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## January, 2025 Email Update

1 message

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**Audrey Foster** <director.sharedblessings@gmail.com>  
To: Audrey Foster <director.sharedblessings@gmail.com>  
Bcc: terry.scott@gmail.com

Thu, Jan 9, 2025 at 3:51 PM

Dear Shared Blessings Friends

It is always a joy to share with you photos of the holiday celebrations of our partners in Uganda, India and Myanmar. Shared Blessings donors provided the money for the gifts and food and it is wonderful to see how much enjoyment they bring to so many.

On December 23, Emmanuel Manana, director of our **DORCAS project in Uganda**, wrote:

"Today was a wonderful day!" It was the day of the long awaited Christmas party, an annual event for the village children that Shared Blessings has sponsored for the past 26 years. It is an all day affair with plenty of good food, rare treats (like cake), games, dancing and vigorous singing. The 13 sponsored children, all HIV positive, took part in the fun. Added to their joy was their Christmas gift, \$25 per child, to spend whatever way they wished. The most popular choice as always was Christmas clothes.



A shower of confetti surprised the children as they lined up for refreshments.



A full meal of very good food occupied the children's attention until the plates were clean.





This is a candid photo of the children, restless and fidgeting as they sit and wait for festivities to begin. All that excitement and energy wants an outlet, but they were soon rewarded for their wait when the all day party began.

At our tribal Boarding School for orphans in **ODISHA, INDIA**, these children also were in a state of high excitement with all the special things that were happening.



With the Christmas tree and decorations surrounding them, the children gather around the birthday cakes for Jesus, hoping for a big piece with lots of icing.



Local guests at the party are given the pleasure of handing out the gifts to the children. Everyone seems delighted to be part of this, especially the young boy receiving the packages. Each child received 2 sets of new clothes, a pair of slippers and a blanket.





Here are all the children with their Christmas presents.



Odisha children enjoy special food on Christmas day.

At **EMMANUEL CHILDREN'S HOME** in Myanmar, the children are adjusting to a new location, the capital city of Yangon. They are much safer there from the civil war still raging through their country and they enjoy the benefits of living in a big city. It is hard to match the space and freedom they had in their former home in the countryside, but they are grateful just to be together after several moves and separations. Below, the group wishes us a happy holiday.





It's fun for the ECH kids to sit around a pot of rice cakes and eat the holiday treat together.





Some ECH children take part in a special Christmas performance at church.



After church and presents, the day culminates in a hearty Christmas dinner for the ECH family, friends and neighbors. By example, Joel is teaching the children the joy of sharing special times and possessions with others.

I hope you have enjoyed this brief glimpse of the Christmas celebrations of our across the world partners. We did not include Shared Love Uganda because we are still waiting to hear from them. We will send you their pictures when they arrive.

God's abundant blessings to you all as we begin the new year. May our hearts overflow with appreciation for all that we have and with the joy that follows sharing what we have with others.

Sincerely,  
Audrey

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