



MID YEAR SUMMARY JUNE 2025

DEAREST FAMILY AND FRIENDS ~

Greetings! Happy Season of warm sunshine. I hope you are also filled with anticipation of summer, ahhhhh!

The cross in our cover photo, was crafted by Deo, a creative, wood carver friend in Uganda. It is his own design and I love the messages it communicates. The warm welcome, the helping hand, the power of healing touch, the memories of God lifting us up, supporting us, encouraging us, and the comfort of not being alone.

No other form of communication is as universally understood as touch. It is our first language. Science proves hugs and other forms of physical touch can reduce stress, lower blood pressure and boost the immune system. They also trigger the release of oxytocin a hormone known for promoting emotional bonding and happiness. Jesus, who could have healed from a distance, instead chose physical touch. There is something special about that hand reaching out. Maybe it is the courage, trust, and vulnerability required to get close enough to touch one another, to get close enough to ask for help and close enough to give it?

By the grace of God, through YOUR moving closer and reaching out, MCM has touched so many people. God has brought His Presence, His hands outreached, through your sacrifices and willingness to risk. What a privilege to witness this outpouring of kindness and support coming from both Americans and Ugandans stretching towards one another, locking hands and holding on tight. All of us together reaching to our good Father.

Inside this June newsletter we have written the stories of 4 students whose lives were touched by your prayers, support and letters. Enjoy the lives described before and after a touch from God through you.

Many blessings to you all and Happy Summer!! Let's all be generous with our hugs!

Much love and blessings~
mum michele

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: JUNE 2025

Warm greetings from Kabale!

I hope the year has started off well for every one of you.

Once again, I want to thank all our sponsors and partners for supporting MCM financially or in any other way God has enabled you to. Only because of you has this organization been able to do the amazing work it is doing in the lives of the young and the old, changing our community.

A few things have been happening this year and I would like to share them with you.



Our banana plantation continues to bless us.



American second graders send Christmas cards to our students.

ACADEMICS

Last November we had nine students sit for their final exams ending their 4 years in high school. The results came out at the end of February and all of them qualified to join A-level (Advanced level is like American Community College level). This was special group because often not everyone qualifies to move on to the next level.

Some students join vocational school after S.4 instead. We thank God this group of Senior Four students created MCM history, all moving to S.5A level.

I attribute this success to the availability of our

library. Our students do not have text books at school yet they need them to do research because the content the teachers provide in class is not sufficient to compete in National exams. However, when the library was opened, and text books stocked, the children had an abundance of information at their disposal which we have now seen in their performance.

Also, we had ten A-level students sit for their final exams marking the end of their secondary studies. We are happy to report two students qualified for university scholarships. The rest also scored enough marks to be able to join vocational institutions in any subject they choose. This is not the case for some students who do not qualify for the more demanding vocational programs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the MCM Higher Education Scholarship donors.

Without your generosity the A level, University and Vocational school costs would be too high for MCM to handle. They are far beyond the regular sponsorship donation. Without you these students would not be able to learn the skills to get jobs and support their families in the future.

INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS

I am happy to report that the Boda/Taxi program is doing well and is still expanding. We are now at 23 Bodas and 3 Taxis. I also want to thank the Self Sustainability donors for their generous support towards this project. It has really had a profound impact on helping this organization achieve many objectives that it would have otherwise struggled to complete. Many children are benefiting academically with tuition and school needs. The bodas and taxis make medical help accessible by acting as "ambulances" for the children and our community members that need rapid transit. Plus over 26 people in our community are now gainfully employed as drivers of our vehicles.



Boarding improves education!



Bodas pay tuition for over 140 students.

Our farming program is also doing well. It continues to bring us steady income from our banana plantation and our crops of beans, potatoes and sorghum. Thank God for that!



Our children pray!

I want to close once again with a lot of thanks and appreciation to you all! Without your help and sacrifices, we would not be what we are now.

May God bless you and continue to expand your boundaries.

Mpeirwe Ivan
Executive Director,
MCM - UG

BIBLE STUDY

This has been the bedrock of our organization. We still have these every month and we are happy that they have shaped our children in many ways; from their spiritual health to their behavior.

