

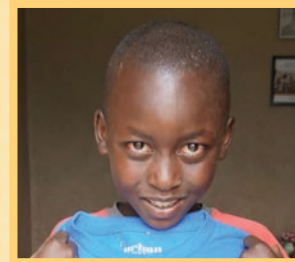
## Happy Father's Day!

Three of the four children pictured here were abandoned by their fathers. The fourth comes from a family of seven children whose father labors manually all day just to provide food. Let's Thank God for fathers who stay and for the sponsor fathers who take care of the abandoned children left behind.



### ANNAH MBABAZI

**Age 19** • Annah lives with her mother and her brother. Abandoned by their father, their mother is a farm laborer. Anna wants to be a nurse and her favorite subject is English. She has been waiting for a sponsor since June 2015



### COLLINS AGABA

**Age 8** • Collins lives with his mother who does manual labor on a farm. His dad abandoned the family and now is in jail. Collins wants to be a "Driver" and his favorite subject is reading. He has been waiting for a sponsor since June 2015



### DENIS MUHWEZI

**Age 9** • When his mother died, Denis' father abandoned him in the empty house. A friend found him and took him in but also died, leaving him alone again. He now lives with the friend's sister who is a hired hand. Denis wants to be a "Car Driver" and his favorite subject is science. He has been waiting for a sponsor since August 2015



### PROMISE TUSHABOMWE

**Age 14** • Promise has seven siblings none of whom attend school. Her father does any manual labor he can find. Promise wants to be a bank accountant and her favorite subject is math. She has been waiting for a sponsor since May 2015

PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING A CHILD... Learn more at [mountainchildrensministry.com](http://mountainchildrensministry.com)

## GIFTED

We are so excited to share the stories and photos of our two very top academic performers at Mountain Children's Ministry. **Verity Crode** (top) and **Doris Nsiimire** (bottom) are both village children who attended the Kihanga Primary Schools. In November of 2015 these Primary Seven students took the NST for entrance into High School similar to the way American Seniors take the ACT for college entrance qualification. Verity and Doris each scored a "ten" which is a VERY high score and as Ivan shares in his article, **they were invited to attend the most prestigious high school in the region, Kigezi SS.**

Although Doris is still on our waiting list for a sponsor Verity has been sponsored by the Jurigas for several years. Verity is an orphan who lost both his parents in the war in the Congo. His aunt traveled from Kabale to the Congo to bring him to her home. A behind-the-scenes story is that in November I notified the Jurigas about Verity's upcoming exams and they prayed very intentionally for him at that time. Then they waited. And waited. And waited some more! Finally, in April they received the update letters from my February trip and Verity's results. Lisa was so thrilled that she called me crying! Her son and she had looked up Kigezi Secondary School's Alumni and found an impressive list of "Who's Who" in Uganda. Now I was crying that our sponsors cared that much about their Ugandan son! MCM is doubly GIFTED!



## A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

In the spring of 2014, Michele Pageau came to visit Hillside Church in Hillside, Arizona. At church that Sunday she shared about MCM and the needs in Uganda, East Africa. It was on this spring visit that Jesus put it on my heart to sponsor a child from Mountain Children's Ministry. I wanted my daughter, Ariana, to choose the child we would sponsor. Ariana chose Elizabeth Kyosimire, who was close to her own age. Ariana had just turned six and Elizabeth was seven. **As a member of the Christian body, I wanted Ariana to begin to understand at a tender age, the importance of Agape Love.**

God has blessed me with a career as a Registered Nurse which has allowed me to have Ariana attend Wickenburg Christian Academy. One of Ariana's weekly scriptures from school was "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news..." **Isaiah 52:7. I wanted Elizabeth, across the continents, to know that she is important, that Jesus loves her, that we love her and pray for her, and most important (regardless of circumstances) that Jesus has a purpose for her life.**

We are always eager to get the updates with pictures and letters from "our" Elizabeth. All of the correspondence from MCM is kept in a photo album. What a pleasure to watch Elizabeth mature in the pictures and to see her holding letters, pictures and gifts from us. She is beautiful! MCM makes the gift of giving a very real experience; we are making a difference because Jesus has made a difference in our own lives.

