



MCM students celebrate school and getting new backpacks



End of Year Summary
December 2024

DEAREST FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

A very joy filled Christmas and New Year to all! It is hard to believe MCM's twelfth year begins in January. We are so grateful for your prayers, support and encouragement! Many blessings to you!

Recently while reading about poverty in our world I found these research conclusions:

"Access to high quality primary education and supporting child well-being is a globally recognized solution to end the cycle of poverty. In a 2017 study UNESCO found if all students in low-income countries had just basic reading skills (nothing else) an estimated 171 million people could escape extreme poverty. If all adults completed secondary education, we could cut the global poverty by more than half!" (uis.unesco.org).

Those of you who have been supporting MCM children have already begun to participate in ending the cycle of poverty through education. You have read our stories of many orphans who have been blessed with not only learning to read, but secondary education all the way through university or vocational school to their career. You have played a role in helping our Ugandan children escape poverty one by one. Thank you!!

Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in education pays the best interest." This newsletter features an article launching a campaign to build up the MCM Scholarship Fund to accrue that "interest" in the lives of our children! As you can see from the looks on their faces in the above photo... our children appreciate your help winning against poverty!! Thank You!!

Continually we Thank God for His many blessings!

With Love~
"mummy michele"

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: DECEMBER 2024

Hello All ~

I thank God for this time of the year again when I have the chance to share what has been happening with MCM in Uganda.

First and most importantly I want to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and partners for standing with us faithfully throughout 2024. Because of your faithfulness, your prayers and your generosity this ministry is going on. There is a lot of good happening in the lives of our children and the community. Your MCM children are thriving and bringing us good reports about their schools, teachers and academic progress. We have had a few challenges but all was resolved amicably, thank God.

MORE GRADUATES!

In May we celebrated 31 young men and women graduates from the MCM program, since June even more students have also graduated! Thirteen more including two Teachers, two Nurses, a Midwife, an Accountant, a Social Worker, a Microbiologist in Environmental Health, a Film Maker/Photographer, an Economist, a Chef, an Auto Mechanic, and a Solider.



Proscovia,
Accounting Graduate

It is always so satisfying seeing a student we have been with for 10 years finally achieve what they dreamed those many years back. Growing up in a rural, backward village is really difficult for children here. They face many challenges which could so easily derail them. Disease, lack of food, loss of one or both parents, being required to parent siblings at a very young age and unending domestic chores commonly stand in the way. It is an enormous achievement when they finally walk out with those caps and gowns.

By God's grace, many MCM grads have started their careers, hired across our country! Some have stayed nearby to ensure the future of our village growing brighter as we educate and share God's love with younger children. Their desire is to give back! Qualified teachers, are now employed by some of our local schools and are educating



Bible craft Raven from 1 Kings 17:4-6,
God will meet all your needs!

little ones being helped by MCM. There is also an MCM graduate nurse who is contracted by some schools to do checkups and treat or refer the students to the hospital. These graduates are living examples for our young MCM students to follow, witnessing the work of those who have overcome the same challenges in life and academics successfully. This is a powerful testimony, "If I CAN do it, you CAN too!"

SELF SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM!

The Boda / Taxi income generating program is running very well and it continues to bless 143 of our village's most needy primary school children without American sponsors. All these students are in school, tuition fully paid, even

before the term starts! We are very grateful to our donors who generously gave towards acquiring more vehicles this year. At the end of 2023 we had 11 bikes and one taxi; we are finishing 2024 with 20 bikes and 3 taxis!!

The Boda / Taxi Program is now also paying for all of it's own repairs and service fees. We hope in 2025 to purchase a bike or two ourselves and add some administrative costs too, Amazing God!!



Shinah with her
new backpack



143 students supported by the Boda/Taxi Program independent of the West!!



Deborah is blessed with her education by the Boda program

The Boda program especially helps in situations like Deborah, an 8 year old girl whose mother suffers from a mental disease. Local authorities moved Deborah (and her 4 siblings) to her grandmother Peace who is 75 years old and now provides for all 5 grandchildren. When we found Deborah she was not in school and her grandmother was in the hospital with Deborah's mother having another mental episode. All the five grandchildren were alone in her house and Esther, 12

years old, was acting as the parent. Because of the Boda program, we can help Peace so she is not burdened with providing Deborah's school needs. Deborah is now in school and we are so happy with her progress!

MCM farming is also running well, We are still making profits every season with beans, potatoes, sorghum and our banana plantation. All in all, God has been very good to us in 2024 and we are happy about the positive impact and changes all your help has brought to this village.



