



My warm Ugandan
"Welcome Home!"

mountain children's ministry

Mid Year Summary
July 2022

DEAR FRIENDS,

Very, VERY grateful and happy to report in April I FINALLY returned to my Ugandan children in Kabale for 3 weeks! Yay God! This trip is the reason why our "June" Newsletter has become a "July" Newsletter. We delayed, thinking you may want to read some of the details of my visit.

Suffice it to say returning to our MCM children, "my babies" was overwhelming in every area - physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. I came home drained and blessed. I had been away for two years and three months, since January of 2020. I have never been away that long.

I was very happy with what I found. My kiddos did not forget me and even missed me. Ivan, in his very dependable and godly way had kept everything in tip-top shape and running smoothly. The new library was not only well constructed and lovely to look at but well staffed and well attended. It helped many of our students academically with the supply of school books

and current curriculum. Solar has been added to over 40 homes by our own students who graduated with Electrician certificates.

Ivan had ALL the children organized so I was able to complete ALL 200 plus interviews. The children were so thrilled to see their letters! I enjoyed fellowship with Ivan's family in Kabale and in Kampala. I spent quality time with my "adopted kids," the children that have lived with Ivan since 2013 when we began MCM. I even got to see my old friends from 2008 who are all married with families of their own now.

Most of the "familiar" (before COVID) was present however after COVID much was also changed. This was challenging to me. The Chinese symbol to communicate "challenge" is the exact same symbol used to communicate "opportunity". This perfectly describes my experiences in Uganda. What felt like challenges became opportunities for learning, for acceptance and then for necessary growth. On the coming pages Ivan and I will share more specifically about this new growth.

A verse Ivan and I held dear when we began MCM reads,

"I will not cause pain without allowing something new to be born, says the Lord." ~ Isaiah 66:9

This held true in 2012 and now following COVID pain it still holds true today. With God's gift of time we realize different is not only good, it is better. God is faithful!

Enjoy your summer and this news!

~ Mummy Michele :)

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: JULY 2022

We thank God who has kept you and your loved ones safe. We have a lot we are grateful for this first half of the year as MCM Uganda. The children are all well and by God's grace, COVID has not interrupted the school year thus far as it did the past two years. In Uganda, the disease has dramatically reduced almost to the point many believe it merely vanished. We are grateful our people can now consistently farm, work, study and carry out their lives without interruption. There is food in gardens and we do not have many people starving as were during lockdown period.



Village children not in school.



Child Africa Primary students return to school!

We thank you, our dear sponsors, for all the ways you stood with your children during the hard times of the pandemic. They were well fed and had all their basic needs met. Those that contracted the disease were treated. Many desperate villagers were blessed with food. Without your generosity, this would not have been possible. May our God bless you very much.

If you got the report card of your sponsored child, most likely you'll have noticed that their performance in school was discouraging. We were also disappointed but not surprised. What happened is the government mandated every child be promoted to the next grade level. However, the children had only studied 6 weeks of the previous level when the schools were shut. They missed the seven months of school necessary

to complete that grade before being qualified for promotion to the next level up. They missed 7 months of learning plus 2 years of school with lockdown. When 2022 exams came, questions included things they had not covered or reviewed. We apologize on behalf of our government for the way they handled this challenge. We pray alongside you the children catch up by year's end and have better report cards.

Also at the start of this year, we decided to re-evaluate our income generating projects. We were not achieving the profit goals we had set for the blessings God has given us. In most cases we were losing profits. So, we prayed about it and wisely (but sadly) sold off the cows and pigs. We sold many chickens too but then gave the rest away to our children. Then we bought 6 motorbikes commonly known as "bodas" here in Uganda. These motorbikes are used as a common transport means. Most people do not have a car so pay a fee to be transported to their destinations.



Six New Bodas and Drivers

Thus far, the decision is paying off very well. It feels like a relief to be good stewards of God's resources. Every week, the renter of the bike (the driver) brings us an amount we agree upon. He buys the fuel and does all the servicing and repairs. The balance from the proceeds after paying his weekly amount and costs of operating the boda, is his no matter how much it is. With this project, we are able to provide employment to 6 people as well as start something new... give a primary school education to about 100 MORE children struggling with poverty.

