



MCM Boda Taxi Program with 12 of 165 students supported entirely by our Ugandan partners

mountain children's ministry

Mid year summary
June 2024

DEAREST FRIENDS & FAMILY,

Being called an "optimist" all my life it will not surprise you one of my favorite verses is Ephesians 3:20-21
"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory..."

God has been blessing MCM through your generosity with our Boda-Taxi self-sustainability program since February 2022. After the above photo was taken in April, we added three more bodas making our total 15 motorbikes and 2 taxi cars. We believe someday this ministry will be largely self sustaining in the hands of our gifted Ugandan partners, blessing their orphaned children of Kabale by the grace of God.

We have the goal of owning enough bodas and taxis to generate the income required to put 100 local children in Primary School, PLUS pay the salary of MCM administration AND purchase more motorbikes and cars as the current fleet requires replacements. At this writing the Bodas support 165 children in school without administrative salary or vehicle replacement savings.

I have heard this called a "BHAG" = A "Big Holy Audacious Goal!" It is particularly close to my heart because although I am not near "retiring" I have been praying about a succession plan for our MCM children. This is simply a necessary, responsible next step. I do not know what the future holds, as the song goes, but I know Who holds the future! We are trusting God to move MCM-Uganda towards the dignity of increasing independence as the West decreases support. This "going solo" is practically unheard of in Uganda. We believe, following God, together with you, we can! Because really...God CAN do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine!

Please consider a gift towards the MCM Boda Taxi Program to make this BHAG a reality! A motorbike costs \$1,500 and a (used) taxi car costs \$8,500. Every gift, no matter how small will move us closer to this crazy, impossible possibility. It is an honor to DREAM with you!

Many blessings and much love ~
"mum" michele :)

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: JUNE 2024

Hello All ~

We are proud and happy to share with you the latest good news on MCM's Boda program! Thank God for these two plus years we have been running the motorcycle income generating program which now supports 165 primary students independent of the MCM-USA sponsorship program. It was a new adventure we had never tried before but we have been pleasantly surprised at how well it has gone and the fruits it has bore in our community.



Not only has it provided education for these students, it also provides employment income for the 17 individuals that operate them and providence for their families. Also, the effect has been felt positively on the schools we partner with because now the teachers are making extra increase in their income as their pay is reflected by the number of their students. This past December, some of these same children were able to sit for their primary leaving exams and we are happy that most of them performed admirably.

As an organization, we have strived, and still are striving, to have some level of self sufficiency so we do not have to keep our eyes on our sponsors all the time, burdening them. We have tried and experimented with many animal husbandry projects, farms, fields and other ideas. Though some have been okay, not all have gone as we had anticipated.

When we tried this motorcycle business, it wiped away our skepticism. We realized this is what we should have done all along. So we have been building it up from the four we started with in February 2022 to the fifteen now.

Because we found the transportation business profitable in our area based on the success of the motorbike project,



we requested our partners to permit us to expand into the taxi business too. With generous gifts from our supporters MCM-UG bought two small cars and these too have surpassed our expectations with the income they bring in every week! These cars work as ambulances, bridal cars, tourist cars, airport taxis, school "buses" and many other roles depending on what our cliental want at a given time.

Our drivers, who are carefully picked from the community based on merit and character, are required to pay an agreed fee every Saturday evening at the bank as the "rental" cost of using that bike or car. An association of motorbike and taxi owners in Uganda set this fee the drivers pay every week. Anything above the amount the drivers earn is their income, no matter how much it is. We have seen some of our drivers benefit greatly from this arrangement and so has the organization.



We thank God we also do not have to pay for much as an organization. All the day to day repairs, servicing and fuel costs are taken care of by the drivers. MCM covers major repairs e.g. engine change and tire replacement. It is all profit we recognize after the initial payment for the vehicle unlike the previous projects we attempted.

Our prayer is to increase on the numbers of these machines and also see a reduction on the dependence on our partners. So far, it seems to be heading in that direction and we are very grateful.

As you read the following pages, you will hear from four American sponsors whom we had the wonderful opportunity to host. Over the course of 10 days I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know this fabulous group of individuals.

Although difficult to choose my favorite of all the experiences we had together, I would have to highlight our Graduation Party. Can you believe MCM has had 33 graduates since 2020? Plus there were over 500 community children in attendance!

