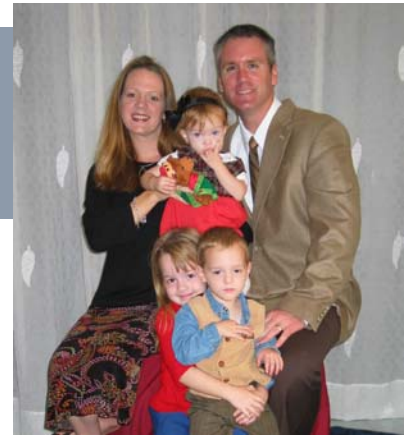


January
2009

The Applegate Family

Serving God in Uganda, East Africa



Dear Partners in Ministry,

“God is in control.” A statement thrown from the lips of many Christians, whom by all intents and purposes have a weak understanding of the powerful and life-changing meaning of this all-important characteristic of God. God’s control is so readily accepted when life is easy, but what about when one is thrown in prison unfairly or a father of five loses his job? What about when the mother of 3 beautiful young children loses a husband to a heart attack or a couple finds out that their unborn child may soon die or possibly be handicapped for life? During these extremely difficult trials, one’s belief that God is in control is put to the test. Kristy and I, through God’s grace, have come to rest and garner refreshing peace from the fact that GOD IS IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS.

Adjusting-to-Life Update ~ Planning for the future is important, but adjusting to life’s changes is essential. The last week in January we found out that our unborn child may have a genetic disease that could take her life or possibly deform her for life. We were planning to return home for furlough at the end of this year, but this new development brings a strong possibility of us having to return to the States in a couple of months. There will be uncertainty for another several weeks, but just in case, we have to step up our preparations for leaving Uganda which entails so many facets that I do not have time to write about in this letter. Putting it into perspective, we have to fit 10 months of preparation into 2 months.

Ministry Update: School/Orphanage –All 30 children returned to the orphan boarding section safely after the Christmas Holidays. It was joy to hear how most of the children boldly proclaimed how God had changed their lives. There were many stories of minor persecution especially from the Muslim families. Hamidu, one of the oldest orphan boys, refused to attend the mosque on a major Muslim holiday and was refused food for a couple of days. JJ, our orphan manager, visited Hamidu during the break and when he found out what happened he strongly rebuked the guardians. All of the orphans are ready for school to start on February 9th.

The orphans were excited to receive their very own gift before they left for the Christmas Holidays. Their guardians, as well as all others in attendance, enjoyed their end-of-the-year performance.

Praises

- All of the orphans returned safely from Christmas break
- Churches continue to be started

Prayer Requests

- Wisdom in decisions regarding Kristy’s pregnancy and our returning to the US
- Grace Christian School as it begins its second year



Cultural Update ~ Two of our orphans came back from holiday very sick. Both Rita and Dennis had very bad cases of malaria. Dehydration had set in, causing weakness and stomach problems. We took them to Kitovu Hospital, which is the best in our district. Kitovu Hospital has good medical care, but it is still hard for us to get used to the idea of providing all bedding, clothes, food, and bedside care for those in the hospital. Praise the Lord, both children recovered well, and despite some hallucinations which follow severe attacks of malaria, they were released after 3 days and are doing fine. During the holidays we were able to visit this same hospital and hand out toys to the children who were there over Christmas. Eliana and Elijah enjoyed going through their toys and picking out things we could take for the sick children who had to celebrate Christmas in the hospital.



Opening of a church in Kyabagonya—Sunday, January 25th, Kenneth had his first service at Peace Primary School. He said the small rented room was full of people. I had the opportunity with Pastor Keith and several other men to hand out tracts in the village and hold a service outside the small school the week before and also dedicate the small rented room to the Lord.



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Street Children's Ministry ~ I found out this year that over the last several years JJ has prepared a Christmas Day meal for the street children and some other poor children in our community. It was a joy for our family to sit with all of these children this year and absorb the love and respect they have for JJ. I have praised the Lord many times for bringing JJ and his wife Harriet into our ministry. God has some great plans for this family as JJ desires to some day pastor a church himself.



Eliana, age 4;
 Elijah, age 2 1/2



Elexis, 16 months

