



Annabel Abeireho in her cap and gown surrounded by her "village" following her graduation from Bishop Barham University with a degree in education.

# mountain children's ministry

**Year End Summary  
December 2019**

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings and many blessings to you this Christmas season! Once again I am writing this filled with gratitude for all the support, wisdom and prayers so many of you have given so generously to MCM this year. Thank you!

The photo above is a very special memory for me. It shows our Annabel, an orphan having lost both her parents by age 10, surrounded on her graduation day. All these people are Annabel's "village". Together at her godmother's home we ate good food purchased by Ellen her sponsor and prepared by family and friends. Together we gave speeches celebrating Annabel's perseverance, good choices and against-all-odds impressive victory. Together we cut the cake and danced around the tiny living room jumping and hooting our happiness for this bright young lady's future. Together.

God gave Annabel every person pictured to stand with her through the various challenges of her journey. Everyone loved and supported her over the finish line. Many more will join her as she moves forward finding work, starting a family and living her best life together with God. We are no different. All of us need the support and encouragement and love of others for every season of our journeys too. This is why we are now encouraging the opportunity to give towards our MCM Higher Education Fund, to be a Difference Maker, a Giver who stands with our higher education candidates to ensure EVERYONE wins

When I think about the Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I also think, "together". Each one self emptying into the other for the joy of it, flowing out like rivers; replenished like the seas. Such a beautiful picture of how we are all to live - joyfully giving, gratefully receiving, always growing in Love. Together.

May the Joy of the Lord be with you as you are "Together with your people" celebrating the birth of Jesus in the next weeks!

**Many blessings,**  
Mummy Michele :)

**"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Love of God, and the fellowship of the  
Holy Spirit be with you all."**

**2 Corinthians 13:14"**



## UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: DECEMBER 2019

Once again I want to take this opportunity to Thank you for your support and prayers of our MCM children by sharing a few personal stories of lives changed by your generosity.

This year, we are so grateful to God, yet again, for making it possible to see the sweet reward of our dear sponsors' sacrifice and the persistence of their sponsored children come to fruition. We had a graduation ceremony this October for five of our children who successfully completed their education!

What great satisfaction it is to see children emerge from such hard backgrounds to stand on the pinnacle of Ugandan educational standards! Considering all the challenges they faced (and the rates of those who drop out else where) it is truly something that makes our hearts explode with gladness, pride and gratitude whenever such a day comes. Four of the five completed vocational school and one, university. We are so proud of this team of girls.



**Annabel** had been told by her relatives that she could not finish secondary school because her uncle was financially unable. She had been raised by her grandma since age ten when both her parents died. Fortunately, MCM, through her wonderful sponsor, Ellen, took her on. Annabel finished high school and went on

to university to pursue a degree in education. She did so well during her three years at university she graduated with a "second class upper degree", missing a "first class degree" by a fraction of a point. With God's faithfulness, Annabel was able to conquer the barriers of education and reach heights that most of her family members were unable - even though she had lost all hope of even finishing high school.

**Miria** is a "double" orphan. Both her parents died when she was eight years old and left her in the care of an auntie who was already burdened by the costs of providing for her own four children. This aunt tried her best but frustration would creep in and she would make Miria feel unwanted. As a result of this sadness and stress at home Miria was constantly unhealthy. Word came to us about the child's plight and by God's grace, dear Mary Beth

Anglin chose to sponsor her. Between good medical care, a loving sponsor and the change of living arrangements, Miria began to thrive.

Her constant chest pains healed and six years later, Miria was the best student in her graduating class, and even before her graduation, she was offered a job! Miria has been gainfully employed since June designing hair!

We want to express big thanks to her sponsor Mary Beth. Without her genuine love and prayers for Miria this would have been impossible.



**Rodah** lost her father at a young age and her mother was struggling with tuition costs and the child's health. We found that she had not been in school for a while and offered to help her. Karen Jacobsen Crozier (a teenager at the time) eagerly volunteered to be her "sponsor sister". MCM took Rodah to the best hospitals here and

she grew healthier. Despite ongoing medical issues Rodah finished her secondary education and applied to join an early childhood teacher's college. This year, she graduated and is thrilled to be fulfilling her heart's desire to help children like her! Rodah also received glowing reports from her instructors about her natural ability with little ones. Karen who also faced health issues was a constant prayer warrior for Rodah who is currently completing her internship at a good school. We hope in 2020 she will be retained by that school as a teacher.

**Praise** lost both parents by the time she was twelve. When they died they left behind four children under sixteen years old. With no able relatives the oldest dropped out of school and started cooking food for income in the local town. They moved from their house into a one room enclosure which doubled as an eatery by day and their bedroom at night. In 2013 their





teachers at the nearby primary school informed MCM of the children's home situation and when I visited it was a sight! The youngest who was 11, was laying on the floor with high malaria and Praise was playing cards with adult men! MCM contacted the authorities and all agreed Praise and Phabius move in with us immediately. By God's grace Praise was sponsored in 2014 by a recent college graduate, Meredith Muir, and because of her generous support Praise also graduated successfully and is now looking for work. Her life is turned around with a bright future ahead in hair and fashion design.

