

### A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Rowena Freelend is 80 years young. Here she sits with her treasure - a canvas print of her 4 sponsored boys. Rowena lives on social security, below poverty level. She actually runs a food bank out of her garage weekly with little help. In her early 20's Rowena served as a missionary in Africa and continues to carry these needy children in her heart. Rowena Freelend is my Hero. I asked her to write our first "Word" from a Sponsor. She had it to me in less than 2 hours!

#### The Joy of Sponsorship By Rowena E. Freelend

It is my great pleasure to be sponsoring four darling boys who live in Uganda. Sponsorship is really a thing of the heart and a willingness to sacrifice. Certainly I can envision their lack of necessary daily provision let alone school fees.

Their letters and pictures bring them right into my home with me. Tears of joy fill my eyes when I see their smiling happy faces. Their letters are filled with love for me, their mother. My letters tell them how proud I am of them for working so hard in school and for loving Jesus.

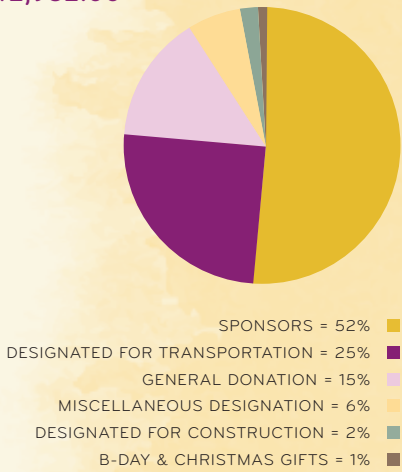
My greatest desire is for them to prepare for heaven. They tell me they have Jesus as their Savior. That is the only way I will ever get to see them. Oh! I will be delighted to see them. We will spend eternity with Jesus and each other. With eagerness I look forward to that day.

In the meantime my heart acts up with flowing love over every picture and every letter. These boys are near - right in my heart! Praise the Lord!

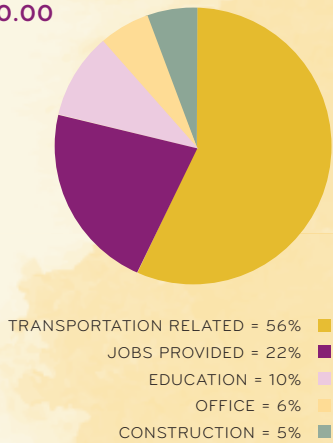
**"Sponsorship is really a thing of the heart and a willingness to sacrifice."**

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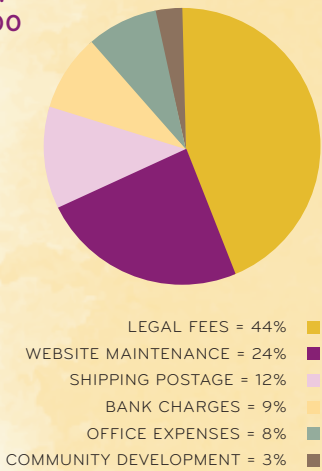
DONATIONS:  
\$42,982.00



EXPENSES  
MCM UG:  
\$30,320.00



EXPENSES  
MCM US:  
\$6,756.00



REMAINING CASH = \$5,906.00

ALL NUMBERS PROJECTED FOR  
FISCAL YEAR JAN THRU DECEMBER 2014



## MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY YEAR END UPDATE December 2014

### Dear Friend of Mountain Children's Ministry,

Thank you for your prayers, your interest and your generous support of MCM this year! Ivan and I have put together a brief overview of this year's highlights. I laugh at the word 'brief' considering its length but the truth is it has been severely edited. I have given you only the bare bones. More details will come in blogs and posts.

MCM US is now recognized as an official, tax exempt, non-profit organization in the eyes of the IRS. Two separate entities, MCM US partners with MCM UG to help support her mission to vulnerable children in rural Uganda. Therefore, this newsletter has been divided into MCM US and MCM UG news. I am writing page one about the US and Ivan, our Executive

Director in Uganda, shares UG news on pages 2,3, and 4.

These girls are sisters. Savious (left) and Promise (right) have been waiting since May for someone to choose to make a difference in their lives. The last two times Ivan distributed letters from sponsors these sisters were left out because there were no sponsors to write to them. Ivan had sad little girls to deal with. Please, if you feel tugging in your heart to sacrifice \$1.40 a day and write a loving letter a couple times a year I invite you to the most inexpensive, educational, wonderful experience in making a difference in the world! Please pray. Please give. Please share love. Check our website, mountainchildrensministry.com and click on "Sponsor A Child" to see all your opportunities, please.



Savious (left) and Promise (right) have been waiting since May for someone to choose to make a difference in their lives.





## UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA

When Ma Michele and I felt the calling to come to Kabale, it was an immense challenge. I admit there were times I was kind of skeptical about what we were getting ourselves into, albeit fully knowing that God was behind it all, but it was a daunting vision. Here we were going into a new area not knowing what to expect. I can sympathize with Jesus who had to ask His Father for help all the time. After 2 years, I have never been more sure that it was God Himself that sent us to this part of the world. He has performed miracle after miracle for us! Here are a few from 2014 that really stood out for me and I should bring out.



