



"You Are Welcome!"
Sarah Prossy warmly greets us
at the entrance to her home



mountain children's ministry

**Mid Year Summary:
June 2019**

DEAR FRIENDS,

During my January 2019 visit to Uganda Ivan and I did several child home visits for a variety of reasons. Whether we were visiting a sick baby, ensuring that construction work had commenced for a new goat pen, collecting missing report cards, setting up solar lighting, or checking on the safety of our child's living situation we were welcomed most enthusiastically. These are charming characteristics of Ugandan culture - a high value of community, the honor they place on having guests and the warm hospitality each guest is given.

"You are welcome!" they exclaim with delight racing to you before you even reach the door as if they have been searching the horizon for you. If they have been prepared for your visit their mud homes are swept clean and the children are scrubbed too, wearing their Sunday clothes. Prepared or not, you are invited in and you are ushered to one of the few chairs they own. They sit on mats on their dirt floors smiling up expectantly at you. Even the poorest among them offers you a banana or a drink of the local Bushera made with sorghum grains. Over and over they thank you for the honor

of visiting their home as if you are some kind of royalty who has graced them with your presence.

To me, an American from Chicagoland suburbs, this stands in stark contrast to our culture. Only the best of friends feels comfortable "dropping by" unexpectedly. If you are busy or have an appointment, company is expected to know you cannot visit as your schedule takes precedent. Although most Americans will offer their guests food or water they assume their unexpected guests will leave before meal time. Most certainly they would not think of spending the night. But in Uganda unexpected guests can drop by and expect to be hosted for weeks on end. The hosts would be considered rude to ask for their guest's future plans or exit date.

We at MCM want to imitate that Ugandan cultural posture which is so welcoming and focused on our guests. We have completed God's Refuge Guest House. We know the best way to get to really know your sponsored child or MCM is to experience it for yourself. So start planning now...you are welcome!

A special "Thank You!" to all who have blessed us with the resources to finish this Refuge. We currently have 4 children living there who come from abusive homes. We Thank God for being able to provide for the unsafe children in our community because of your generosity.

Many blessings,
Mummy Michele :)

**"The foreigner residing among you must
be treated as your native-born. Love them
as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.
I am the Lord your God."**

Leviticus 19:34

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: JUNE 2019

Sending warm greetings from Kabale Uganda. I want to take this opportunity to thank God who keeps doing good to His children here through our great sponsors, donors, prayer partners and all who support us in so many ways! I would like to highlight a changed life that has really made our hearts very happy this first half of 2019.

Ishmael Turyagyenda

In February of this year, we had 6 high school teens join higher institutes of learning. All of them say they are enjoying those changes in their lives very much. My focus today is on one teenager called Ishmael who chose to pursue a field in agriculture and animal husbandry.



MCM began helping Ishmael when he was fourteen years old. He was one of the first children on our program sponsored by the Green family in 2013. Being a double orphan (meaning both his mother and his father are deceased) Ishmael had been brought to stay with his Auntie Anne at a young age. However, he wasn't the only child staying with this wonderful single lady. There were another five children under her care all of whom belonged either to her deceased brothers and sisters or were children of relatives who were struggling 'more' than Auntie Anne. With no one to help her raise all these children, some started having behavioral issues and Ishmael was heading that way.

MCM noticed how this lady was truly overburdened so we added all of her children to our program. MCM sponsors put them in school and started providing a lot of their other needs as well. For some of these kids, it was too



late to retrieve them and correct them so they ended up going rogue but we stuck in there with Ishmael. Along the way there were a few challenges and we almost gave up at some point but then he started showing signs, albeit slowly, of reforming.

Ishmael was able to finish his primary school level and passed well to continue to secondary school in 2015. Fast forward after four years of secondary school, Ishmael is now in college, 80 miles from home. He is studying to be an agricultural/animal specialist and he is so excited to be doing this course. He is such a transformed young man we are also surprised and delighted at the work the Lord has done in his life to get to where he is now. Ishmael's relatives are shocked when they hear how successful he has become compared to the boy he was 6 years prior!