**Gift** lost her father at a young age and her mother, unable to care for her, left the child with her grandma to raise. She was sponsored in 2014 by Bridget and Nelson McLemore who stood beside her throughout her education although it was fraught with learning difficulties and failures. We are so proud of Gift and we are so blessed by the McLemores who never gave up hope. Many of our MCM children face difficulties in school. Whether it is the emotional trauma of losing parents, poor nutrition, or the initial lack of consistent school attendance, it is not uncommon for them to have academic challenges. Gift struggled but she also persisted. The McLemores also persisted in loving, supporting and encouraging her. No matter the circumstances they pointed her to God and to trust in His faithfulness. We are especially proud of our Gift who successfully graduated with her certificate in hair design! She is also strong and able to help with farming alongside her grandma.



We have other testimonies of children who were at the point of giving up on life and found redemption and hope by God's grace through this ministry but I cannot share now for a lack of space!

From the leaders of MCM in Uganda, we would like to thank everybody in the US that has given money, spared their precious time to write letters, and prayed. Without your generosity and kind hearts, all the monumental things happening in the lives of the children in Kabale and the adults too, would only be dreams. With all we have, we say thank you. We pray you have a very blessed Christmas season and a very prosperous 2020!



**In His Service ~**  
Mpeirwe Ivan Twino  
MCM - UG Executive Director

## MCM WISH LIST

### The MCM Higher Education Fund

Please consider a gift to the MCM Higher Education Fund this December. This fund will help MCM cover the candidates on program who are moving beyond secondary education into either University or Vocational schools.

When a student enters Vocational or University, costs can reach over six times the expense of secondary school tuition. In addition students will need extra for internship costs, room and board, textbooks and even computers when appropriate. Your generosity in helping to subsidize these expenses will help our students maximize their education and increase their opportunities to be skilled future income earners.

**For more details, contact Michele at (630) 606-3165 or email [michelepageau@gmail.com](mailto:michelepageau@gmail.com)**



**Completed piggy!**

### Self Sustainability Gift Opportunities

As always MCM is learning, growing and expanding our self sustainability programs. A gift to any of these programs will help us achieve our goal of increasing the dignity and responsibility of our students by teaching Ugandans to earn income for MCM.



**Farming Program** - gifts of land, seeds and labor fees to increase crops



**Piggery Program** - selling pork has been our program that is consistently in the black. Our new expanded piggery currently houses 10 adults and 18 piglets.



**Poultry Program** - new expanded chicken house is nearly completed needing stairs, doors, and more chicken rearing equipment.



**Cow Program** - income earned with milk and calf sales...this is brand new for us!



# ABUNDANTLY GRATEFUL!

MCM sponsors over 160 children. 54 of those children have been sponsored in just this past year thanks to Printcomm, Hillside Church in Arizona and various individuals! This has been an AMAZING year of God's ABUNDANCE! Thank you for considering lowering our waiting list even more (we are now down to 100 waiting children) and believing He will provide if you "risk" sponsoring a new child!

## Bible Study Crafts

First Reformed Church of Pella, Iowa blessed our little children with resources to make crafts to bring their Bible study lessons to life! Here is an angel for FRC angels!



## Harvesting Farmland

Ellen and Mike join Ivan on the farmland Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church purchased. We will be harvesting potatoes in February and are so grateful to ECRC!



We are so grateful to Mike Charlier who donated Bibles, bought MCM our first cow ("Violet"...who is pregnant!) and sponsored six children during his visit to Uganda in October!



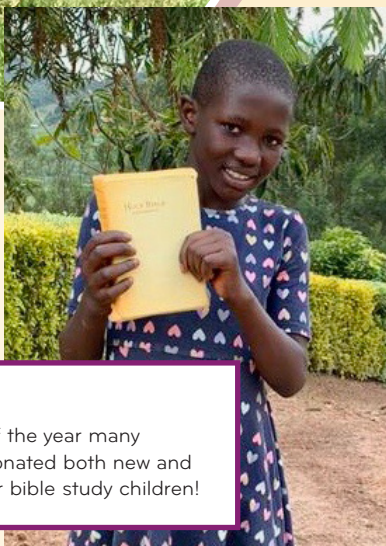
## New MCM T-shirts

Because of your generosity our MCM kids are proudly wearing their new MCM polo shirts "Uncle Ivan" silk screened. Thank you!



## More Bibles!

Over the course of the year many friends of MCM donated both new and used Bibles for our bible study children!