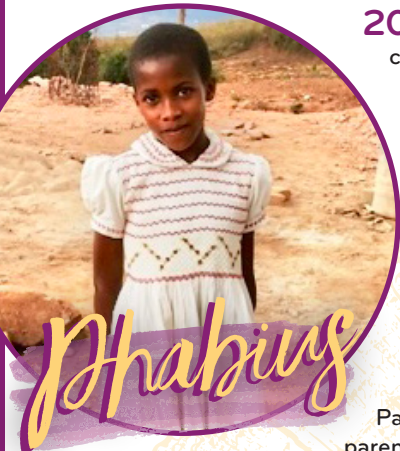


Lives Touched

BEFORE AND AFTER A TOUCH FROM GOD THROUGH YOU!

2013 We met Papius at age 10 when the teachers at her school came to MCM to ask for help for her family. The children had lost both parents to AIDS a few years earlier and were being cared for by the oldest daughter who was 15 at the time. When Ivan visited their home he found grown men playing cards in their shelter. Ivan requested Papi and her sister come live with him and our four children. She was sponsored in 2013, one of MCM's first children.

2025 We like to call this young lady our "Miracle Girl." The amount of adversity she has gone through and emerged victorious is unbelievable! Although Papi lost both of her parents to AIDS when she was 5 years of age, by God's grace, Papi did not contract the AIDS that claimed their lives. With no parents and means for basic care; food, medical, schooling, she somehow survived. Finally, and most remarkably, in 2020 Papi (who has since changed her name to Phabius) was diagnosed with both Brain Cancer and COVID. After more than a year of both radiation and chemotherapy Phabi was pronounced cancer free and has remained so for the past 4 years! Today Phabi is alive and healthy and has even finished her Advanced-level studies, performing beyond what we expected. Phabi will be joining vocational school in September and we are excited to watch what God has in store for her.



Phabius



2015 Elias was forced out of school because of lack of finances to continue. His mother is a farmer but makes very little. At that time he was living with his guardian, Auntie Kate a widow, and her 7 other children. She came to MCM and told us she had no money to send Elias to school so Ivan put him in the program and he was sponsored in 2017.



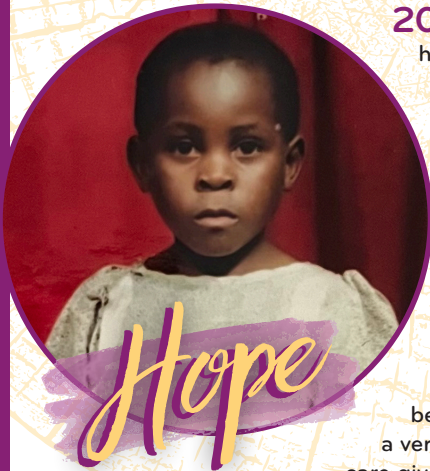
Elias

talents and gifts stored in this young man all those years ago when he first came to us having dropped out of primary school for lack of school fees. We thank God for what He has made Elias become and we are so proud of the change this organization and his sponsor have imparted in him.

2025 We have seen Elias conquer and do marvelous things ever since we met him. He topped his Advanced -level class, became a phenomenal footballer whom schools clamor for, became a leader in his school as well as a Sunday school teacher and much more! Now Elias is at college studying to be a Mechanical Engineer. In his Freshman year Ellis even earned an academic scholarship from his University! Who would have known the



2006 Namyalo Siam Zinunula had been abused by her father and kept as "slave labor" until her concerned neighbor brought her to the orphanage Ivan served in Kampala in 2006. After confirming Saim's story with the Local Council she was welcomed to stay and entered nursery school at age 6. There she met and was cared for by "Unk Ivan" and the house mothers. There Siam changed her name to Hope Sanyu (meaning Happy) when she became a Christian. In 2012 Ivan took Hope and three other orphans to Kabale to start MCM.



Hope

Her skills with young children are unparalleled! Hope is making a difference to children who were the same age she was when Ivan first met her...Only God!

2025 Hope Sanyu is now 25 years old! She is a beautiful young woman with an equally beautiful heart and a very hard work ethic. She is our ray of sunshine, our family care giver and gifted with young children. After graduating, Hope



2019 After Francis' father's suspicious death, the first wife took ownership of all of his holdings and banished Francis (a son of his father's second wife) with no assets to pay for education nor to help his mum raise him and his 4 siblings. Francis was unable to attend school for lack of fees. Their family was abused and starving when they met with MCM.



Francis

was very difficult and even unfair to our way of thinking, God was always at his side and blessing him with high intelligence and gifts of leadership. We believe God is going to use him to achieve greatness and change his community too.

