



# Home of Love

Action International Ministries—ACTION Gulu



Scovia at age 3

## Scovia—chosen by God (written by Candis Bingham)

Little Scovia came to us when she was 3 years old. She was found severely malnourished living with her very elderly grandmother in one of the many IDP Camps (Internally Displaced Peoples), in our area at that time during the LRA rebel war. Her mother had died and the father didn't want her so left her with the grandmother who could not care for her properly. She

was very shy but slowly flourished in all ways due to the good health care and food, but most of all the love shown to her not only by the mamas, aunts and uncles, but also by the other children (as happens time after time!).

dren's home, as it truly is. Scovia still has a quiet spirit but is a very loving child. She started at our nursery school young child. She was so excited to have her hair done and wear a graduation gown and hat. She has done well at our AC-

TION nursery school (Jesus Is The Truth), and her graduation was truly a highlight for her. She is receiving her certificate with our special government speaker & Lucy Head Matron at Home of Love (HOL). Below, her "mamas," auntie, cook, Lucy, and myself, surround Scovia. **We praise the Lord for Scovia as we believe that she is hand-chosen by God to be at Home of Love.**



that was located on the same grounds as Home of Love, though it took her over a year to catch up. As you can see by this kindergarten graduation picture, she is blossoming into a very special



Home of Love was the perfect name of this chil-

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**Christmas to Remember** (written by Abby Rattin)



*Handsome Moses and Brian in their new Christmas suits!*

Three children remained. After the social worker's hard work, careful investigation, trips to villages, and hours of prayer, the rest of the ~60 children had been taken to stay with a willing and suitable relative in the village for the Christmas holiday. (This is in accordance with a Ugandan mandate.)

These three children had nowhere to go, so they stayed at Home of Love, watching the others leave, each with a plastic bag with a few changes of clothes, a new toothbrush, and a Christmas Bible story from Mama Candis.

But these three were not abandoned. Rather, they experienced something rather unique. Junior (an older street boy with some significant struggles) got one-on-one time with Mama Candis and Baba Jerry. And the two little boys, Moses and Brian, came to us.

When Josh picked them up from Home of Love, the mamas were combing their freshly

washed heads and tucking their shirts in. They were wearing their best Sunday shoes. Moses babbled excitedly about going to America while Brian sat silently, nervously, not sure what it really meant to go to a mzungu house (foreigners).

They must have been surprised at what a family looks like, let alone a mzungu family. We had our teen-aged helpers explain to them about using a mzungu toilet, not touching electrical outlets or the gas stove, not leaving our yard, not drinking water from the tap (they are used to bore hole water which is potable), and so many other things. The week was full, busy, and stressful as we imposed a sense of routine and structure on the lives of two little boys who had never experienced life in a family. All this time we stumbled through elementary Acoli phrases to blank stares.

Christmas day arrived. Ana, our 4 year old, dreams of Christmas all year long, so we prepped her for a Christmas that would be different than ones she had previously experienced. The kids did

not even notice bulging stockings over the doorway as we dressed them in new suits, pretty dresses, posed for pictures, and headed off to church. The church doors never opened (this is Africa, after all, you never know what's going to happen!) so, joined by the entire ACTION Gulu missionary team in the cool of the dining structure at Home of Love, Josh gave a Bible lesson, we sang Christmas carols, and Candis presented us with a veritable Christmas feast and some gifts for each child.

By the time we got home, the children were exhausted with the thrill of a unique Christmas. But we had one more surprise in store. All five children were thrilled to open stockings (a first for our two Acoli wards) filled with little gifts and treats. Josh stumbled over his Acoli to explain that gifts make us think of Jesus and the free gift that HE has given us of salvation from our sins.

What a memorable Christmas for all of us!



*Brian is very focused on opening his stocking!*



Josh and Noah Rattin, Abby and Ana Rattin With Angie Lauer (2nd row)

Jerry and Candis Bingham with Grace Rattin (front row)

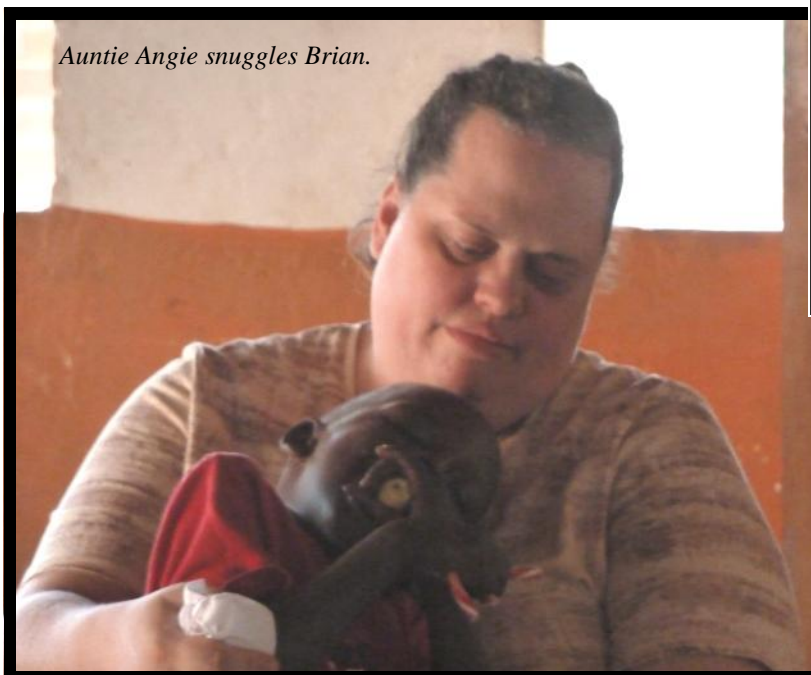
Brian, Moses, Jimmy, and Junior—HOL boys



