "dirty feet." Does this mean that a person can lose their salvation? Absolutely NOT! However, there are some things that can be lost, like peace, joy, an effective witness, intimacy with God, etc. Sins can even have detrimental consequences, resulting in the tarnishing and loss of one's

testimony! A prime example is King David's sin with Bathsheba and the orchestration of her husband's death. Please read **Psalm 51**, highlighting the effects of unconfessed sin even though David was a man after God's heart.

Sin in a believer's life slows/weights down the Christian. The writer of Hebrews penned: "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance (hindrance) and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of faith..." (12:1-2a). Sins can entangle and weigh down God's people, grieving the Holy Spirit.

Back in the 70s, I drove a small VW pickup truck through a deep mud hole on an old country road. I made it through the slurpee mess without consequences—so I thought! When driving on the highway, the truck began to shake uncontrollably. The mechanic discovered the issue. Caked in the wheel hubs was mud that disturbed the wheel-balance. Sin is the mud/dirt that disrupts our spiritual walk/balance. It makes us dirty, hindering our usability and spiritual progress. In the "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus warns his disciples that their salt (an effective witness) can lose its savor to the point that they are "good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men" (Matt. 5:13b).

Throughout our Christian life, we must continually repent of sins/dirt, which will weigh down/slow our spiritual momentum, even though our salvation is secure. Does this give a believer a license to sin? No! (Read **Romans 6:1ff**) However, if our ambition is to glorify and please God, believers will shun sin. Peter was saved by grace and not by his ability to keep the law. However, the Bible reveals that there were times Peter was soiled by sin (dirty feet). Paul gives believers sobering advice regarding sin: "...I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:27). Paul constantly warns Christians throughout his epistles about the dangers of sin. The writer of Hebrews puts it plain and straight: "You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin (12:4)." Therefore, pastors must continually remind believers of the dangers and consequences of allowing sin into one's life.

Daily, we must "fix our eyes on Jesus" and pray: "Lead me not into temptation but deliver me from the evil one." Yet, there are times we need our "feet washed," repenting of sins we commit—those sins that overtake Christians from time to time—that hinder a person from running an excellent race. May those who read the above words sincerely desire to live a life that brings glory & honor to God.

Rick Sadler

Prayer Requested for the following ministry areas:

- ◆ Countdown to Mission Trip Kenya June 1st - 14th. **We praise the Lord** for donations exceeding \$15,000 to assist with our medical efforts to treat the sick and distribute food in areas of extreme drought.
- ◆ Pray for Todd as he leaves May 31 to welcome the team on June 2. He'll return June 19 after spending quality time with our beloved Pastor Anthony & family in Eldoret.
- ◆ Pray the Lord calls people to Join us On the Mission Fields of Uganda in Feb. 2024

Please Rejoice with us and continue in Prayer for Jesus to be magnified by our efforts.

* Please know that each of your prayer requests sent in are received and prayed over by us.

Let us continue lifting each other up before the throne of grace. (1 Timothy 2:1)

Mission LINK International

Scan image below with cell phone to visit our website:



Scan image

www.missionlink.org


Come Join Us "On Mission"
- UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS -

 **KENYA:** June 1-14, 2023
 5 Days of Medical Clinics, feeding the hungry while sharing the gospel of Christ. Hallelujah, what a Savior we have in Jesus!

 **UGANDA:** Feb. 2-16, 2024 (Fri.-Fri.)
 Come join us in the fields ready for harvest. **Focus:** Medical & Discipleship training.

For more info: Call Todd (540) 871-0517 or Email: todd@missionlink.org
 Medical & Ministry Volunteers Needed. 😊

Just Thirty (\$30) a month brings hope & provisions for a widow in need.



Introducing: **SHIDAH NANGOBI**
 60 yrs old with 3 grandchildren to look after.
Husband: Died from malaria.
Testimony: Thanks God for Life and hopes to be adopted through Mission Link.
Challenges: Pain in legs, sick grandchildren, has to walk far for water.

More widows are available on our website.

Picture Story Time

*Here's where we are able to display **God's Hand** at work through **your support**.*

Right: Funds presented in May to Jinja Hill Baptist Primary School to help with feeding over 500 children.




Left: Widows of Itukulu & Mafubira received their quarterly support, plus soap for washing. They are so appreciative.




Right: Meet Hamfrey, a blind man we met in February, who can sew 9-10 sweaters per day using that manual machine pictured. Donor support helped purchase the sewing machine (far right) to help them complete the work! PTL!





Left: Pray for our Mission Link teachers, as they must often pass through the fire to reach their destination to educate new pastors.





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. As one school comes to a close our teaching staff is out mobilizing for establishing the next location to train students in the Word of God. Donations to MLI helps us to continue this call of making disciples.
- **WIDOWS SUPPORT FUND:** MLI is constantly caring for a growing number of widows in Uganda. We would like ask for you to consider joining our James 1:27 projects in caring for widows in their time of need. Your generosity is appreciated and needed. Visit our Widows Ministry page on our website to see the complete list of widows available.
- **WIDOW HOME PROJECT:** This unique project is for providing a home to a widow in need that owns land or is provided. The cost per build is **\$4,500**. **PTL for the completion of our second Widow's Home.** (See website for pics)
- **MEDICAL FUND:** During the month of May your support helped several Ugandans receive urgent surgeries, along with medical expenses for staff & family for treatment of malaria or other sickness. Please consider donating to help us care for the sick.
- **MISSION TRIP ASSISTANCE:** By the time you read this our team for Kenya will be preparing to leave, or already in the air. Our Next Team Mission Trip is to Uganda and scheduled for Feb. 2-16, 2024. Todd will be returning to Uganda Sept. 21 - Oct 8, 2023. Please consider helping with our mission efforts to give hope in part of the world that has great poverty. Funds given to this cause help us provide trip scholarships for many that want to Go. (See website for details)
- **DEAF SCHOOL:** Ongoing administrative expenses to pay teachers, feed deaf students, and many other needs of managing a school in Uganda. To witness the students (deaf and others with disabilities) learning actual skills to help them in life is Amazing. **PRAISE the LORD!** One of the two needed sewing machines was purchased through donations. Only **\$125** is needed to help enable the students to make and sell crafts for income for the school. (See pics above)
- **SPECIAL NEED:** The church in Budondo pastored by Paul Akise (one of our MLI Teachers), needs to move its location due to renting space from a school. Some of the materials for the structure can be reused. However, much of the timber and iron sheets will need to be purchased to put up the place of worship not far from their current location. Pastor Paul has submitted a budget of \$1,000. A Donor has committed to pay **HALF** if we can raise the other \$500 in May. This is a chance to practically **DOUBLE** your giving. Your \$100 becomes \$200! **AMAZING Giving Opportunity!**
- **GENERAL FUND APPRECIATES GIFTS** of **ANY SIZE**, which helps us meet the many needs of ministry work in Africa.