



Welcome Home Ministries – Africa January 2017

To Love, Care, and Pray Destitute Babies Back to Health; or into Jesus Loving Arms



Dear Welcome Home Friends and Family,

As we begin this New Year I want to say a heartfelt thank you for all your love and support over this past year. 2016 was full of challenges and it was all your notes, emails and phone calls of encouragement that helped to give me the strength and determination needed. The faces of all our children also help keep me focused on what they need. Thank you all so much for your faithful giving that enabled us to care for all the children and help them have a brighter future.

We ended out 2016 with having all the vehicles worked on so they are in tip top shape ready for this busy year ahead of us. Two had been in very sad condition. We had a return visit for the Christmas holidays from Janet Mulford - part of the Jackie's original team with that started Welcome Home in Jinja in 1995. She came back in 2003 when I asked for her help for a season as the book keeper after Jackie died. Janet is now teaching in Rwanda so was able to come and enjoy Christmas with the staff and children. Thank you Janet for all the investment that you have poured into Welcome Home over the years. It was a real joy for us to host you for a fun time this Christmas.

Adoption makes a life impacting difference.

One of our adoptive dads often sends me beautiful pictures and videos of his children with updates on their lives. The pictures of his daughter – a very beautiful talented young lady - were just too special not to share with you all.

In July 2003 when I arrived (the first time) I had a special meeting with Linda. She was a lovely little baby who had been in the home for 3 months, as she had lost both of her parents. Linda cried most of the time, and was super distressed at night. It was heartbreaking to say the least so I picked her up and prayed and prayed for her and sang "Jesus loves you, this I know" over and over. I could feel her just soaking in the love. From that day on she changed, and the beautiful smile started (Below).



Picture - top left (Note: All 3 pictures are of Linda) Linda is wearing the Gomez - the traditional dress of Uganda, and made out of traditional Ugandan material. Her adoptive mum had it made while in Uganda for Linda and her brother Amos's adoptive process. Linda has grown into it beautifully. It seems only a couple of years ago she was a baby.

Linda is blest to be part of a very loving big family, where she is now an aunt. The family is very talented, and she has been given opportunities, schooling with music camps and lessons, ballet (the Nutcracker) gymnastics, weaving and other crafts.

By supporting Welcome Home Ministries Africa you enable us to give all our children that pass through our home a better future and a hope. For some, they go home to a better situation in the village, to others a new family in Uganda, and for others like Linda a forever family in the USA. We follow up on ALL our graduated children.

We look forward to what 2017 has for us. We have some families in the new "Foster to Adopt" process that came from the new law of 2016. It still enables us to offer a future for children where there is no secure future for them in Uganda.

Please interest your friends in W H M A, and also remember where possible to shop at smile.amazon.com and support our ministry. They contribute a percentage of what you spend directly to our account, and it does not cost you.

A Happy New Year and Blessings from Mandy and Your Welcome Home Family .



Above: Linda is an accomplished Violinist

SMALL OR SICK 13 Abigail, Catherine, Danielle, Francis, Johanna, Jonathan, Joshua, Michelle, Noah, Opio, Paul, Peter, Ruth. **BIG BABIES 18** Alan, Andrew, Arnold, Claire, Edward, Elijah, Isaac, Jemima, John, Joshua, Joshua, Kenneth, Margaret, Maria, Melissa, Moses, Patience, Sarah. **TODDLERS 39** Abigail, Alibert, Calvin, Denis, Edith, Elizabeth 1, Elizabeth 2, Emmanuel O, Erina, Ethan, Francis, Jairus, James, Jane, Jenny, Jeremy, Jesse, John, Joseph, Joy, Keron, Loy, Lydia Freda, Mark, Michael, Moses, Naume, Noah, Pauline, Peace, Peter, Precious, Ruth, Sarah Shanita, Sharon, Simone, Steven, Wickrif.

Legend **[NEW (bold), MOVED(Underlined) Twins not Shown]** 0 children just gone to forever families

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