



Nancy, a University scholarship recipient home on COVID lock down, reads to village children at God's Joy Library

mountain children's ministry

Year End Summary
December 2020

DEAR FRIENDS,

Wow! What a year 2020 has turned out to be! The headlines today (mid-November) claimed the highest number of COVID cases since the outbreak in March. Just when you think we are getting a handle on this virus, the numbers surge again. Very frustrating and a real opportunity to grow in our ability to be less controlling and more trusting.

Once again, as in the June MCM Newsletter, I choose to focus on the positive. At a time when Americans were least certain of their economic future I was forced by our COVID circumstances to put out an urgent request for donations for food for our children and villagers who were starving as a result of the Uganda lockdown. And you did not disappoint! Thank you to all who responded so generously with the resources and prayers to feed our children and their families. You got us through October - a VERY difficult, life threatening time and we were so blessed! We hope you consider giving towards more COVID food distribution as the virus is on the rise in our villages.

We also have COVID and your generosity to thank for a brand new library. Without the virus causing all of our children and

teens to be sent home from school we would not have had assistance for our builders. Our village children came to the worksite daily and offered their help digging the foundation, moving rocks for a floor, carrying water for mixing cement, and running errands. Our vocational students in construction and carpentry came to help build door frames and further learn their trades with professionals at the library construction site. We thank those who donated towards the building, tables, shelves, books and computers too. It is only God who could raise up such a positive, educational, unheard-of-before-in-our-area library DURING a worldwide pandemic!

Finally, on a personal note, because of COVID and the lockdown on air travel, I have not been allowed to travel to Uganda since January. VERY sad face! Instead, our God who transforms all things opened the door for Mark and I to move from Illinois to Michigan and simplify our lives. This was nothing short of miraculous considering over 35 years of "stuff" needing to be sorted, purged and moved. I could never have done it without the extra time I unexpectedly had not traveling to my beloved Uganda. More good from "bad". **PLEASE note our new MCM mailing address - 1609 Jerome St, Holland, MI 49423.**

All these examples to highlight the absolute goodness of our God! We have witnessed "glorious unfolding from ashes". We pause and acknowledge the lives lost, the jobs lost, the friends and families who continue to pay dearly during this pandemic. There has been much sadness and loss. Then we raise our faces and look to our Father in Heaven, trusting He is the giver of all good gifts. Praying alongside you for the healing of our world and the growth of love always.

Many many blessings to you all and Merry Christmas!
~ Mummy Michele :)

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: DECEMBER 2020

Greetings from Uganda in the name of our Lord Jesus! I want to thank God for His protection over your lives during these uncertain times and pray that He continue keeping each one of you healthy and safe.

As some of you may have read from the news Uganda has not been hit hard by Coronavirus, and for this we are eternally thankful to God. If Uganda had been hit hard it would have been a calamity with our lack of medical personnel and infrastructure. By God's grace we have had about 12,000 cases and about 100 deaths. Sadly however COVID has hit our rural town

Kabale with 20 new hospitalizations and even 2 people hospitalized from our tiny village of Butekumwa this week (mid November).

The effects from the virus on the Uganda economy have been felt extremely hard here. Almost every family in our area has someone that works in the city and remits some of their earnings back to the family in the

village. After the COVID hit many people in Kampala and other cities were not able to send resources back to their people here. As you can expect it has had a huge impact on families in our community. Not just that, but with schools closed, the children who would be in school for nine months of the year, and would be at home for 1.5 months longest during the break, were now home for months on. That meant that the food in gardens that would usually be enough for the children during the breaks, would be depleted within two months. By the third month of the lockdown, many families were at the brink of starvation and the lockdown was still on going.

Some of our children's families that relied on trading in some food items like tomatoes, onions, cabbages



Community children on MCM waiting list receive food

and coffee and also non food items like timber, bricks, clay pots, baskets and the like were also badly affected because all markets were closed and transport shut down completely. They were now stuck with their goods and no source of income. The hotels and restaurants that bought these items were also shut.

Around May the leadership in our village approached us concerning several MCM families in the community that were experiencing incredible food shortages and on the brink of starving.