We Praise God for all He has provided and thank you to all our supporters for blessing these Ugandans

Mpeirwe Ivan
Executive Director,
MCM - UG



STAY CONNECTED!



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @mcmkabale or subscribe to our blog and newsletter at our website: mountainchildrensministry.com

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Visit our website for more information about Higher Education, Self Sustainability, Child Sponsorship and MCM FAQ's:

mountainchildrensministry.com

MCM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

written by Ruth Gottlieb



Prayer for candidates before their exams

What makes MCM different from many worthy child sponsorship programs? It's that they know, care for and guide sponsored children individually, and they support these kids through vocational school or university so that they can flourish as productive adults and pass along to others the blessings they have received.

Unemployment in Uganda is rampant, so MCM kids face stiff competition for jobs with Ugandan students who have had the advantages of growing up with both parents, financial stability in their homes, nutritious diets and more educational opportunities in the big cities. This means the additional few years of higher education are especially important for the young adults from our MCM peasant farming villages.



Senior Six students wait for University Scholarship results

My family has sponsored six MCM kids over the past eight years. One has graduated - employed in the field for which she trained, two are in their last terms of vocational school and three are still in secondary school. When I visited them in Uganda this year I asked and learned of the actual extra costs for higher education. I was surprised! So surprised I insisted we get this information out to those of you who, like me, are unaware but interested in the facts.

Check out these annual tuition costs:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| College Prep (Senior 5-6) | \$630 - \$1200 |
| Vocational School | \$600 - \$1650 |
| University | \$1050 - \$3000 |

The cost of vocational school or university tuition is much higher than MCM monthly sponsorships (which must also provide room & board and healthcare) cover. So MCM has a Scholarship Fund to help pay these additional costs for higher education making such a huge difference in the lives of these kids.

I am so grateful to know that the kids I have loved over the years are supported through the tough transition to adulthood. I have been so moved and humbled by the commitment expressed by a number of these kids in their letters to pass along to others the blessings they have received through MCM. Here is a quote from my sponsor son Jacob: *"I promise to make you proud, to chase my dreams and pay it forward any way I can. I hope to make a positive impact in the world, just as you have in mine."*



Jacob meets Ruth in Uganda

PLEASE CONSIDER A YEAR END GIFT TO MCM TO SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For those who are not comfortable making the longer-term commitment of sponsoring a child, this is a perfect opportunity for you!

THREE EASY WAYS TO GIVE:

- 1 Text "MCMScholarship" to 44-321
- 2 Scan the code to give securely online
- 3 Complete and mail the giving form from the mailed newsletter.



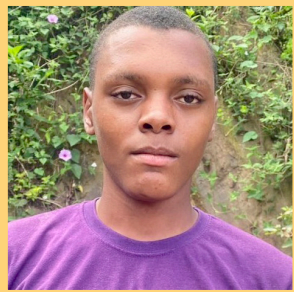
PLEASE SPONSOR AN ORPHAN

IN UGANDA an orphan is considered any child who has lost one or both parents. Every one of these children are orphans, every one desperately needs help - resources, encouragement and prayers. Can you give a child hope this Christmas?



REBECCA

When Rebecca's father died she was only a baby. Her mother suffers from mental illness so the family took Rebecca as a baby to care for her. Rebecca has been staying with her maternal Auntie Emily who is a peasant farmer and has kids of her own that she is also struggling to feed. Rebecca is 15 in Sixth grade (P.6). She wants to be a Teacher.



PETER

Peter's father died abruptly in 2020 when Peter was 12. Dad was a farmer and mum, Prossy, also a farmer. Together they struggled to provide for their children for many years. Peter is 17 and a Sophomore in high school (Senior 2). He performs well! Peter's goal to be a Veterinarian.



TRINA

Trina's father, Joseph, was killed by a car in a in the city where he had gone to look for work. Trina was still a little child. Her mother, Doreen, has struggled to bring Trina and her 2 siblings up. Doreen looks for manual labor and does farming for other people's farms with Trina to make ends meet. Trina is 10 and in the Fourth grade (P.4). She wants to be a Doctor.



CALEB

Caleb's father passed away when Caleb was still a toddler. His mother, Annet, is a peasant farmer and struggles to feed her 6 children. Caleb just turned 10 and is in Second grade (P.2). He wants to be a Doctor.



FAITH

Faith's mother passed away in 2018 when Faith was 4 years old. Faith's father was in a polygamous marriage and her older stepmother did not want Faith to stay with them so Faith was sent away to live with her Uncle Sam who has a wife and children of his own and cannot afford to care for her. Faith is 10 in the Third grade (P.3). She wants to be a Nurse.



