



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



Greetings to all,

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

July, 2016

**“...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.” --Romans 8:26**

“If we can get through this first month, surely we can get through the rest.” I caught myself saying this as I sat on our couch, feeling a little defeated as I reflected on our time here in Uganda so far. There is so much to learn about life here in Uganda and at OOH. As we try to figure out our rhythm amongst the constant busy, our weaknesses seem to exemplify themselves. We knew when we moved here that we would be “in over our heads”. It was something we said often, but we were actually excited about it. We felt that was the absolute best place to be in, because we knew we would see God at work. **We could truly say that God gets all of the glory, because we knew we were not capable of doing it alone.**



*Our precious Nathan*

Romans 8:26 tells us, “...the Spirit helps us in our weakness.” Stop and rest there a little. God knew we would feel weak, so He promised us that His Spirit would help us. Don’t get me wrong. We are confident that the Lord has lead us here. It gives us the motivation we need to push through, but there are very real moments of being so overwhelmed that it feels like we just can’t handle another thing. Then another thing comes.

**This last week has been the most difficult of all. It is with the heaviest heart to say that our sweet Nathan has passed away due to a severe respiratory illness.** Nathan came to OOH as a severely malnourished, and tiny little baby. God allowed him 6 years to be with a loving family who taught him about the love of Jesus. The selfish part of us really wants Nathan back here on earth with us. We miss his ever-present joy, his ridiculously adorable smile, and his gentle and quiet spirit. But the truth is, as of this week, Nathan no longer has AIDS. He no longer has to deal with illness or the pains of this world. It gives our hearts peace to know he now gets to be in Heaven with our Jesus. We are so thankful for the hope that Jesus gives us, reminding us that death no longer eternally separates us from those we love.

**The news was difficult to share with our children and staff. Their hearts are hurting just as much as our own, but we can feel God pouring out His peace all over this place.** We have had so many opportunities to teach and rejoice about Heaven. We’ve all been learning about joy, and how it is something that isn’t based on feelings. We can have joy in the midst of sorrow. We can *choose* to rejoice and praise God,

even though our hearts are still in pain. We made a decision as a family to *choose* to worship God, even when things didn’t make sense. We played music on our small radio, and the children each closed their eyes and sincerely raised their hands in worship, singing their heart cry, “Jesus, I will trust You.” That moment brought us

all back to the arms of the Father, and the healing process started a little that night.

There is a lot we still don't understand. We get so tired in our weakness that we run out of words to pray. Our hearts are hurting, but who would understand that more than our Father? He watched as Jesus suffered. He sent and allowed Jesus to die on the cross to take on *our* sin. He did that in a desperate measure to show *all* of His children how much he loves them. He knows the pain of searing loss. He knows what it feels like to lose a child. "We do not know what we ought to pray for but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans (Romans 8:26)." We find rest in this truth because He understands. He knows our weak places. He knows what to pray.

We trust Jesus. We know that there is purpose in this pain, even if it doesn't feel good in this moment. We know that He will work things out in a way that good will come from it. As we soak in the truth that the Spirit is praying for us, we feel His power and grace overshadowing all of our weak spots.

We may not be enough.  
Our willpower may not be enough.  
Our confidence may not be enough.  
But God is more than enough, and He always will be.

Love, Mommy Lindsey



*Infant Nathan arrives late in 2010*



*Nathan (front, blue shirt) with Mommy Lindsey and others in 2013*

**Thank you for your prayers and your gifts in support of these children. Blessings to you...**

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