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Ivan pumping water from the borehole. The building behind him on the right is the newly redone MCM office, and our church, Deliverance, is behind him on the left.



### PIGGERY

On top of the farming, we also wanted to learn animal husbandry. In August with three piglets we were able to start a piggery in an unsafe, stilted structure. In October Pastor Nesham and Rodella gave us enough to build a new piggery. After it was completed in November we purchased more piglets thanks to Hillside Bible Church in Arizona! So far, it has 7 pigs but within 3 months from now, it could be about 24 because we have 2 sows that will breed this week. Ugandans love their pork and so we want to avail them more opportunities of enjoying by selling our pigs to them at a good price. A piglet is bought at about \$25 here but within 3-4 months, the price has tripled. We are hoping that if we increase on the quantity, we will be able to achieve our goal of self-sufficiency sooner rather than later. We also have a plan to start a chicken coop this February.



### SELF SUSTAINING VENTURES

When we felt called to start MCM, one of the main targets we had was to be self-sustaining in the long run. So in February, we started (more like experimenting) to do potato farming on half an acre and see whether it would generate income. What came out of that harvest was used to buy seed for the upcoming June season. When harvesting time came in September, all I had was regret; not of the harvest but why we had experimented with little. The yield just blew me away! On top of that, the number of buyers scrambling for the little that was available was unbelievable. It felt to me like God was making a statement: The work He began He will see through and bless. Indeed it was a blessing because many peoples' farms were flooded and many lost their crops. Somehow God kept ours un-soaked. In October we contributed 15% of our MCM budget. We are going to increase on the acreage and seed considerably this season and we believe God will bless the works of our hands. What a wonderful feeling to contribute!



### SHARING JESUS' LOVE

The major reason we started MCM in this region was to spread the word of our Lord Jesus to those little ones. We want to train the children God has given us in MCM to know who God is; an all loving Father. In May we started a Bible study program for our kids. This is a fabulous time for me especially because the children listen so attentively and ask questions. We divide the children into 2 categories: I handle the 3 to 11 year olds and Pastor Elisam handles

the teenagers. In my class we sing, dance, read bible stories and then we paint/ color pictures of what we were learning about. In the other class, the pastor teaches the children fundamental life principles from the Bible and then fields questions. Pastor Sam also provides counseling to them. Every after our Bible lessons, the kids are fed. Many children in this village appear malnourished because their diet has few nutrients. We provide them with protein, milk and vegetables. After the meal, those with grown hair are trimmed for free since many parents cannot afford paying for a haircut at the barbershop. We thank our partners for sending the children Bibles because they are learning to read them and understand what is written.

### CLEAN WATER

In February this year we were also blessed with a new borehole (well). Kabale is a mountainous area and so water is available in the valleys of these mountains although often it is not clean. For those who live on the mountain tops however, trouble always comes when time comes to carry this water from the bottom of the hill up for several hundred meters. We had this well drilled,

not at the bottom but up the mountain. It was a great relieve to this community. Also, during the dry season from March through June, most wells dry up. However, with this borehole, the well will be a constant supply of water. We are so grateful to our partners, especially Amber Volk Foundation, Mr. Felix and Pa Mark for easing the difficulty this community was facing.

### SPONSORSHIP

In 2014 the total number of children being sponsored grew from 22 to 43! I would like to thank our sponsors even more for accepting the task of sponsoring a child. I have seen children's' lives transformed through this noble act of kindness. First their performance at school has improved as well as their socio-economic status. Children were performing poorly because they were in and out of school with lack of school fees. Now these same children are the first to report to school every beginning of term because their fees have been paid up and on time. Most have had their academic performance shoot up because they are in class during lessons and not digging on farms because they hadn't paid their tuition. We have 12 children on our MCM website to be sponsored and another 50 on my MCM waiting list so we are praying to God for more kind sponsors and more transformed lives.

Through the generosity of our partners, we were able to buy a bunch of clothes for our children. We wrapped them up and gave the clothes as gifts at our first MCM Birthday party in July. The joy of seeing the smiles on the children's faces upon opening up their gifts and seeing new clothes; and also exchanging them for the tattered ones was just beyond words.

### MCM OFFICE SPACE

When MCM began in January 2013, we had no office space. The only option was to create space at my home because an office was a government requirement for registration as a CBO (Community Based Organization). In March 2014, the church we are partnered with offered us an unfinished structure. Construction work started in April and by the end of May it was fully refurbished. Now all business is conducted there. We really thank God for that.



We are so grateful to Jurigas, Bolts and Mr Felix for their prayerful, generous donations that enabled MCM to purchase a safe, gently used vehicle this June.

### THANK YOU !

Now it is December and I am looking back and counting the blessings the good Lord has done through the course of 2014. It has been so much to the extent that if I were to write it all down, I would cover pages upon pages. There is one thing left to do and that is to thank all of you. For your prayers, support, time, advice, donations and sponsorships; Thank you a lot! God bless you over and over with a shaken down and overflowing and running over blessing!

### Mpeirwe Ivan

Mountain Children's Ministry: Uganda, Executive Director