



Felix Charlier meets
Ivan Mpeirwe in 2016



Clean water well built
in November 2013

mountain children's ministry

Year End Summary
December 2021

DEAR FRIENDS,

Many of you know I unexpectedly lost my Dad in October. He was 85 years young, had no health issues and passed away peacefully in his sleep. My Dad, Felix Charlier, loved the water! He welded his own pontoon boat and I have many happy memories with my family on the water! He was a Master Plumber and a Plumbing Inspector as well. He was excellent at his trade and he knew the value of clean drinking water. I remember him saying people can go weeks without food or modern conveniences like electricity, but just let them try to live without water! I looked that up... a human can go without food for about three weeks but would typically only last three to four days without water. As usual, Dad was right.

These days are filled with a deep loneliness for my Dad. I really admired him for many reasons and we talked weekly on the phone. Dad had a very quick wit and always had me laughing. He knew me well, he was my friend, I miss him. I read a quote recently by Benjamin Franklin,

**"When the well is dry we will
know the worth of water."**

How poignant! How appropriate for me and my sisters at this time and how meaningful for our Uganda as well.

My Dad was a HUGE supporter of MCM. He was quiet about it but he never failed to give me a call every few months and ask if we were ok for resources. Sometimes we were, sometimes we were not, he always helped. The very first time Dad gave to MCM was in 2013 for a fresh water well. We had started the ministry in the mountains and the water was in the valley. Dad helped us drill a new well and bring water up from the rock. This was a perfect expression of his character...Dad was tough on the outside but very tender towards the vulnerable and generously gave to those in need. For a lifetime Plumber it was the perfect gift to give and to receive as well! He kept a photo of it displayed in a prominent place in his home.

Pure clean drinking water is precious, indeed necessary for life itself. Dad loved Ivan, our MCM Director in Uganda because Ivan understood this and the importance of bringing life and hope to children and villagers in our remote peasant farming community. Both these men have brought life to me as well in their actions towards the poor and hurting. This will be our first Christmas without Papa but his gifts to MCM continue to bring life to our children, our villagers and to me. I remain inspired. I love you Dad.

Thank you to ALL who have prevented the MCM well from running dry during this difficult pandemic season! May you realize afresh this Christmas the worth of your loved ones and our many blessings as Americans. Even (and especially) our plumbing which 60% of the world (4.5 billion people!) including our Ugandan children, still do not enjoy.

Much Love, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

~ Mummy Michele :)

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: DECEMBER 2021

Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus! May God give you good health and a very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. Once again I want to update you on God's goodness and faithfulness to MCM!

TUTORING OPPORTUNITY

In March of 2020 all institutes of learning were closed by the government due to increasing COVID 19 cases among students. For many months kids were stuck at home with no start date in sight. At that time, thank God, we had a solution in the library where the children would come to refresh their brains with the books from which the teachers use at school so they did not have to forget what they had been taught.



Students in line for their school snack - porridge and a bun

However, in June 2021 more strict restrictions were imposed, due to the Delta Variant, banning all gathering of people and we had to close our library. Thus our kids couldn't find books to read or computers to do research anymore. During our letter writing time this August, we noticed some of our 3-11 year olds had almost forgotten how to write basic words they knew prior to the lock down. Their minds urgently needed spurring.

There were some teachers country-wide that the government gave special permission to help children in classes starting from kindergarten to primary four. (Seems like all children in the country were going through the same issue as ours!). These teachers were very few in number and parents who could afford were hunting for them.



Government approved temporary COVID Primary School

Living in a remote farming village such as ours comes with some disadvantages and one is we do not receive information as fast as people in towns. We did not know the government had implemented this action of having teachers available to young learners as long as conditions of learning do not expose the kids to the virus. By the grace of God, a teacher that was commissioned came to us and offered to help our kids for a fee. This was an answered prayer because we would not have known where to start to find such a teacher as they are in demand. Now, all our children between kindergarten and primary four are attending tutoring lessons starting at 0800 in the morning until 1:00 pm.

