



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



Greetings to all,

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

January, 2016

*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. “ Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

Wise King Solomon penned these words. They have been much on my heart these past months. Ten years ago this May, I moved to Uganda as a young single missionary with a desire to show love to abandoned and orphaned children. Just over a year later, in November 2007, Our Own Home welcomed its first children. Since then, God has blessed me with a wonderful husband and 3 beautiful biological children, and in addition to that, about 67 children are now being cared for by Our Own Home. Many we have raised from infancy and some from toddlerhood or young childhood. OOH began on a small plot of land with a rented four bedroom house – that little house was home to 39 kids plus my husband and I by the time we expanded to a second building.



*A special message from our older boys!*

Four years ago this May (funny how this anniversary also was in May) we were able to move onto our very own property, and since then that land has been made fertile by the hard work of William, the kids and the uncles, and most importantly by God. Now 9 ½ acres hold sprawling gardens, cows and pigs and a chicken coop, a soccer field and basketball court, 3 houses and two great utility buildings (kitchen, office, laundry, storage, staff room). God has truly blessed His children and been such a faithful Father to the fatherless -- and to us.

We have walked through many times of planting and building, times of weeping and mourning but more times of laughter and dancing, times of embracing, searching, speaking, loving, mending (or watching God mend) broken hearts and lives, we have watched God heal many little ones. And we have watched many children find peace through His grace. He truly has been faithful.

Now, it's a different time for our family. As we told you in our last letter, our son's disabilities have created needs that are impossible to meet in Uganda. **So we have decided to move permanently back to Wyoming in order to make sure he has the opportunities that he should have to make the most of his abilities and to receive an education. Our leaving means there is a need for a new directing couple, and in the months to come we will be sharing some exciting news with you of how God is meeting that need! In the mean time, Uncle Kenneth will continue as acting director.**

This means, it's time for us to weep some. We love our children in Uganda with all of our hearts, and our hearts have been heavy with this difficult decision and with the thought of leaving them. We will be back, of course, to visit them and check on things in Uganda. But not seeing them daily and being involved in their lives on the level that we have been is hard. We have prayed much, waited long, and thought hard over this decision -- and shed many tears in the process -- and with God's provision opening doors all around, we feel at peace that it is the right one, even though in some ways it hurts.

And in some ways, it heals. It has allowed us to feel a hope for Israel's future that we weren't sure would exist for him, and to see him thriving and surrounded by specialists who are doing all they can to help him achieve his highest potential. **Meanwhile in Uganda, our other children are still surrounded by adults who have cared for them for years, who love them and who pour faith, kindness, encouragement and good work into building up those beautiful children.** They will be fine, and if we believed they would not, we would not make this move. There will be hard days, sad days, and adjusting days, but they will be well, they will be loved, and they will be provided for. By God's grace, we will all be fine.

**We want our faithful supporters to know that William and I will remain in the leadership circle, and William will be traveling back to Uganda soon to help transition in some new team members, and to bring gifts and love to the children from here, and we will continue to travel to Uganda as needed. We are also blessed that our supporting churches and sponsoring organization are continuing to be supportive of Our Own Home and understanding and respectful of the decision we have made. We are very, very blessed to have all of you – our prayer warriors, supporters and sponsors, who care so much about the needs of the children at Our Own Home! Please continue in prayer – we need it in a special way right now – and stay tuned! More updates coming your way next month.**

**We can say with absolute confidence that everything God has done at OOH has been for His glory and will leave an enduring knowledge of His love with the children who now live there, and those who have lived there before. He will continue in His work in their lives and in the ministry of OOH, we believe, for many children still to come through its doors. Glory to His Name!**

In His Care,  
Mommy Holly

**Your gifts are more important than ever during this time of transition. Thank you!!**

**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)! You'll find an overview of our ministry, pictures, our newsletter archive, contact and donor information. And please share with others!**

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