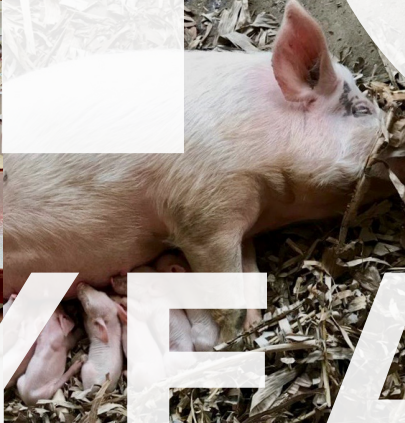




mountain  
children's  
ministry

DECEMBER 2022

*Celebrating 10 Years  
of Blessings*



YEARS





Dear friends and family ~

As I reflect back on the past ten years, one of the greatest blessings has been witnessing children, unhindered, discover and develop their God given gifts and abilities over time. As MCM gives thanks for the honor of co-creating such opportunities, it is my joy to share an inspiring MCM student's journey.



Sarah in June 2013, age 14



Julie Hess and Sarah, February 2016

Sarah Pendo (her African name, Pendo, means "Love") was MCM's 4th child to be sponsored in June of 2013 by Julie Hess. Her mum had died of malaria, she lived with her widowed father and was in primary school at the age of 14. Sarah was a good student, bright, serious and hard working. She did well in High School and in Advanced Level and was accepted at Bishop Stuart University in 2020. Her sponsor Julie, visited Uganda and met Sarah in 2016. Julie bought her a laptop for University and gave Sarah much confidence, encouraging her belief Sarah could do anything she wanted. Sarah, like the rest of our Ugandan children, was sidelined by COVID in 2020 when her University closed 6 weeks after she began. After taking virtual classes on and off in 2021, finally in 2022 Sarah was able to return to campus.

The following are quotes from letters Julie has received from Sarah so you too can marvel at the growth of this precious young lady.

#### November 2020

*"I thank God for all He has continued to do in my life. I see miracles happening everyday and I have started wondering who I am! I want to pursue Social Work so as to change the lives of my fellow girls to become influential women in the future. I hope I will make it because I CAN and I have already started the struggle...I continue to emphasize the greatest commandment which is Love. Love holds everything together and one gains nothing from hating. If all people on earth had true love the world would have been a beautiful place to live."*



Accepted to Bishop Stuart University, 2020

#### August 2021

*"I am still looking forward to restoring hope into people's lives, especially those who have disappointments and failures. I pray that God can give the capacity and the right words and encouragement to always give them. Failure is not an ending, rather a road to success."*

#### May 2022

*"I am currently working (part time) as a waitress...not only am I earning (money) but am also getting some life experiences on different characters which is important in my career as a Social Worker. People are very different you know! There are certain people with behaviors that are unbearable but when you get used to their way of life it becomes normal strengthen relationship. I am enjoying studying Social Work because it encourages social change, though social change is difficult in our country, Uganda, but what I know - one day we will achieve it."*



Sarah waitressing, 2022



August 2022

*"My main objective will be identifying the most common offenses and how they are handled by the people in charge. Our people here in Uganda are facing a problem of being ignored by police and the law enforcers most especially because of bribery. The issues of the poor are left unattended to because the rich bribe the police to close their files. I became so much concerned about this issue mostly seeing it on social media platforms which arose my curiosity and anxiety to go into the field to find out if it is true. After my internship (at a local Police Department) I will find out the real truth and I will make some real change at least in advocating for the poor in one way or another."*

During her internship this September Sarah herself became a crime victim. Although MCM and her sponsors moved quickly to ensure justice was served, ironically, all of Sarah's file was inexplicably lost, evidence was ruined and the man identified as her perpetrator was set free... an obvious case of police bribery. Yet, our Sarah stands strong today and continues on to her final year of University. Her goal remains to right the wrongs she identified even before she experienced this pain personally. We are so grateful to have had the privilege of sharing in Sarah's life these ten years. We have watched her grow into her name, Sarah Pendo = Love. Love never fails. And Love has not failed 350 plus lives these past ten years, including mine! Amazing! Thank you so much for ten years of changing lives!