2025 Francis excelled at Advanced level and received a full scholarship to the best University in Uganda. He soared to performances no student had ever achieved in our MCM history and was top in all his classes. Francis is a natural leader and was elected as a Minister at Makerere University as well. He graduated and is now a certified Economist and works with



PLEASE SPONSOR AN ORPHAN

THESE CHILDREN have lost one or both parents and their guardians cannot afford to feed them, much less give them school tuition fees. Please consider giving a child a bright future and sponsoring their education.



TRINAH

(11 y/o) lost her father in a car accident when Trinah was a baby. Her Mum, Doreen, struggles to find work digging manually at local farms to support her and her younger sister. Trinah would like to be a Doctor and her favorite subject is English.



JOEL

(13 y/o) Joel's father was murdered in 2016. Shortly after, in 2018, his mum took his younger sibling and left him. They have not heard from her since. Joel's Aunti Loyda took him in but has 2 children of her own and cannot afford all three children's tuition. Joel wants to be a Doctor.



DANIEL

(14 y/o) was abandoned by both his mother and his father and left with his paternal grandmother, Joy, as a baby 13 years ago. Joy believes Daniel's parents are dead since there has been no word from them in all these years. Daniel wants to be a Civil Engineer. He is a candidate student in Primary Seven.



DORCAS

(16 y/o) Dorcas never knew her father. He left her mum, Glorious, when she was pregnant with Dorcas. Both Dorcas and her mum work doing manual labor in fields for income. Dorcas wants to be a Nun and a Doctor simultaneously. She said, "I want to become a Nun because I love Jesus so much and a Doctor because I want to help sick people." She attends St Aloysius Sister's secondary school with help from MCM.



REBECCA

(16 y/o) 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 whom she is also struggling to feed. Rebecca is in Seventh grade. She wants to be a Teacher.



ELIAS

(15 y/o) Elias lost his father to heart disease in 2023. In 2024 his Mum left the children locked in their home and deserted them. There they lived alone for a few months until their paternal grandparents learned of their situation and brought them to their home. Elias wants to become the Bishop of Uganda.



Scan the code to sponsor a child, or visit:
mountainchildrensministry.com/sponsor-a-child

WORDS FROM OUR SPONSOR

From Michele:

Introducing Mark Dabbs, a retired Copper Miner from central Arizona whose pastors were Ps Galen and Rodella Neshem from Hillside Bible Church, also MCM sponsors. In 2017, I met Mark —a kind, humble, and generous sponsor. At the time, we were complete strangers. Today, I'm honored to call him my friend.

Mark inspires me deeply. His love for the Lord and his desire to serve quietly, behind the scenes, is powerful. In fact, I had to insist he write his story—so great is his desire that the spotlight stay on the children being blessed, not on himself. Mark confessed to me, after writing this, he has not yet learned to "duck!"



By Mark Dabbs

'Mum Michele' visited my small country church in 2017, presenting her MCM program. We talked, but as I had other obligations of a similar nature, I did not get on board at that time. However, staying in touch and eventually yielding to that "small inner tug," I committed to being part of MCM.

Without speaking poorly of larger organizations that connect you with needy children and communities, MCM has a distinct "family feeling." Michele, Ivan, their spouses, and others form a team deeply devoted to this ministry for the Lord.

What's the takeaway—besides making a difference in the life of an impoverished child? It's seeing shoes on their feet, big smiles on their beautiful faces... what a God thing! They have food, clothing, more energy, and time for their studies and to help at home. Then, reading their bios that speak of great ambitions—becoming nurses, doctors, lawyers— shows they understand what it means to want to help others in a "grown-up world." John 3:16 is exemplified here, with love and giving. These are children!

I'm reminded of a scene near the end of the movie Schindler's List, when Oskar Schindler, grieving, regretted that he could have done more. Can we do more? Read the words of Jesus in Luke 6:38 and Solomon's wisdom in Proverbs 19:17. If you yield to that "small inner tug" that pulls on your heart, get ready to duck—or you'll be hit by many blessings!

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.



STAY CONNECTED!

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

MICHELE'S CONTACT INFO:

1609 Jerome Street | (630) 606-3165
Holland, Michigan 49423 | michelepageau@gmail.com



Scan the code to visit our website and make a gift or learn more about Higher Education, Self Sustainability and Child Sponsorship.