

Our Own Home

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



Greetings from Uganda!

www.AfricaOurOwnHome.org

June, 2010

We have our new van, and it is beautiful! I wish you could have heard the children cheering as William drove it into the compound! They wanted to pile into the back and go for a drive before the seats were even installed! Now the van has its seats and we have enough space for everyone in our vehicles! Thanks again to our faithful supporters, and to the team at Dream of a Better World for helping make this a reality!



A True Story

She saw her husband and 3 of her children die of AIDS. She buried her father for the same reason. Now her fourth son is bedridden with the disease the local people call silimu. The doctors tell her that her last living son has not long to live. He has Tuberculosis, which commonly affects people with AIDS, and it has not responded to treatment. At 5 foot 6 inches he weighs around 60lbs. He has four children, her grandchildren, and she is doing the best she can to support them as well as her aged mother who is crippled and almost completely blind. And Dinah has AIDS herself.

The youngest of Dinah's grandchildren is Mark. He came to us three years ago at the age of 4, the youngest child at Our Own Home at that time, and the very second child that we took in. He is the fourth generation of his family to have HIV/AIDS.



Mark

"God is good," Dinah tells me. "My son is very sick, but he continues to say 'I will not die until God decides that it is my time.' He has so much faith." And he has outlived every doctor's expectations. They gave him weeks to live three years ago. Though he is far from being healthy or able to take care of his children, he presses on in faith and with hope that he undoubtedly learned from his mother.

Dinah looks about 30 years older than she is. Sickness and hard work have taken their toll on her body, but not her soul. Despite her problems, Dinah walks through life in a strikingly beautiful joy and peace. "God is always helping me," she often says. "He is my strength." As she faithfully and tirelessly cares for her family despite her own physical problems, she sees Him providing for her needs.

Through friends of Our Own Home, God provided a sponsor for her family. At Our Own Home, God provided a place for Mark.

"I never worry about Mark now." Dinah says. "I know that Mark is very fine now." Her other grandchildren, Mark's siblings, escaped infection with HIV and help Dinah with housework and caring for her mother. Through God's provision mentioned above, Dinah sends them to school and feeds them. The

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oldest is in secondary school; he wants to be a doctor to help people suffering from HIV and AIDS.

Once when Dinah was on an IV in the hospital getting over a bout of pneumonia, she walked the two blocks to Our Own Home to bring me some of Mark's medical records that she had found in her house. "I thought these would help you, so I said 'I am close by, let me go and bring these,'" she said. Then, with a smile, "I must go back before they see I have escaped." (Unfortunately in an African hospital, there is not enough staff to notice a thing like that very quickly.) We gave her a ride back to the hospital.

We have been blessed and inspired by the faith and love of this amazing woman. She is a continual example to us of trusting God through trials and pouring herself out in love for her family. And Dinah's health is improving. She stands straighter and has more energy than she did when we first met her nearly 3 years ago. She gives the glory to God, who she knows is always by her side. Dinah does not ask for help, reminding us that the greatest help a parent can receive is the peace of knowing her child is "very fine."

"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, 'Destroy him!'" (Deuteronomy 33:27) Dinah has dared to believe this and has seen her enemies of fear, hunger and hopelessness driven away.

Now 7 years old, Mark has a big smile that shows off his missing teeth. He enjoys singing, playing football (of course!), playing with his Hot Wheels, nursery school, and Sunday School. He is doing well on his ARV drugs, and has every hope of a very bright future.

I wonder who your enemies are today. Sickness? Worries about tomorrow? Dare to depend on the God who knows every hair on your head and loves every one of His children, old and young. Dare to believe that your enemies can be driven away before your very eyes, because if Dinah's can, anyone's can. Does that seem impossible to you? Perfect; the impossible is His specialty. Ask any one of the children at Our Own Home. Read our log of newsletters on our website. Dare to believe.

Be blessed this month,
Mommy Holly

We continue to request donations toward acquisition of our own land and to begin design work. **Our present needs are for boys undies sizes 6-12, medical gloves size medium to large, multivitamins, children's Tylenol and Advil tablets and liquid. Of course, generics are fine.** Please share this work with your church or others you know who may be interested. Let us know if you would like to arrange a presentation for your group or church. **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 online at 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.

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