



Please pray for Uganda!



mountain children's ministry

Mid Year Summary
June 2020

DEAR FRIENDS,

I thank God for the privilege of being in our Ugandan farming village with these precious little angels as they pour their hearts out in prayer. If there is such a thing as a "pipeline to heaven", there is no shadow of a doubt in my mind that our babies have it.

These children do not pray for superfluous things. They literally ask their Abba for food, for clean water, for help at school, for their sick guardian to be healed, for crops to grow, for rain to come or for floods to stop. They are "give us this day" prayers. And now, with their schools closed, the transportation of crops halted, social isolation and the threat of death by coronavirus causing panic and fear, our children in Uganda are praying for their very lives.

At this writing in late April only 78 cases of the virus have been reported in Uganda. Thankfully the President was very proactive with his strict country and border lockdown. But just yesterday news of

infected truckers getting past the borders and into the Kabale mountains where we live was in the news. I do not know what will have happened between now and when you receive this newsletter in June. We are praying God protect them and their guardians, most of whom are grandparents.

If this disease takes off it will be devastating because Uganda's Healthcare is also sick. The entire country has only 55 functional beds in the 12 ICU's being operated. Of the 12 operational ICU's only 3 are in public hospitals. An additional 20 of the 55 beds have no ventilatory capacity. That is 1.3 ICU beds per million population. And if those statistics are not frightening enough, only 7.6% of ICU staff nurses have some sort of formal ICU training (Daily Monitor; March 18, 2020).

So yes...Please pray for our children and their guardians in Uganda. Please pray for our Executive Director, Ivan and his family. Please pray for our MCM-UG Board, our supporting church, our counselors and teachers and pastors and friends. Pray for Kabale. Please, as you never have before, please pray as God leads you. God is faithful and good. He heals and He is powerful. He has overcome death and nothing can separate us from His Love. He suffers with us and never will leave us nor forsake us. We are expecting miracles and trusting Him no matter what. After all....Love wins.

In this June 2020 Newsletter we have chosen to focus on the positive and look forward in hope. Thank you for all of your wonderful support and prayers as always!

Many blessings to you all,
Mummy Michele :)

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: JUNE 2020

Greetings in the Name of our Savior Jesus! I pray that the Lord has kept each one of you safe and healthy during this Coronavirus outbreak period. We thank God for the protection He has put upon every single child and their family here during this hard time. All the children in MCM are healthy and well at this writing. Truly God has not ceased doing good amongst us! I would like to testify about His goodness to our children this past six months.

As I reported in the December 2019 newsletter, five of our children graduated from different institutes of learning last year. Some of them decided to return and give back to MCM and their community!



Aaron tending the new baby bullock

Aaron graduated from vocational school with a certificate in Automotive Systems in 2018. After a year of working in the city, he decided to return home and find ways of being helpful to MCM and his community. Aaron wanted to help other children find a way of making it like he did. In November MCM asked Aaron if he

would work with the dairy project full time.

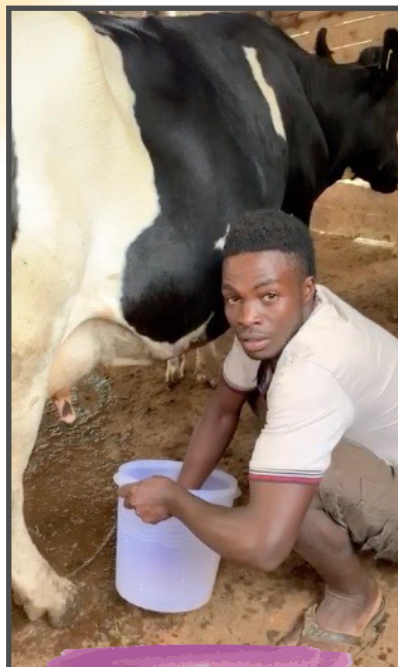
This young man consistently goes above and beyond what his role requires because of his desire to be an example to the other children in MCM. Often times, one will find him helping the children during Bible study or arranging seats and cleaning them. Aaron also visits some boarding children to check on their welfare. We feel like Aaron is a gift from God to this ministry. He is incredibly humble and we are glad to have him on our team!

Guma is another former MCM student who finished vocational school then requested to help out with the



Guma feeding the pigs

piggery. He is in charge of the Pig income generation project and has surpassed our expectation in working with the project. He is incredibly hardworking and a true blessing to this organization. We believe his efforts will lead to more income and bless other needy children. We are grateful for Guma and the example he sets for other MCM children.



Ishmael cleaning the cows

Though **Ishmael** has not yet completed Rwampara Farming Institute, the knowledge he has attained at school thus far is being applied now, and we have been so blessed. MCM is actually averting some of the earlier mistakes we made in farming and animal rearing because of his educated input. One example is the environment the cows were residing in. Though it wasn't bad, his extra ideas have been

healthier for the cows and reduced the amount of flies around them. Ishmael continues to be humble and hardworking as well.

