

Our Own Home

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



Happy New Year,

www.AfricaOurOwnHome.org

December, 2009

Christmas 2009 was a festive day for the children of Our Own Home! We hope you all had a joyous season filled with blessings, too!

On the 18th of December, we piled into a bus and a 15-passenger van (that is what it takes to move our family these days!) and made the 54-mile trek (which takes about three hours on Uganda's roads, rife with potholes and traffic jams!) to the capital city of Kampala. There, a choir of about 200 voices sang praises to the Lord for His birthday in beautiful harmony. The children look forward to this program all year long -- in fact, it has become a real tradition as this was our third Christmas to attend the celebration, as well as our third Christmas as an OOH family!

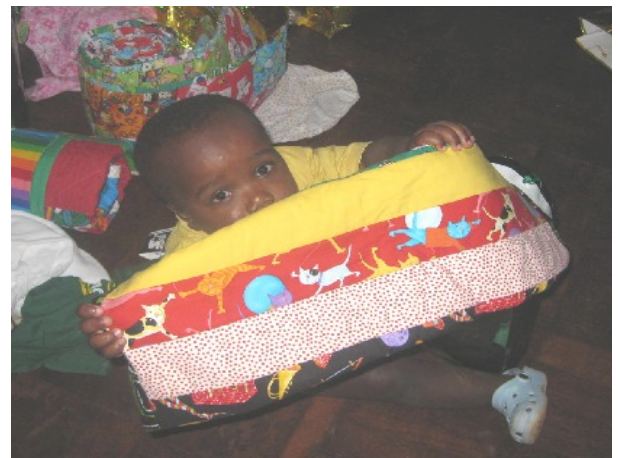


Christmas presents!

On Christmas morning, the children eagerly unwrapped brightly colored gift bags that contained brand new clothes (two outfits each), beautiful hand-made quilts, and sweets galore! The room was filled with laughter, squeals of delight, happy cries of, "Mommy look!," and lots of big smiles! For Arafat, Angelina, Elijah, Josiah, Shayla, Fatuma, Daphine K., Becca, Gloria, George, Pius, and Joshua (children who joined our family just this year) this was their very first Christmas gift. Watching their expressions was priceless and nearly brought me to tears. "Mommy and Daddy" are deeply thankful to all of you who donated clothing,

quilts, sweets, and more to make our children's Christmas very special.

As the year wrapped up, I could not help reflecting on all that we have seen at Our Own Home this year. Our first five babies, as well as eight new children, were welcomed into our family (an average of more than one per month). We moved the girls and babies into their beautiful new home at the start of the year 2009. We were blessed with seven wonderful volunteers in 2009, who poured out their love on the kids and helped lighten the load of looking after 43 (some remain with us now). We witnessed dramatic healing in several of our children, especially Faizal, Elijah, and Angelina, to the glory and praise of God. We also watched as two of our dear ones passed from our arms to Jesus, and learned to walk in the peace of knowing that we will see them again because Jesus came on Christmas and died on Calvary and rose on Easter to live eternally.



Elijah with his new blanket!

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Christmas day ended with a time of devotions and praise and worship, as we try to end every night at Our Own Home. After singing a few songs, William asked the children to name something they were thankful to God for in 2009. I wanted to share a few of their responses with you:

- "I thank God because we finished 2009 and we are still alive."
- "I thank God because we have medicine when some people in the world have no medicine for HIV."
- "I thank God because we have food to eat."
- "I thank God for clothes and blankets."
- "I thank God because we have people who love us and take care of us."
- "I thank God because He sent Jesus."

What are you thankful for today?

Thank you all for your love, prayers, encouragement and support of the children of Our Own Home from our start in 2007 until now. You are truly blessings to us. We pray the new year brings with it many joys for each of you. I want to close with words from a New Year's Day text message we received from a friend in Jinja. They made us smile, I hope they will make you smile, too: "May this year bombard you with lots of ballistic missiles loaded with love, kindness, good health, peace, success, and prosperity."

Happy 2010!

Mommy Holly

We continue to 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.