

Joy News – January 2026

Joy Center | www.joycenter.com | 714-525-0569

Christmas Carol Home Visits

During Christmas 2025, Joy Uganda once again visited families of persons with disabilities one by one, delivering the message of Christ's birth through carols.

This year, as the Joy Uganda family has grown, we were able to visit **89 families**, bringing blessed Christmas songs and small gifts.

This Christmas carol outreach is one of the very first ministries Joy Uganda began. It has become a deeply moving and joyful time not only for the families we visit but also for neighbors who gather and rejoice together.

The sound of carols echoing through narrow alleys and village paths was more than music—it carried God's message of comfort:

“You are not forgotten.”

For families who experience limited mobility and social isolation, this visit was especially meaningful.

We witnessed parents quietly wiping away tears while singing along, and children smiling and swaying to the rhythm. In those moments, we were reminded of the true joy of Christmas.

Joy Uganda desires to continue building relationships and sharing hearts—not as a one-time event, but as an ongoing ministry.

We pray that the joy of Christmas will not remain a single memory, but become a lasting seed of hope in each family's life.

We deeply thank all of you who faithfully support us through prayer and partnership.

Announcements

1. The Joy Uganda Special Education Integrated School Project has officially begun. We are currently in Phase 1: planning/design and fundraising.
2. We are especially praying for those who feel called to serve as teachers. We also welcome missionary candidates in various capacities.

Disability-Related News

1. ABLE Age Adjustment Act (Effective January 1, 2026)

Beginning January 1, 2026, eligibility for ABLE accounts expands.

Previously, only individuals whose disability began before age 26 could qualify. Starting in 2026, eligibility extends to those whose disability occurred before age 46.

This change may benefit approximately **6 million additional individuals** (including veterans and those who acquired disabilities later in life), allowing them to maintain tax-advantaged savings accounts for medical and housing expenses without risking asset limits (typically \$2,000).

2. Turner Prize Winner – Nnena Kalu

Autistic artist **Nnena Kalu (59)** has been selected as this year's Turner Prize winner.

The internationally recognized award honors outstanding contemporary visual art by British artists.

A Person with a Disability Is Going to Space!

An upcoming **Blue Origin New Shepard** flight will mark a historic milestone in accessible space travel.

Among the crew will be **Michaela “Michi” Benthous**, an aerospace and mechatronics engineer with the European Space Agency (ESA), who uses a wheelchair.

Benthous has used a wheelchair since a 2018 mountain biking accident that caused a spinal cord injury. Though she once believed her dream of space travel had ended, she prepared for months with a support team to make this historic suborbital flight possible.

This mission (New Shepard's 37th flight) will cross the **Kármán Line**, internationally recognized as the boundary of space, in an approximately 11-minute journey. Passengers will experience several minutes of weightlessness and view Earth from space.

Blue Origin stated:

“Our mission is to make space accessible to everyone, and this flight is a meaningful step toward that future.”

Benthaus shared:

“Space travel for people with disabilities is still in its early stages. I may be the first, but I do not intend to be the last.”

Prayer Request – Uganda Integrated School Project

The Uganda Integrated School Project is currently in the land acquisition phase.

We pray that this year we may move into visible construction stages.

Please pray for the necessary financial resources and ministry workers to be provided.

Prayer Topics

1. For the construction of Joy Uganda’s special education school and expansion of vocational training.
2. For those who will dedicate themselves as teachers and missionaries.
3. For the Joy Uganda / Ndejje University graduate-level special education teacher training program.
4. For financial provision and faithful supporters.

Ways to Give

1. By Check:
Pay to the order of “Joy Center, Inc.”
Memo: _____
2. Zelle / PayPal / Venmo:
ID: joycenter@hotmail.com
3. Online donation:
www.joycenter.com

We appreciate your gift of love in support of Joy Center, a non-profit organization.