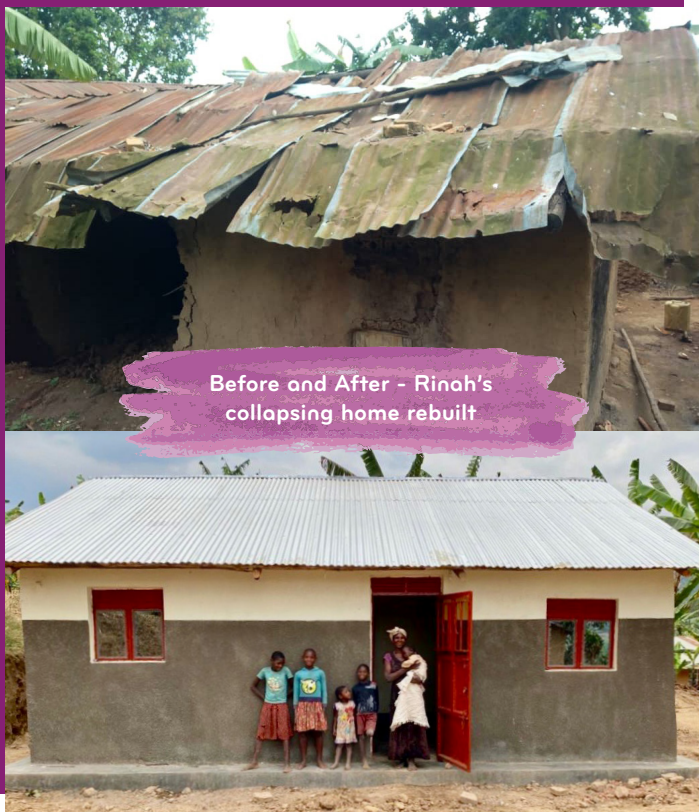
We have tried to petition the leaders of our districts to let us get teachers for all the other older kids in other classes but our requests are still being rebuffed. We hope eventually we will be permitted to start classes in our library. **We cannot wait until January 2022 when school is scheduled to restart** because the government requires all these children to be vaccinated and vaccines are not easily available in Uganda. Please join us in prayer our children can return to school in January!



MCM chickens now producing 9 trays of eggs per day!

CHICKEN PROJECT

We purchased 500 baby chicks in the beginning of May to start our poultry project again. We tried this project before, and it was moderately successful, but not to our satisfaction. We were a little worried. Though we had built a new coop in a better place for these chickens, we were uncertain how they would respond to the natural elements of this area like hail, wild dogs howling outside and other issues that have decreased egg production. These issues caused delays in laying (normally begins at 18 weeks) and infrequency. However this September, we had our first egg at exactly four months! Now the birds are laying frequently and totally exceeding our expectations! We are very excited about the future of this endeavor and hope it will help us in our self sustaining goal.



Before and After - Rinah's collapsing home rebuilt

NEW HOME

Some of our kids lost their homes due to mud slides or the old age of their shelters this year. When we visited, they were covering their beds and property with plastic tarpaulins to prevent getting wet. We moved these children to rented houses for their safety meanwhile as we prayed about how we could best stand with them.

I want to thank God! With your help we were able to complete a home for Rinah whose Mum is a widow with 5 children under 10 years old. Another home is being built now. We hope that within a month it will

be done and the children will have a safe place to live. The older boys and girls in our care have really done a lot of manual work to ensure that their younger brothers and sisters in need have a safe home! They have carried heavy logs, dug trenches and holes, excavated sites for these houses and many more tasks. We are so blessed to have such hard working and kind teens in MCM.

MEDICAL STUDENTS

Uganda (Africa at large) has always had a shortage of Medical personnel. Those blessed with the aptitude usually face obstacles (poor education systems and inability to afford school fees, books or supplies). Thus Uganda loses their gifts. A few do achieve their medical degrees, despite these hinderances, and become great doctors, nurses and medical employees. Again God has blessed us through you our dear partners; this year alone, we are sending 6 students to medical and or nursing school!