Elderly widows in the village helped



Hope and Phobi, MCM students, help measure out COVID rice

Because of your commitment to our children and community we were able to procure food to help all these families for a course of three months! During this time, these meals were able to help them for the time they didn't have any more food in their gardens to when they were able to plant potatoes and beans and make a harvest.



Each family receives rice, beans, flour, sugar and soap

With the generous gift from our partners, we were able to procure 33,000 pounds of maize flour, 6,600 pounds of beans, 5,500 pounds of rice, 1760 pounds of sugar, 400 bars of soap, 40 gallons of cooking oil. These were a life saver for many people here. We were able to provide meals to 180 families for approximately three months.

We thank God because now some services have been opened up. Schools and universities have been opened up for finalist students. We hope that at the end of January, all other classes will be able to resume their studies too.



Bonita with beans

Mobile markets where some of our families were selling their harvests are still closed and so there is still a struggle with some families but because of your faithful help life is much better.

On behalf of every beneficiary of MCM, we thank you our dear partners for standing with us during the pandemic and not quitting on us even when it was understandable to do so. May our faithful God bless all of you

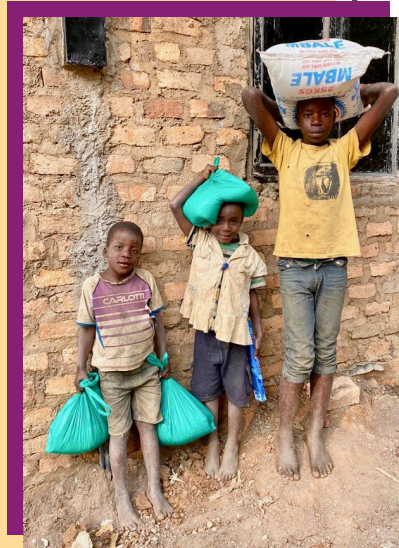


In His Service ~
Mpeirwe Ivan Twino
MCM - UG Executive Director

MCM WISH LIST

Emergency COVID Relief For Hurting Families

Please consider a gift to the MCM COVID relief fund established in June of this year as a direct immediate response to the shut down of the Ugandan market places and economic impact on our villagers. Your generous gifts helped villagers through October and we are anticipating further need with the newly reported coronavirus cases hospitalized from our area.





Library Supplies

"God's Joy Library" was completed in November thanks to the hard work not only of our builders but also of our MCM children who were home from school on COVID lockdown. We are now in the process of stocking it with books and supplies. It is much more cost effective to purchase books in Uganda blessing their infrastructure as well as saving on shipping costs. If you would like to give a child the gift of education, adventure, imagination, mystery, laughter and so much more...give resources for books this Christmas!



Self Sustainability Gift Opportunities

-  **Farmland for producing more crops**
-  **Initiation of Poultry Project**
-  **Higher Education Fund**

PLEASE SPONSOR A CHILD

BRING JOY THIS CHRISTMAS

After months of school lock downs in Uganda, a lost school year and a global pandemic our children are excited for miracles this Christmas. Please consider giving the gift of hope to one of our Ugandan village children in 2021.



RUKIA NATUKUNDA

Rukia (11) lost her father in 2017 after an illness. Her mother's history of mental problems. Makes her unfit to care for children. Rukia's grandparents took her in after the passing of her Dad. She is in Primary Three (third grade) and dreams of being a teacher. Her grandparents are peasant farmers.



JOSEPH TURYAHEBWA

Joseph (15) was abandoned by both parents as a 5 month old with his grandma Mary who is a peasant farmer. She is now no longer physically able to do the work required to provide enough money for his school tuition. Joseph is entering Senior Three (his Junior year) and is bright, ranking 18th out of 74 in his class. Joseph wants to be a doctor.



PRECIOUS NINSIIMA

Precious (15) lost both her parents by the time she was 3 years old. She lives with distant elderly relatives who are already caring for 2 grandchildren in addition to Precious. Although she scored well on the seventh grade national exam her guardians removed her from school to herd goats. With MCM Precious moved onto Senior One and would like to be a midwife someday.



SAMUEL KUKUNDEKWE

Samuel (16) lost his father 10 years ago. His Mum is a peasant farmer and struggling with his tuition and that of his 4 siblings. Without school fees Samuel had dropped out of school however his teacher asked him to "dig" (manual farm labor) to help pay for school. MCM returned Samuel to Senior Three (junior year). His goal is to become a doctor.