More MCM graduates also give their time and talents to help. **Rhoda**, now a great nursery teacher and **Annabel**, a fantastic secondary school teacher, return to our village every time we have the Counseling Sessions. These two fine young women keep the two days running smoothly - organizing kids for counseling sessions, their folders for the counselors



Rhoda (L) & Annabel(R)
MCM counseling administrators

and everyone for lunches and other classes. We could not manage those two days without their administrative gifts.

Obed, who graduated a couple of years ago from university with a degree in Social Work and Social Administration, got a good job as a Social Worker with an organization that helps with street children in Kabale. He is doing great

work there. MCM also occasionally requests him to come over and help us with his knowledge when we have social work issues and he has done tremendous work for this ministry too. Obed is now a married man and is blessed with one child!

God has used this organization to move these kids from scratch to glory for the benefit of His Kingdom and other children. Stories such as these make me light up with joy and anticipation of a brighter future for this community. Our hope and prayer is that other MCM children will notice these young men and women and be encouraged by how far each of them has come. We look forward to the next group of graduates!

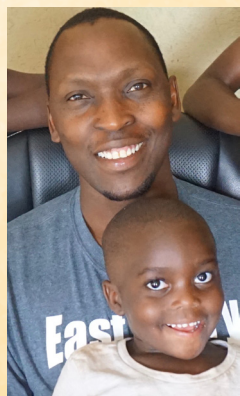


Obed, a Social Worker,
with a village child

From the depth of our hearts, we are very grateful for all the sacrifices you our dear supporters undergo so these amazing things can happen. All we can do is to always ask God to lavish His blessings upon you!

In His Service ~

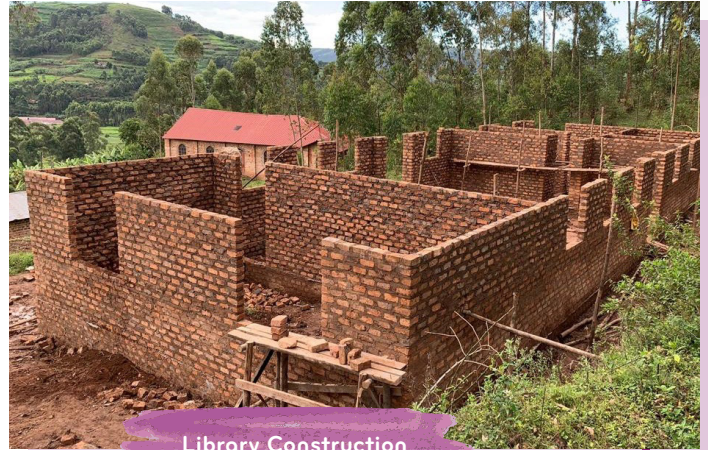
Mpeirwe Ivan Twino
MCM - UG Executive Director



MCM WISH LIST

The MCM Higher Education Fund

This February MCM received the exam results for our five Senior Six students. We are so proud to share that all five students qualified for University! Please consider a gift to the MCM Higher Education Fund as both University and Vocational Schools can reach over six times the cost of high school. In addition, students will need extra for internships, room and board, textbooks and even computers when appropriate.



Library Construction

Library and Office Construction Project

Yes! MCM is building again but on a much smaller scale than the past. The office which Ivan conducted ministry from for the past six years belongs to our supporting church. In 2014 it was more than adequate for the 35 children on program. Today, Ivan is trying to manage 170 children in the same space with no storage for uniforms, shoes, supplies, etc.

In addition to new offices MCM has the WONDERFUL dream to build a Children's Library to bless our village. This would be for all our village children, not just MCM children. It will be connected to the MCM offices This was the vision of one of MCM's Prayer Partners, Joyce Gibson, who tells her story on the back page. We are SUPER excited to have begun this in early April just when our students were sent home from school for COVID reasons. It has been a beacon of hope for the future at a time when hope is scarce.

If you join us in this vision of hope please designate giving to "Library" Per our policy - construction costs are never taken from sponsorship dollars intended for children.

Self Sustainability Gift Opportunities



Farmland for producing more crops



Initiation of Poultry Project

CHOOSING GRATITUDE!

At a time when losses are easy to see, we choose to focus on all God's goodness and faithfulness to us. We are so **THANKFUL** for you and for our blessings!



Very grateful for our crops of cabbages, potatoes and sorghum!



With your help MCM is now caring for 170 vulnerable village children - Yay God!

Faith Namalwa conducts a one-on-one counseling session with Phabius

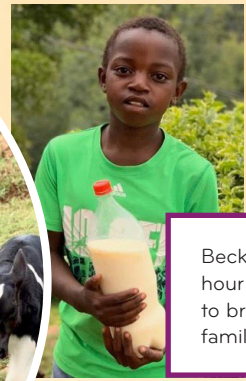


Dairy Farmers

MCM has now expanded to four cows...two moms and two baby bullocks! The goal is to move towards self sustainability by selling the milk produced. At this time 12-15 liters a day is welcome! MCM will feed and tend to the growth of the two male calves for a year before selling them for additional profit.