The entire team participated in grocery shopping, making food (chapati), eating cake, Bakiga dancing, celebrating and overall handling the chaos of the day incredibly well. I loved seeing them interact with all the children, some reuniting after 5 years, some first time meetings, ALL

emotionally gratifying. The entire trip was special and I'm so grateful for this team.



Praise God and thank you to all our supporters for blessing these Ugandans!

Mpeirwe Ivan
Executive Director
MCM-UG



WHAT CAN ONE BODA DO?

One boda (motorbike) costs \$1,500 and lasts about five years. Over the course of that five years MCM structures expenses so that boda provides:

- full tuition for 13 students
- job / income for one boda driver
- replacement cost of the boda
- all boda service costs

WHAT CAN ONE TAXI DO?

One Taxi costs \$8,500 and lasts about eight years. Over the course of that eight years MCM structures expenses so that taxi provides:

- full tuition for 60 students
- job / income for one taxi driver
- replacement cost of the taxi



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Take a Joy Ride with us and envision a future MCM-UG, independent of the USA. Ready to climb on!?

- invest in the Boda Taxi Program - no gift is too small, no imagination too big!
- pray alongside us...immeasurably more than all we ask of imagine for the glory of God!

PLEASE SPONSOR A CHILD

These children are waiting for a sponsor...
Please consider sponsoring our Ugandan children.

SISTERS; GRACE, HELLEN, AND SHINAH were all found "in the bush" by a kind neighbor. They were living outside because their mother, father and grandmother all refused to care for them and sent them out alone into the tall grasses without shelter or food and only the clothes on their backs. The neighbor brought them to MCM and we put them in boarding school where they had beds, clothes, food and education while village leaders searched for a caregiver. Their distant relative, a primary school teacher with 2 toddlers of his own, agreed to care for the girls when they were not in boarding school.



GRACE (14)
Primary Five
Goal - Teacher



HELLEN (11)
Primary Three
Goal - Nurse



SHINAH (5)
Nursery School
Goal - Doctor



BLESSING

Blessing's father deserted the family years ago. Her mum left the children with their grandma, Hope, while she searched for work in the big city. There in Kampala Blessing's mum became ill. Her grandma Hope is in her 80's and cannot afford to care for Blessing, age 15, who wants to be a Doctor one day.



RODNEY

Rodney's mother and father separated in 2020 and his mum moved far away, never returning. Rodney lived alone with his father, Timothy, until 2022 when Timothy died in a road accident. Rodney's Grandma, Allen, took him to live with her. She is a peasant farmer and is older and unable to support Rodney's education needs. Rodney, age 9, wants to be a Pilot.



PETER

Peter's father died abruptly in 2020 when Peter was 12. Dad was a farmer and mum, Prossy, is also a subsistence farmer. Together they struggled to provide for their children for many years. Peter was initially brought to MCM and added to the waiting list in 2018. His older sisters have already dropped out of school due to lack of fees. Peter's goal to be a Veterinarian.

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"

MEANINGFUL MOMENTS IN UGANDA



WORDS FROM OUR SPONSORS

Ruth, Alley, Mike & Patty

From Michele: April 26 thru May 6, 2024 I had the pleasure of hosting 4 sponsors on a trip to Uganda to meet their sponsored children and to see MCM - Uganda. This was a fantastic group! Mike Charlier, my cousin, is the man responsible for my being in African ministry. Mike brought his special friend, Patty Plant who not only met her sponsored child but felt called to sponsor another child while there. Ruth Gottlieb and Alley Kammer are both dear friends who have volunteered for MCM for years. Alley since 2016, balancing our Ugandan budget and Ruth since 2021, redesigning and updating the MCM website. Both sponsor children as well. These recent visitors briefly summarize a favorite experience in Uganda.

As for me, I am hard pressed to put into words the emotions that accompany watching devoted sponsors finally wrap their arms around the children they have faithfully stood beside from miles away for YEARS. It is equally moving to watch our Ugandan children hug their sponsors whose photos have miraculously come to life. These are truly God-breathed, inspiring moments, so full of hope and love and power I felt deep Joy. Very likely I was standing on holy ground witnessing that Love we recognize as our true home. As our "team shirts said...God is (sooo) Good! "Immeasurably more than all I could have asked or imagined"

If you ever wonder about the blessings of sponsoring children and changing their lives, please read on...

