

Our Own Home

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



Dear Friends,

www.africaourownhome.org

March, 2009

March came in like a lion in Jinja, with heavy rains and cold nights! The ground needed the water, so we're thankful to One who sent the showers! He's the same One that continues to shower us with blessings at Our Own Home!



Elijah "sports" his latest fashions!

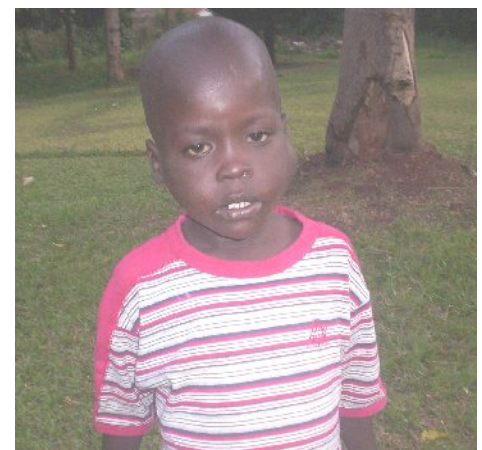
Our little Elijah is the best dressed baby in Jinja!

Thanks to all of you who have sent boxes of baby clothes, diapers, and toys! We appreciate it, and so does our littlest "Blessing From God"! So far, Elijah is alone in the baby room (he does enjoy being the center of attention, of course). He has gained about six pounds since he came, and is full of smiles, as you can see!

The children began school last month, and just wrote letters to their sponsors from Horizon International! They enjoyed writing about their lives and drawing pictures for their sponsors to see. Cathy, sponsored by

my very own sister, Julie, asked me the other day if her sponsor might come visit her...*hint, hint, Julz!* :o) **The kids are so grateful for the opportunity to go to school and learn, being aware that not all of Uganda's children are so privileged. Thank you, sponsors, for your generosity that helps us make this possible!**

We have a new face at the boys' house! Little Josiah is five years old, and he will probably be with us for about six months. His mother, widowed by AIDS, is very sick but wants very much to find a way to support her little boy. She plans to take him home again once she is able to gain strength. Since she has no work, she has no money for food. Since ARV drugs are much too strong to be taken without food, the starving mother and son watched their CD4 counts drop dangerously low before, in desperation, she decided it would be best for Josiah to have a place where he could eat so he could take his medication. **Josiah came to us today with a golf ball-sized abscess on the side of his face.** His CD4 percentage is 12.1 (it should be 100). We will give him food and the medicine he needs, and we will pray. Though we have seen many successes, we have also seen a child slip through our grasp. We hope, by God's grace, that Josiah is another miracle baby.



Please pray for Josiah...

I want to close by thanking each of you who support us in what we do. Thank you to those who make donations or sponsor a child. Thank you to those who continually lift us up in prayer. Thanks to all of those who sent me encouraging emails and cards this past month, I was blessed by them, and felt very sure that we are not alone. Thanks to Heather, the leader of our HPCC Task Force, for all of your hard work, and for the weekly notes in the P.O. Box! Thanks to the U.S.

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Admin Team - my family - for all of the hard work and love you put into this project from the other side, especially Gabe and Grace, who folded this newsletter and put it in its envelope. :o)

As I think of all of you and try to wrap my head around how many people God has brought together from all over the globe to fight in prayer for these children, I am blown away. You know who "everyone" is when I say with Paul, **"Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all."** (Titus 3:15)

With love and thanks,

Mommy Holly



P.S. About this time last year, we shared with you the need for a van for Our Own Home. Within two months, through your generosity, God provided us with the resources to acquire a van. It took us a few more months to figure out how to actually buy it, but by September we were driving a beautiful new 15-passenger van.

Now we have more than 40 children and that number will grow to about 60 with the additional home we opened in January.

As we did a year ago, we ask that you prayerfully consider whether you can make a directed donation towards the acquisition of a second van. We understand you may be facing challenging economic times as are so many around the world. If that is your situation, we lift you up in prayer that the God who watches every sparrow and dresses every lily of the field will meet your need.

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!

Due to your generosity, we are well supplied with diapers, baby clothes and baby toys. Our present needs are for deodorant for our teens, bathing suits (4T-14/16, no bikinis, 2-pieces or European style please,) purel, personal size vaseline, multivitamins, children's Tylenol and Advil tablets. Of course, generics are fine for any of these items.

Please share this work with your church or others you know who may be interested. If you know of someone who would like to be on our mailing list, please send us their address by mail or e-mail at the address in the next paragraph.

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.