God bless your Christmas and New Year!

Mummy Michele :)



Sarah Pendo, 2022

## UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: DECEMBER 2022

**Greetings in the name of Jesus and a Happy Christmas! We have great reason to celebrate God's faithfulness at this time. In January 2023 MCM will celebrate our Ten Year Anniversary! Ten years ago we started with sponsors for three young students. It felt so rewarding to offer hope and change to these orphaned children! Ten years later, two are graduated, helping their families financially and with the skills they attained. The third continues to progress in school.**

After ten years MCM currently helps over 310 children! Counting all the children who have completed the program the number is bigger still...360! God has really been good and the testimonies we have are endless. Like **Ivan** who graduated with a certificate in Electrical Engineering and Electronics. He was taken by a company in the capital city of Kampala and does very well there because of his good work. There is **Obed**, who was

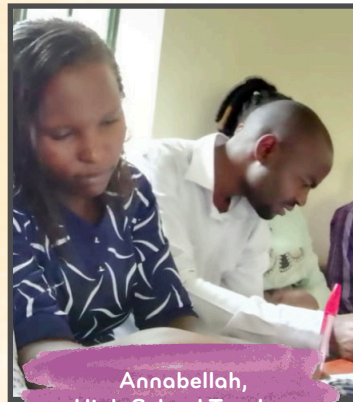


'booked' before he graduated university because of his aptitude in Social Work. It is almost unheard of in Uganda for an organization to go hunting for an employee even before they graduate. **Annabella**, too, is doing outstanding, carrying on her teaching skills so well she was recruited from her first teaching job by an even better school in another part of Uganda.

Attending University and Vocational schools, at this writing, MCM is grateful to support five Nursing students, one Midwife student, two Clinical Medicine students and one Medical Records student. Our hospitals have struggled



with having few quality medical professionals. We are honored that as an organization MCM is going to make a contribution to health care when these nine students complete next year. Praising God many future infants and delivering mothers will survive while other preventable deaths will reduce with more well trained Ugandan hospital staff.



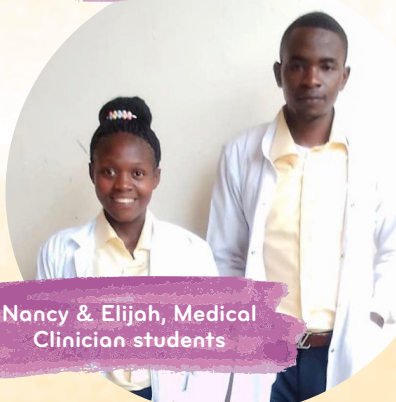
**Annabellah,  
High School Teacher**



**Obed,  
Social Worker**

fold. When I look at the monetary costs every term I marvel at the goodness of our God of miracles. This gives MCM the drive to go beyond our comfort zone, trusting God all the more to provide sponsors and support for as many in need as we can manage because they too will broaden the cycle and continue to change more Ugandan lives.

In addition to the medical field we support three Social Work students, two Education students, a future Accountant and another in I.T. We are also proud of our students studying to be Carpenters, Tailors, Knitters, Automotive Repair workers, Tourism leaders, Hair Dressers, Civil Engineers and Environmental workers. We praise God! Without His blessings and your support these young people would have remained uneducated; financially unable to develop their gifts, skills and talents. Our village is also blessed with every child that graduates because I have seen some we started ten years ago come back and help other children. Like **Owen**, another Electrician who has installed over 40 solar units in our MCM children's guardians' homes. Or Blessing who volunteers to help younger students write their letters! It is becoming a cycle and it is amazing to see.

