



MISSION LINK'S NEWSLETTER



Our Blessed Life

Blessings do not always come as wonderful gifts, monetary totals, or sweet surprises. Often, we are blessed when a rock hits our windshield but doesn't leave a permanent mark or, worse, a large crack. James tells us to count it all joy when we fall into various trials. His message is for us to keep our focus on Jesus, and He will lead us through our life's trials. **"My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed, we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord – that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful."** (James 5:10-11) Job,

Jeremiah, and many of the Prophets suffered greatly when they delivered the word of God to a rejecting people. But God continued to speak to them and through them. The blessing was not in people's rejection but in God's close fellowship despite the circumstances in which they lived.

Jesus feeds us some excellent truth in **John 6**. In verse **35**, he said, **"I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."** I don't think He was talking about physical hunger and thirst from lacking food and water. He is telling us that if we remain with Him, even if there is a lack of food and water, we can find comfort in Him still. That is a true blessing. Fasting is an example here, as when we deny ourselves physical food, we find spiritual food that is even better.

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." (John 6:37) Much can be debated in this verse, but my focus is this: when one comes to Jesus and experiences the power of salvation, He will never reject them. As the flesh rises up in our hearts and distracts us from the righteousness of God, He does not cast us away. On the day of my baptism, this became real to me as I realized that baptism didn't protect me from the temptations around me. But Jesus' forgiveness overcame all sin, past, current, and future. How blessed we are to have such a Savior.

Blessings come often, even ones we don't recognize. We know that there is a day appointed for each of us when life will be no more. Many cling to the hope of the rapture, seeking to avoid the specter of death, but the Lord's tarrying brings a great salvation for His kingdom. By death or rapture, we will all stand before the Lord. Many will stand there without hope, full of guilt from unforgiven sin. For the saved, we will stand before Him and then fully realize the depth of His forgiveness. How blessed we are to have heard the gospel and moved by the Holy Spirit to then receive salvation. Now, what do we do with our blessings?

Take inventory. Make a list in your mind of how blessed you are. Maybe put those down on paper. Write a thank you note to God, using this list of blessings you have received, and even some things that didn't happen that could have that you realize are blessings. Take these blessings into your day, and give back gratitude to God through the lives of people around you. As you share, add new blessings to your list. I warn you: you are going to have a busy day. It will also be blessed.

Christmas is the celebration of God's greatest blessing to the world, the coming of Jesus to the earth. We need to think of how great a blessing this is. **"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."** (John 6:38) The Father's will included rejection, suffering, and death. But its greater purpose overcame death, hell, and the grave for those who believe. I hope you can count this as your blessing from God. Faith moves us from death to life, which is a great blessing. So glad I'm counting on this. I hope you are as well.


Jackie Carver

Join Us "On Mission"
- UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS -

UGANDA: Feb. 2-15, 2024
 Our team of 16 has answered the call and willing to "GO" and share Christ. Focus: Medical & Discipleship training Please Pray for a Great Harvest.

KENYA: June 6-18, 2024
 Focus will be on Medical with a priority on presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation to all. **Sign-Up** today on website. For more info: Call Todd (540) 871-0517 or Email: todd@missionlink.org

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



Introducing: **AIDAH MPAYENDA**
 63 yrs old with four (4) grandchildren.

Testimony: Thanks God for providing in all circumstances, and mostly for eternal life.
Challenges: Lacks food, too weak to work a garden.
More widows are available on our website.
www.missionlink.org/widows

IT WAS NEVER TO BECOME A BURDEN

Mission Link International and the Board of Directors would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year ahead in 2024. Let us reflect on the real meaning of why Christ came from heaven to earth and allow the Prince of Peace to fill us with His love for others over ourselves.

Todd Childers, CEO







Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

John 14:27 (NKJV) "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

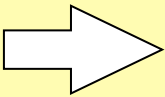

Year End "Special Need": \$12,000

Our primary vehicle, 1997 Toyota HiAce (LEFT), has been faithful over the years. However, too often we see images like below on the left. During our last Uganda trip in October, we were forced to rent a vehicle to reach one of our MLI school graduations. We are "looking" at replacing it with something similar to the newer version (2010), pictured (RIGHT). *We are praying* for a Church, or donor, to help us secure dependable transportation ahead of our scheduled February Mission Trip. Pray with us.

ATTENTION: CHURCHES, PASTORS, YOUTH GROUPS

EXPERIENCE MISSION work in Africa, and benefit from Mission Link's decades of experience. *Contact our office* to begin planning a **SPECIAL TRIP** for your church or group. One leader of a group of 10 or more will have their trip covered by Mission Link!

Needs and Ongoing Projects

MLI CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTERS: Our **#1 objective** is to make disciples that make disciples. Donations to MLI helps us to continue this work.

MEDICAL FUND: Gifts to this fund helps us care for the sick that lack the means to seek medical attention.

MISSION TRIP ASSISTANCE: Our Missions Fund could use a boost to help some on our upcoming Uganda Team that are willing to "Go", but **lack funds**. Please consider giving towards our Uganda Mission efforts. It will make an everlasting impact.

DEAF SCHOOL: Administrative expenses, supplies, feeding the students, etc. This school enables deaf students to learn skills that gives them purpose as "Children of God." ❤️

Special Need: *Replacement Vehicle* for Mission LINK. (See above)

GENERAL FUND APPRECIATES GIFTS of **ANY SIZE**, which helps us meet the many needs of ministry work in Africa.

YEAR END GIVING
 Help us finish strong



Scan image to visit our website.

