

The Link

In the Grip of Fear

Fear, anxiety and panic paralyzes millions of people keeping them prisoner

Fear took hold of volunteers on the boat in Lake Victoria when the small crew lost their 40 horsepower engine. One of the American volunteers sitting in the boat lost his hat in the water due to a gust of wind. When the wooden boat made the sharp turn to recover the hat, the engine detached from the stern and fell into the water. Though a rope was tied to the engine, the Ugandan crew struggled for several hours to recover it due to its weight. Fear gripped those on the boat. The trauma was so intense for one couple that they became fearful of death. The wife became sick. She and her husband wept fearing both death and leaving their children, who were back in the states, to fend for themselves. In life every person is presented with moments of fear. However, there is also another aspect to fear taught in the scriptures—The FEAR of God.

In [Mark 4:35-41](#) we see an interesting contrast of both kinds of fear. Crossing the Sea of Galilee, a sudden wind storm arose producing massive waves. Jesus was sleeping in the stern of the boat while the “perfect storm” (chaos) was happening. The waves so overpowered the disciples that they feared losing their lives. The disciples, crippled with fear, trembled before the Carpenter who was sleeping soundly in the stern of the boat: “**Don’t You care that we perish?**” they exclaimed! Jesus stood up and rebukes the storm saying, “**Peace be still.**” Suddenly there was a great calm. Jesus then rebuked the disciples: “**How is it that you have NO faith.**” Mark records the response of the disciples: “**And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, ‘Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!’**” Both the fear of a “life threatening event” coupled with the “fear of God” is illustrated in this biblical event.

Fear can be rational and irrational. Not all will agree that the **opposite** of fear is faith, but clearly fear in many cases is in **opposition** to faith. Without question, the human race is gripped by fear on many fronts. The real problem is when fear paralyzes a person keeping him/her from functioning or accomplishing a goal. There is the fear of death, fear of aging, fear of illness like cancer, fear of war, fear of mass shootings, fear of ghost, fear of the dark, fear of heights or flying, fear of water, and the list goes on and on. Some are so gripped with fear that each day is a challenge. Billions of dollars are spent on medicines to subdue anxiety and fear. Dietrich Bonhoeffer states it best: “**Fear takes away a person’s humanity.**”

God has a prescription that can literally annihilate, eradicate, exterminate, obliterate fear!

For every human being there are moments of fear. Yet, if we really comprehend God’s sovereign care for His people, we are set free to fearlessly thrive in this life. Yet, the fear of God is different, and it is life giving. Solomon penned, “**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**” This kind of fear drives us to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord. It is not the fear of punishment, but the fear of disappointing or grieving the Lord. Because our Heavenly Father has blessed us so so much, our hope and desire in this life is to be pleasing to Him. The fact that He holds us in the palm of His hand should bring to our hearts eternal peace. No longer do we fear death; Jesus has conquered death ([John 11:25](#)). Yes, fear will sometimes cause us to call out to God for help—to rescue us from something in this life. Nevertheless, those who know God and walk with him have great confidence and strength. We are taught to hand all our fears/anxieties over to the Lord ([Phil 4:6,7](#)) who will give us perfect peace ([Isa. 26:3](#)). Please take time to review the following scriptures in your quiet time: ([Psa. 23:4](#); [Matt. 10:31](#); [Isa. 41:10](#); [Psa. 118:6](#); [1 Jn 4:18](#)).

Rick



Tanzania Graduation

Several hours outside of Kigoma, Tanzania MLI has been training pastors and church leaders. Though we started with a greater number, nine consistently attended school in the evenings for over a year. One student was a 13 year old boy named Samuel. He faithfully attended class to study the

scriptures. He now teaches a youth class on Sunday morning in his village church! Amazing!!

Pastor George Stanley, MLI’s staff in Uganda, made the long and difficult journey to assist in the graduation. For over a year MLI’s former student (and presently MLI’s Tanzanian Instructor — Julius Lasinda) maintained and taught the class in the evenings. Julius will soon begin another class. **Please consider supporting Julius with a monthly gift.** Julius is a security guard when not teaching. He receives a very small income from his job. Julius is worthy of our support.

Prayer Requests for Uganda:

Abductions: The talk on the street (and in the news) centers around the many kidnappings in Uganda. Thieves are abducting citizens and demanding big ransoms. When the kidnappers receive the funds, they usually kill their victims. Women are usually raped before facing death. Murders are also on the rise. People live in fear. While writing this prayer request, two (2) women were abducted in a village near Jinja. Jinja is where MLI’s headquarters is located.

Tax Increase: In the country of Uganda, the average wage is a dollar a day. A security guard can work 7 days a week and make only 33 dollars a month. The government is proposing to tax social media, SIM cards (used in cell phones), churches, etc. Even prayer books, hymnals, Bibles and Korans are taxed. Many cannot even afford school fees for their children much less government tax. The unemployment rate is close to 85% though government figures are published at a lower percentage.

President Museveni: The President has changed the constitution several times to keep him in power. The presidential age limit of 75 has been lifted and the length of term has been changed from five (5) years to seven (7) years. He has been in power for almost 30 years.

Sam Sadler: My (Rick’s) grandson is currently visiting him in Uganda from May 23 to June 16. Pray for a positive experience.

