

4 MCM children who have waited over 18 months to be chosen...



DOCUS NANKUNDA

(10 y/o) lives with her grandparents after her father died when she was one. Her goal is to be a teacher.



BLESSED TURYASHEMERERWA

(17 y/o) lives with her Aunt because her parents are too poor to support her. She wants to be a nurse.



CRANMER MUGARURA

(12 y/o) was 4 when his father died of AIDS. His mum earns little as a cook. Cranmer hopes to be a doctor.



BRIDGET KATUSHABE

(8 y/o) and her family of 5 lost their father when a boulder crushed his chest at work. She wants to be a pastor.

PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING A CHILD.

Learn more at mountainchildrensministry.com



PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SHARE TWO CURRENT NEEDS WE HAVE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

With the funds we collect we are able to afford used black shoes for each school child. We would like to take up additional funds so that we can eventually buy each child a NEW pair of shoes. Unfortunately, the used shoes fall apart after about 3 months but new shoes will last the entire school year. None of our children have EVER had a new pair of shoes. Leather shoes cost about \$30 a pair.

Second, MCM has partnered with New Vision Renewable Energy (NVRE.org) to create an opportunity to provide a portable Solar Power Pack & Light system for our sponsored children that need light at night for homework and family activities. It includes a 10-watt solar panel, strong 12V lithium polymer battery and a reflective LED light strong enough to provide whole room lighting. This system provides a clean source of powerful light and charges basic cell phones or USB-powered devices. A gift of \$100 would provide light for a child's home.

If sponsoring a child is not your thing, please consider giving towards these goals. If you would be interested in giving to these projects or in making a donation, please use the enclosed envelope. Your gift to MCM is tax deductible.

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Stella Zaimi became Obed's sponsor in May of 2014. For the past year she has blessed Obed and MCM with her passion and generosity. Her gifts to Obed are always accompanied by extra gifts for all our MCM children. We are grateful for her BIG Love! Here is Stella's story, signed "With Love"...

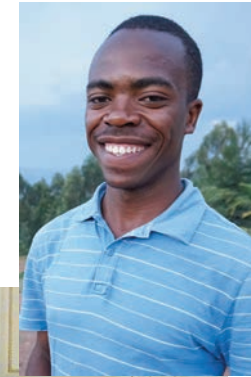
I am Greek but I was raised in Albania. I always knew there was God but we were not allowed to talk about it. When I was in the 4th grade, the teacher was explaining there is no God. So I stood up in front of the class and said, "You are lying. There is God! Right now you say I am sorry to Him for teaching us this lie." As you may understand I got in big trouble. I was asked by the office and principal, "Who taught you about God?" No matter what, I wasn't going to tell them that my Grandma talked to me about God and taught me to love Him. From that moment on God opened my heart and I felt Jesus every step of the way! He will always love and accept me, no matter what.

When I came to America at age 25, I was alone with my 6 year old daughter, Athena. It was a hard life not knowing the language, not driving, not having any family but again God was good. Athena was a light and a teacher in my life and God also blessed me later with my husband and 3 more children, Jessica, Brandon and Katerina. The love I feel for them helps me to imagine the Love God has for us! I wanted to share that Love with someone who also was experiencing the difficulty of a hard life.

We all want to know, "What is my purpose here God?" Some of us chase this answer all our lives. The answer is simple; we are here to serve God and Praise Him! We do little things that matter like helping someone carry a bag, giving a smile or being kind to strangers. Or we can do other things like being part of a meaningful charity and making a big difference in the lives of others. I love kids and was fortunate enough to meet Michele at a doctor's office. When she spoke to me about these kids from a small town in Uganda she smiled and her eyes shined with love. Her compassion made me ask myself, 'Why chase and wonder Stella? Here is something that God is putting in front of you so stop talking and do something about it.'

My sponsored boy Obed, he humbles me with his love for God! No matter what life throws at him his faith to our Jesus and his love has not faltered for a moment. How can you NOT be part of it? We are all so special to God that He will find people to give us gratification, acceptance and Love so we can give the same to others. This is not about me. It is about God doing His miracles and working through us. Michele helped me understand the need is real and I truly can help and do something that has

Left: Obed Muhoozi.
Below: Stella (center) with
two of her daughters



meaning. I will get to meet my Obed and know first hand that I'm helping. I am part of a much bigger Love.

