

Our Own Home

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



Merry Christmas,

www.AfricaOurOwnHome.org

November, 2009

Visions of sugar plums are dancing in the heads of the children at Our Own Home! They eagerly anticipate their Christmas feast, and talk about it daily. Turkey, sausage, chapati (a fried flat bread), rice, spinach, and french fries, plus cake and soda for dessert! At OOH we are blessed to eat meat once a week, but for many families in Uganda, Christmas is the only day of the year when there is meat on the table. The children who have been with us for the past two Christmases know the worth of their Christmas feast, and their gratitude is real.

Angelina

Angelina has not known a feast in her entire six years. She lived in a crude hut put together with sticks and mud, barely keeping a breeze out, let alone the heavy African rains. She laid on a dirt floor, starving and sick. Her mother fed her locally brewed beer in order to keep her in a drunken stupor, so no one would hear her cry. The shame of having a child with AIDS overpowered even the sympathy or compassion that a mother might have afforded her starving child. So Angelina lived, hidden in a corner, without love and without hope.



Angelina before



Angelina now

Some dear missionary friends of ours discovered Angelina while working in her village. They promptly gave her the medical care and food she so desperately needed, and arranged for her to live at Our Own Home. At the age of six, Angelina weighed only 16lbs. She was unable to even sit up on her own -- but she surely did like to eat! Now a month later, Angelina weighs 22lbs and continues to eat heartily. The weight she has gained shows in her rounding cheeks and belly. She now sits on her own, colors pictures with the other children, and most importantly: she smiles.

Another Child

Angelina's smile takes me right back to the story of another child born in poverty. It probably wasn't rainy in Bethlehem, but I'm sure that the stable was no improvement on the place where Angelina was born. There was no soft mattress, no hot chocolate, no Christmas tree -- not even a blanket in which to wrap the baby. Certainly, there was no feast.

Still, He came. The High King of Heaven left His throne with all of its comfort and beauty and came to a barn. He entered the world not surrounded by angels or bodyguards, but by cows and sheep. His birth was not proclaimed by the media, but announced to humble shepherds -- even the people sleeping comfortably in the inn nearby (the one that was too full for Him) were oblivious to the Royalty that was sucking His thumb only a stone's throw away. *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."* Luke 2:11 KJV

Our Own Home

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

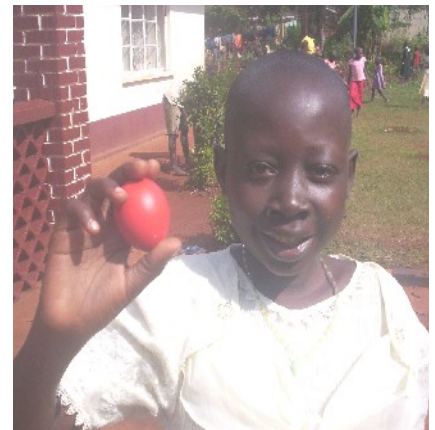


Turn a few pages and we find another story about Jesus. He is holding a little child in His arms and saying to His disciples that this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. “...*Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me...*” Luke 9:48. The innkeeper didn’t welcome the little Child born in Bethlehem. King Herod even tried to kill Him. Now Jesus offers us a chance to welcome that same little Child, that same Saviour, into our hearts and lives.

“*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.*” (2 Corinthians 8:9) Angelina may not yet understand who Jesus is or why He came, but she knows that a child who was poor has been made rich, a child who was broken has been made whole, and a child who had known only abuse has known love. A child born in a mud hut has feasted on the riches of the King’s table, and she smiles... and somewhere in her smile, I think I see the smile of another Child born into poverty so many Christmases ago. Will you welcome Him today?

Blessings, Mommy Holly

PS...Lydia Kyaterekera is a name familiar to many of you. She is the little girl who worked so hard for three years, beginning at age ten, to make her way into town once a month to get her ARV drugs because her brother would not help her. She came to us nearly two years ago. Pray for wisdom for the doctors treating her, that they would be able to correctly identify and effectively treat every infection that now attacks Lydia’s body. These persistent infections are sign that AIDS is progressing and that her ARV drugs may be losing their effectiveness for her. Pray for healing, because nothing is too hard for our God. Pray for Lydia to be encouraged and strengthened during this time, and for God’s peace and love to surround her and uphold her, because even the strongest among us sometimes cry.



Lydia at Easter 2008

**Thank you so very much for your generous support and prayers!
Please remember Our Own Home as you contemplate year-end giving.**

We continue to our request donations toward a second van and for acquisition of our own land. Our present needs are for boys undies sizes 6-12, hydrogen peroxide, toothpaste, Listerine (orange or mild-flavored), medical gloves size medium to large, personal size Vaseline, 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.

Please visit our website at www.AfricaOurOwnHome.org! Here you'll find an overview of our ministry, pictures, our newsletter archive, volunteer, contact and donor information. Please share and e-mail this link to anyone who might be interested in learning more about Our Own Home!

Our Own Home Ministries International is a 501(c)(3) religious charitable organization.