

# Home of Love Orphanage for Vulnerable Children

Gulu, Uganda

SEPTEMBER 2009

We have entered a time of peace here in Northern Uganda. The region has suffered over 23 years of War. People have been murdered and children have been abducted. They have been used as sex slaves and soldiers by the LRA Rebels.

The government forced people to move from their ancestral villages to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps in an effort to protect them. Some have lived in the camps for over 20 years. Families were displaced and sometimes separated with members missing in action or abducted by rebels. HIV/AIDS has spread unchecked in the region.

The war has subsided. The LRA Rebels have fled from the government troops into the Congo. Their ranks have been lessened by a multi country military operation. The leader still remains at large. Tentative peace has lasted almost two years. Peace has brought many changes. The government is dispersing people from the IDP Camps back to their ancestral villages. They are finding family members thought to be missing or dead. Some have escaped from the rebels and returned from the bush. As the large IDP Camps close, people who had become separated and lost track of each other are being reunited as they return to their ancestral villages.

At Home of Love we employ a full-time social worker who files regular reports with the government about the current condition of the children we care for. Bosco, our social worker, has been working with local government leaders to locate existing relatives for our children. The Ugandan government wants whenever possible a child to be reunited with existing relatives. It is especially important in this war-torn region where so many people have been displaced.

Through Bosco's tireless efforts we have had some amazing things happen for some of our children at Home of Love. The following are some of the recent developments in the lives of our children.

Cevine came to Home of Love in December 2007. Her father had died from AIDS. Her mother was also suffering from AIDS. She became sick and very weak. She could no longer care for Cevine properly and was struggling. Our social worker has been monitoring Cevine's mother's situation. The mother has been helped by an organization that helps people suffering from HIV/AIDS to regain their health and lead a normal life. They distribute ARV drugs to help limit the effects of the disease. After receiving initial treatment and continuing on a regular schedule of ARV drugs, the mother's health has improved. She is strong and has a stable home life. After several home visits it was determined that Cevine, now older, could return to her mother.



Cevine 14 years old



Morris 13 years old

Morris came to Home of Love in November 2005. It was reported to us that both of his parents had died from AIDS while living in an IDP Camp. Morris was living with his older sister. Recently our social worker after searching government records and following different leads, discovered both his parents were alive. The family had somehow become separated when relocated to the camps. The parents had recently been relocated back to their home village. After several visits the family has been reunited.

Joseph came to Home of Love in September 2006. His mother had died from AIDS. His father is also sick with AIDS and became to sick to take care of Joseph. Joseph has made good progress at Home of Love. He has been healthy and able to attend school. Our social worker has located his grandfather from his mother's side. He is doing well and healthy. His home situation is stable. After several visits he invited Joseph to come live with him.



Joseph 13 years old



Kenneth 15 years old

Kenneth came to Home of Love in April 2005. It was reported to us that his mother had died from AIDS and his father had been abducted and killed by the LRA Rebels while living in the IDP Camp. Recently our social worker after searching government records and following different leads, discovered both his parents were alive. The father had later escaped from the rebels. His mother had become separated from the family after her husband was abducted. Recently both parents relocated back to their home village. After several visits the family has been reunited.

Joan came to Home of Love in December 2005. It was reported to us that both her parents had died of AIDS while living in the IDP Camp. She was found wandering alone. Our social worker recently discovered that it was Joan's aunt and uncle who she was living with at the time who had died from AIDS. People had thought they were her parents. Our social worker has located both her parents alive and living back in their home village having returned from an IDP Camp. After several visits the family has been reunited.



Joan 14 years old



Nancy 13 years old

Nancy came to Home of Love in September 2005. Her father had committed suicide and her mother was very sick and weak from HIV/AIDS. She was struggling to care for Nancy. Our social worker has been tracking Nancy's mother's situation. The mother received assistance from an organization that helps people suffering from HIV/AIDS. They distribute ARV drugs to help limit the effects of the disease. After receiving initial treatment and continuing on a regular schedule of ARV drugs, the mother's health has improved and stabilized. She has regained her strength and is doing well. After several visits it was determined that Nancy, now older, could return to her mother.

We are excited to see God bring these families back together. After so many years of war, it is wonderful to begin to experience the blessings of peace. We are committed to continuing to seek out the relatives of the children we care for. During their time at Home of Love the children have been raised in a Christ centered home. They have had regular times of prayer and Bible studies. The children themselves give testimonies of how God has worked in their lives and the miracles of healing He has done. They go back to their families filled with the love of Christ. We look forward to seeing how they continue to grow stronger in the Lord. We plan to have the children who have been reunited with family come back to Home of Love for visits to see the younger children. Many of them, after being at Home of Love for several years have formed close attachments to the other children. God has truly blessed us as our “family” continues to grow.

Cevine, Joan, Joseph, Kenneth, Morris and Nancy will all continue to receive home visits from our social worker. He will be available for counseling and assisting them in any issues that may come up. They will all continue to receive assistance for school fees and basic necessities through the Home of Love Child Sponsorship program.



Cevine with Bosco our social worker.

***And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ– right up to the time of His return– developing that good work and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you. Philippians 1:6 AMP***