Thank you Michele for inviting me to this beautiful journey you have taken and for allowing me to be part of it. Thank You Jesus for putting these wonderful people in my path. Most of all Thank You Jesus for bringing Obed into my life. I Love you my Son! For those of you that have questions or wonder if this is for real, I say to you—Yes! More than you will ever know!



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Mid Year Update: June 2015

DEAR FRIENDS OF MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY,

Once again we find ourselves thanking you for all your prayers and support to this ministry and to the children of Kabale district in southwest Uganda. God is good, you are generous and we have much news to share!

In the past 6 months we have added more children to the program, more children to our monthly Bible study, a playground, 6 acres of farmland, a hen house, 285 chickens, one pig, a new House Mum, a new Project Manager and our first university candidate. There was a Christmas/New Year's Party attended by 180 children! The piggery and barbed wire fence surrounding it were completed. MCM - UG was able to purchase 2 plots of land suitable for more farming or building. All this in addition to the care of our sponsored children. Ivan, MCM's Executive Director, will fill you in on these additions on the next page. It is mind-boggling all the blessings God has poured out on us!

MCM - USA has a welcome addition this year as well. Lauren Howard is entering her senior year in college and has volunteered to help MCM this summer as our first Intern. She is a bright, gentle, kind young lady who is giving MCM a boost into the 21st century with her computer skills and young new ideas! Grateful does not even begin to describe how I feel about Lauren's help! What a gift she has been!

I am most excited to share about Pastor Peter, MCM's new Project Manager. He is MCM-UG's third staff member and an amazing blessing to us! He was originally hired part time to care for the pigs but with adding 285 chickens he agreed to also care for them. The man is a humble, godly servant, wonderful with animals and a skilled carpenter. Quick to smile and a very hard worker he even made



Above: a new playground for MCM. Right: Pastor Peter, MCM's new Project Manager



his bed on the ground with our chicks to be certain they were warm and well cared for. Ps Peter has a wife and three little girls at home ranging in ages from 3 to 7 years old. He also has a parish and preaches most Sundays. Although he speaks little english, he helped build the hen house with my husband Mark; he inspired and lifted me during a low point; and he shares Jesus by his actions as much as his words to all the children. We are thankful! How rewarding to create jobs so hard workers can feed their families!

Another fun development was the addition of the new playground. Pastor Sam encouraged Deliverance Church who then donated some land to the children of MCM. The ground (which rises up the mountain) was not level so one Saturday 90 children (only 60 are sponsored) brought hoes and dug, flattening that whole area! Ivan fed them a good beef and rice dinner that day too. It is being used as a "Football" field (American soccer), "Net Ball" court (sort of like basketball) and a "Volleyball" court too. Now whenever I talk to Ivan from the MCM office I can hear children laughing and playing in the background. What a joy! The first playground in the village!

Once again, how can we ever thank you enough?! We keep you in our prayers and encourage each to come to Kabale like Mark did and listen and learn! It is powerful!

Blessings,

Michele



UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: Mpeirwe Ivan, MCM Executive Director

I want to Thank God for this precious time He has given to me to talk about what He is doing in Butemumwa through you, His wonderful people. A lot has been done that if I were to talk about it all I would need many pages however I will just talk a little about what we are doing now.

CHILDREN

Our number of sponsored children is growing slowly but steadily. When Ma Michele wonders about it I tell her to relax, God will provide each child with the perfect match as He has already done. We have 50 perfectly matched sponsorships now, 11 children on the MCM website. and another 50 on our waiting list. 61 children have their tuition, uniforms, shoes, tutoring, medical care and clothing provided because of you. The children are entering their second trimester of school for the 2015 school year. Sadly, the primary school teachers are sitting now waiting for a better contract. We are praying this does not last long, it has only been a few days now. The secondary students are all studying hard. We thank God that every first Sunday of the month between 100 and 120 children attend the MCM Bible study! They are fed God's Word as well as eggs and bread and milk tea. It is my favorite day of the month.

Between 100 and 120 children attend the MCM Bible study!

POULTRY PROJECT

Also this April 30th we were able to acquire 300 chicks to kick start our poultry project. The chicks are doing well and are going to be moved to their new hen house this week. They have been growing in my home in the storage room so we can watch over them carefully. Only days old, these chicks were very fragile when we got them. They need constant warmth from clay charcoal stoves plus constant food and water. Pastor Peter (our poultry man) and I have had to get up several times every night to restock the charcoal and food and water for them. We will continue getting up in the middle of the night to keep the clay burners going outside in the hen house as well. Fortunately they are a type that grows so fast that in three months the roosters are ready for sale. Within six months the layers will be giving us eggs!

