



# The Applegate Family

*Tony, Kristy, Eliana, Elijah, Elexis, Elyse, Ellora  
Missionaries to Uganda, East Africa*

Christmas  
2011

Dear Family and Friends,

*“Angels, From the Realms of Glory is considered by many students of hymnody to be one of our finest Christmas hymns. In a unique style it addresses first the angelic chorus in the first stanza, then the shepherds in the second stanza, the wise men in the third, and finally today’s believers—calling all to worship Christ our King. Worship is the very essence of the entire Christmas story.”* (Excerpt

taken from *Amazing Grace—366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions*) We should never forget the Reason (Christ) for the season.

**FAMILY:** During Christmas season, the thoughts and blessings of family seem to be more pronounced than during the rest of the year. Many memories flood back to my younger life when every year we visited my Grandma and Grandpa in Michigan—snow, fireplace, humongous Christmas tree (or so it seemed to a little boy), wonderful food, and quoting the Christmas story while using my Grandmother’s beautiful Nativity set. Now, Kristy and I are developing our own memories for our children. It is too bad that we are not able to take them to Grandma and Grandpa’s every year, but that might get a little expensive considering the fact that we are in Africa. The quoting of the Christmas story is a tradition we are continuing.

Eliana has finished her 1<sup>st</sup> grade year. Elyse loves to karate chop people with her good right arm, and praise the Lord, she is beginning to form words and even small sentences. Ellora enjoys the attention from her siblings. Elijah and Elexis both have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour. I am so thankful and blessed with the children God has given Kristy and me.

**UGANDA MINISTRY:** This year God orchestrated growth through trial, transformation, and material blessings. The ministry in Kyotera suffered a tremendous loss in the area of leadership. Pastor Diton developed difficulties in the area of financial accountability, which led to the surfacing of major indiscretions. When approached and lovingly confronted multiple times, he eventually locked down the school and church, fleeing Kyotera with his family. Regretfully, we have not heard from them since June. Praise the Lord, though, that the ministry in Kyotera has been salvaged once again and new leadership for the orphans has been put into place and is doing well. Much prayer is being lifted up for a new pastor for Kyotera Baptist Church.



The year for Masaka Independent Baptist Church and Grace Christian School finished well. In these photographs, Tony and Pastor JJ are pictured with Mwesige James (left), who received a “Good Character” Award, and Nowerena (right), who received a “Top of Class” Award.”

A mission’s conference and end-of-year school program/play displayed strong growth in our church plants as well as maturity in our school children and the improvements in the orphans who have been with us four years. Several boys are beginning to express strong desires towards church planting. **(continued on other side)**



Mbira Baptist Church, the church plant Kristy and I have been working closely with, has seen tremendous growth. Pastor JJ has now baptized over 100 people in the two short years of existence and has seen more than 150 come to Christ. He averages well

over 100 every Sunday. During the missions conference 16 were baptized, including the grandfather of one of the orphans

(Viola), for whom we have been praying for several years.



Finally, Pastor JJ and his wife Harriet have been blessed with a house in Mbira. They are moving to Mbira the first of January. And since the orphans have built such a strong bond with them, the decision was made to send the Masaka orphans to Mbira as well. The Lord provided the financial blessings for building an orphan village in Mbira to allow the children to remain with Pastor JJ. God is so good.



**Upper Left:** Orphans participate in end-of-the-year Christmas play  
**Upper Right:** Mbira converts who have been baptized recently  
**Middle Left:** Baptism of Viola's grandfather  
**Bottom Left:** Elijah—fierce warrior and our “defender”  
**Middle:** Eliana’s “Congratulations” cake after finishing 1<sup>st</sup> Grade; Elexis, our “secretary”

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Support: Tax-deductible contributions for the Applegates can be sent to BIMl and marked “Account # 1295/ Applegates.”