



MISSION LINK'S NEWSLETTER

God's Heart for Widows

There is something special about caring for widows. The Bible consistently highlights the importance of widows, showcasing God's deep concern for their well-being. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, widows are presented as a special group of people who deserve protection, provision, and justice. This emphasis not only reflects God's compassion but also calls on believers to mirror His concern in their own lives.

From the outset, the Bible reveals that God has a special place in His heart for widows. In the Old Testament, God is described as a "Father of the fatherless and a defender of widows" (Psalm 68:5). This imagery of God as a defender underscores His commitment to ensuring that widows, who were often vulnerable and marginalized, receive justice and care. The Law of Moses contains several provisions designed to protect widows. For instance, in Deuteronomy 10:18, God is said to "execute justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing." This command is a clear reflection of God's character and His desire that His people act justly toward those who are most vulnerable in society. Furthermore, in Exodus 22:22-23, God warns, "You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry." This passage highlights the seriousness with which God views the treatment of widows and serves as a warning to those who might exploit or neglect them.

Jesus' Ministry and the Early Church

In the New Testament, Jesus continues this emphasis on the care of widows. In Luke 7:11-17, Jesus raises the son of a widow in Nain from the dead, *restoring her only means of support* and demonstrating *His compassion and power*. Additionally, in Mark 12:41-44, Jesus commends a poor widow who gives all she has to the temple treasury, highlighting her faith and devotion. This act underscores the value of widows in God's eyes and challenges societal norms that often marginalized them.

The early church took seriously the responsibility to care for widows. In Acts 6:1-6, the apostles appoint deacons to ensure that the needs of widows in the Christian community are met. This passage shows that the care of widows was a priority for the early church and that they were diligent in organizing resources to support them. Paul, in his letters, also gives specific instructions on how the church should treat widows. In 1 Timothy 5:3-16, he outlines guidelines for supporting widows, emphasizing that the church should honor those who are truly in need and provide for them.

Theological Implications

The Bible's emphasis on widows reflects broader theological themes of justice, mercy, and God's preferential concern for the marginalized. Widows, in their vulnerability, represent those who are often overlooked by society, yet they are precious in God's sight. The care of widows is a tangible expression of the love and justice that God calls His people to embody. Furthermore, the treatment of widows is a reflection of the community's faithfulness to God. James 1:27 captures this idea: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." This verse ties the care of widows to the very essence of true religion, suggesting that one's faith is demonstrated by how one treats those who are most vulnerable.

Conclusion: The importance of widows to God, as revealed in the Bible, is a powerful reminder of His compassion and justice. God's heart for widows calls believers to actively care for those who are vulnerable, ensuring that they are protected, provided for, and treated with dignity. This divine mandate challenges believers to reflect God's character in their own lives, advocating for justice and mercy in a world that often neglects the most vulnerable. Through the care of widows, the church and the community bear witness to the love and justice of God, fulfilling His call to protect and uplift those who are in need.

Todd Childers, CEO

ADOPT A WIDOW

Just Forty (\$40) a month brings hope & blessings to a widow in need.



MAGOBA NOSIATA

Personal: 86 yrs old with one grandchild.
Testimony: Thankful to God for being with her in hard situations since husband passed in 2013 from cancer.

Challenges: Depression after losing five of her children, has high blood pressure & pain.
 Learn about other widows to sponsor at: www.missionlink.org/widows

UPCOMING MISSION TRIP

UGANDA: Feb. 7-20, 2025
 Focus: Medical, Youth, Widows, and other ministries all while sharing the gospel of Christ. Praying for 20+ volunteers.
(Medical experience not required)
 Trip Cost: \$3,300 Sign-Up by 10/1/24 to get \$200 scholarship (extended 1 month)
There's still ROOM for YOU on the team!
 Learn more on our website.
 Stay up-to-date on our website:
www.missionlink.org/mission-trips

WIDOWS MINISTRY REPORT

We take our call to reflect God's love very seriously. Due to Dr. Rick & Candy Sadler's vision and leadership, Mission Link has been caring for widows in Uganda for over a decade. There have been many challenges but the Lord has helped us along the way as we continue to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). We are pleased to report the following achievements for our Widows in 2024:

- One NEW Home Built from Ground Up
- Four Complete Home Renovations
- Three NEW Latrines (Restrooms) for their safety
- Three Food Distributions to Over 100 Widows in hard times
- Twelve New Widows sponsored (PRAISE JESUS!)

**Additional Benefit:
 Provides Jobs for Ugandans**



Being transparent, the building & food projects above were accomplished for approximately \$16,000. While some sponsors gave large contributions, much was covered by our Widows United Fund to assist for times of great need. This is **WHY** our Monthly Sponsorship **increased** in August for "New" sponsored widows to **\$40.00** per month. The Lord is directing us to bring in even more widows into our care. Any **SUPPORT** you could give to help us with this ministry that touches God's heart would be most useful. We also strive in being a Good Steward of the Lord's money that He sends our way. The need for the widow home (right) will cost \$2,400 to complete. If you'd like to help by **GIVING**, be sure to select **Widow Support** online or check that box on the enclosed contribution slip when mailing in your donation.

ATTENTION: CHURCHES, PASTORS, YOUTH GROUPS

EXPERIENCE MISSION work in Africa and benefit from 25 years of leading conferences, evangelism, and medical teams. *Contact our office* to begin planning a **SPECIAL TRIP** for your church or group. Our Mission Link directors are willing to come and share with your church or group.

UGANDA - BUDGET NEEDS

MLU CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTERS: Our **#1 objective** is to make disciples that make disciples. Donations help us to continue this work. We now have **5 schools** with students enrolled at different locations across Uganda for the purpose of training new pastors/church leaders to help multiply the Kingdom of God in their villages, nation, and world.

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

MISSION TRIP FUND: Donations to this Fund HELPS us to provide scholarships for those who are willing to GO on Mission. This also helps with any unexpected needs that arise while teams are in the field.

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." ❤️

GENERAL FUND APPRECIATES GIFTS of **ANY SIZE**, which helps us meet the many needs of ministry work in East Africa. *For example*, MLI helps numerous churches, pastors, missionaries in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania to "SHINE" the Light of Christ in their communities through acts of love.

KENYA - BUDGET NEEDS

SOUTHVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: This Primary school located in Eldoret has just over 100 children to educate with a biblical worldview. This school needs monthly support for teaching staff and to help with feeding 100+ children.

PASTOR ANTHONY HOME: Praise the Lord for all who have prayed and donated. We look forward to sharing pics of the progress and then the completed house.

PASTOR EUTICAULS WAMBUA: Pastor Euticaults in Nairobi manages 3 schools and pastors Baptist Chapel church. Great flooding has caused much damage to crops. Please give to help **provide food and education** to many in Kenya.

ANNOUNCEMENT for Uganda Widow Sponsors
 Please mail in any letters/cards for your widow(s) no later than Sept. 20, 2024. Todd will be traveling to Uganda Oct. 1st and visiting the widows.

DONATE Online: scan the image to the right using your smartphone. Select the purpose of your gift as led by the Holy Spirit.