EMMANUEL

When Emmanuel was 7 he had a severe speech impediment so his mother gave him to a family to work as a shepherd. His father is unknown. The family mistreated him but an old widow (Jackline) took the boy from the abusive family with the help of the local leaders. Jackline put him back in school but soon ran out of fees.

Emmanuel started paying his own school fees by trapping and disposing of moles for pay. Emmanuel is 14 in the Sixth grade (P.6). He wants to be a Lawyer.



FLAVIA

Flavia's father died in 2014 from liver disease complications when she was a baby. Her mother, Loyce, is a peasant farmer and owns no land to farm to get school fees for her daughters. Flavia is 11 in Fifth grade (P.5). She wants to be a Nurse.



If you would like to sponsor a child, scan the code or visit mountainchildrensministry.com/sponsor-a-child/



< Cliff and Deb Miller and family

carrying all of our letters back and forth. We learn from our children as they share growth, struggles, favorite verses, prayer requests and interests. To be called "Dad" and "Mom" is deeply emotional and reminds us of our responsibilities. We have the chance to encourage and tell about our families, lives and ways they can pray for us. Pictures are especially precious, and we have placed the most current ones on our prayer board in the kitchen where we can see them at every meal. It's such a great visual reminder of them all and we love to pray for them and see how their relationship with God in discipleship and service is growing.

WORDS FROM OUR SPONSORS

Written by Cliff and Deb Miller

About 15 years ago God brought Uganda into our lives through our dear niece Jody who had fallen in love with the people and the country on a visit. She subsequently made some longer visits and on one of those she invited our oldest daughter and me (Cliff) to visit. We couldn't believe how we felt about this beautiful country even when we just got off the plane. It was clear right away that God had plans for us to be connected. Debbie and I have had a chance to make two additional trips together.



OUR KIDS:

Remmy

Claire

Blessing

It is one of the best ways we can be a part of God's Kingdom and His plan for us to bless as we have been greatly blessed. The joy we have in this program and these lives is so special to us. While we haven't yet had the chance to meet these wonderful young people in person, we have seen them in action through videos and feel as though we have really gotten to know each other. We would recommend building relationships in this way to anyone who is able to join in. May God continue to encourage and bless all involved in this ministry!

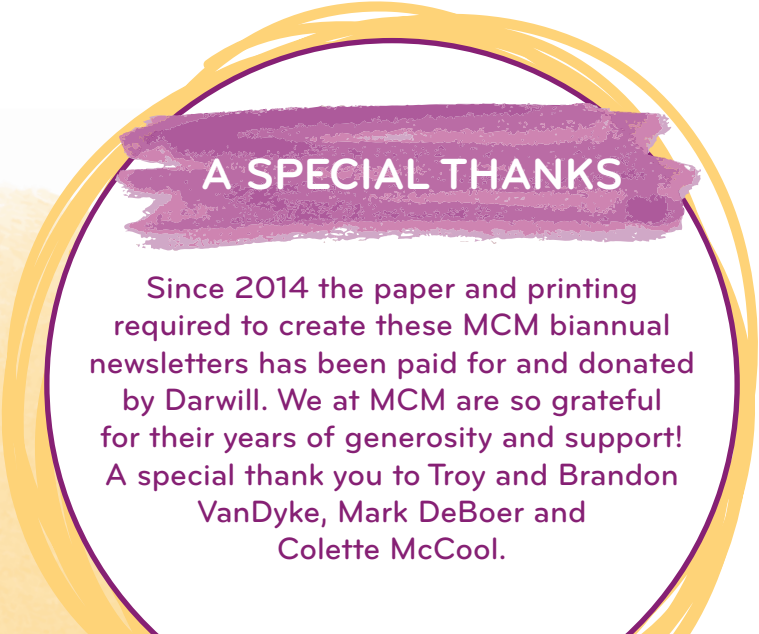


Cliff meets Ivan, 2016

Fast forward to some wonderful relationships we began on that first trip with ministries and people (one of whom was Ivan) and we started to see some ways we could be involved. We began sponsoring some children through one of the ministries and had the joy of visiting

them on a trip. Eventually, we became friends with Mum Michele and learned that God had laid children in Ivan's area on his heart and he began Mountain Children's Ministry.

When we heard from Michele about the need for additional sponsors, Debbie and I prayed about our participation and started a relationship with one young student, then eventually with three. The opportunity to provide for schooling and exchange letters was so powerful, it has been one of our greatest joys. Hearing from Blessing, Remmy and Claire is such a highlight of our day and we can't thank Michele enough for



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 VanDyke, Mark DeBoer and Colette McCool.