When he came back home for his Easter break this April, Ishmael offered to do some farm work for the MCM organization. He exhibited to us some of the new farming methods he had learned at school. We are really impressed with Ishmael's work ethic and the knowledge he has attained. We believe God is going to use Ishmael to bring change to his family and community too with the skills he is learning at Agricultural and Animal Husbandry School.



and from Michele...

Ironically on the American side, Ishmael's sponsors Jim and Shelly Green are also very involved in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry even though they work in the city of Detroit. In 2010 Jim began buying up land surrounding his factory, Milton Manufacturing, converted it to farmland and began urban farming raising fresh produce for local residents. Jim also began raising chickens, cows, goats, sheep and other farm animals in the unused areas of his factory so children in Detroit could participate in 4-H club.



Get a closer look at the differences Jim and Shelly Green are making with their ministry at pingreefarms.org

Jim and Shelly have stood by Ishmael through thick and thin and have been amazingly involved "family" in his life. We think it is perfect how God has interwoven their lives and we look forward to having the Greens visit Ishmael in Uganda someday! Although this update is centered on one child, we thank God for the progress He is blessing every one of our children with.



back to Ivan...

I am ending on a note of gratitude to you and to God. May He bless you one hundred times over!

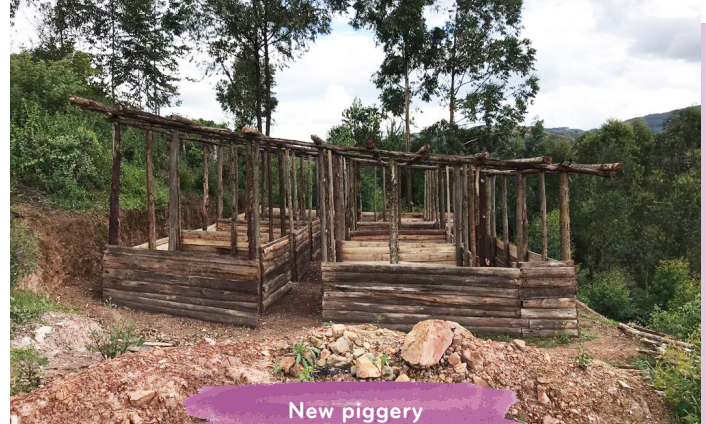
In His Service ~

Mpeirwe Ivan Twino
MCM - UG Executive Director

MCM WISH LIST

Self Sustaining Needs

- ✓ Roof for our piggery expansion
- ✓ Poultry project renovations
- ✓ Farmland for crops
- ✓ Initiation of cattle husbandry



New piggery construction

Scholarship Needs

MCM has a total of 11 students in Senior 5 and Senior 6 this school year. These classes are called "A Level" in Uganda. Here in the USA we may recognize them as community college or other college prep school levels. What this means for MCM is the need to prepare for these young men and women to attend University if they demonstrate the necessary academic ability. University costs are a minimum of six times the cost of secondary school plus the necessary extras (internship costs, textbooks, computer classes etc). MCM is starting a scholarship fund for these upcoming needs and we would be so blessed if you would like to contribute to these bright young people's future success. We intend to create an application process and an Education/Career Committee to review these applicants as well. An essay and references will also be required. We want the students to recognize from the start the great blessing it is to be able to continue their education at the University level and their academic performance will be subject to review yearly to maintain their scholarship.

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.



SANDRA TUMWESIGYE

Sandra (14) lost both her parents and her older sister to AIDS by the time she was 9 years old. She passed her primary exams well and is now in Senior One with the goal of becoming an Accountant. Sandra lives with her uncle who is a peasant farmer and cannot afford her school fees.



SAM AGABA

Sam (14) and his two sisters were abandoned by their father when Sam was 9 yrs old. His mother was not able to provide for all the needs of her children so Sam lived with his uncle until last year when his uncle could no longer afford to pay his school fees. Sam scored a Division One grade on the Primary Leaving Exams. He is now in Senior One and aspires to be a Doctor.



OBED BYAMAMUKAMA

Obed (18) has a father who has become mentally ill and cannot provide for his family any longer. His mum is a peasant farmer and shoulders the burden of providing for the entire family of 10 children. Obed works hard helping his family but has an equally strong desire to attend school. He is now in Senior Five and wants to be an Engineer.



