



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



Merry Christmas!

www.AfricaOurOwnHome.org

December, 2011

I hope this letter finds all of you well and warm! I wanted to show you a picture of our new house. The roof is going on right on schedule and we should be moving in March. And I wanted to tell you a few stories of lives that will be lived in that house. I hope they bless your heart... *A Tale of Three Children...and One Big God!*



The roof goes on the missionary house!

Just this month little Rawlings joined our family at Our Own Home. With sad, puppy-like eyes, he stole all our hearts in a moment. His mommy is too sick to take care of him right now, and his daddy already passed away with AIDS. Now his own little body is fighting the same battle as theirs. He has thrush, pneumonia, and diarrhea. He is thin and weak. But thank God this is not how his story ends! Now he has medicine, food, and a safe place to sleep. Now he has a mommy who carries him on her back and brothers and sisters who play with him and push him in the stroller. We pray that as Rawlings gains health and

strength physically that he will also grow spiritually. We pray that the love he is shown here will open his eyes to know the great love of his Father God, who lifted him out of his trouble and set him on a rock. We pray that as he grows, that he becomes a man after God's heart. We have good reason to believe that he, like so many others here, will heal...inside and out.

She dances up to the van as I enter the compound. Grabbing an "air microphone" as I step out of the vehicle, I join her and we duet a popular song from *High School Musical*, "I've never had someone who knows me like you do...I've never had someone as good for me as you...So lonely before I finally found what I've been looking for!" As the song ends, she erupts into giggles and wraps me in one of the bear hugs that are her specialty. Looking up at me with a famous grin, she exclaims, "If I never came here Daddy was gonna be sad!" She turns her gaze admiringly to Daddy William who was, at that moment, shooting basketball hoops with some of the boys. As I stood there with sweet Leticia, age 7, I couldn't help but think of the road she has traveled.



Dormitory second story rises from the first!

See, a few years ago Leticia's biological father beat her to a pulp and left her for dead. He has never been seen since. Had it not been for God's help, which came in the form of a nurse at her rain forest village's tiny clinic, she would not have survived. She was taken to a children's home, which closed shortly thereafter, and finally, she was brought here to Our Own Home. Over the past three years, Leticia has grown and changed in so

many ways. She lives with a passion that I envy, and as she sings and dances her way through life, I am reminded to do the same. After all, God has rescued me, too!

Raising teens, especially teens who have experienced trauma, has its challenges. We pray hard. We cry sometimes. We yearn for these young people to be on fire for God and to trust Him with both their pasts and their futures. One evening during devotions, Prossy (15), broke into tears and hastily left the room. Concerned, William left Sharon (16) leading worship songs and went to see what was wrong. Prossy sat on the front porch, Lydia had hurried to her side and put her arm around her. When William asked her what was wrong, the answer was far better than he had feared. Prossy explained through her tears that she was overwhelmed by all that God had given her. In her thankfulness, she wanted to serve Him in return, but worried that she was not doing enough in her life to glorify Him. "I was sick, and God made me well. I didn't have school fees, and God gave them to me. He gave me a home here with people who love me. What am I doing for him?"

Friends, let me tell you, there is no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth! We have prayed over these children, counseled and encouraged them, given them God's word, but only He can make the seeds that are planted in their hearts grow. Seeing a crop springing up in our teenage daughter was the greatest gift we could ask for. The thing about Prossy is, she is serving God in more ways than she could even recognize! She is patient, unselfish, and loving toward the other children - - and everyone. She is a joyful servant to the Mama's and babies. She is obedient and respectful, and she invites her friends from school to church. Most importantly, she is a faithful student of God's Word! William was able to encourage her with this truth, and also to encourage her to keep looking for other opportunities to serve at home and at church. He told her that the best place to be in God's eyes is broken and humble before Him, recognizing His gifts and wanting to give back. I can hardly wait to see what He is going to do with a pure-hearted vessel like Prossy. He has already glorified Himself so much in her life! When Prossy came to us at age 12, her hair was sparse and her stomach swollen. Malnourished and with a failing liver, she asked me to teach her the hymn, "Blessed Assurance." She is going to secondary school in a few months and is in good health, physically and spiritually! Only God can make so many things new in a life in four short years. "Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!"

This is the season when we are called to reflect on God's greatest gift of all, His one and only Son. Jesus gave His own life to redeem ours. Take a moment to pause now and praise Him for what He has done in your life as well as the lives of these children. Thank God the song that rang through the Bethlehem sky that first Christmas has been ringing from the heart of heaven ever since: "*Peace on earth, good will toward men!*" May it ring through our lives to a needy world, not only at Christmas but all year long.

***"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* Isaiah 9:6**

Merry Christmas!

Love, Mommy Holly

Please prayerfully consider a gift to Our Own Home as you ponder year-end giving. We cherish and appreciate your continuing prayers for provision.

Our present needs are for boys and girls undies sizes toddler to teen, medical gloves size medium to large and children's multivitamins....generics are fine. You'll find shipping info on our website.

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, video and 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!

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