

# Our Own Home

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



Dear friends,

February, 2008

The month of January brought us many blessings and much joy, I pray it was the same for each of you! The children continue to grow in security and confidence, and in their understanding and love of God. He is doing amazing work in their lives, and it is beautiful to see. **Thank you very much for your prayers and support, or as they say in Luganda, "webale"!** We also thank God for you. Knowing that we are in your prayers means so very much!

The children walked for about two miles to reach the swimming place, but every step was worth the while! They laughed and squealed and swam the afternoon away! It was a first for them, but it won't be the last! What fun!

**Faizal (6) was hospitalized for three days with malaria last week.** He lost quite a lot of weight and we were so scared, but God is faithful! He is now playing on the swing and gaining strength by the day! Please continue praying for the health and strength of each child at Our Own Home. HIV can make it difficult for their bodies to fight off even simple illnesses, so we take every measure to ensure that they receive the nutrition and medication that they need in a safe and clean environment. Even when we have done all we can, it is God who has the power to truly keep them safe.



*Faizal - feeling better*

Many of you have been praying for Pius, who was diagnosed with pneumonia and tuberculosis (TB) and was very weak when he first came to Our Own Home. The plan was to treat the pneumonia first, and then begin TB treatment when he had regained a bit of strength. It is my joy to report that the pneumonia is gone, and when it cleared the doctor could see that there was no TB in his chest at all! All of the glory goes to God!



*L to R Front: Gordon, Haruna, Wyclif, John, Pius L to R Middle- Martin, Aisha, Cathy, Ivan, Ronny, Eddie L to R Back- Winnie, Losira, Sharon, Prossy, Sarah, Diana, Doreen*

**February brings the start of a new school year!** The day the children received their **school uniforms** was almost as exciting as Christmas! They can hardly wait to begin school now, and ask every day if it's time! Though some of them are coming from very far behind, I am confident they will do the best they can and enjoy the gift of learning. You see, in Uganda there is no free education. Even nursery school requires fees, uniforms, and supplies. In a land where the average daily wage is under a dollar, many children can not afford to attend even elementary school. Sadly, orphans living with HIV are not very high on the priority list. It is no burden at all to Jesus, though, and so **some of our kids are going to school for the first time at the age of ten!** He has provided, as always. Praise the Lord!

New faces have graced us with their smiles this month! **Natasha, age five, is only about twenty pounds!** After her mother died of AIDS, Natasha's aunt neglected her so severely that she almost wasted away completely! She was taken to a local clinic, but not expected to live. Miraculously, she began to strengthen as her TB, HIV and malnutrition were treated...and then they brought her to us! What a gift and a joy she is, a tiny dynamo of energy! To look at her you might compare her to a one or two-year-old. Her size in no way hinders her ability to make herself seen and heard! She is full of smiles and cuddles, and loves to play tag with the best of them!

# Our Own Home

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



**Ivan is ten years old.** His disabled grandfather was unable to give Ivan the care he needed. As a result, the child was neglected and hidden away. On the day he came to us he was even scared to ride the swing! He trusted nobody. Today, he greeted me with a tight hug and a cheerful, "Good morning, Mommy!" He spent hours yesterday constructing an impressive doll house in the yard with sticks, mud, and grass. The timid, uncertain little boy has blossomed into a confident, outgoing child in only a two weeks. To God be the glory!



*Sarah and Diana*

**Diana, the strong, bold protector, and her sister Cathy, the shy, timid mouse,** also joined our family this month. They are beautiful girls, aged nine and ten, who blend in wonderfully with their new family. In the three weeks since they arrived, Cathy has become less dependent on Diana, and has earned herself the nickname, "Kitty Cat"! Diana is realizing that she can trust us, and as a result has discovered the freedom to leave Cathy's side and be a child instead of a parent.

**Gordon (7), Jude (4), Martin (7), Eddie (6), and Teddy (Teresa, 4), also came to live with us this month;** what a lot of growth! Though there is not enough time or paper to tell you each of their stories here, I can say that God has blessed us with each one! At random intervals throughout the day, Eddie grins and calls

out, "Good morning, Mommy!" one of his few English phrases – even if it's five pm. :o) Gordon is a big fan of Curious George now, and it amuses me that their personalities are not so different – I'll leave the meaning of that to your imagination! :o) Martin is quiet and intuitive, and looks after his sister Teddy tenderly. Teddy is a roly-polly cherub who loves to sing and dance, no matter who is watching! Jude has motivated us to learn the words to the old Beatles song..."Nah, nah, nah..." With his front teeth missing he races around the house, wrestles with Gordon, climbs the porch railing with skill...I am afraid he may lose a few more teeth if he's not careful! :o) All these, just like the other twenty-six, are treasures from God and we have come to love them dearly!

Thank you again for your prayers and support! May God bless you with an abundance of love this month, and uphold you with His hands.

With joy, "Mommy" Holly Mizell

**We now have 35 children!** We have filled up so much more quickly than we expected...God is good! Thank you all for your generous continuing support that feeds, clothes, houses, educates and provides medical care for these precious children of our Lord and Savior.

**Please join us in praying for a van.** I had to take unconscious Faizal to the hospital balancing on the back of a "boda boda" (a "bicycle taxi"). I made the same trip another day with Ester and her broken arm. With the often heavy African rains, taking the children to school, medical emergencies, or simply shopping trips to the markets to buy food for our growing brood, a van would be a great help. A good used one will cost about 8 to 9 thousand US dollars.

**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. 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!  
*Our Own Home Ministries International is a 501(c)3 religious charitable organization.*