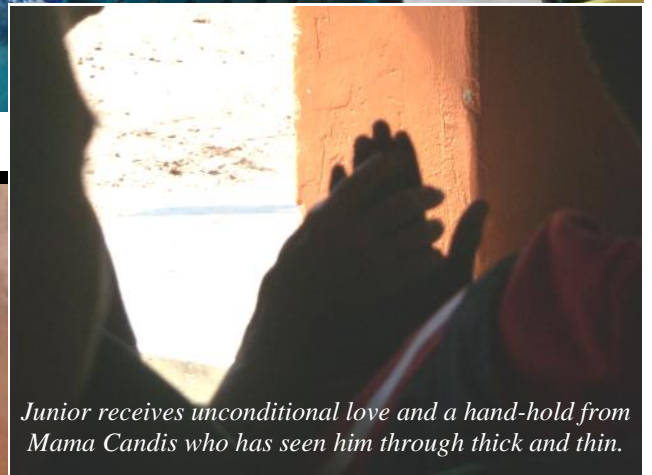
*Left: ACTION Gulu missionary team and Home of Love friends celebrating Jesus on Christmas. Above: our Christmas worship service.*

*Baba Jerry gives a grandfather's touch to Moses.*

*Open your mouth for those unable to speak for themselves,  
for the rights of all who are left desolate and defenseless,  
Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor  
and needy (Proverbs 31:8,AMP and 9, NIV.)*



*Auntie Angie snuggles Brian.*



*Junior receives unconditional love and a hand-hold from  
Mama Candis who has seen him through thick and thin.*



*Moses clings to Baba Josh as Josh manages to hold  
both Moses and Noah.*

# Home of Love Gulu, Uganda



**Apwoyo matek! Thank you very much!**

All gifts are used as designated and received for tax purposes.  
All ACTION missionaries and projects are faith-supported.

You can partner with ACTION Gulu at Home of Love in the following ways:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 monthly sponsor a child (71210)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Gulu-Orphan Home Ministry (71203)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed**

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All gifts are used as designated. A receipt will be sent for tax purposes. Thank you very much! (AL6/09)

**Please make your gift payable to “Action International Ministries” and send to one of the addresses listed below.**

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Action International Ministries, PO Box 144  
Wallasey, Wirral CH44 5WE

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Home of Love Children’s Home for Vulnerable Children is a ministry of ACTION Gulu. Home of Love was opened to meet the needs of orphans and vulnerable children in war-torn Northern Uganda. As a result of a war that lasted over 23 years, the region has been devastated. The LRA Rebels have killed people and abducted children. Families have been destroyed and people have been displaced.

Children are referred to Home of Love from the Ugandan Government Child Welfare office and other organizations that look out for the welfare of children. Many of the children are AIDS/WAR orphans who have lost their parents. Other children have been rescued from crisis situations such as abandonment and physical violence.

Home of Love offers these children a Christ-centered, safe and loving environment. Children attend school at ACTIONs Jesus is The Truth Nursery/ Primary School. The children receive trauma counseling, housing, food, medical treatment, clothing and life skills training. A staff social worker seeks to locate relatives of children brought to Home of Love. Due to the war many people have been displaced and separated from their families. Whenever possible children are reunited with their relatives and supported in the relatives home through payment of school fees, basic necessities, medical assistance and regular home visits by the on staff social worker.

The Home of Love Child Sponsorship Program links donors with children. The donors have the opportunity to make an impact in the lives of these children. The donors receive pictures and letters from their sponsored child. The funds provide for living expenses, medical costs and education fees. To cover these costs multiple sponsors are necessary for each child.



*Live nativity scene with missionary kid, Noah, as baby Jesus.*

Home of Love has dormitories, cook house, dining hall, borehole, playing field, and gardens. Financial support for this ministry comes primarily from individual donors and churches. Their support makes it possible to care for these vulnerable children. The children will have a chance to heal from their trauma and move forward with their lives. The mission of Home of Love is to raise the children in a godly environment where they can experience the love of Christ, receive an education and have hope for the future.