FARMING

As I mentioned in the December MCM newsletter, we did small scale farming last year as a way of testing the waters and the results were overwhelmingly good. So, this year we are going for the jugular! We are in the midst of planting potatoes on all the land we have available, about 6 acres. This February, we planted an additional 3 acres of sorghum. It is doing well and we will be harvesting sorghum in July. We hope that come September, we will have many tons of potatoes for sale and some for the children in our care to eat as well. We thank God that the market for these potatoes is constant and the cost for them is getting even higher each year as the Ugandan population increases.

PIGGERY

Last year we started on our mission of self-sustainability with building a piggery. It is very vibrant right now. The eight pigs are growing and doing well. We have actually had a few people come to inquire whether they can buy them at the age they are at right now. We declined because at this stage we will not get the shillings they will be worth in a year's time. The mere fact that people want the pigs at this point is encouraging! When the time for selling comes we will not have to move around looking for market. Because of the quality of the animals market will come looking for us!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

God has really been good and faithful to us! He has used you, our dear partners, to show His goodness to us here. By our estimation we will be able to bear one fifth of our annual budget by next harvest. With the pigs growing and the chickens doing well, God willing, next year perhaps one third will be provided with these resources. We want to keep increasing and improving until we can shoulder 100% of it. So, on behalf of the children and the MCM Uganda board, Thank you very much for all the sacrifice and financial assistance you have rendered to get us to this point. God bless you all.

4 GUYS, 3 DAYS, 2 LANGUAGES, 1 PURPOSE Mark Pageau

This past February was my second trip to Uganda but it was my first visit to MCM's area of focus in Kabale. I was looking forward to seeing in person all the progress that has been made in a really short period of time. I have to tell you, pictures don't tell the whole story! The area is beautiful and the people more so. I am now joining my wife in telling people that they need to see the ministry up close and in person- the pictures don't do it justice.

A personal highlight for me was to spend 3 days with Ivan, Pastor Sam and Pastor Peter building the new MCM henhouse. I have done plenty of home projects over the years but this one was different in so many ways.

Pastors Sam and Peter knew very little English, and I of course failed Lukiga in high school, so we had a little language barrier. Ivan had to serve as an interpreter whenever possible, but still a great bond was built between us as we laughed and sweated together not knowing what the other guy said!

My home project wood cutting experience has been mostly with electric saws so to see Pastor Peter (a skilled carpenter), masterfully measure and cut wood siding with a machete was impressive to say the least. My American suburban living was really exposed too as I watched these guys tirelessly hammer into hard eucalyptus timbers!! I bent a lot of nails. There were way too many times where Peter had to "bail" me out and save my wayward nails to go in the right direction. Most home projects that I have been involved with require multiple trips to the store. However, when you are up in the mountains in Uganda, your local hardware store is not easy to come by. You need to "rescue" every nail and piece of wood you can!

When my kids were young, they would be my audience asking questions like: "Are you done yet?" "Didn't you do that already?" "When can we go outside?" We had an audience for this project too. However, these were the kids that roamed the hillside collecting wood for their household fire who stopped to stare at the white guy bending nails. What struck me was the reason they were watching was that they were unable to attend school like other kids from their village because of a lack of resources. It was a great reminder of why we were working for 3 days in the hot African sun building a henhouse!

Our hope and prayer is that this henhouse (and the many other things the MCM team is working on) will provide the financial resources to allow any child in the village to attend school and understand that there is a hope and a future that God has planned for them.

From left to right: Pastor Peter, Pastor Sam, Ivan and Mark



MCM HAS OUR FIRST INTERN!

Meet Lauren...

My name is Lauren Howard and I'm a rising senior at Boston University. I'm studying

International Relations with a concentration in Environment and Development. Attending a very secular school in a very secular city has been a tumultuous experience and has only deepened my faith and love of God. My development classes have been the most eye-opening for me, and have pushed me to pursue a future in the non-profit sector. When my family started sponsoring a child through MCM, we instantly fell in love with him, and the pictures and sweet letters he sends us continue to inspire and motivate me each day.