Starting next school term (August/ September 2022), we will be providing not just a Primary School education to 100 more children but also have the opportunity of sharing Christ with them since they will be coming to our monthly Bible study. In addition, this will bless our teachers who earn very little by adding to the census of the schools we admit the new MCM children to, thus increasing their income. The more the population of the school, the more the teachers make. This new project will be entirely funded by MCM Uganda's boda income and not the USA. We feel proud to be self sustaining in this way.



Harvesting Bananas!

MCM farming is still going well. We are in the process of planting potatoes and harvesting sorghum soon. The banana plantation is also coming up well and soon we should be able to harvest a couple of banana bunches daily.



We thank God for you all because without your generosity, this would not be happening.

Mpeirwe Ivan Twino
MCM-UG Executive Director

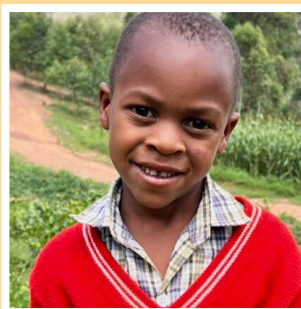
PLEASE SPONSOR A CHILD



RUTH ABENAWE

Ruth (4) lives with her Mum who has schizophrenia. When her Mum becomes sick she disappears leaving Ruth alone. Her Auntie then comes for the child and

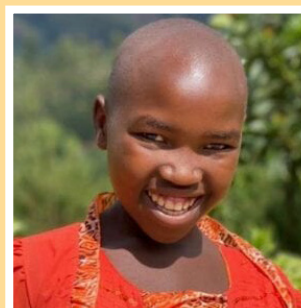
keeps her until her Mum returns. MCM has permission to enter Ruth into boarding school so she will be cared for and fed and educated in a safe environment. Ruth doesn't know what she wants to be.



ASHAVIN NIWAHEREZA

Ashavin (5) lost his father in a car accident in 2018 when he was two. His Mum is a peasant farmer and struggles to earn enough to cover

tuition and food for Ashavin and his two older brothers. Ashavin wants to be the driver of a "moto-car"



PAULINE ABENAWE

Pauline (13) lives with her Grandma, Serida. She has lived there since she was 18 months old. Her father deserted her mum who left Pauline

with her Grandma. Her Grandma is growing too old and weak to farm enough to provide income for tuition for Pauline and her younger sister. Pauline wants to be a Nurse.

GO TO:
mountainchildrensministry.com
and click "Sponsor A Child"

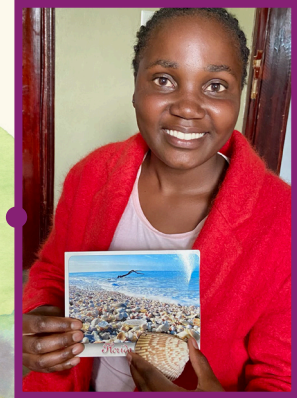
PLEASE SPONSOR A CHILD

For five years my granddaughter, Grace, has loved writing to her Ugandan friend, Moureen. Proud Nonie moment...this Spring Break in Florida my 8 year old Gracie wrote an additional eight letters to unsponsored children and my 4-year-old Margi drew a picture for Andrew too! They even included sea shells! Maybe this would be something you would also like to share with your children or grandchildren?

Please consider sponsoring a child.

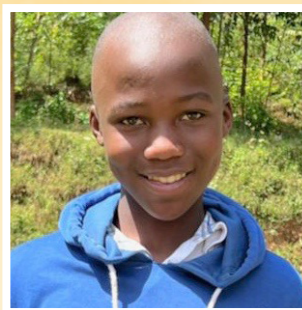


**CHILDREN
LOVING
CHILDREN**



VIVIAN MANJU

Vivian (9) lived with an older Somali refugee when the refugee died leaving Vivian alone in the slums. She was starving to death when a kind, neighbor took her in. Vivian needed hospitalization for malnourishment. Her guardian is a peasant farmer and earns little income. Vivian wants to be a Teacher.



KENNEDY TWINOMUCUNGUZI

Kennedy (14) is brothers with Mark (right). They live with their Grandma, Jennifer following their Mum's death in 2014 and their Dad's stroke in 2020. Jennifer is now frail secondary to back pain and cannot farm. Both boys are in P.7. Kennedy wants to be a Judge.