FROM ALLEY:

When Michele asked if I'd like to go to Uganda, I couldn't pass up the opportunity. Having volunteered with Michele and Rwe (and the MCM budget) for almost 9 years, I was very familiar with the program, and how sponsor funds helped families in the village. I've seen the funds go in and out of their designated categories each month... Simple, right? It was simple until I arrived and the names finally had the beautiful souls and energy of those they belonged to.

My foundational understanding of MCM burgeoned when I:

- Hugged Rinah and sat in her home, feeling her precocious responsibility and care for her family
- Looked out over the valley of Kabale, the hand-terraced farmlands with bright green fields splashed across the rich red mountain clay
- Witnessed the strength of local farmers and their children tending fields and livestock
- Rode on the back of a boda (motorbike), wind in my hair
- Was drenched in the deluge of rainy season as we hiked down from a remote village home
- Smiled back to the shouts of "Mzungu!" as we drove through the stall-lined dirt roads of local towns, kids spotting the Westerners passing in the big white van
- Kneaded chapati dough with my hands at half the rate of the boys who taught me

I have participated in this work on a small scale for a while, and the categories have always mattered: sponsorship, community needs, education, boda program, support, prayer. But until visiting, they didn't have the same color or breath. Even now I

understand you may appreciate what I write, but you likely can't taste it. Being with those whose educational and economic success is supported by MCM was an experience for which we prepared at length, but for which we were utterly unprepared. The need is great, yes; but love and joy abound greater still.

Generosity was showered on our group for doing what felt basic at best. Revealing that partnership with MCM is equally for the benefit of those we support as it is for our benefit of

connection with them. What a privilege we have to participate. We should be so fortunate to be shaped by their example: Celebrate others. Ask for help freely. Trust in the provision awaiting. Thank God duly. And share your success with the community who sent you.



Alley and Rinah



Murchison Safari



Jacob, a chicken and Ruth

FROM RUTH: I had no idea just how much my sponsorship means to my children in Uganda until I went there and met them. What they expressed was not only enormous gratitude for my support for their schooling (also expressed by their families), but a deep love and affection for me personally - an adult who is committed to their well-being and is making a brighter future possible. I felt my heart filled to overflowing with the love of God - Jesus was sitting in the room with us.

I had the exceptional joy of meeting with the five kids I currently support and correspond with, plus the young woman I sponsored until she graduated the program four years ago. Each encounter was one of love and joy and the presence of God, and special in its own way. But I want to share about one of them, Jacob. Both of Jacob's parents are alcoholics, as is the grandmother with whom he lived much of his life - none reliable to look after his needs or pay for his schooling. When we finally met his smile was as big and bright as the sun, and as we walked outside and talked, he never once let go of my hand. I was overcome with love for him, and joy.

As Jacob is attending vocational school for catering and hospitality, and he loves to cook, he happily volunteered to help cook for the MCM-wide graduation party the next day. When he arrived to help, he had brought me a generous gift: a branch of green bananas, fresh vegetables, and a live chicken! What a big, generous heart he has, and how humbling to accept it. Writing

a check to MCM each month for these kids is not all that hard, but now I know what this means for each particular child. Thanks be to God for bringing us together!



Mike and Patty with Rovina and her mother

FROM MIKE & PATTY: Our experience in Uganda visiting MCM and our sponsored students was very humbling. We met a mother who was a refugee from Rwanda. She escaped death during the genocide but was severely burned all over half her face and body. She then ran from Rwanda, crossing the river to enter Uganda only to suffer rape. A beautiful young girl, Rovina was the result. They live in a shed with a broken door provided by a compassionate villager with only a mattress on the floor. This mother also suffers extreme pain from her previous burns and cannot always find work in the fields. As we sat visiting, I felt God's touch and a friendly elbow. So, with tears in my eyes, I became Rovina's sponsor. Thanks be to God!

We thought it was our job to bless! The villages that have so little, gave us so much. We were greeted on our visits to the children's homes most graciously. Waters, sodas, even a pot of rice were offered as we sat in their best seats in their very small mud homes. A treasured walking stick was passed along. Large bundles of bananas were left by our van.

We ended up being the ones blessed as we had the honor to meet these children and their families who had so little yet gave so much! Matt 12:41-44



STAY CONNECTED!

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Visit our updated website for more Uganda visit plus graduation stories and photos. Also featured - the commencement speech written and presented by Ronah.

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Congratulations Graduates!



