



Graduates Obed, Caleb, Glorious, Violar, Aron and Christopher

mountain children's ministry

**End of Year Summary:
December 2018**

DEAR FRIENDS,

On October 7th of this year I had the tremendous joy of attending MCM's very first graduation ceremony! The significance of the accomplishments of our first six graduates hit me hard as I first saw them lined up at the top of our hill in their caps and gowns. The music began and Ivan, the Executive Director for MCM, called them forward amid loud cheers and "congs" and happy laughter. Dancing all the way down to their seats of honor they split the sea of 500 children sitting on the steps, in the driveway and all over our property. Goosebumps rose as I realized the life changing miracle and gravity of this event. Four of these young people were orphans and two had parents that were peasant farmers, unable to afford tuition fees. To move from having no parents, no school funds, and no hope for the future to completing Secondary school then Vocational school and even University...well, as each graduate shared... this was only possible from the heart of our amazing, faithful, good Father in heaven.

I too feel as though I have undergone a graduate level education these past 6 years with MCM. I have earned "degrees" in misunderstanding cultural differences, misjudging people and situations, making assumptions and unreasonable demands, taking things personally, and being ridiculously arrogant among other mistakes. I have struggled to pass "tests" in perseverance, patience, politeness, humility, graciousness, giving, gratitude, friendship, kindness, forgiveness and asking to be forgiven. I find myself ever re-writing my "dissertation" on God's Love because it is so beyond comprehension.

When I had my moment to speak to the graduates I chose to speak about "Unknowing" from a devotional written by Fr Richard Rohr. I encouraged them to stay curious and humble in life and in searching for God. To not presume they knew fully but to be more concerned with loving behavior. To embrace the mystery of our unfathomable God, agreeing to live without resolution. If we must know, let us know God loves us. If we must be certain, let us be certain of His Love even when we are weak and fail. In this school of Love I never cease learning and I hope never to graduate.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your faithful giving and generosity and the roles you have played in making MCM possible! God bless you with the joy of participating in miracles with Him. May your Christmas be full of Love and Peace!

Mummy Michele :)

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, My ways are not your ways...As high as the heavens are above the earth, so My ways are beyond your ways and My thoughts are beyond your thoughts." Isaiah 55: 8-9

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: DECEMBER 2018

Greetings in the name of our Lord. We thank God for taking Mountain Children's Ministry smoothly through another six months (since our June Newsletter). I am grateful for the exceptional events we celebrated during this time. In June our faithful friend and USA board member, Patti Johnson, visited our village of Mparo. In August MCM hosted our first two day seminar given by three Social Workers. In October our sponsor, Stella Zaimi, also visited our village. During that time we had a fabulous Graduation Ceremony for our first MCM graduates. And finally, our Guest House, "God's Refuge", although incomplete, is up and running and housed most of our visitors.



Patti Johnson holds sleeping Emmanuel

Guest Visits

MCM - Uganda had the wonderful privilege of hosting Patti Johnson and Stella Zaimi. Each woman spent two weeks with us in our village. I was particularly encouraged that they would make the additional sacrifice of time and money to come visit us. I know each gives their resources and time for MCM but I never imagined their willingness to sacrifice more in traveling to Uganda. We

had a great time showing them our beautiful country and introducing both to our children and our village. Not only have Patti and Stella blessed MCM from afar but both were gifts to us while here. Its been weeks since they left but the kids so enjoyed them they still ask for them. In June Patti blessed our children with bible lessons about Baby Moses. She taught them they have a purpose and are protected and loved with examples from Moses' life. Patti also delighted the children by preparing in advance a fun craft project and



Stella Zaimi shares candy with village children



Patti with her proud baby Moses crafters

leading singing too. During her stay, Patti showered the children with love in tangible ways as she visited them in our home, in villager's homes, at schools, in town and even at hospitals. In October Stella visited because her sponsored "son" was graduating from University. She not only hosted the graduation party but she also got her hands into the dirty work of cleaning, cooking, setting up chairs, tables, and many more activities that showed her humility, selflessness and generosity. At the party the advice Stella gave the children was what they needed to hear at the time, given the situation this side of the world finds itself in. With the DJ she hired over 500 children also enjoyed her dancing skills during the party :)



MCM kids model their new t-shirts from Stella

Graduation Ceremony

MCM has been operating for six years and during the past six months celebrated a huge landmark in our existence as an organization. Our very first young people graduated! Six of our children successfully completed their basic education and went on to graduate from various avenues of further education. First, Christopher graduated from vocational school for construction and brick laying. Next, Violar and Glorious graduated in Accounting and Record Keeping. In August Caleb and Aron completed the study of Automotive Repair and in October Obed received his University degree in Social Work and Administration.