MARK MUHUMUZA

Mark (15) is brothers with Kennedy (left). He has lived with his Grandma, Jennifer since his father was paralyzed with a stroke in 2020. Mark's mum died of a neck tumor in 2014. His grandma can no longer farm for income as she hurt her back. The boys have one younger brother. Mark wants to be a Doctor

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"

Long lines of guardians signing up children for help from MCM



CHALLENGE BECOMES OPPORTUNITY!

Boda Income Funds Primary School for 100 More Orphans

I am so proud to introduce to you the brand new MCM-Uganda funded program to bless 100 MORE children with a Primary School education. This program is so new we do not even have a name for it yet! It was a direct result of a very challenging situation Ivan and I, with God's help, managed to find opportunity in.

For the past two plus years in my absence Ivan has had daily interactions and visits from growing numbers of desperate guardians, parents and grandparents looking for help to give their children an education. Although Ivan has patiently explained MCM guidelines to all these people, many invading his privacy at home, they have, in Ivan's words, "refused to believe" him. These people, not believing Ivan, requested an audience with me. Wanted to hear it directly from the "white lady" basically.

So we set up a date and sent out word to the villagers - Mum Michele was going to speak on Tuesday afternoon. Early in the morning the people began to gather and by the time I spoke a huge crowd had gathered on our soccer pitch. Honestly, I felt faint. I had an interpreter and I explained our limitations: money, lack of sponsors etc and asked them to join us in praying. To help ease their fears, we formulated a plan to have six people sitting in pairs at 3 tables to take everyone's names and phone numbers (if they had them). We asked them to give us a descriptor of their children- "single orphan" (one parent alive), "double orphan" (no parents alive) and "vulnerable" (both parents alive but impoverished or ill). Those six people took over 600 names representing many more children that day! Overwhelming Challenge... accepted!

As Ivan explained in his update, MCM is realizing a monthly profit from the 6 motorbike rentals. That Tuesday when the names had all finally been collected, Ivan and I considered an idea to use the incoming boda profits to help some of the neediest children. After I returned to the USA Ivan called those marked "double orphans" attending Primary school (nursery thru Primary Seven). There were 100 plus. Ivan calculated the bodas can pay for these children independent of the MCM sponsorship program eliminating a need for help from the USA. These kiddos will receive an education through P.7 as well as attend our monthly Bible Study, Win-Win! The challenge of more needy children and the challenge of our animal husbandry programs not realizing profits (both COVID related) turned into an opportunity to put 100 more very needy orphans in school. God is so good!



600 names were taken in one day, representing many more children!

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 SPONSORS

Written by Hannah Merz (15 years old)

When I was 7, my family and I moved. I remember touring the house and I wanted my parents to get it because there was an area in the basement with a little trap door I could crawl through. My parents wanted to buy the house because in addition to the fact that we needed a bigger house for our growing family, they also loved the owners of the house.

Those owners were super sweet, understanding and they also had a Christian ministry in Uganda. Fast forward three years and yes, my parents did buy that house from the Pageaus. We kept in contact with them and for my 10th baptism birthday, my parents gave me the opportunity to get involved with Mountain Children's Ministry by sponsoring a child. I looked through their website trying to decide who to sponsor. I knew I wanted to sponsor a girl because I was a girl, but other than that, I spent a good amount of time looking through everyone listed.

Ms. Michele happened to be in town with Ivan around the same time I was going through this process. They were so sweet to come and sit with me, to help me look through all the kids. They gave me more information and backstories on them. I finally chose Deborah, and for the past five years that I've known her, I've kept in contact with her through letters and photos. It always makes my day when I get a letter from Deborah and a picture of her smiling face. It's also fascinating to compare the differences but also the similarities to our lives and how we've each grown as young ladies throughout the years.



Hannah (15) holding Deborah's photo and Elijah (12) holding Samuel's

A little over a year ago, my younger brother (Elijah) got a similar opportunity to sponsor a child. He has been writing to Samuel, who is also his same age. In Samuel's first letter to Elijah he asked how Elijah's wife and children were! Then Samuel received Elijah's first letter and realized they were the same age. Samuel asked Elijah what he uses for transportation. Elijah answered he usually travels by car. Elijah looks forward to getting a letter from Samuel because it's interesting to hear about his life in Uganda.

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