Aaron (left) and Isaac (right) with our two new baby calves



Beckham walks an hour a day to MCM to bring milk to his family. (below)

Counseling

MCM is proud to report we have a team of four caring Professional Counselors MCM students (age eleven and up) meet with on a regular schedule. From their first visit in September 2018 to their fourth visit this January 2020 we are moving in the direction of creating a safe place for the children to communicate their thoughts and feelings. Upper class men receive career guidance as well.

2019 Greatest Impact

Arguably the most significant difference MCM made this year was in the lives of one of our families. From the near death of their infant son, Blessed, to Cerebral Palsy diagnoses in both Blessed and Diana, to their father's debilitating foot infection, to their Mum's malnutrition - this family suffered! God blessed MCM with extra generous support from Mike Charlier and Linda & Jim Oddo to give food and medical attention to everyone and they are so much healthier! Praise God!



BEFORE (December 2019)



AFTER (April 2020)

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!

PLEASE SPONSOR A CHILD

GIVING CHILDREN HOPE

During this unprecedented time in our history, experiencing a world pandemic with the coronavirus, please consider giving a child hope for a better and brighter future. Sponsoring a child in developing countries at a time like this tangibly communicates we are in this together. They are not invisible, but seen and heard and cared about. Now more than ever they are the "risk" we are willing to make. Please join us.



BLESSING AMANYABYONA

Blessing (18) was abandoned by his father two years ago. His mother left him with his grandparents to find work in another district. His grandparents also care for six other grandchildren and cannot afford his tuition fees. Blessing wants to be a Pastor and has just entered Senior Four.



PRECIOUS NINSIIMA

Precious (14) lost both her parents when she was three years old and was brought to live with distant relatives who were caring for their own two grandchildren as well. Eventually they ran out of tuition funds and delegated her to herding their goats instead of school. With MCM Precious moved onto Senior One and has the goal of being a Midwife someday.



CLAIRE KYASIMIIRE

Claire's father left her mother when she was pregnant with Claire. He has not been heard from since and the family does not even know if he is alive. Claire's mother is now bringing her children up as a single parent and it has been a challenge since her income only comes from manual farm labor. Claire is in Primary Six (12 years old) and wants to become a nurse.



RUKIA NATUKUNDA

Rukia (11) lost her father in 2017 after an illness. Her mother's history of mental problems makes her unfit to look after children. Rukia's grandparents took her in after the passing of her Dad. She is in Primary Three and dreams of being a teacher one day. Her grandparents are peasant farmers and they do not earn enough to care for Rukia.



MARK KUKIRIZA

Mark (16) lost both his parents a few years ago. When they died they left him in the care of his older step-sister who has two babies of her own and cannot afford Mark's schooling. Mark is a quiet, hard working boy who loves the Lord and wants to be a Doctor someday. He is in Senior Four.



WILLIAM MUKAMAYEBARE

William (6) never knew his father and rarely sees his mother who left him when he was eight months old with his grandmother who also cares for two other young children. William's grandma is losing her strength to do farming to raise the children. William is a sweet, shy boy who enjoys math loves angel stories in the Bible He is in Primary One and wants to be a "moto car driver" someday.

If you would like to sponsor a child above or see our other needy children go to MOUNTAINCHILDRENSMINISTRY.COM and click on "Sponsor A Child"

WORDS FROM OUR SPONSOR: JOYCE GIBSON

Introduction by Michele

Joyce is a Hero of mine, a dear friend from church. She has sponsored Elijah Abaho since 2018 and has loved him well. This year when Elijah passed his University entrance exams Joyce even sent him resources for a computer and a computer class before University begins in the Fall.

However, with Joyce, my Hero, that was not enough. One day on her couch while visiting she asked me, "Michele, what exactly are you planning on doing to bless the children in your village who are NOT on your MCM program?" "Ummm" I answered, "I guess we should pray." I was assuming we would pray in the future but when I looked up, Joyce was already praying so I joined her. After several minutes she shared her thoughts. I asked her to write them down for you below...



Village and MCM children help with construction on their library

I started teaching Sunday school at age 13 and did not slow down until after my 90th birthday. Once grown, I invested my life in writing Bible curriculum for children. Every lesson guided boys and girls to discover God in Bible stories and learn His lessons on what truly brings life to the full.

Now I am 91 years old and I am looking for more ways to tell stories. The fact has been proven over the years - books shape lives. They give birth to hopes and dreams, instruction and life direction - even to pre-readers. When I asked Michele what she was doing to bless the children who were NOT on the MCM program we prayed together and I believe God quietly assured me that others needed to continue being the storytellers, drawing not just MCM children but ALL the village children to hear in their oral tradition, and to read books. My dream today is to see a library for our Mountain Children in Uganda. Quality books that make reading appealing to young children to spark their desire to learn and grow. Books open children's eyes and broaden their world to discover how they can fulfill their dreams and be people God uses for His glory."

Then, without hesitation, Joyce gave the first donation to start our library construction fund.



Joyce Gibson

Elijah Abaho

"I loved Jesus and wanted to please Him everyday of my life. Decades ago when I was 7 years old I had a dream. Actually it was more than a dream. It was a quiet, certainty God was telling me something He wanted me to do. As I grew, I had a sure sense God wanted me to be a storyteller who would draw children to Jesus and His living book, the Bible.

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