**Ariana does not refer to Elizabeth as "the child we sponsor", but as her loving sister who is living in Uganda.** When we open her letters and pictures, we always laugh (and I cry too). I can only dream of the day we can travel to meet Elizabeth. It also brings me great encouragement, as a mother and a nurse, to know that Elizabeth is receiving a Christian Education and better nutrition through MCM. I had the pleasure last year of hearing Elizabeth singing in a video that Michele shared. How wonderful to hear her singing worship music at her church!

**I believe Elizabeth is receiving a foundation to pursue her dreams because of MCM. I believe MCM is an extension of God's love.** The greater good is about the UNITY found in the body of Christ. It is about how we can serve one another, lift each other up to be the best we can be and to spread the word of Jesus' love

**If you have not already done so, please consider being a sponsor and an extension of the Love of Christ.** Your rewards, in making a difference, are priceless to the child who waits to be chosen. It is an honor to partner with MCM.

**Kimberly Le Roy, RN**

**May 1, 2016**



Top: Kimberly and Ariana  
Right: Elizabeth



**MOUNTAINCHILDRENSMINISTRY.COM**

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Ministry Update • June 2016

## DEAR FRIENDS OF MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY,

Thanking God for this opportunity to reflect back these past six months on MCM's blessings. Ivan and I are so grateful to God for our sponsors, our ministry friends and our supporting churches. We are also grateful for good health, for steady growth and for necessary changes. We are stretching with the unique challenges God allows to build our faith and trust in His goodness. We find ourselves moving towards "Welcoming All" circumstances, especially unexpected detours. We are learning it is all from God who often transforms us even more profoundly through the trials. I can say, humbled, "It is all grace."

Ivan and I deeply appreciate all the gifts given in response to our December Newsletter. Thank you for the opportunity to add more solar power to homes in Kabale! Thank you for scholarship money for 20 additional unsponsored children to attend school as well as preparing for our upcoming university candidates! Thank you for funds to expand our piggery because of six brand new piglets and another two pregnant sows! Thank you for your generous gifts towards our HUGE (187 children alone) Christmas party in February! Your giving has gone FAR in this tiny Ugandan village.

Also, Thank you for resources to do something new. This February, for the first time, we were in a



Ivan's daughter Hope helping care for their new littlest house guest, Sumaiya.

position to invite a sick Mum, her baby and a teen girl to live at Ivan's home in Butekumwa. Of course this began with Ivan. His big heart saw their difficult situations and he phoned to ask if MCM could help in providing for them while they lived at his home. As he spoke I remembered my first visit to his home in 2012 in its initial construction stages; piles of bricks everywhere. Back then Ivan was concerned it was too big. We discussed how God had designed his home and God would someday fill it. Now I realized "someday" had arrived. Because of your gifts we could provide and we were honored to do so! All three are doing so much better after suffering malnutrition, sickness and homelessness. They have found a place to call home for now.

Other changes and advances have also been happening as Ivan elaborates in his update. Enjoy our stories of God's goodness! Thank you for sharing in our adventure and for keeping us in your prayers and for your continued generosity to MCM!

**Blessings,  
Michele**



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

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Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus! I pray you are all doing well. The first five months of this year have had a lot happening and a lot of progress.

Let's start with an update on our children's education and academic progress. In Uganda we have four major levels of education; Primary level (pre-school - Primary 7), Lower Secondary level (Senior 1-4), Upper Secondary level (Senior 5-6) then either University or Vocational School. In Primary level eight MCM children sat for the National Standardized Test (NST) for entrance into secondary school and all of them passed! **Two of the eight (Verity and Doris) performed so well that the best secondary school in the region, Kigezi, invited them to attend. It is not common for children from villages such as ours to attain high grades or receive invitations from such high caliber schools.** However, due to sponsorship blessings, school fees are paid on time and educational support is provided. Results are our MCM children don't miss school like the majority of village children. That (and prayer) is the reason the children are excelling.

For the same reason one of our Lower Secondary students graduated from S4 to S5 after passing the Uganda Certificate Exams (UCE), advancing to Upper Secondary level. From our Upper Secondary class Annabella performed so well on the UACE (Uganda Advanced Certificate Exam) in S6 that she was accepted to university! Before she begins in August, MCM along with her sponsor, agreed to enroll her in computer school for the next 3 months to obtain necessary skills that will supplement her degree. **I want to thank our dear partner, Ellen Westveer, who sponsors Annabella. Ellen offered to buy for her a laptop and pay for her class to ease on her studies at the university. We presented Annabella with her laptop at the end of Field Day in front of all the other MCM children.** We hope this inspires all our students to learn their hardest.

