

The Link

The Great Divide

How believers view the Sacred Book and interpret the scriptures has divided the "Body of Christ"

I had the wonderful opportunity to spend a few days camping in a remote village on Buvuma Island call "Island #1." I met with over 60 pastors and church leaders teaching them about the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts. The majority of attendees were Pentecostal. There were a few Baptist pastors sprinkled among the group which "spiced up" our time together. The diversity was very interesting,

...that they may be one just as We (The Trinity) are one.... John 17:23

lively and telling. It was a microcosm of what has divided christendom into denominations. During our conference, there were opportunities to ask questions that highlighted how far apart the participants were in their interpretation of scriptures. For example: 1) A pastor shared that Christians do not need to fast (abstaining from food for a period of time) citing Isaiah 58:6-8 which states that

the fast God requires is to feed and clothe the poor. Yet, she did not take into account other scriptures such as: Matthews 6:16 (Jesus instructions on fasting) or Paul and Barnabas praying and fasting in Acts 14:23. The pastor built her entire theological understand of fasting from one verse in the Bible. (YES, this was a "woman pastor" which sparked another topic of conversation among those in attendance.) 2) Another example of diverse thinking had to do with preaching dreams/visions which for some was their main focus each Sunday from the pulpit. They substantiated their practice by citing Acts 2:17ff where Peter quotes from the Old Testament Prophet—Joel 2:28ff, *"And it shall come to pass in the last days says God that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams..."* I countered with a personal illustration of the dangers of preaching dreams. I shared that back in my early twenties, I had drifted from God and started drinking. In less than two years God lovingly snatched me back to an intimate relationship with Him. Consequently, I was reignited by His precious Spirit and unconditional love. What followed was unique experiences and dreams. For a number of weeks I had interesting and inspiring dreams. One night I dreamt that the Prophet Joel was asking Christ when He was going to return (second coming of Christ). Jesus said, "in 15 years." That was over 40 years ago and Christ has not returned. I emphasized to the participants on Buvuma Island that preachers and teachers must be extremely careful in sharing dreams and visions. Dreams are fallible! I then emphasized the necessity and calling of the preacher to proclaim God's inspired and inerrant Word to their flock.

The illustrations above are only the tip of the theological iceberg! I could cite numerous examples that keeps believers divided in both Africa and in the USA. Just recently the Southern Baptist Convention met for their annual meeting. There was a clear demarcation between Calvinist and Traditionalist. It is also worthy to note that there is a detrimental moral divide among believers that is unprecedented. The division among Christians is heating up to a boiling point throughout the world. In John 17 Jesus prayed for unity hours before His crucifixions. **Please** make it your constant prayer to pray for the Body of Christ (His church) to come together as ONE based simply on the crucified and Risen God/Man Jesus Christ. *"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."*

Rick

NEW OFFICE SPACE PURCHASED

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to thank each and everyone who stood with us with your prayers and dollars to help MLI purchase the New Mission Link Headquarters located in Pearisburg, Va. For the past four (4) years Candy and I have commuted from our home in Pearisburg, Va. to Charlottesville, Va. This new facility gives us a permanent office/warehouse that is only three (3) minutes from our residence rather than three (3) hours.



Though we did not meet our total funding goal, your future gifts will help us offset the shortfall as well as help us remodel the office space. We will maintain our present office for some months until we complete the renovation of the new facility. Hopefully in late 2019 we will be able to make the transition. **Thank you so very much for your continued support!**

Rick and Candy Sadler, Wendell Drumheller,
Jeff Dalton, Dr. Jim Masloff, Glassell Williamson,
Garry Rund, Jack Sadler, Charlie Kardos.



Our trip to the islands in Lake Victoria was a blessing. Sam (my grandson) and I, with our Ugandan team, traveled to a remote village on Island #1 for a two day conference. We camped in the church (pictures above) where the conference was held. The picture below is a MLI church on the Island of Uway. As you can see, we need more tarps to cover the roof. Former MLI students pastor Uway (pic below) and Katomola (pic on 2nd page).



News Brief

Staff Teachers 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; however, **any monthly amount** will really help. Our teachers are discipling Christian leaders in obedience to the GREAT COMMISSION. This is FRONTLINE MINISTRY.

Street Kids Fund: Everyday we have street kids visiting our office. Any gift toward helping these kids is much appreciated. They have ongoing needs. For example: Azam requires \$160 x 3 yearly fees...Azam really needs a donor—Azam wants to be a doctor one day. **Nathan** (pictured right) has a bad case of warts on his feet making it difficult to walk (\$40); He also needs \$190 for an operation on his arm (right wrist). He was running from the police and fell and broke his wrist.

JoAnne, native of Buvuma Island: JoAnne is caring for her husband who has had a stroke. She needs \$180 to purchase 50 chickens to start her egg business to support her husband and family. **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. We are now up to the wall plate ready to put on the roof. The cost is approximately \$3000 for the roof structure and metal. Gifts toward any of the projects are appreciated.

The training center and church on Buvuma Island (pictured below) (Kadomola) has made thousands of bricks and have now built the walls of the church with the cement that was given by donors of MLI. **Bags of cement** cost \$9.40—\$9.80 per bag. Will you consider buying a bag of cement to complete this project? We have used the funds thus far to buy cement for the bricks. Now we need (a must) plaster for the wall and cement for the floor before the rains begin in August.

Medical Fund needs to constantly be replenished. This is a critical and necessary fund that is used often. It is almost empty.

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. We are very GRATEFUL for funds that have supported school operations. **Pastor Euticauls Wambua** continues building his large school complex in Mwingi, Kenya. He will be coming to America in a few weeks and would love to speak in your church or to a Bible Study group. Please contact our office if you are interested having our brother share his story/vision: 434-981-1995 or thelinkoffice@gmail.com.

Pastor James Abalayo, 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's General Fund has funded most of this with a **remaining** balance of \$430.

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



Nathan
A Street Kid

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



Top left is Pr. Wasawa's house. He still needs \$585 to enclose the house, plaster walls and put cement on the floor. Bottom left: Rick/Phil/Sam invited to participate in a village crusade. Also pictured is MLI church plant in Kadomola, Lake Victoria. Bricks are laid, but plaster now needed and a cement floor. About \$325 of cement will complete the project. Above is the widow's chicken project. Now \$175 needed to add new chicks for 2019. Rick's grandson (Sam pictured right) is assisting with the distribution of MLI's widow's funds in the village of Mafubira.

 **Cell Phones:** We need phones! We are able to use some phones in Uganda and the rest are sent to a recycling center. Please ask your family, friends and church to collect cell phones especially those with SIM cards. 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!

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. Please contact our office if you desire to signup or if you have questions: Call 434-981-1995 and ask for Rick Sadler or email thelinkoffice@gmail.com. The first 15 to sign up will receive \$100 scholarship. This will be an exciting trip working with Africans.

Special Prayer: My wife (Candy) & daughter Heather are coordinating surgeries. Our daughter Heather will most likely have her surgery in July. Candy's surgery will be this Fall. Also, pray for Jack Sadler's recovery from a recent heart attack & surgery. Our VP, Wendell Drumheller, is doing much better. Thank you for all your concern and prayers!!



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.

Edith Nakisige was born in 1971 and has six (6) children. Her husband died of "dysentery and vomiting" in 2009. Edith thanks her God who has kept and provided for her. She is also happy for the piggery project from MLI and other basics like soap, medical clinic, etc. Edith fellowships at Itukulu Baptist Church. Her pastor is Pastor Kadoko.