

# Tiny Tim and Friends Newsletter

## Spring 2005

### The Big Cheese Project

In December Parmalat Zambia (a local cheese co.) donated several hundred pounds of cheese to **Tiny Tim and Friends** and our Dr. Sarah went to Parmalat to pick it up. The donation was the brainchild of the Parmalat Director of Finance for Zambia, Mr. Louis de Wet, pictured with Dr. Sarah outside the Parmalat truck.

These pictures show Dr. Sarah delivering the cheese, which went to three different orphanages in Lusaka.



### Baker of the Day

In February the Great Harvest Bakery in Minnetonka invited 17 non-profit groups to enter their annual "Baker of the Day" contest by putting up posters and information about their non-profit organization. Then for two weeks the public (customers) was asked to vote for their favorite non-profit. The winning group would work at the bakery for one day and would be able to keep all the profits from that day.

Alas, Tiny Tim and Friends did not win the contest. We came in 4<sup>th</sup> out of the 17 groups. However, we want to thank the Great Harvest Bakery for providing such a wonderful opportunity and we especially want to thank everyone who voted for our group. We'll try again next year!!

### The Dental Project



Tiny Tim and Friends arranged and partially sponsored a team of 9 dentists from Tufts University in Boston to come to Zambia over the 2004/2005 holiday season to perform basic dentistry on orphan children in 4 local children's homes. The project team leader was Sam Merabi who was able to secure grants from several sources, including Tufts Univ. The photographer was J. Matthew Thomas. The Dental Project was supported by TT and F funding (approximately \$100) which went toward securing the generator which arrived by mail prior to the team's arrival and by arranging for accommodations for the team while in Lusaka and at the beautiful Lechwe Lodge, run by Diana and Fergus Flynn, where the team was able to assist in dental care for the lodge staff as well as the surrounding villages. Over 500 orphans' teeth were cleaned and examined. Donations of fluoride treatments and sealant were used to ensure continued dental health. Fewer than 1% of these children had ever seen a dentist before, save for some rather brutal extractions when they had a tooth ache. The children loved the dental team and although they worked sometimes late into the night trying to examine all of the children, there were still moments of fun for all involved.

### Updated Website

Our website has been updated with many more pictures & stories. Please check it out!!!!  
[www.tinytimandfriends.org](http://www.tinytimandfriends.org)

## Notes from Dr. Tim

To all of our wonderful donors, I send enormous thanks to you and a wish that each of you could be here so that you could see the amazing work that your donations are accomplishing. Our vision is being fulfilled; we are delivering life-saving aid to children with no salaries and only voluntary administration. Your donations have literally gone from your pocket to one of the many children we are helping. These children are not at the level where other aid organizations can help. They are the ones that have fallen through the cracks, so to speak. Often the children we are helping are homeless or partially homeless, near death and completely desperate. It is the children most in need, in the most desperate circumstances, whom we are focusing our attention.



The work of several people on this end, such as Jane Lewis, Jeanne Mulenga, Judith Morris, and Sr. Mariola from Kasisi Children's Home ([www.kasisi.org](http://www.kasisi.org)), have been instrumental in supporting TT and F children to receive the medicine, which has now clearly begun to save lives. And a special thank you to Mike Harmon, whose partnership and support allows me to live and work in Africa. And the work of Corey Elliot at the Jon Hospice Day Care has single-handedly pushed our ARV program forward and she is now in charge of all medically-related issues, such as giving medicine at the right time, in the right dose, and deciding which of the children might need urgent medical attention. Her tireless devotion to these 32 children is something to behold.

The children from Hope House who stay with Jeanne were in my office just moments ago, looking wonderfully well and normal. They have all gained weight and were laughing and smiling. The children from Jon Hospice Day Care are all getting their antibiotic and vitamin syrups as we slowly get more and more of them on to ARV's (just now it is only Joseph, Arnold, Everlyn and Crispin.) The other children that we support through various connections are all doing well. Little miracles are happening with these kids and each is improved with every visit. We are the lucky ones to be in a position to see this improvement up close and to monitor their progress from this end. If any of you ever have the capacity to come here and see this for yourself, I believe it would be a moving experience for you and your family and your donation will have brought you, then, the ultimate reward of seeing these children flourish.

On Friday I went to the hospice to check on Eric, the sad little boy whose "grandfather" was not feeding him or giving him his TB medicine. We put him in the hospice because I knew that he would be fed and would receive his medicine, one of which is injectable. When I arrived at the hospice Eric was sitting outside. He was able to walk without assistance already, after only 3 days of being fed and getting his pills. He was sitting alone next to the wall and the Day Care children (all of whom are much younger than Eric) were singing a song in the grass-roofed round hut where they stay during the day. A young woman who was a patient in the hospice had just died from her AIDS-related cancer and they were moving the body to the morgue while her mother and other relatives wailed and screamed in the traditional way that Zambians mourn at the time of a death in the family.

This little scene was so sad to witness, not just the family's sorrow, but the complete terror in Eric's eyes at having to stay even one more night in a place like that. Having a Day Care in such close proximity to a hospice did not seem like such a good idea at that moment, although, knowing the history of the place, I can see why things developed that way.

So I convinced Eric to stay there another night while we went out of town for the weekend and then picked him up yesterday and he is now staying with us. He ate pizza last night and smiled when he got up this morning, the world not being such a bad place after all. A few months of TB treatment and he will be able to start ARV's; then his life will really change for the better.

Again, a million thanks to all of our wonderful donors for allowing these things to take place in a world that is so far away that it must be hard to imagine. I hope that the website is able to give a glimpse into this completely different world, where, unfortunately, children's lives are valued very differently by most people here than what we are used to; where poverty and AIDS have combined in this deadly way to upset or destroy traditional practices that ensured that every child had a home and place in the world.

# Faces and Stories

## Biswasi and Saulosi



**Biswasi - Dec. 29, 2004**

Biswasi is one year and one month old but he can neither walk nor crawl. His weight is 14 lbs. His loving mother cried during our exam, confessing that she was told that she had HIV during her pregnancy but she did nothing about it. When Biswasi was born, no preventive measures were taken to make sure that he did not catch the HIV virus from his mother. Unfortunately, he did. He has been sick since age 6 months with fevers, diarrhea and poor appetite. Today we started him on ARV medicine. His mother was so incredibly grateful.



**Biswasi - Feb. 21, 2005**

Biswasi was seen in follow-up today, he is doing great. He has gained  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. and can now crawl and eat by himself. He looks like a completely different child and today was irritable in the clinic, much better than his complete apathy when we started him on ARV's. We have now switched him to pill-form of ARV's and off of the syrups, which are cumbersome. He will return for another check in two weeks.



**Saulosi - Dec. 29, 2004**

Saulosi is a lovely little 5 year old boy whose mother died 6 months ago and his younger sister died 2 weeks ago. He has no father or other living relatives. Saulosi is very thin but has beautiful eyes. We were unable to get him to smile today. He cannot eat without vomiting and has constant abdominal pain. He suffers from daily fevers. Saulosi has both HIV and TB which we will start treating today. We'll let you know when he starts to smile - shouldn't be too long now.



**Saulosi - Jan. 3, 2005**

What a difference a week makes, especially on the right drugs! Saulosi *walked* into my office today and actually *smiled*, neither of which he has been known to do since coming to live with the caretaker over a year ago. He was started on anti-TB medicine and has not missed a single dose this past week. His diarrhea, which had been persistent for 4 months has stopped. He is eating (enormously) and not vomiting. A very encouraging visit.