## 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!



# WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD?

## SPONSOR A CHILD!

Research done by a group of development economists out of University of San Francisco (2008 - 2013) shows "extremely large, statistically significant impacts of child sponsorship in areas of education and leadership and job opportunities" \* when that child was interviewed 25 years later as an adult and compared to their unsponsored siblings and peers. Furthermore "patient nurturing of self worth, self expectations, dreams and aspirations may be the critical part of helping children escape poverty." \* To summarize, sponsors give children hope and that hope makes a sizable, measurable difference in eliminating poverty. Please join us in giving children hope and a future.



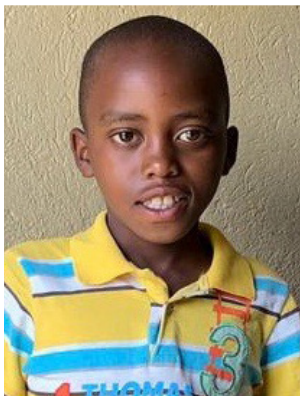
### CLAIRE KYASIMIIRE

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 (11 years old) is in Primary Six and wants to become a nurse.



### RUKIA NATUKUNDA

Rukia (10) lost her father in 2017 after an illness. Her mother has always had a history of mental problems making 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.



### ELIJAH AKANDWANAH

Elijah (10) was left with his grandfather when his father died in 2017 after an illness. His grandfather is a subsistence farmer and Elijah helps him with farming when he is not in school. Grandpa's age is preventing him from earning enough for the boy's care. Elijah is in Primary Four and wants to be a pilot when he grows up.



### SETH NIWAMANYA

Seth (12) was abandoned by his mother when he was 2 years old. He remained with his father who remarried soon after. Seth's new stepmother asked his father to find another place for him to live so he took the child to his grandparents. Seth's grandparents are frail peasant farmers and will not be able to provide for him much longer. Seth is in P 6 and does well in school. His goal is to become a Doctor.



### JESSICA KEBIRUNGI

Jessica (9) lost her mother when she was two years old as she was giving birth to her sibling. Unfortunately her father also passed soon after due to a motor vehicle accident. Jessica and her little sister have been staying with her grandmother since. She is in Primary Three and wants to become a nurse.



### PROMISE AKAMPURIRA

Promise (7) is a double orphan having lost both her parents. She has been staying with her maternal auntie for the past 3 years. The auntie has children of her own and has been struggling to provide for her family plus Promise through her manual labor as a peasant farmer. Promise is in Primary One and wants to be a midwife someday.

\*June 2013 Christianity Today by Bruce Wydick, professor, University of San Francisco

Learn more about our other unsponsored children at:  
**MOUNTAINCHILDRENSMINISTRY.COM**



## A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Ellen Westveer

Over 5 years ago I was reluctant to sponsor a child through MCM having just finished the sponsorship of other kids and wanting a break. However, when I read Annabel's profile I felt it was what I must do. In her letters Annabel was adamant about continuing her education and wanting to go to University. After completing Secondary exams her



Meeting for the first time at the airport

scores were not quite good enough for University and she was devastated. However, her high school teacher highly recommended her character and work ethic so she was admitted to Bishop Barham University. I was happy to help with her tuition (it's not very expensive by the way), and bought her a laptop computer.

Over the next 3 years

Annabel would Facebook message me about her progress (which was excellent), and ask "are you coming to visit with mummy Michele?" "Heck no!" I thought to myself - traveling to Africa was not on my retirement bucket list. Instead I replied, "Sorry, I can't come", but suggested if she did graduate from University I'd think about it. Well, last spring Michele called and said "Annabel is graduating October 11th do you want to go?" My response was "Heck no, but of course I will go!" What a blessing of a trip it was.

The visit not only brought me to Africa and exposed me to another part of God's world; but it gave me a passion for what we as persons who live in freedom and abundance can do to literally "change the world" with our time, attention, and minimal financial help. Annabel is an orphan. Her mom died when she was 5 years, and her father when she was 10 years. She lived with an aged grandmother, which many Ugandan kids do, until grandma could not care for her. Ivan told us that 75% of the Ugandan population is under the age of 15 years.



Ellen and Annabel on safari

Annabel spoke at the graduation party and had heartfelt thanks to "Uncle Ivan, Mummy Michele, and Mummy Ellen" for affording her the opportunity of education and being her life support. Annabel spoke to the other MCM kids at the graduation party and encouraged them to "Work hard, find good friends who can support you, and pray to God ". Annabel lived by those principles herself, and with the help of MCM she is on a path to a better life and helping others in her country.



Graduation Day!

I must also say how much fun I had on this trip! I spent lots of time with Michele, her cousin Mike who traveled with us, Ivan and Annabel as we went on safari in Murchison Falls National Park, drove endless hours through Uganda, partied at Annabel's godmother's home after graduation and again the next day at the MCM party with all the kids.

Traveling to Africa is not something each of us is able to do; but we are all able to support a child through MCM and other ministries both here in the United States or abroad. I was impressed at how much my "little" support meant to Annabel and enabled her to reach her life goals. I am convinced that we all can be part of "changing the world" by simply reaching out to one or two vulnerable children who need our time and attention. ~ **Ellen Westveer**



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