

# HUGH'S NEWS

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Christmas Edition

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## 2010 - ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



Although it is said that there was a "multitude of angels" on that first Christmas night, we present to you just three of them – your gift for Christmas 2010. No, we are not confusing them with the three wise men.

The traditions of Christmas are replete with an abundance of angels – the heralds of good news. Christian scriptures tell of the angels which appeared to shepherds to announce the birth of the Messiah. Angels are frequently found atop Christmas trees in our homes. And we all know that angels tend to "look out" for us and for others in need and for those we care for.

As our only fundraiser of this year, we offer you a trilogy of very special angels who promise "**tidings of great joy.**"

These "tidings of joy" will be to those good people in our world who will be the recipients of your own goodwill. For a mere **\$100** you can indeed bring **Joy to the World.**

Now, you may look at those angels up there and think you've seen them before somewhere. Well, they're not the **Three Wise Men** – obviously not all of them are men! OK, OK – I'll admit it! Those Christmas lovelies are none other than Hugh, Marty and Carole – joining together to bring you the opportunity to make **Peace on Earth** a reality in our troubled world.

Turn the page and learn more about these unique African **Angels We Have Heard on High.**

It must have been a moment of inspiration when I was in an African market earlier this year. I saw these angels and was once again absorbed with the creative manner in which African artisans can create something beautiful and unique from locally available materials. There are three of them in a group. One carrying a star, one blowing a trumpet, the third playing a harp. The angels themselves are made from horse hair and banana leaves. The instruments are made from wood, wire and whatever they had available around the village.

Though there must be many uses for this set of three angels, I can safely predict that most of them will wind up on your Christmas tree. Hey, at only \$100 per set, you could have an entire tree full of angels, just like in the Christmas story, “**a multitude of the heavenly host**” (if you can afford it). Wow – just think of that!

However, if you would only like a single set of African angels we can easily arrange that for you too. And don't forget those finicky “hard to buy for” relatives and friends who expect something really special. We will gladly send your gift order for African Christmas angels to whomever you designate together with a letter explaining why these angels are so special.

I read in the news today that charitable giving is down 11%, to the lowest level since such records have been kept. That's certainly not surprising when we consider the struggling economy these days.

Contributions to Lalmba are down as well, and we have [Carrole has] tightened every place where we could without cutting services. She has done a

marvelous job of controlling costs both here in the U.S. and in Africa.

But you must know that **Lalmba has not turned away any orphan child nor any person in need of medical care.**

Carrole is in Africa right now orienting new American staff for our programs both in Ethiopia and in Kenya. Lalmba has eight Americans living in Africa right now providing medical care, health education and children's services. As always, the most important part of what we do is to train and enable our African staff to care for the needs of their own people to the extent they are able.

Thanks to you – it works!

As in the original Christmas story, we join our angels to those singing “**Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All.**”

## Our Guarantee

These African angels come with our guarantee that your contribution to Lalmba will provide food for the hungry, care for orphans and widows and medical care for desperately ill people in Africa.

**We guarantee it!**

Order form is on the back page. **Please print** so that our elves can fill your order properly. Orders received by **December 15<sup>th</sup>** will be mailed in time for delivery before Christmas.

## More news from Carrole in Kenya

This morning at breakfast we learned that one of our guards had died during the night. He'd been ill for about a month, and took a turn for the worse. His family wasn't able to carry him to our clinic in time. He was 43 years old, and leaves behind a wife and two children.

I don't know what illness he had, but we've lost many staff in Lalmba's 26 years in Kenya, mostly from AIDS. HIV infects at least 25% of the population here. It's the key reason there are so many orphans. I hope and pray that his wife will be well, that his two children won't join the other orphans needing our care.

We are currently treating more than 400 people for AIDS in our clinic. Almost 50 of them are children who contracted AIDS from their mothers at birth - transmission that we can help prevent. Caught early enough, a person with AIDS can usually live a normal life.

Lalmba's two American volunteers living and working here in Kenya accompanied me and the staff as we paid our respects to the family. In spite of the sunny bright weather, it was a very somber morning. I was reminded how precious life is, even for those of us who have the hope of heaven. I was also vividly reminded why we are here, why this work is so very important. We may have lost one, but we know we will save thousands more.

# Carrole's Corner

I'm writing from Kenya, where I've been spending time with some of our orphaned children. I asked a few of them to write down their story, how they came to be with Lalmba and what their life is like now. One was by a teen girl named Saina. Orphaned and destitute at 13, Saina took over the responsibility of caring for her three younger siblings. Read her story in her own words:

"My name is Saina Akoth. I was born in 1989 in a village called Matoso Center. In our family were four children and I was the first born in our house. My father died in April 2000 and my mum also died in 2002. The cause of their death was AIDS. We were left without anything, and the person who was taking care of us was my Grandma, who also was sick and growing old.

In the year 2001, before the death of my mother, we were sponsored by RCAR programme as orphans with a single parent. The RCAR programme was providing us with medical care, school uniforms, blankets, books and pens. I went through my primary level [of school]. I could not pass grade eight because of the difficulties I was having at home. I was the only one to fetch water, firewood and cook for our young children before even doing my schoolwork. After primary level, Lalmba decided to take me to training at Maranatha Training Center, where I did my Certificate in Tailoring and Dress Making. I graduated last year and now I can assist our children [her brothers and sisters]. I am self-employed and I've already bought my own [sewing] machine. Our three children are still under care of RCAR, and the last born is at [Lalmba's] Ongoro Orphanage Home.

I've thanked Lalmba a million times in my life. I am praying for Lalmba founders and I hope God will keep a blessing on Hugh, Marty, Carrole and others



Jenipher, Children's Director in Kenya, Saina and Carrole

who are supporting Lalmba in Kenya. God bless you all, Saina Akoth"

Saina didn't continue past the 8<sup>th</sup> grade because that's when public school ends in most of Africa. A very small percent of children score high enough on the high school entrance exams to win a government scholarship. Others who score well gain entrance, but must pay tuition. With living expenses, this is about \$420/year – more than most people in this area can afford, much less orphans. Even Lalmba is only able to send about 2/3 of our graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders on to high school or vocational training, like Saina.

Sometimes I try to imagine what it would be like to lose both your parents here, where no one is able or willing to care for you. Where in most places there are no social services to help. Where the only future for girls may be prostitution, just to survive. But I can't. That reality is just too far from the safe life I've always known.

As I meet with the village leaders and school representatives here, they tell me there are hundreds more orphans in our area. We hope to add the most needy to our programs as our current students graduate and as donations allow.

In the meantime, we are humbled and grateful for the privilege of helping children like Saina and her younger siblings. When this work seems too hard or the flights too long, all I have to do is remember their faces, their stories. We are the hope for their future. How could I ever do anything else?

**Please print all orders** (it's a big help to our elves)

Please ship the African Angels to:

Enclosed is my \$100 contribution to Lalmba

If it's a gift, who shall we say it's from?

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