News Brief

Island Ministry in June: Rick and Sam will be camping on Island #1 in Lake Victoria teaching pastors about the Holy Spirit. Our expenses for transport (boat) and food for the pastors for the two (2) day conference is: Food is \$175 PIUS we now need to add transport—\$110. This is an important time to communicate with Pentecostals who want to learn about spiritual gifts and the Holy Spirit. There is much confusion among Africans and their church members.

Staff Teacher's Needs: Paul Akise is still needing a donor for his monthly salary of \$90. Julius Lusinda, our teacher

in Tanzania needs \$90 a month as well, BUT any monthly amount will help. Our teachers are discipling Christian leaders in obedience to the GREAT COMMISSION. This is FRONTLINE MINISTRY.

Street Kids: Everyday we have street kids visiting our office. Any gift toward helping these kids is very much appreciated. They have ongoing needs. (i.e. Azam requires \$160 x 3 yearly fees...Azam really needs a donor—Azam wants to be a doctor one day; Joshua lives in the gutter and constantly needs assistance; etc.) Zack and Moses attended church Sunday with Rick in the village of Kagoma. Zach is pictured participating with a singing team where Rick preached. Moses is doing well in mechanics school and Zach is trying to be consistent with night school.

Homes to Complete: Pastor James Wasawa of Tongolo has the roof, soffit and gable installed! IN ORDER to finish, we need a door, cement for the floor and some plastering of inside walls for his wife Veronica and children. We "estimate" \$675 remaining (Sorry—pricing is not fixed like the USA.) Esther (MLI's Widow's Director) has been gifted land by MLI to build a house. Funds continue to come in, yet much is needed to complete this project. The foundation and walls will be installed in June. Thank you for loving our nationals! Any gift toward these projects is appreciated.

The training center and church on Buyuma Island (Kadomola) has made thousands of bricks. They now need bags of cement costing \$9.40—\$9.80 per bag. Will you consider buying a bag of cement? This fund continues to grow!

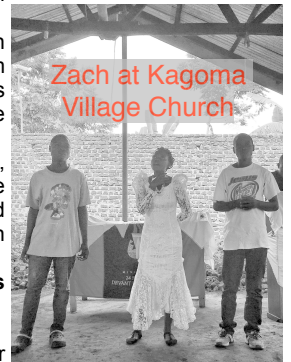
Medical Fund needs to constantly be replenished. It is often being tapped—even as I am typing this request.

The Deaf School: Mission Link is the MAIN source of funding. There are 38 children benefiting from this school. Pastor Herbert and staff are very grateful for MLI's assistance. One day we hope to build a permanent deaf school.

Pastor James Abalyalo, MLI's Head Teacher is purchasing 1.5 acres to grow crops to feed his family and to provide needed income for school fees for all his children. MLI (GF) has funded much with a remaining balance of \$430. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Kenya Computer Lab Funding for 2019: MLI's Vice President, Wendell Drumheller, is heading up this mission for 2019. We will now need "at least" \$3000 for the furniture & equipment. Your help is GREATLY appreciated. This project will now be installed in the summer of 2019.

GENERAL FUND—Our lifeline: This fund keeps everything moving forward in the USA and in East Africa. Your continued contributions not only keeps the ministry operational, but helps sustain some of the projects. Thank you for believing in and trusting MLI with your mission dollars. We are grateful!



TOGETHER WE CAN DO THIS! MLI has about six (6) years left in their present facility before we must vacate. This is a divine opportunity to move into a permanent building. The city assessment on this new facility being considered is \$185,000 and the seller has agreed to a purchase price of \$78,000 — \$107,000 difference!! There is 2400 square feet having two bathrooms. (Our present location is 1500 square feet with no bathrooms.) Volunteer teams will be recruited to assist with this project. Our board is unanimous in moving forward, but we sincerely need everyone's help for this one time opportunity.



MISSION LINK IS NEEDING ALL OUR FRIENDS TO HELP WITH A ONE-TIME GIFT



Cell Phones: Cell Phone collection is a unique way to fund missions. We need your used cell phones... especially phones requiring a SIM Card (i.e. iphone, etc.) Please ask

your family, friends and church to collect cell phones. Also, if you have laptops, electronic keyboards or Christian books, we have a home for them as well. This is a simple way to assist MLI. Thank you!

Mission Trip May 13 - June 19: Rick will be receiving his grandson, Sam, on May 25th at Entebbe Airport.

Evangelistic/Medical Missions February 2019: Now is the time to be praying about joining the team in February 2019. All skills levels and giftedness are needed as we will be hosting medical campaigns in various villages. Our hope is to plant another church. I am grateful for those who help make our trips possible through MLI's general fund. Thank you so very much!

Special Prayer: My wife (Candy) & daughter Heather are coordinating surgeries. Candy will have knee replacement after I return from Uganda & Heather will have intestinal surgery in Sept. (if permitted to wait). Pray for healing of Heather's intestines & liver. Also, pray for our VP (Wendell) who suffers from gout.



Bring Happiness to an African Widow for only \$30 a Month! **Will you prayerfully consider adopting this dear widow?** She desperately needs a loving family.

Minonsi Nambogwe is 78 years old having three (3) children to care for. Her husband died of sleeping sickness in 1979. Since the death of her husband, God has kept her. She is very happy with the ministry of MLI. She received a stove, pig and also basic needs like soap, medical, etc. Minonsi suffers from High blood pressure and she is too old to work in her garden yet she needs food. Taking care of grandchildren is a challenge at times. She fellowships with Itukulu Baptist Church.