GLORIOUS NINSIIMA

Glorious (14) lost her father when she was three. Her mum is a peasant farmer who attempted to provide for Glorious and her sister but eventually had to send her sister to a relative for food and school fees. Glorious is in Senior One with the goal of becoming a Nurse.



ISAAC TUMWEBAZE

Isaac (13) lives with his single mum who digs the land of others for meager wages. There are three children in the family. Isaac is in Primary Seven and has the goal of becoming a Doctor. He is ranked first in his class and scores very high in math, science and social studies. Isaac will be taking his Primary Leaving Exams this November.



LEONIDAS KYOMUKAMA

Leonidas (8) has a disabled father who was hurt and became physically handicapped. Although he walks with crutches he still attempts to work manually digging fields. Leonidas's mum cannot earn enough farming to provide for the family. Leonidas is in Primary Three and wants to be a teacher when she grows up.

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

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

LESS WORDS, MORE GRATITUDE!

In Uganda you will hear people say "Slowly by slowly," our way of saying "One step at a time." Because a picture is worth a thousand words we want to Thank you and Thank God for helping us to continue making progress in our peasant farming village slowly by slowly.



God's Refuge Guest House

Completed and ready for company! We have running water, electricity (most days) and enough room to sleep 10-20 folks. All are welcome!

More Farmland

Many Thanks to Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church for blessing MCM with a gift that allowed us to add almost 2 acres of farmland!



New Sponsors!

A dear friend of MCM paid to sponsor 12 children. His employees volunteered to write the children and bring hope through their relationships. In March he added 12 more, totaling 24 MCM children sponsored!



Form Animals for Children

MCM sponsors have begun sending designated gifts to purchase farm animals for their children. This teaches the children to care for and raise animals and further helps to provide income for their families!



Piggery Expansion

This past winter 10 new piglets were born! Anticipate adding a new roof for their new piggery too.



Expanded Chicken House

Since the completion of God's Refuge House, Ivan commissioned the new construction of this two level chicken house. We are eager to start with a new brood of baby chickens in the next few months.

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!

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Kelly and Charity Cunningham

When Kelly and I got married in 2006, we knew a few things for certain: that God is the center of our new family; that we had a calling to serve in Africa, specifically Uganda; and that at some point we would add to our family through adoption. In 2008, we had our first opportunity to travel to Uganda with close friends of ours. While there, we were able to meet and minister to many children, in various settings. We also met our future daughter on that trip. We returned in 2009, to bring her home to her forever family. All the while, we wanted to do more for the vulnerable children that we met while we were there- knowing that it was just not possible to bring every single one home with us (...though we would if we could!!)



Josiah (7 y/o), Khito (15 y/o),
and Caybel (5 y/o)

Fast forward several years, and Kelly, a web developer, began building the MCM website with Michele. One of the areas he was responsible for, was adding children that needed



Kelly and Charity Cunningham

sponsors to the page. With each child's story that he read, it became very clear, that this was an immediate way we could help these kids. What started with one sponsorship, quickly became "The Cunningham 6" - Anitah, Martha, Noeline, Promise, Louis and Jordan. Each time Kelly would add a group of children to the website, it seemed like there was a new one that jumped out to us as desperately needing sponsorship, so we would reach out to Michele and add them to our brood.

We love sponsoring our Uganda kids through MCM! We enjoy putting together small packages and cards several times a year for all of our Uganda kids, and then hearing directly back from them with the sweet letters and pictures they send us. We have been able to get our three kids involved in the process by having them contribute the giving portion of their allowance back to their Ugandan siblings and helping us purchase simple gifts and writing letters to them.

We are so thankful for the work of Michele and Ivan to impact these children, not just in their physical need, but in their spiritual need as well.

Please consider joining us in impacting the future of these children for the kingdom of God!

Blessings ~

Charity (for the Cunningham family)



To stay up to date, subscribe to our blog and newsletter at **mountainchildrensministry.com**



Or follow us on Instagram **[#mountainchildrensministry](https://www.instagram.com/mountainchildrensministry)**

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