



# The Applegate Family

Tony, Kristy, Eliana, Elijah, Elexis, Elysse

Serving God in Uganda, East Africa

Christmas  
2009

Dear Partners in Ministry,

It seems each successive Christmas season brings a greater need for a remembrance of what we should focus on. CHRIST is and always will be “the Reason for the Season.” What a constant reminder for us as missionaries to relay the message that our call to ministry is based solely on the Christ of Christmas!

**FAMILY:** To say 2009 was an exciting adventure would be an understatement. Once again God chose to care and protect amidst many trying circumstances. In review, our original plan to leave for our first furlough in December of this year changed to April when we were told of Elysse’s complications. Then those plans were changed when Kristy developed toxemia the day before we were scheduled to leave for the States. Of course, God had a plan in place, and while we were being life-flighted to South Africa, our children were travelling with the Stensaas brothers to meet with grandparents in Kansas City. After ten weeks of being apart from our three older children, there was an exciting reunion on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then came the process of Elysse’s weekly casting and therapy. Kristy and I are very thankful for Godly, helpful parents. Time and again they both have taken care of our other three children. Elysse recently had her first major surgery to begin correction on her feet and right leg. For having been cut (3 incisions) and bruised, Elysse handled the surgery much better than her parents. There was noticeable correction to her right leg.

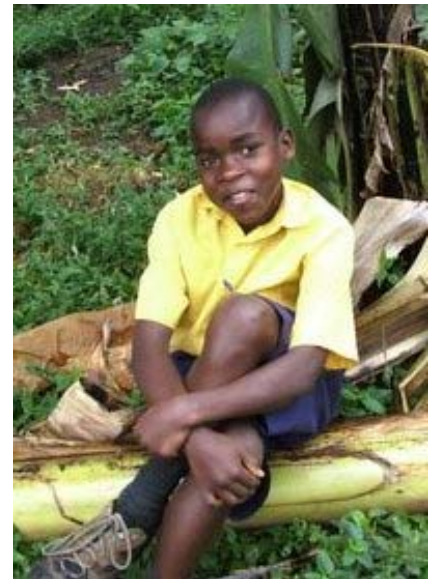


Every parent collects classic comments from their children’s lives. Recently, Elijah’s Sunday School teacher was talking about Jonathan and David being great friends. Trying to help Elijah feel part of the class, she asked, “Elijah, do you have friends?” He stopped and thought for a minute before answering matter-of-factly, “No, we’re missionaries.” Oh, the missionary life of constant travel!

**MINISTRY:** This year has also been exciting for ministry. Three preaching points have been started out of our church by national men; 66 orphans have been saved and are growing spiritually; two Christian schools are slowly strengthening; 5 orphan boys have begun preaching in Wednesday night services; several street boys are learning English and have testified in English of God’s goodness. By the New Year, Lord willing, 48 more orphans will be joining the Kyotera ministry. What a mighty God we serve!



**RECENT MINISTRY:** The month of November was filled with the opportunity to visit some of our special supporting churches. Our sending church, Liberty Hills Baptist Church, gave us a royal welcome for their Missions Awareness Week. Tri-City Baptist Church in Independence, Missouri—where things all began for our journey to the mission field of Uganda—welcomed us for their missions conference; and Faith Baptist Church in Higginsville, MO—a church that does not support us on a monthly basis, but that has been involved in our ministry prayerfully and financially—opened their arms to let Kristy come and present our work to the ladies Bible study and for Tony to present our work on a Wednesday night. It was good to catch up with so many dear friends that we have not seen face to face in a long time.



Pictured here are three of the boys (Hamidu, Mike, and Matia) and two of the girls (Sophia and Brenda) from the orphanage, wearing their elementary school uniforms. We praise the Lord for the spiritual growth we see taking place in them.

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**Support:**

Tax-deductible contributions for the Applegates can be sent to BIMI and marked "Account # 1295/ Applegates."



Elexis Applegate, age 2, holding her baby sister, Elysse. Elysse finally topped the 9-pound mark. She was 7 months old on November 24<sup>th</sup>.