



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

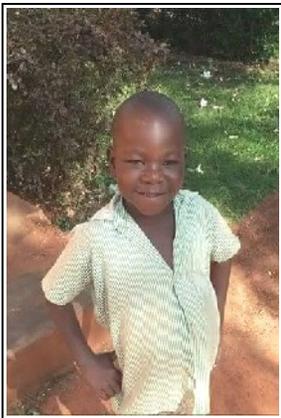


Greetings to all,

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

March, 2016

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 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." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:1-5*



**Johnson**

I thought spring was here in Wyoming -- then several inches of snow fell overnight. In spite of the sudden snow after many days of warm weather, my husband has a fairly large garden growing in little pots all over the dining table! With enough patience, the weather will eventually permit their being planted in the yard outside and we'll have home-grown veggies by summer. Thinking about winter and spring has me thinking about the seasons of life. Every heart has its winter. So many of the children came through our doors believing their life was over. They have suffered heart-wrenching losses, and endured terrible abuses, and been told by neighbors and relatives that they are going to die. I have had my winters -- losses, wounds, regrets -- and if you've been on earth very long, then chances are so have you. Life is hard for everyone at some time or another. For many of our friends, both here in America and in Uganda, the day to day is just always hard and for very real reasons. Some of those people are the most joyful and resilient people I know. Others seem to feel pressed by the weight of the world. But

there is a hope. **One thing brings peace in those winters of the heart. One thing brings hope even in the coldest, darkest times. Knowing this world is not the end of the story.** Knowing that sick little baby is running and playing with Jesus now. Knowing that grieving child will see his mother again. Knowing the life abundant that Jesus offers is the greater truth, because in all things we have hope in Him. Spring is coming, friends. Flowers will bloom again, the grass will green again, the birds will sing again, the child will laugh again. All things will be made new. Even and especially our broken hearts.

On Easter Sunday, our church sang "Because He Lives" by Bill Gaither. I've been thinking how very true those words are, for all of us who know Him, and in a special way for our children at OOH. "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow..." reminds me of Esther, who came to us at age 4. Back then, she showed off a scar on her chest from a bad rash and announced, "This rash means I have AIDS. If I don't take my medicine, I will die!" Now 12, going on 13, Esther has hope for her future. She wants to be a teacher.



**Rebecca**

"Because He lives, all fear is gone..." The old grandmother who sat across from me when she came to visit her grandson at OOH had been his only guardian and was unable to provide his medical needs. "I don't worry about Mark anymore," she told me. "I know even if I pass away, he will be fine. He has a family now. God always provides for me. I'm just like one of His birds." she smiles.



*Israel (with Salem) shows off his medal*

**"Because I know He holds the future..." We now have several children in secondary school, dreaming about their future.** One of them is Aisha, our very first child. "My sister used to tell me, 'If you eat with us, we will all get AIDS.'" Her brother-in-law was selling her medicine instead of giving it to her, because, "She is going to die, so it doesn't matter." William and Uncle Robert got the law involved in order to bring Aisha from that abusive home into OOH. That was 2007, and she was 8. Now 16, she always gives her best in school and enjoys spending time with the babies and younger girls. The child who came to OOH believing she had no future wants to be a nurse and impact the future of other children. She also wants to adopt children who have no parents and give them a loving home.

**"Life is worth the living just because He lives!"** Our God is a living God. His words are trustworthy and true. He will keep all His promises and fulfill all His plans for His children. Jesus gives even the most broken, fearful, down-and-out among us an abundant life -- because He gave His Own Life in exchange. **Easter morning means that pain, death and loss will never again have to be the end of the story.**

The children at OOH enjoyed their Easter eggs last week! Johnson (Tuberculosis) and Rebecca (heart valve problem and mental illness) were both given encouraging reports and their health is improving. A huge answer to prayers! Here in Wyoming, Israel won his first medal at the local Challenge Day adaptive sports event. My heart fills with joy each time I hear from our new directors, Ross and Lindsey Games, as they prepare and anticipate their new life with the children in Uganda. God's love is all around, and it really does "thaw frozen hearts"! In my mind's eye I can see OOH: the cattle stalls are full, the gardens are growing, and the children are smiling. And even though here in Wyoming I see snow out the window, something tells me Spring is really here!

*See! The winter is past;  
the rains are over and gone.  
Flowers appear on the earth;  
the season of singing has come,  
the cooing of doves  
is heard in our land.  
Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

With Love, Mommy Holly



*The driveway to Our Own Home*

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

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