

# Our Own Home

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



**Happy New Year!**

**January, 2008**

Oh, the joy of new beginnings! Lamentations 3:22-23 brings us the assurance that our Father's compassions are new every morning, "great is Your faithfulness." Great indeed! My prayer for each one of you is that you experience His compassions and faithfulness every day of the coming year!

This morning (January 1, 2008) I woke to something else new – a little boy named Gordon who God sent to join our family! He is seven years old, with bright eyes and a shy smile. Of course he was welcomed with open arms, and I rejoice again as God's plan for another child unfolds before my wondering eyes. I am now the proud mother of 23 (my Ugandan friends assure me my stomach looks good for one who has "produced" so many)! :o)



**The girls:** Sharon (13), Prossy (12), Losira (11), Sarah (11), Doreen (11), Aisha (10), Winnie (9), Stella (6), Aligaya (6), Daphine (5), Esther (5), and Gertrude (4).

**The boys:** Wyclif (12), Haruna (10), Pius (10), John (9), Gordon (7), Kato (6), Ronny (6), Faizal (5), Ivan (5), Nicholas (5), and Mark (4).

The children are the sunshine and joy of my life. Watching them grow ever deeper in their love for God and their desire to know more about Him is a gift I treasure. This week they are working

on a memory verse from Psalm 139, "I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made! Your works are wonderful, I know that full well!" My greatest desire is that each of these children will grow up with the confidence that God is for them, that He created them for a purpose (see Ephesians 2:10), and that He has good plans for their lives (see Jeremiah 29:11). My prayer is that each one of them will grow bold and strong in the knowledge that their God is with them wherever they go (see Joshua 1:9).

**We surely had a memorable first Christmas!** The children's eyes popped at the spectacle of lighted trees and traveling lights that surrounded the mass choir we saw in Kampala! There was singing and dancing, a drama that told the Christmas story, mandazis (a fluffy fried bread) and juice, and even a ride on a coaster (a bus)! It was a hit! Christmas morning was my favorite, though. After breakfast, the family gathered around the Christmas tree to read a story about shepherds and angels, wise men and a king, a poor man and a virgin, and a special baby born in a stable. How amazing the way God chose to save the world! Then, each child was handed a brightly colored bag, and the squeals of delight must have been heard for miles! If only you all could have seen the joyful celebration as they unwrapped brand new clothes, necklaces, and most importantly, chocolate! In no time they were dressed in their new duds with melted chocolate on hands and beaming smiles on faces! We went to church and sang carols, feasted on turkey, and slept like babies filled with warm Christmas tea and warm Christmas joy!

**An important question...** I have received some questions about HIV/AIDS, the children's current health, and what their future looks like. I want all of you to know that these children have a very bright future. With the current treatment options available to them, they could potentially live well into

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adulthood; and treatments are advancing all the time. They have hopes and dreams of finishing school, attending university, and even marrying and having children of their own one day. This is not widely known, and as a result many children like ours are neglected, cast aside and viewed as dead already. At *Our Own Home* we believe that every child is a gift to be treasured, and we desire to give the love of a family, and the hope that goes with it, to as many of these children as possible.

Due to the fact that their immune systems are compromised; that is, they lack the resources in their bodies to protect them from illness and to fight back when they get sick; it is true that a few may not have many years left. Heaven waits for all of us who know Him, and when I read the description of our eternal home in Revelation 21:4, I can't help but think they are the fortunate ones who get there first. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." We talk about Heaven often here, and all of us are looking forward to that day, but we prefer to focus more on the life God has given us *here and now*, every breath and moment is a gift for which we thank Him.



And while we're talking about new beginnings, think about my children! Two months ago, **Wyclif was wondering if anyone would ever want him.** His mother abandoned him to a neighbor, saying he was poorly-behaved and she couldn't handle him. He had been beaten seriously for stealing and hospitalized as a result. Now he is playing football (soccer) in the yard, but sometimes he will just sit with his head on my shoulder as I sing lullabies, content in the knowledge that he is truly and finally home.

Nicholas is less than forty pounds at the age of six. His mother is bedridden and too sick to care even for his basic needs. Failing to receive the nutrition and medication he needed, he contracted TB and almost lost the battle. Now his round of antibiotics is almost finished, he is gaining strength every day. He loves to climb trees in the yard and swing on the swing. His thumb rarely leaves his mouth except to replace it with mango or other food! :o) He is happy in his new home, a sweet new beginning.

There are many stories like that in our family, and God knows every one. "A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, He leads forth the prisoners with singing..." Psalm 68:5-6a **Thank you for your prayers and support! Many prayers are going out for a blessed and joyful 2008 for all of you!**

With love,  
"Mommy Holly" Mizell

**Thank you, again!!!** Your generous donations of hard-earned dollars, clothes, medical supplies, school supplies, books and more have made this work possible. Your prayerful consideration of continuing support of **Our Own Home** is greatly appreciated.

**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 are now an officially registered charitable organization and donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.

Please write to me at [let\\_them\\_come@yahoo.com](mailto:let_them_come@yahoo.com). I'd LOVE to hear from you!  
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