SUZAN KYOMUGISHA

Suzan (11) is the oldest of 4 children. Her mother and father are peasant farmers but her father has severe stomach pain with heavy lifting from inadequate hernia repair so his workload is limited. He also works part time as a Pastor but is unpaid. Suzan is in Primary Five (fifth grade) and wants to be a doctor.



MIRACLE TURYAMUREEBA

Miracle (16) was the hardest working, most consistent volunteer student "laborer" on our new library during this COVID season even though he was not on the MCM program! Miracle's father packed up and left a year ago. No one has heard from him. His Mum takes care of Miracle and his 3 siblings now with her earnings from digging. It is insufficient to meet tuition fees. Miracle is in Senior Two (sophomore year in high school) and hopes to be an Electrical Engineer 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"

WE CHOOSE JOY!

This Christmas we have so much to be grateful for! Please enjoy a small sample of the many ways God is blessing MCM children...



The new MCM library spigot provided another water source for the community.



MCM's self sustaining programs of pigs, cows and crops are all growing and developing.



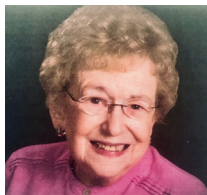
MCM Education Committee chooses five students to receive University scholarship funds.



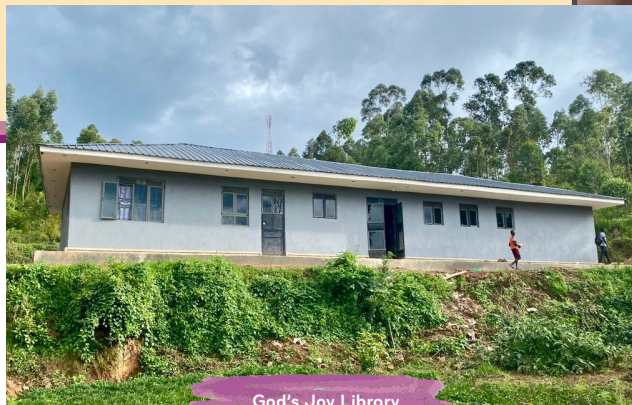
Bosco, a Carpentry student, adds doors

GOD'S JOY LIBRARY

Our new structure boasts seven rooms: two MCM offices, storage, a bathroom for adults, a large library, a smaller "oral sharing" space and a computer room. We also have a latrine with separate boys and girls areas. The entire library was built with donations designated specifically for it. God's Joy Library is named after



Joyce Gibson our 92 year old friend who prayed for ALL the children of the village to be blessed with the stories of Jesus, not just MCM children. God gave her this inspiration and she was a generous contributor. God's Joy Library was also built BY the children of the village (in part) who were home on COVID shut down and came to help every day. God's Joy Library is a dream FOR the village children and BY the village children...it is our global pandemic miracle. ...with God all things are possible. *Matthew 19:26*



God's Joy Library



Village children using the computer room until library space is completed

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!

WORDS FROM OUR SPONSOR: THE ROSE FAMILY

Written by Lauren Rose

Andrew and I have been married since 2008. We started sponsoring children in 2014. Michele had approached me while attending an event at her house about sponsorship. Her folder contained information about precious Esther Kiconco and the rest was history. We felt the nudge from God instantly! Exchanging letters with Esther, having the privilege to pray for her and watching her grow and thrive these past six years has been such a joy.



Lauren and Andrew Rose
with their sons



Christian (8) holds Esther's photo,
Gabe (6) holds Ivan, and Luke (3) with
his "Jesus first loved us" magnet

Andrew and I now have three awesome (and active!) boys of our own. Last year, we prayerfully decided to start sponsoring a second child, Ivan Mpumuzze. He is the same age as our oldest son, Christian and is also one of three brothers. It has been so cool to see our boys draw pictures, write letters

and take an active roll in "caring for the least of these". We are so grateful for the opportunity that God has given us to partner with MCM and to watch all of the amazing things that He is doing through this ministry!



Esther Kiconco

Ivan Mpumuzze

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STAY CONNECTED!

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