

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”

Matthew 18:20



500 Gifts of \$20 will allow us to meet our goal

Hello, my name is Jason Merica and my wife Sharon and I have been married for 10.5 years, wanting children and having never conceived we began a series of fertility testing. After several invasive tests we were relieved to find out that nothing was wrong with either one of us. We believe God has prevented us from getting pregnant because there is a little boy currently living in Africa by the name of Mark, who is meant to be our son. Last September the Mwamba Children's Choir from Uganda arrived in Frederick, MD and several families were contacted to host. We were one of the fortunate families chosen AND let me tell you... God used four little boys from that choir to forever change our lives. Instantly Sharon and I had the family we've dreamt about, but the week ended, the boys left and so did a piece of our hearts. Over the next few days as Sharon and I looked into our empty spare bedroom where they had stayed our eyes welled up with tears. We began to pray and ask God why he let us feel this pain and God spoke to us, telling us that Mark was going to be our son.

We began to ask the choir leadership questions and this is what we know, Mark Benjamin Mwesigwa turned 9 years old on January 15, 2011. His father was killed in 2005 by a large truck and his mother barely able to care for herself chose to give him to the orphanage where his basic needs are currently being met. Mark's diet consists of mostly matoke (a steamed green plantain like fruit), white rice and porridge (a hot oat mixture). He does not eat three meals a day and his meat, fruit and vegetable consumption are almost non existent. He sleeps in an orphanage with 200 other children under mosquito netting each night. He does not have air conditioning or medicine to protect him from Malaria, Tuberculosis, Cholera, Diphtheria, Yellow Fever or Hepatitis which are all common diseases in Uganda. He does not have a refrigerator where he can grab some juice or milk. Instead he has a pail to gather water, which then needs to be boiled before consuming so that he doesn't get ill. The clothing and shoes he wears are that which have been donated, sometimes they fit other times not so much but he is always grateful. Mark is a happy boy living the only life he has ever known but Sharon and I intend to provide a life where he can excel, hope and dream and have opportunities he otherwise would not have living in Africa.

Sharon and I did not realize until beginning the process that the total cost from start to finish would be around \$25,000. To help cover the cost of the adoption we are hoping to fill out 1,000 index cards. An index card will be created for every monetary gift given and/or prayer promised to be given. The card will include the givers name and phone number. On **October 1, 2011** we will hold a yard sale, where we will sell donated items as a last attempt to raise money for the cost of bringing our son home. Also, on this day if we have met our goal of \$10,000, we will randomly choose one index card and this person will receive a gift from us in the form of a 2003 Ford Explorer XLT.

Will you please stand in agreement with us as well as plan to donate something of value to be sold at the yard sale which can be dropped off either the night before or the day of Saturday October 1st. If you are interested in helping or have any questions please contact Jason Merica at (301) 237-8652. Thank you and God bless you!