I also thank God for the providence He has showered on MCM. When we first started

this ministry we found the need for help in this community was massive. Even now we are overwhelmed by the number of orphans; the scourge AIDS and disease left here. Many children whose parents are poor, sickly or old come to us for help. In the beginning MCM helped the number we felt we were able to support. The others were recorded on a waiting list for future opportunity. **This February MCM was funded to put another 20 children in school, fully supported!**

This was not only a miracle but also an answered prayer. As Executive Director, I meet all these children who come to my office begging for school fees because they have been asked to leave school for defaulting. Although these 20 children won't receive letters when sponsored children get them, at least they will not be thrown from their school. So, I thank God who made this major break through for these children this year and I pray that they too will eventually have that hope a loving sponsor offers.

**In March, MCM started providing solar systems to families who had major need for lighting. So far 5 families have benefitted.** This will be life changing because they won't have to inhale toxic kerosene lantern fumes and also the children will have light at night to read and compete academically. This is a major disadvantage to children in villages who cannot compete with urban children where they can read at night. A special thank you to our partners for making this happen.

**Side note from Michele - We are now purchasing solar units from Ugandan distributors. They are much better than a single lantern because the solar panels are affixed to the roof, wiring two rooms with light. A solar battery included can also charge cell phones. This would be impossible to accomplish without Ivan and his electrical engineering background. He spent hours affixing rooftop solar panels and wiring the rooms of each home. Thanks Ivan!**

**I also want to thank God for Jeri and Bob Wentzlaff and our dear sponsors Julie and**

**A TRUE 'SLAM DUNK'!**

**Now I get an opportunity to share a story about our Executive Director, Ivan, that no one knows about. I know you are supposed to do your acts of kindness in secret, but I believe it is encouraging and challenging to share about the acts of others.**

In February dear friends of MCM, Jeri and Bob Wentzlaff, gave a very generous monetary donation designated for Ivan alone. Hearing all the stories about how this man sacrifices and lives his life for our village children inspired them to want to bless Ivan and allow him to splurge on himself for a change. Instead, Ivan used the entire amount PLUS his entire Christmas Bonus from MCM to build a basketball court for the children he loves and serves. Then, if that was not enough, Ivan writes in this newsletter about the court being a gift from Bob and Jeri, not even including himself. I bet it never occurred to you that this court was Ivan's gift as well as our friends when you read his account.

This is the kind of man I am blessed to be serving beside. Not only did he clear the area and act as general contractor for the project but he also worked beside the builder. Each week Ivan would share pictures of the progress. I don't believe anyone was as excited as he was to see the children play. What an incredible blessing and how humbling for me to witness such a generous, servant's heart. It reminded me of the verse at the right (Luke 21:4) in the story of Jesus' observation of the widow's offering at the temple.

This basketball court will always remind me of the truth that I give out of my wealth but the leaders I am blessed to serve with in Uganda, the Ivans, the Pastor Sams, the Auntie Kates and the Pastor Peters...all of them living there under hardship and loss give out of their poverty. And THAT is what I would call a real life "Slam Dunk"!

**Wayne who this March contributed towards building a basketball court for MCM and buying the equipment required.** Most of the children had no idea what basketball was or how it is played. For those of us who know the rules, it was such fun seeing the kids formulate their own rules and style of playing! From holding the ball and energetically throwing it on the ground so it bounces off into the net to throwing it from underneath the ring and the ball coming out of where it should actually be entering and calling that a score, it was fun introducing something new to them. Now, after school, many kids rush to the court to play and I encourage them to do so because a healthy mind dwells in a healthy and fit body I have heard. I hope one day we will be able to see a great basketballer on TV courtesy of our newly found game.

**May 7 we held our first "MCM Field Day."** It was a day the children will always look forward to every year gauging by the exuberance they showed. Our sports and games included tug-of-war, eating competitions, arm wrestling, foot races, a football and a netball game. We also included inspira-

tional words, a meal and finally some dancing. It was so encouraging seeing the little kids cheer the older ones, and vice versa. There was a spirit of unity in our group of children. It was also nice seeing the community participate. They supported MCM through cooking the meal, cheering, enjoying the proceedings and even competing alongside the children. They even listened to a few words from the Word of God. All in all the first MCM Field Day was a wonderful blessing!