Amazing God!! During the COVID lockdown years when hundreds of Ugandan students (especially teens) were quitting school, getting pregnant or taking manual labor jobs, MCM-Uganda did not lose a single student! Now, two years later, we are so very proud of our 33 graduate students who stayed the course and completed both their studies and the MCM program! It was an honor to celebrate these young men and women for their extraordinary accomplishment this May.



A VERY SPECIAL Thank you to their sponsors who also persevered in the support and encouragement of our graduates! We are indeed blessed!

GRADUATES AND THEIR SPONSORS

Amon Ainebyona

Agriculture Officer Certificate
2021, Kate & Tim Boonstra
- 8 yrs

Anitah Katusiime

Accounting & Finance
Cert 2023, Kelly & Charity
Cunningham - 7 yrs

Anitah Tumukunde

Hair Design Certificate 2023,
Mary Der, Ed & Max Rose
- 5 yrs

Annah Mbabazi

Tailoring & Fashion Design
Certificate 2021, Nicole & Eric
White - 5 yrs

Blessed

Turyashamererwa

Secretarial Certificate 2020,
Ruth & John Gottlieb - 5 yrs

Brenda Tumukunde

Catering & Hotel Management
2023, Mark & Jen DeBoer
- 10 yrs

Dorothy Ndyamuhaki

Tourism & Hospitality
Certificate 2023, Lisa & John
Juriga - 4 yrs

Elijah Abaho

Clinical Physician Diploma
2023, Joyce Gibson - 6 yrs

Immaculate

Tukamushaba

Tailoring & Fashion Design
2021, Rich & Jane Struck
- 5 yrs

Innocent Ainebyona

Carpentry Certificate 2023,
Nancy Perna - 7 yrs

Isaac Niwagaba

Automotive Repair Certificate
2022, Joel and Allyson
Boomsma - 4 yrs

Ishmael Turyagyenda

Agriculture Officer Certificate
2021, Jim & Shelly Green
- 8 yrs

Ivan Naturinda

Electrical Engineering
Certificate 2021, Scott &
Carolyn Howard - 4 yrs

Jordan Nkamushaba

Automotive Repair Cert 2023,
Kelly & Charity Cunningham -
10 yrs

Morris Aturinda

Medical Records Diploma
2023, Joel & Allyson
Boomsma - 8 yrs

Nancy Turyagumanawe

Clinical Physician Diploma
2023, Mark Dabbs - 3 yrs

Natasha Ainebyona

Tailoring Certificate 2023,
Jeannie & Bill Cooper - 4 yrs

Noeline Ahumuza

Secretarial Certificate 2021,
Kelly & Charity Cunningham
- 5 yrs

Obed Byamamukama

Building & Construction Cert
2023, Tommy & Emily Hekma
- 4 yrs

Oliver Nabaasa

Social Work Certificate 2023,
PrintComm (Sandy Ceponis-
Urso) - 2 yrs

Owen Gabayo

Electrical Engineering
Certificate 2021, Valerie & Rick
Fournier - 6 yrs

Pamela Naamanya

Education Secondary Math
Diploma 2024, Lisa & Bob
Thrush - 5 yrs

Precious Kemigisha

Tourism & Hospitality
Certificate 2023, Kathy & Rick
Dietzen - 6 yrs

Promise Nkamwikiriza

Fashion & Garment Design
Cert 2024, Kim & Tim
Boonstra - 10 yrs

Proscovia Amutuheire

Hair Design Cert 2024, Chris
& Vonné - 6 yrs & Jacobsen's
- 3 yrs

Ronah Natumanya

Information Technology
Diploma 2023, PrintComm
(Lisa Ripee) - 4 yrs

Ruth Ninsiima

Fashion & Garment Design
2024, Gordon & Marilyn
Stremler - 6 yrs

Savious Kemigisha

Tailoring Certificate 2023, Kim
& Tim Boonstra - 9 yrs

Sarah Pendo

Social Work Diploma
2023, Julie Hess & Wayne
VonderHeide - 10 yrs

Shivan Niwahereza

Knitting & Design Certificate
2023, Community Care - 5 yrs

Sympathy Owarisiima

Nursing Certificate 2023, Joe
& Mary Kaszynski - 4 years

Talent Ahabwe

Tourism & Hospitality
Certificate 2023, Nancy & Art
Chmelik - 9 yrs

Witness Ninsiima

Nursing Certificate 2023,
PrintComm (Julie Stehle)
- 4 yrs

A SPECIAL THANKS

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