The graduation party was a very sweet and unforgettable experience! To witness these boys and girls in their caps and gowns parade down the aisle to the applause of their peers and those who view them as role models was inspiring for all, including the many guardians who have done a lot to see such a day come. This graduation party had several benefits. First, it was wonderful to spend time congratulating the graduates. Second, it was equally wonderful to celebrate with each child's family members who at one time could only have dreamed of such an accomplishment. Lastly, the party served as an encouragement to our younger children. It reminded them of what is possible when they dedicate themselves to their studies. Each graduate spent a few minutes sharing with the audience his or her story of how they reached their goal as well. Every child thanked God especially for helping them in their achievements. I especially want to thank Christopher, Aron, Caleb, Violar, Glorious and Obed's respective sponsors for standing with them. Most importantly the sponsors prayed for their children. They sacrificed finances, precious

time taken to write letters, and all the other wonders they have done to enable these children get to such

heights. To everyone this was a dream come true! Thank you Carolyn and Scott Howard, Michael and Lauren Dirkse, Julie Hess and Wayne Vonder Heide, Christine and Tony Koch, Marilyn and Gordon Stremmer and Stella Zaimi! You have made a difference! May God bless you all the more!



Guidance Training Seminar

MCM also hired and hosted three Social Workers who traveled from Kampala to present a two day seminar. Lauren Matovu, Shillah Asimwe and Faith Namalwa came to teach and advise our teens in career guidance, personal counseling, communication, godly relationships, self awareness, health, and personal and feminine hygiene. Our MCM teens all attended along with many more village teens. All were encouraged to ask questions and meet with the counselors one on one. The feedback from the kids was excellent so, God willing, we plan on having these remarkable ladies return in 2019 to continue to guide our teens.



Teens pray during counseling session

God's Refuge Guest House

We also thank God and our donors for the progress on the MCM Guest House, "God's Refuge". It was used by our visitors who stayed for free in the upper level bedrooms in MCM property instead of having to pay room and board in Kabale motels 45 minutes away. We all shared meals



God's Refuge Guest House

together and everyone was safe and conveniently located nearby. Although we still have construction work to do on the lower level of the house, we were grateful for the blessing it turned out to be for all. More good news is this December eight MCM children will also have a clean, warm, safe refuge for the holidays! I would like to conclude with a final note of gratitude to you and to God. We have been faithfully

sustained and even progressed with your help. We are so thankful and very excited for what God has planned and what the future holds for these MCM children of His.

In His Service ~

Mpeirwe Ivan Twino
MCM-UG Executive Director



MCM CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

On the Road to Self Sustainability...

Self sustainability has been a high value for MCM from the beginning. In 2019 MCM self sustainability initiatives include an expanded chicken house with separate areas for the egg layers and the chickens sold for meat. We also hope to start goat rearing by building a goat barn and purchasing baby goats. Our pigs have been the most consistent income for MCM so the piggery is being moved to a bigger location as well. All 3 of these can be funded for \$1000 in total.



No gift is too small!



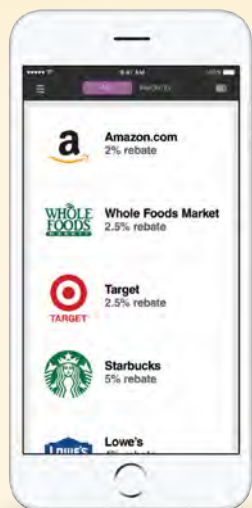
Plastering first level of God's Refuge

Finishing Strong...

The construction of God's Refuge Guest House is nearing completion. With your help we can finish the first level bedroom, bathroom, add a kitchen sink and paint. The entire outside of the house needs paint to protect the new cement plaster. These final costs add up to \$2500.

SUPPORT MCM WITH YOUR EVERYDAY PURCHASES!

MCM has teamed up with Benefit, a mobile app that allows you to instantly purchase digital gift cards to use online or in-store, at retailers including Walmart, Target, The Home Depot and Amazon. When you buy using the app, retailers contribute up to 20% of your transaction back to MCM - so you don't have to spend an extra cent! Get started with the instructions below. If you have any questions contact Mark at markpageau@gmail.com



- 1 Download the app.**
Benefit is a free download on your iPhone® or Android™ device.
- 2 Set up your secure profile.**
Benefit partners with top banks and financial institutions to ensure that your data is handled securely, and that your bank and credit card protections remain in place.
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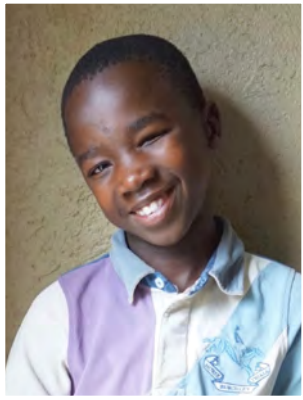
A SPECIAL THANKS

Since 2014 the paper and printing required to create these MCM biannual newsletters has been paid for and donated by Darwill. We at MCM are so grateful for their years of generosity and support! A special Thank you to Troy and Brandon Van Dyke, and Mark DeBoer!