We previously had four healthcare students last year and now the number has risen to ten! With this, we feel like your financial sacrifice, time writing letters, time spent praying for your sponsored child, and all the other sacrifices you've incurred have not gone to waste. Uganda is on the way

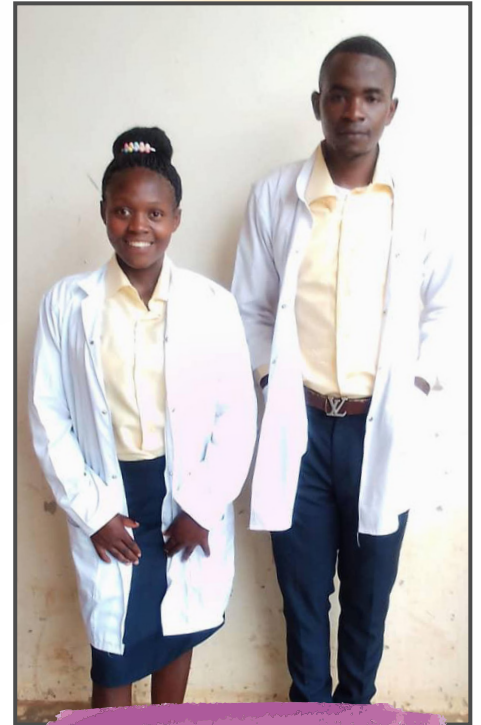
to benefitting greatly from all the love you've showed us, especially now with the pandemic recovery.

May our wonderful Lord greatly bless you and reward all your efforts many times over.

With gratitude,

Mpeirwe Ivan Twino

MCM - UG Executive Director



Nancy (L) and Elijah (R) attend Mayanja College medical studies



PLEASE SPONSOR A CHILD

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

Please consider blessing a child with your sponsorship this Christmas.
Your tax-deductible monthly support of \$42 per child changes their lives!



FAITH ATUKUNDA

Faith (11) lives with her parents, both peasant farmers who do not own land themselves. Although they work hard they cannot provide enough for school fees for their three children. Faith wants to be a Lawyer someday.



AMELIA AHEREZA

Amelia (6) lives with her mother, Judith, a farmer and her father, Innocent, who carries passengers on a boda. They cannot support their three children. Amelia's mum Judith is sickly as well and the constant medical costs add difficulty. Amelia wants to be a Teacher.



SAMANTHA KUSASIRA

Samantha (6) lives with her Mum, Glorious who farms for others to earn enough for their living. Glorious is a single Mum. Samantha wants to become a Nurse someday.



EMMANUEL TAHINDUKA

Emmanuel (14) lives with his single Mum a widow since his father died in 2018 from diabetes. His mother, Medius, is a farmer but struggles with making enough money to support her family. Emmanuel wants to be a Doctor when he is an adult.



JUSTINE NIWAMANYA

Justine (16) lives with her single Mum who cares for her three children by doing casual work whenever she is called by people. They left Justine's father because he was violent. Justine wants to become a Nurse.



DAVID NAMANYA

David (6) lives with his father and mother, Moses and Grace, who are impoverished and struggle with providing for their three young children. They farm for others. David is the oldest and wants to become a Doctor 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"

WORD FROM A SPONSOR

An Interview with Mike Charlier, Michele's cousin who introduced her to Africa in 2003.

How did you get involved in ministry in Africa?

My spark for people in developing countries was ignited in Vietnam in 1969 when I vowed to never forget the poverty I saw. However, as is human nature, within three months of returning home my vow was forgotten. However, only by me, God had not forgotten. When I was called to a mission trip to Madagascar in 1987, God ignited a love and a heart in me for the African people.

How did you end up in Ghana?

Hand Up Christian Ministries in Ghana was born in 1995 when my former carwash employee invited me to Ghana. Hand Up helped build a church, a school and dormitories for vulnerable children. That's where Michele first met the children of Africa. After visiting Ghana Michele's heart for the children flourished. She became the sponsorship lead for Hand Up Christian Ministries, until the ministry ended in 2006.

Have you returned to Africa since then?

In 2007 God called Michele to Uganda where she met Ivan. In 2012 together they founded Mountain Children's Ministry. I was privileged to visit the "headquarters" of Mountain Children's Ministry in Uganda in 2019, and felt very blessed to see what God has accomplished through this organization.

How are you involved in MCM?

Supporting MCM has given me great joy. It truly is a privilege when God allows us to participate in what He is doing in the world for children to make their lives better. Every sponsor plays an important part in the children's lives.

Since I don't have the "gift" of writing letters, instead, I help others become sponsors who do enjoy writing but may not have the resources to do so. I also am a business man and I love to give towards self sustainable endeavors there. I believe in giving others dignity with a "hand up" not a "hand out".



