

# Our Own Home

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



Greetings to all!

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

January, 2010

The children began school on the first of this February! After such a long holiday (almost 3 full months!) they were excited to get back to work. I have mentioned before that these children take their education very seriously. They are keenly aware that many children in Uganda have no means to attend school, and that some children here must work to help support their families instead of schooling, so they count themselves extremely fortunate to have this opportunity and are determined not to waste it! **Many thanks to all of the sponsors who help provide an education for the children at Our Own Home!**

Most of you know that we are in the process of being licensed to educate our children right at Our Own Home. We believe with all of our hearts that this is God's will. However, the paperwork has not yet finished making its rounds to the appropriate offices. It does not yet bear the notarization required in order for us to begin our school. We are waiting for a certain board to convene and read over our file and approve it. After that, the Jinja Town Council must also approve. All we can do now is wait. So, for one more term at least, the children are attending the primary school down the road. We were deeply disappointed that the timing did not work out for us to begin in February as we had hoped, yet we are convinced that we will have the license within the next month or two, and will go forward from there. God's timing is not our own, and we have experienced that waiting on Him is never fruitless. (Besides, with 43 children to look after, we have plenty to keep us busy as we wait!) Thank you all for your prayers and encouragement!\*



*Lydia*

**Our sweet Lydia continues to struggle.** Amid the ups and downs of frequent recurring illnesses and brief bouts of wellness, she remains hopeful. She thinks about others more than herself, and smiles as she plays with the babies and visits with the adults during the day while the other children are at school. She can often be heard singing praises and praying while alone in her bedroom, and her Bible is her friend for all seasons. Her Lord is her Friend for all seasons. Lydia is an inspiration to us all.

**“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul...Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid, you are worth more than many sparrows.”** (Matthew 10:28a, 29-31)

**AIDS may kill the body, but it can not kill the soul.** Current medical treatments offer much hope for those living with this disease. Children who contract HIV at birth or through breastfeeding today can be expected to live a normal life with the proper medical care, nutrition, and hygiene. Sadly, Lydia was denied these basic necessities for most of her life, and the deprivation took its toll on her physical body. But despite her poor health, her soul is very well. Please continue to lift her up in your prayers.

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*Angelina and Elijah*

**Angelina continues to gain strength and energy.** Her hoarse cackle of a laugh can often be heard ringing through the house and compound, and it is music to our ears. Yesterday William and I watched with full hearts as Angelina and Elijah, another miracle baby, went down their new slide over and over. Each time they reached the bottom there were giggles, claps, and then they ran to the steps to go again. That, my friends, is pure joy. God does answer prayers, oh yes.

On that note, I wish you all a joyful month, filled with laughter and absent of fear. You are worth more than many sparrows.

With love,

Mommy Holly

**\*A note to all who donated specifically toward our school's needs, those funds have been set aside for desks, curriculum, and other supplies. You have equipped us, and we are ready. Thank you for your generosity!**

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](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 visit our website at [www.AfricaOurOwnHome.org](http://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.*