

# The Link

## One Word Says It ALL!

*Yet, “this word” at times is the most difficult command in the entire Bible for believers to obey*

Most Americans enjoy sitting down to a well prepared meal. A properly aged steak cooked to perfection is one of life’s greatest pleasures. It is one of the few pleasures on earth that we passionately BITE & DEVOUR. Yet, there are times when believers go beyond eating a tender sirloin to bite and devour their fellow believers. Let me explain:

Well meaning Christians fight about so many things that bring division making the church appear disgruntled, unfriendly and unloving. We literally war about issues concerning eschatology, inerrancy as it relates to various translations of the Bible (e.g. KJV & NIV), election—verses—free will, what day to worship on and so forth. These and many other theological topics at times will test our fellowship. Intellectual pride “fan the flames” of debate bringing division among men and women of God. **Yet**, I wish Christians would take time to make a serious study of those scriptures that are **crystal clear** and discuss how to best implement them. One truth in particular (a word) is the focus of this newsletter which is highlighted by the Apostle Paul in Galatians 5:13-15, and it is the very bases for God’s entrance into human flesh: **For you were called to freedom brethren, only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.**

Volumes could be written about the biblical concept/command regarding our love for others. I John 3:16-19 states that we should lay down our lives for the brethren and not close our hearts to each other’s needs. Allow me to mention just a few scriptural mandates to love one another: **Love, feed and give a drink to your enemy** (Romans 12:17ff); **rescue a wounded/hurt/stranded stranger as demonstrated in the story of the “good samaritan”** (Luke 10:30ff); **when you have a luncheon, invite the poor, crippled and the lame...those who cannot pay you back** (Luke 14:10ff); **love each other deeply and be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving** (Eph. 4:32ff); and the powerful love chapter **—1 Cor. 13**. Though, there is little space here to unpack all that the Bible has to say about love, may 2017 be the year where we set aside those things that divide us, and practice merciful, passionate love for one another. Not only will you and the church be strengthened, but the world will be mysteriously drawn where love is being fleshed out among God’s people. Though difficult at times, loving others is a reflection of our love for God.

Rick

On January 28th, MLI’s teaching staff traveled to a distant village in Buwende Distict to participate in our graduation ceremony. Leaving the MLI headquarters around 5:15 AM, we traveled almost seven hours to the village of Kakyuka in Bubende District. As we stepped out of the vehicle around noon, we were shocked at each other’s appearance. Our cloths and skin were covered in red dust. Our perspiring bodies made the situation even worse. We dusted off and wiped our faces as we put on academic regalia. Lining up two-by-two, the students marched into an electrifying service with shouts of joy where friends and family were singing and dancing. The students dedicated a year to studying scriptures. As a result of participating in the Mission Link Christian Study Center, two pastors accepted the Lord as their Savior (unbelievable, but true). We are grateful to the MLI family for making the Mission Link Christian Study Center a reality. Thank you! (**Note:** On January 21st MLI also had another graduation ceremony in Bewenge.)



This Graduate Accepted the Lord During Class



Kakyuka Graduation  
Buwende District



The Seven (7) Hour  
Journey to Kakyuka

## MISSION LINK'S NEWS BRIEFING

**AFRICAN WIDOWS MINISTRY:** Thank you for your gifts of soap and paraffin for our widows—This is an ongoing project. (FYI: 82 cents for small soap)

**UNDERWEAR & SANITARY PADS:** We are so very grateful! Thank you for the many pads/briefs made/given to this project. Churches and individuals made and purchased hundreds of pads and briefs. This is an ongoing project that needs your continued support.

**NEW TEACHER TO TRAIN PASTORS:** Raymond Mayega, a former student of Mission Link Christian Study Center, is being considered for this position. The school will be in the evenings in a village called Kitigoma. Monthly need is \$100. Transportation needs is also a factor. MLI needs more teaching staff.

**PHASE II MLI SCHOOL IN ELDORET, KENYA (ANY SIZE GIFT IS APPRECIATED & WE CANNOT START UNTIL WE HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS):** Starting budget is **\$7200+** to put up a metal frame & roofing (no walls). When completed, students from all over East Africa will come to learn the Bible under the leadership of Pastor Anthony Ndambuki. Praying this phase will be completed in 2017. This fund is growing at a slow pace....

**Pastor Anthony Ndambuki of Kenya:** Pastor Anthony has taken on more and more responsibilities. However, like most African churches, they pay their pastor very little due to poverty. Pastor still needs a balance of **\$250** more for a cow, **\$300** for cattle feed and **\$120** land tax. Thank you for your assistance.



**DEAF SCHOOL HAS INCREASED ITS NUMBERS! (On going needs)** MLI has become the much needed "link" for the deaf school in the Kamuli District. Pastor Herbert and Director Elizabeth are both very grateful for the help given by Mission Link thus far. The ongoing monthly need for food is around **\$370**. Any funds left over from the feeding is applied to help pay other expenses that are listed. **Monthly needs:** Food **\$370**; dorm for kids **\$70**; salaries for 5 teachers "in total" is **\$250** (minimum). **NEW:** They want to put up a simple temporary shelter for a classroom at where Pastor Herbert is pastor of a Baptist Church in Kamuli. This will cost **\$475**. However, we hope to put up a permanent structure in the near future.

