

# Our Own Home

A refuge for orphans living with HIV/AIDS in Jinja, Uganda



Dear friends,

[www.africaourownhome.org](http://www.africaourownhome.org)

June, 2008

God has certainly moved in unexpected and wonderful ways here at Our Own Home, and in my personal life this past year! He has blessed us with 40 beautiful children -- a stretch past the 20-25 for which we had initially planned. Not a one would I trade! His plans are always better, and usually different than mine, even if I think He has revealed some small piece to me! Not to mention, He has blessed me with a wonderful man, a man after His own heart, and we are preparing to wed! So far, everything looked just right to me, the life I always dreamed of!

**In recent days, God has been stirring our hearts for growth.** Of course, we strive to constantly improve upon our own system, and the months since the children came have been months of great learning! We were not sure exactly how He wanted us to grow. Do we find a bigger house and thereby provide for even more children? Do we find another house and separate the boys from the girls? Is it time to find land and plan a building project? These were only a few of the questions we were asking. We knew God would provide for whatever His will was, but what was it? The answer was far from what we expected.

From the start, Our Own Home has been a *children's* home. We receive kids who are between five and fourteen years. I thought we would always be a children's home. I only *wanted* to be a children's home. I really enjoy the company of our kids. They ask questions (If Jesus comes to live in my heart, will I explode?); they play ball and jump rope; they sing praises to God as they move about the house; they crowd in and cuddle up at evening devotion time. Yes, I *love* my kids. But look over here, there is a dying mother with a one-year-old. He is infected, and his relatives are scared of the stigma. They think they will catch AIDS from him, be rejected by their village. They will starve him on purpose, or abandon him on a trash heap, or worse: drop him into a pit latrine. What if that mother had a place to take her baby? What if she knew there was someone to love and care for him after she was gone? What if that baby grew up knowing the value of his life in the eyes of his Maker? What if...what if Our Own Home opened its doors to babies?



*Babies at Amani Baby Cottage...Holly's volunteer work before OOH*



*Another from Amani...*

We started looking for a house yesterday; a house that we hope will become a home for ten little ones under the age of four, all orphaned by AIDS and all infected with the virus at birth. The goal: raise them up knowing they are loved and valued; give them the best quality of life that we can. We found two possible places already, both in our price range, both the right size, and we may be able to finalize a lease before the end of the month. I can't wait to see what God is going to do now!

Funny that a year ago, I was also looking for a house -- a house that would be a home for, I thought, 25 kids. Now we have 37 kids, and are

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looking for a place for ten babies. Who knows...maybe this time next year it will be a hundred!  
Yesterday I read this verse in Isaiah, "Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy with rejoice in the Holy One of Israel." (Is. 29:19) God has done it once; I believe He wants to do it once more!  
God is good all the time! May He bless you and yours abundantly! Thank you for keeping us in your prayers!



God Bless You,

"Mommy" Holly

Please visit our new website at [www.africaourownhome.org](http://www.africaourownhome.org)! Here you'll find an overview of our ministry, lots of pictures, our newsletter archive, volunteer and contact information. Please share and e-mail this link to anyone who might be interested in learning more about Our Own Home!

**Thank you!!!! Can you believe what God has done in these seven short months? Thank you for your faithfulness to His work through Our Own Home and, now, the baby home.**

This means our request for donations of goods has expanded to include: clothdiapers, clothes ranging in size from 6 months to 3T, Balmex or similar generics, and baby toys that can be sterilized (boiled)...not teethers or cloth toys. If you are in Casper, call and I'll arrange pick-up of the items. Otherwise, please see shipping information on the website under "donations".

It also means our budget will continue to grow. Please share this work with your church or others you know who may be interested. If you know of someone who would like to be on our mailing list, please send us their address by mail or e-mail at the address in the next paragraph.

If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to **Our Own Home** and send to: 1075 Beaumont Dr. Casper, WY 82601. We also accept credit card and Paypal donations at [www.africaourownhome.org](http://www.africaourownhome.org). Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law. If you have any questions at all, please call Joe at 307-267-2712 or write [joe@africaourownhome.org](mailto:joe@africaourownhome.org).

Please write to me at [let\\_them\\_come@yahoo.com](mailto:let_them_come@yahoo.com). I'd LOVE to hear from you!  
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