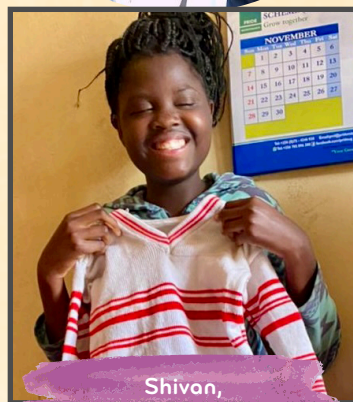


**Nancy & Elijah, Medical  
Clinician students**

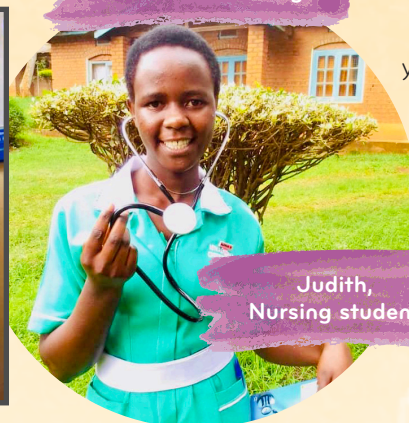


**Blessing,  
assists letter writing**

We are so excited about the future when we see what is happening now. In ten years we have witnessed God's great faithfulness; graduates changing their families and communities, students committed and working hard, and you as sponsors and supporters blessing us with your generosity and perseverance (even through a global pandemic!) to meet the goal and desire to share the Love of Jesus and the truth we ALL matter to God.



**Shivan,  
Knitting student**



**Judith,  
Nursing student**

I want to thank you, our dear partners, for the endless sacrifices you make. We acknowledge your generosity could have been channeled elsewhere and just alone for that reason we are very grateful! We deeply thank you for all the ways you are making the work here a reality.

Next year, we will likely have seven more joining university and eight joining vocational school. Tuition multiplies seven fold for these students who move from secondary school to university. Those that join vocational institutes, the number increases five fold depending on the course they pursue. Courses in the medical field increase ten



May our good God bless you, prosper you, widen your territory and give you perfect health.

Sincerely yours

**Ivan Mpeirwe**  
Executive Director, MCM - UG

## 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!



# PLEASE SPONSOR A CHILD

## WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Please bless children this Christmas with the gift of HOPE. Five of these six have had to attend the funeral of one or both of their parents. The sixth has no father and a mum diagnosed with schizophrenia who has abused her. These are some of our most desperately needy children, and yet we witness their smiles every day. Sponsorship is \$50 per month, less than \$2 per day. Thank you for your consideration.



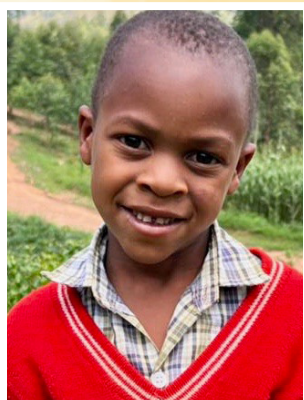
### EMMANUEL T.

Emmanuel (15) is in grade seven and wants to be a Doctor. His father died in 2018 from Diabetes leaving him a single orphan. His Mum, Medius, is a peasant farmer and struggles to support him alone.



### DOREEN AKANDWANAHO

Doreen (6) is in 1st grade and wants to be a teacher. Her mother died of stomach illness in 2020. Her father, Bosco, is a peasant farmer. He fails to look after Doreen leaving her alone in the house when he looks for work. Neighbors have intervened on Doreen's behalf.



### ASHAVIN NIWAHEREZA

Ashavin (6) in Kindergarten and wants to be a "Driver". His father was killed by a speeding car in 2018. His Mum, Mackline is a farmer and takes care of the children but struggles since they have no property to farm and just looks for manual labor from place to place.



### MARK MUHUMUZA

Mark (15, brothers with Kennedy, below) is in grade seven. Mark wants to be a doctor. His mother died in 2014 from a neck tumor. His father suffered a stroke in 2020 and cannot speak or move. The brothers live with their grandmother, Jennifer, who is a peasant farmer but no longer digs because she has back pain. The boys have one younger brother.