**GENERAL FUND (VERY IMPORTANT):** Your gift to the General Fund (GF) is always appreciated and greatly needed. However, if you desire to giving to a specific project or person, please indicate this on your contribution form. Thank you for helping us help our African brothers and sisters! The following is a sampling of funds given to assist Africans just in my first 12 days of my being in African: **EXAMPLES OF FUNDS USED:** The past growing season in Uganda was meager due to drought. Though I have not met anyone that was "starving" per se, people are struggling to purchase food. In twelve (12) days, MLI has helped several "street people" with food and supported a street boy with materials making crafts; Assisted Jinja Hill Church with their nursery school shelter to bring it up to government specifications; a Bible student needing house rent for this month; helped a church recover two months land rent that was taken by their pastor; two-graduations; gave a pastor \$2200 for his child's university fees, replanting his garden and helping a member in is community; helped with a number of staff needs (300K of beans purchased, cell phone, loan, etc); funds given to a pastor renting 2 acres for planting a garden; gift to pastor helping our graduation & gave school fees; neighboring Muslim boda (motorcycle taxi) had bike stolen—helped with food for family; funds to LC-3 government official for approving land donated to MLI on Buvuma Island. Plus, taxes, office utilities, staff upkeep/food, petrol, my (rick's) upkeep, etc. etc. Your dollars go to help a variety of ministry needs, training pastors, carrying for widows and establishing new ministry sites for our teams. **Thank you so so much! CRITICAL:** We are needing **\$900** USD to pay our property tax going back to 2011.

**A BLIND CHILD:** A father who is blind, has requested assistance for his blind son's school fees. Each term will cost \$65 plus supplies.

**COMPUTERS:** 1) A bible student in Uganda needs a used laptop. 2) We are now collecting used MAC Book computers and Windows laptop for a computer lab for Pastor Euticals; 3) Assistance (funds) toward the computer lab that our VP, Wendell Drumheller, will install in July.

**PASTOR EUTICAL OF KENYA (TEAM FORMING FOR JULY 17-29, 2017):** All interested parties contact Rick: [thelinkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:thelinkoffice@gmail.com). Each person will be responsible for securing their ticket, visa, and insurance for the trip due to volunteers coming from different parts of the USA. At this point, in country cost will be **\$1375**. **You must have the following dates for arrival to and from Nairobi. Arrival must be on July 18th** which means you must depart the USA on the 17th. The return must have you leaving Nairobi on **Friday the 28th** and arriving in the USA by 29th. Check-in with Rick before purchasing tickets (Cell: 434-981-9101). We need a variety of skills ranging from evangelism to construction, etc. etc.

**CHURCH DESTROYED:** A storm hit the small village of Walumbe and destroyed Pastor Anthony's church. It will take at least \$700 plus to restore it,

### LOOK AROUND THE HOUSE, ASK YOUR FRIENDS AND AT CHURCH

**Cell Phones, Digital Cameras,**

**Laptops, Christian Books**

**One iPhone 4s (or above) is needed for our Thomas, our bookkeeper.** Drop items by the MLI office OR mail them to: 1677 Avon St. Ext, C'ville, VA 22902. Christian books/Bibles also needed for next shipment to Africa. Thank you so much! **KEEP THEM**

### Please Continue Pray for Our Uganda Medical Team

**Brain Stem Tumor:** Rick and Candy's 4 year old granddaughter had a successful operation and doing well! The surgeon of Saint Jude Hospital is confident that he remove all the tumor. In the coming years, the medical team at the University of Virginia Hospital will keep close watch on the area where the tumor was removed. It appears to be a full miraculous recovery! Thank you for your prayers!!!

**Uganda Mission Trip February 11-24, 2017** — We have a total of 21 volunteers signed up to travel to East Africa. We are very grateful for the donations toward meds, tuition and individual trip cost.

**Kenya Mission Trip July 17-29, 2017** — Time for all interested people to indicate their interest in participating in the Kenya trip. We really need to know of your interest very soon. A number of people need to originate from Virginia so we have sufficient stow bags to carry equipment. Various skills and talents needed: Youth workers, computer installers, carpentry, painting, evangelism and general laborers. Call Rick at 434-984-1995 or 434-981-9101 (cell) or email him - [thelinkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:thelinkoffice@gmail.com)

## Sponsor a Widow with Monthly Support



For **\$30** a month (just a dollar a day) you can make a difference in the life of a widow. Your support will help pay for school fees, medicine, home-based businesses, food, and much more. **So very little makes a BIG difference.... God states true religion is helping a widow! Will you bless this dear woman with a monthly gift? Thank You!**

**Norah Nakayima:** Norah is 34 years old having 3 children. She lives in a village called Itukulu. According to Norah, her husband died of constant headaches. She is thankful that God has enabled her to take care of her children. She is grateful for the wonderful support she is getting through Mission Link International. (Note: Many widows have received pigs, water filters, stoves, mattresses, soap, etc.)