Dear Friend of Mountain Children’s Ministry,

Thank you for your prayers, your interest and your generous support of MCM this year! Ivan and I have put together a brief overview of this year’s highlights. I laugh at the word ‘brief’ considering its length but the truth is it has been severely edited. I have given you only the bare bones. More details will come in blogs and posts.

MCM US is now recognized as an official, tax exempt, non-profit organization in the eyes of the IRS. Two separate entities, MCM US partners with MCM UG to help support her mission to vulnerable children in rural Uganda. Therefore, this newsletter has been divided into MCM US and MCM UG news. I am writing page one about the US and Ivan, our Executive Director in Uganda, shares UG news on pages 2, 3, and 4.

These girls are sisters. Savious (left) and Promise (right) have been waiting since May for someone to choose to make a difference in their lives. The last two times Ivan distributed letters from sponsors these sisters were left out because there were no sponsors to write to them. Ivan had sad little girls to deal with. Please, if you feel tugging in your heart to sacrifice $1.40 a day and write a loving letter a couple times a year I invite you to the most inexpensive, educational, wonderful experience in making a difference in the world! Please pray. Please give. Please share love. Check our website, mountainchildrensministry.com and click on “Sponsor A Child” to see all your opportunities, please.

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Rowena Freelend is 80 years young. Here she sits with her treasure - a canvas print of her 4 sponsored boys. Rowena lives on social security, below poverty level. She actually runs a food bank out of her garage weekly with little help. In her early 20’s Rowena served as a missionary in Africa and continues to carry these needy children in her heart. Rowena Freelend is my Hero. I asked her to write our first “Word” from a Sponsor. She had it to me in less than 2 hours!

The Joy of Sponsorship
By Rowena E. Freelend

It is my great pleasure to be sponsoring four darling boys who live in Uganda. Sponsorship is really a thing of the heart and a willingness to sacrifice. Certainly I can envision their lack of necessary daily provision let alone school fees.

Their letters and pictures bring them right into my home with me. Tears of joy fill my eyes when I see their smiling happy faces. Their letters are filled with love for me, their mother. My letters tell them how proud I am of them for working so hard in school and for loving Jesus. My greatest desire is for them to prepare for heaven. They tell me they have Jesus as their Savior. That is the only way I will ever get to see them. Oh! I will be delighted to see them. We will spend eternity with Jesus and each other. With eagerness I look forward to that day.

In the meantime my heart acts up with flowing love over every picture and every letter. These boys are near - right in my heart! Praise the Lord!

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When Ma Michele and I felt the calling to come to Kabale, it was an immense challenge. I admit there were times I was kind of skeptical about what we were getting ourselves into, albeit fully knowing that God was behind it all, but it was a daunting vision. Here we were going into a new area not knowing what to expect. I can sympathize with Jesus who had to ask His Father for help all the time. After 2 years, I have never been more sure that it was God Himself that sent us to this part of the world. He has performed miracle after miracle for us! Here are a few from 2014 that really stood out for me and I should bring out.

PIGGERY
On top of the farming, we also wanted to learn animal husbandry. In August with three piglets we were able to start a piggy in an ushaped, shifted sturucture. In October Pastor Nesham and Rodella gave us enough to build a new piggy. After it was completed in November we purchased more piglets thanks to Hillside Bible Church in Arizona! So far, it has 7 pigs but within 3 months from now, it could be about 24 because we have 2 litters that will breed this week. Ugandans love their pork and so we want to avail them more opportunities of enjoying by selling our pigs to them at a good price. A piglet is bought at about $25 here but within 3-4 months, the price has tripled. We are hoping that if we increase on the quantity, we will be able to achieve our goal of self-sufficiency sooner rather than later. We also have a plan to start a chicken coop this February.

SHARING JESUS’ LOVE
The major reason we started MCM in this region was to spread the word of our Lord Jesus to those little ones. We want to train the children God has given us in MCM to know who God is; an all loving Father. In May we started a Bible study program for our kids. This is a fantastic time for me especially because the children listen so attentively and ask questions. We divide the children into 2 categories; I handle the 3 to 11 year olds and Pastor Elsaim handles the teenagers. In my class we sing, dance, read bible stories and then we paint color pictures of what we were learning about. In the other class, the pastor teaches the children fundamental life principles from the Bible and then fields questions. Pastor Sam also provides counseling to them. Every after our Bible lessons, the kids are fed. Many children in this village appear malnourished because their diet has few nutrients. We provide them with protein, milk and vegetables. After the meal, those with green hair are trimmed for free since many parents cannot afford paying for a haircut at the barber shop. We thank our partners for sending the children Bibles because they are learning to read them and understand what is written.

CLEAN WATER
In February this year we were also blessed with a new borehole (well). Kabale is a mountainous area and so water is available from the bottom of the hill up for several hundred meters. We had this well drilled, just blew me away! On top of that, the building behind him on the right is the newly refurhsed MCM office, and our church. Deliverance is behind him on the left.

SELF SUSTAINING VENTURES
When we felt called to start MCM, one of the main targets we had was to be self-sustaining in the long run. So in February, we started (more like experimenting) to do potato farming on half an acre and see whether it would generate income. What came out of that harvest was used to buy seed for the upcoming June season. We are going to contribute many lost their crops. Somehow God kept blessing the works of our hands. What a wonderful feeling to contribute!

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA
In October we contributed number of buyers scrambling for the little seed for the upcoming June season. When we felt called to start MCM, one of the major targets we had was to be self-sustaining in this planet. So in February, we started (more like experimenting) to do potato farming on half an acre and see whether it would generate income. What came out of that harvest was used to buy seed for the upcoming June season. We are going to contribute...