CHANGE A LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS

PLEASE SPONSOR A CHILD

MCM currently has 17 unsponsored children who have waited a year now to be chosen. Sponsoring a child is second only to fresh water in cost efficient means to reduce poverty. For \$42 per month or \$500 a year you can change the world of a Ugandan child this Christmas. The six unsponsored children below are the neediest of the 17 currently on the MCM website. Please consider blessing them by choosing them to join your family this Christmas.



CHRISTIAN NTEZIMAANA

Christian (15) lost both his parents when he was 6. He now lives with his Aunt and Uncle who have 5 children of their own. They do not earn enough to pay for all the children. Christian suffered a bike accident and lost his left eye a few years ago but still scored well in the national exams. His goal is to be a doctor someday and he is currently in Senior Two (sophomore level).



ELIOT TAREMWA

Eliot (8) is the second oldest in his family of four children. His father is chronically ill and unable to work. His Mum is a manual farm laborer and her low income cannot pay Eliot's school fees. Eliot is a bright child, ranked first out of 48 in his Primary Three class. He wants to become a Pilot.



JOSHUA TAREMWA

Joshua (4) is the only child of his single mother. His father died years ago as a soldier. His Mum, Doreen, is a peasant farmer who digs to earn money for tuition. Joshua is in kindergarten and hopes to be a teacher someday. His favorite "subject" in school is "playing"



WITNESS NINSIIMA

Witness (16) is the fifth of eight children and lives with her parents who are peasant farmers and provide manual labor for crops of other people. Witness is a serious student, ranked 45th out of her class of 168 in Senior 3 (junior level). She would love to be a nurse someday.



RONAH NATUMANYA

Ronah (16) is the fourth of seven children (4 brothers and 2 sisters) and was unable to attend school last year due to lack of tuition funds. Ronah's Mum is a peasant farmer who digs for other landowners. Her Dad is a peddler doing whatever he can to help. Ronah wants to be a lawyer and she performs very well in Senior Four (senior level).



INNOCENT TWINOMASIKO

Innocent (16) was brought as a child by his father to his grandmother for care. His mother had abandoned the boy years before. Innocent's grandmother has been digging on farms to support him and his 9 year old cousin but has grown too old to earn enough to support the children's tuition fees. Innocent is in Senior Three (junior level) and has the goal of being a doctor.

Learn more about our other unsponsored children at:

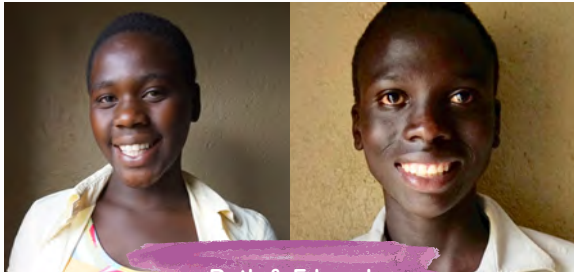
MOUNTAINCHILDRENSMINISTRY.COM

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Gordon and Marilyn Stremler

INDOMITABLE SPIRITS

Looking back approximately 10 years, on a Sunday evening, two Ugandan men in their mid-twenties gave a presentation on their work with an orphanage and school in a small village near Entebbe. We were so impressed with these men - their commitment to the children of Uganda, the sacrifices they were making professionally to benefit orphans and their humble hearts. We sponsored three children that night and we cheerfully informed our three grown children that they were forgoing birthday gifts to benefit these children. Two years later, I (Marilyn) was privileged to visit Uganda with my sister and two other relatives. Meeting our sponsored children and taking them to dinner was a highlight of our visit.



Ruth & Edward

While in Uganda, I also met Ivan before he became the Director of MCM. One day he was our chauffeur. Fast forward to 2016. We learned of Mountain Children's Ministry and Michele and Ivan's passion for the area where Ivan was raised. Without a doubt we knew this ministry would be a good fit for us.

When we think of our African children, Glorious, Edward



and now Ruth, we can't help but smile. Receiving their letters and pictures always brightens our day.

Glorious has graduated with a marketable degree in records and information management. We are so proud of her hard work to accomplish this goal. Edward's goal is to become a doctor and Ruth wants to be a nurse. The Lord willing we will continue to help them realize their dreams.



Glorious

Our "children" have admonished us to keep reading our Bible, praying and serving our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus. Our "children" have demonstrated contentment in all circumstances. Living at a level of poverty we cannot even imagine, they model thankfulness. We are challenged by their indomitable spirits.

In our estimation Michele and Ivan are people of great integrity. We trust their use of the funds and their genuine concern for the welfare of the mountain children. It has been an honor to partner with them in the sponsorship program. We have received so much more than we have given.

Blessings,

Gordon and Marilyn Stremler



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