There have been many other activities here as well. **Pa Mark helped Ps Peter expand our piggery for our 6 new piglets and 2 pregnant sows. The farms are growing and we will begin with chickens again soon.** All Praise and Glory to our God who is and was and is to come! Thank you all for your generous support and kindness to our small village here in Uganda! May our good God bless you a hundred times over and overflowing!

**Mpeirwe Ivan**  
Executive Director  
Mountain Children's Ministry

"All these people gave out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."



**FIRST SPONSOR VISIT: JULIE'S SUMMARY**

**As we shared in the December newsletter, my husband, Wayne and I were thrilled to travel to Kabale, Uganda in February to meet our sponsor children after my Mt. Kilimanjaro climb.** I'm excited to share with you our incredible journey from Chicago Sponsors all the way to Kabale Visitors.

We arrived in Kampala, the capitol, around 2 AM and were met at the airport by Michele and Ivan. We spent the night at an adorable lodge and rested for the long drive to Kabale. We were so grateful to be driven and cared for by Ivan throughout the trip! The roads around Kampala were lined with hundreds of motorcycles ("Bota bota's") riding within inches of hundreds of cars. Ivan was clearly a pro with Ugandan roads! The drive to Kabale was incredibly beautiful and enjoyable. **People had told me Uganda was gorgeous, but I had no idea just how beautiful it was.** It reminded me of California wine-country, but untouched and pure. We enjoyed getting to know Ivan, Michele, and Mark even better on the drive and found ourselves laughing and immersed in conversation the entire way to Kabale- at one point Wayne even taught Ivan a verse of the Bear's "Super Bowl Shuffle"! We were greeted in Kabale with a delicious home-cooked meal and a warm bed. It was great to spend time with Joshua, Peace, Hope, and Scovia; who all live in the MCM home in Kabale. We talked sports with Joshua, One Direction with Peace and Hope, and Wayne tested his cheerleading moves with sweet Scovia. **It was so special for us to see how much we have in common with these sweet children who live so far away.**

The next day we toured MCM headquarters, the well (that we contributed to in my dear friend, Amber's, memory), the piggery, and the church. Then, we finally got to meet our sponsor children in person! We visited their homes, met their families, and saw their school. **One of the most**



**A huge thank you to Julie for raising over \$3,400 for MCM climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro!**

**impactful moments for me was walking up to my child, Sarah's, house. Roy, her dear caregiver, came running to me with open arms and tears in her eyes.** It was in that moment that the full impact of our relationship with MCM hit me: not only are we blessed to be in relationship with and sponsor children, but our prayers and donations have ripple-effect on the entire community. While sitting with Sarah, she pulled out a photo-book that Michele had given her. It was an amazing feeling to be sitting thousands of miles away in Kabale and watch Sarah glow as she flipped through all the photos I have sent her throughout the years. How small the world felt in that moment.

**Our trip reinforced so many qualities and ethics I admire in MCM's founders.** We are so appreciative of the personal-touches Michele creates to grow our relationship with our sponsor children. We also are grateful for the transparency, integrity, and complete giving-of-self we have witnessed through our work with them. We truly saw Christ reflected in the relationship MCM has formed with the community of Kabale, and we felt such an energy and unbounding joy to have had such an experience as we said goodbye.

Julie Hess

**INTRODUCING PASTOR SAM**

**Pastor Elisam Mutabazi or "Pastor Sam" as he is affectionately called is the right hand man of our MCM Executive Director Mpeirwe Ivan. Pastor Sam is 56 and lives with his wife and has three grown children. He also has vulnerable children living with him whom he and his wife care for. He is the associate pastor at MCM's supporting church, Deliverance and he is well versed with village politics and ways. Ps Sam advises, mentors and assists Ivan and all of our MCM board in Uganda. Although Pastor Sam is not paid for these services to MCM you will find him happily helping with projects like building the chicken house or cosigning for our banking transactions or land purchases. MCM does reimburse him for the preaching to our children at our once a month Bible Study but his heart is for the children to know God with or without pay. What would most impress you about this man is his attitude of complete gratitude and praise. He is ever smiling! Pastor Sam is a godly, humble man and an inspiration to all who know him. We are so grateful to God for his guidance and love!**