Michele and Mike,
Ghana 2003



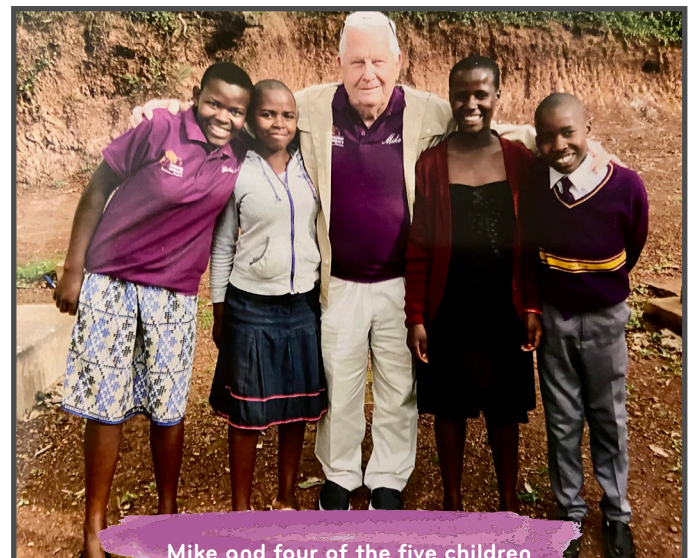
Mike, Ivan and Michele
October 2019 in Uganda

How have you been blessed by MCM?

I saw great joy in the children's faces. The joy was palatable and I wish everyone could experience this joy visiting the children and see the impact their generosity has made. Also, never would I have imagined that petting a cow would be one of the highlights of my visit. Adding the dairy cow, "Violet", to the program, and seeing the hope these gifts bring as part of the self sustainability program, was both simple and profound.

Mike's final observation....

One of the most wonderful outcomes of loving God is that we are also blessed when we bless others. I was doubly blessed when God used me to invite Michele to Africa - first in Ghana and now in Uganda. My passion for the poor spilled into her life and now her passion spills over into my life. In Vietnam a seed was planted, in Madagascar a tree grew, fruit was produced in Ghana and new seeds spread to Uganda. Praise God! I am grateful that God has allowed me the privilege of witnessing such a powerful truth as well as His love and faithfulness all over the world.



Mike and four of the five children
he "sponsored" for others

PHABIUS UPDATE

Great news, praise our good God!! Phabi is home!! Throughout this year, from January to November, Phabi has been living in Kampala (8 hours away from home) and receiving first radiation then chemotherapy treatments. She has been residing all this time in a tiny one room apartment with our dear House Mom, Vastine, who has cared for Phabi as if she were her own daughter! Every week, three times a week they would board "bodas" (motorbikes with drivers) and travel 30 minutes through the busy, dangerous traffic of Kampala to the clinic where Phabi either went through her treatments or was examined by nurses and doctors after hours of waiting in line.



Phabi's 17th birthday
September 2021

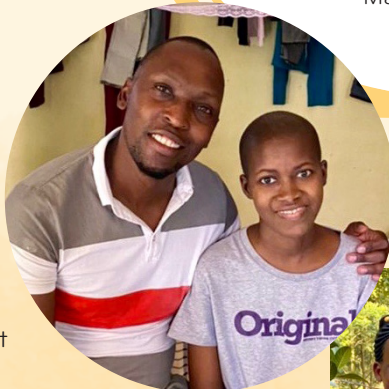
Phabi lost all her hair and suffered weight loss, throat pain, headache pain, back pain and numerous digestive issues. All that time Vastine stood by her side, seeing Phabi received pain meds, warm clothes, nutritious meals and ice cream too. Vastine reported to Ivan daily on Phabi's progress and Ivan

made the 8 hour drive to see her monthly. It has been quite a LONG recovery and we are so grateful to tell you the Oncologist reported this month Phabi was cancer free! Dr Victoria, who has been our angel, allowed our Phabi to return home for the first time in 10 months in November and can stay at home for a full 30 days before needing to be re-evaluated.

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!



Please continue to pray for a full recovery for Phabi. Her emotional recovery as well knowing how painfully shy Phabi is and the

unwanted attention she is now receiving in the village... complete with hundreds of questions! Pray Phabi can do hard things and we can continue to do hard things alongside her. We thank God who has been so faithful as well as so many of you who have generously given to see Phabi cancer free. THANK YOU!!



(L to R) Vastine, Kathy, Hope, Phabi and Sandra

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