### RUTH ABENAWA

Ruth (7) is in Nursery school for the first time. She does not know what she wants to be when she grows up. Her Mum, Editor, has Schizophrenia and is a single mother as she was abused. Editor leaves home during schizophrenic episodes and disappears leaving Ruth locked in the house with no food. Relatives have intervened and removed her from the home.



### KENNEDY TWINOMUCUNGUZI

Kennedy (14, brothers with Mark, above) is in grade seven. Kennedy wants to be a judge. His mother died in 2014 from a neck tumor. His father suffered a stroke in 2020 and cannot speak or move. The brothers live with their grandmother, Jennifer, who is a peasant farmer but no longer digs because she has back pain. The boys have one younger brother.

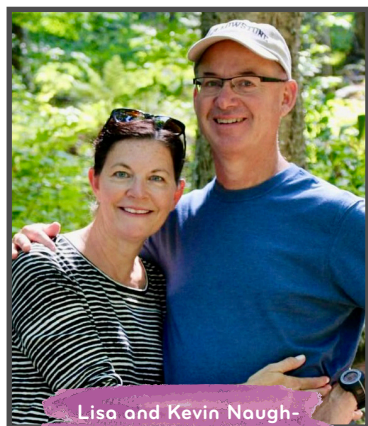
If you would like to sponsor a child above or see our other needy children go to [MOUNTAINCHILDRENSMINISTRY.COM](https://MOUNTAINCHILDRENSMINISTRY.COM) and click on "Sponsor A Child"



## WORDS FROM OUR SPONSOR:



"Word From Our Sponsor" is unique this newsletter as it comes not from an individual but a business. PrintComm Inc. sponsors 36 children and supports other MCM efforts as well. Below was composed by Sponsorship Lead for Printcomm, Leslie Karhoff, and Printcomm employee, Kyle Boss. Along with Kevin and Lisa Naughton, the owners of PrintComm, they write letters 2-3x per year to their individual children, as do 32 others who partner with Printcomm to make GREAT in 36 children's lives!



Lisa and Kevin Naughton, owners

In early 2019, PrintComm Inc. was thriving and growing as it continues to do today, despite the challenges of a worldwide pandemic, economic uncertainty, and material shortages across countless industries. Owner Kevin Naughton prayerfully leads the Flint, MI commercial printing company and continually sees God's hand at work in big ways and small. The company has often prioritized giving back to the community and blessing others and sought more opportunities to do just that.

Kevin met Michele through her husband, Mark, at that time a new PrintComm employee, and felt lead to help MCM children. Kevin really believed in what Michele and Ivan were doing and wanted to be part of it - supporting these children who so desperately needed it.

Kevin introduced his team to Mountain Children's Ministry, its mission in Uganda, and how much these children needed a spiritual friend and guide in their lives. He asked if any of us



L > R Kyle with Raston, Leslie with Angel and Kevin with Given at PrintComm Inc.

would like to help write individual children, sharing love and hope with them in relationships.

"I think when any of us see or hear about children that are in need, our desire is to help however we can. So, we jumped at the opportunity to help impact for good Ugandan children's lives," said Leslie Karhoff, one of several employees who writes and sponsors an MCM child.

The sponsors look forward to reading letters from their sponsored kids and watching them grow and learn. They also can tell that the kids are thrilled to receive letters back. Kyle Boss writes to his sponsored child, Raston, with his wife and kids - "It really isn't just the children in Uganda who are blessed and enriched through this partnership. Knowing we are making a big difference in the lives of these kids and families on the other side of the world ... it makes employment with PrintComm much more than just doing my job and collecting a paycheck."

The team appreciates that without sponsors such as PrintComm, these children would not have the opportunities they have through Mountain Children's Ministry. Ivan and Michele care for these children like they are their own. It is wonderful to see how their lives are blessed in so many ways.

God is so good! And with God, this ministry will continue to grow, prosper and further enhance the lives of Uganda's vulnerable children.



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## STAY CONNECTED!

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