



Tiny Tim and Friends Newsletter Spring 2007

On March 1, 2007 a huge snowstorm hit the Twin Cities and caused nearly all airline flights to be canceled. That was also the day we left for Lusaka, Zambia. We ended up leaving on a different airline, by a different route than planned, and really don't know where or how our luggage got there, which was six days later. At any rate, we made it and were very happy to see Tim, little Tim and the whole household in nice, warm, sunny Zambia.

We were fortunate to have the company of Dennis Dillon, a friend from the Basilica, for the first half of our trip. Dennis has been a strong supporter of Tiny Tim and Friends and it was a great pleasure to be able to introduce him to our family and the Tiny Tim children in Lusaka.

As you know, our main project in Zambia has been furnishing HIV medication to the children at the Jon Hospice Daycare in the Kamwala compound of Lusaka. Jon Hospice and the Daycare are a part of Kara Counseling, www.kara.org.zm. It was wonderful to recognize many of them from our last visit and recognize the new children from pictures and stories sent to the website by Dr. Tim. Everyone who is taking the HIV meds looks healthy, happy and VERY active. We went back several times to visit the daycare, bringing many supplies, craft materials and even a soccer ball.

One day Tiny Tim and Friends put on a party for the children and their parents or caregivers, which was a rip-roaring success - much food, music, balloons and dancing. Two more Minnesota friends, Tharcisse & Anna Mulfinger, were able to join us at the party and brought gift bags for each of the children. We also brought along letters from Miss McKenzie's 3rd grade class at Eisenhower School in Hopkins, which is our granddaughter Maria's class. The children at the Daycare were so excited to be getting letters from America and sent back beautiful pictures to Maria's classmates.



Besides the daycare, Tiny Tim and Friends is providing HIV meds to children in several Transit Homes, which we were able to visit. Jeanne Mulenga's Transit Home (Hope House); Carol McBrady's Transit Home for Street Boys; and (the soon to open) Rev. Zimba's Transit Home, which will house HIV+ boys from ages 10-14, who would live there, be provided medications and sent to school. This will also be a center for neighborhood people to learn more about AIDS, HIV testing and mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Please visit our website at
www.tinytimandfriends.org

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We were happy to visit the Matero Rosamystica School once again. This is a school for children up to grade 8. It is not a government school so no uniforms are needed, but with no government funding it is very poor, with minimal supplies. The teacher we spoke with has taught there for five years as a volunteer, with no salary. The children put on an unbelievable performance for us with singing, stories, dancing and drumming. We wish the students in the U.S. could see how these children really want to learn, sitting on cement benches in a schoolroom with only 3 walls, no desks and no pencils or paper.



One profound experience was the day we visited the home of Pearson (age 11) and Philamon (age 13), two brothers from the Jon Hospice Daycare. Philamon had missed school for several days and there was concern for his health. We found him at home with an older brother. Both parents had died of AIDS and the older brother was trying to raise his four younger siblings. Philamon was desperately ill and very frightened. They had gone to a neighborhood clinic for help the day before, but because they did not have the \$4.00 for an x-ray, the boys were sent home with no treatment. We immediately put Philamon and his brother into our car and brought him into Dr. Tim's clinic, CorpMed Medical Center. There he was put on oxygen and Dr. Tim started him on TB meds. A few days later he was started on HIV meds. He is now back in school, taking part in all activities and smiling!

A visit to Kasisi Orphanage, The House of Moses (an orphanage for infants) and Lasarus School for Boys was also in our schedule. One day was spent at a conference on HIV+ children in Zambia. There were about 30 people from different agencies and orphanages in attendance. It was very informative and made us realize that many Zambian people are trying to educate the public and help the vulnerable children, especially the ones who fall between the cracks.

Our trip ended all too soon. It was hard to say good-bye, but we left with such a good feeling of the wonderful help Tiny Tim and Friends has given to so many children, thanks to our generous donors. You are making a difference!



Betty and Tom Meade

Third Annual GARAGE SALE, Sept. 21, 2007 in Edina, MN.
We'll be happy to pick up any "good" garage sale items
that you may want to donate.
Email: tinytimandfriends@pclink.com

Faces and Stories - Patricia and Aaron



Patricia - June 2006

Patricia is six years old. Her mom died of HIV and TB and her grandmother took her and then died herself from HIV and TB three weeks ago. Jeanne Mulenga came to the rescue and took her into the Hope House family. I first saw her two weeks ago with terrible fungal infection in her scalp so we treated that and she is back today for her CD4 count, etc. With the history of TB in mom, we will treat Patricia for TB for two months before starting her ARVs. She is quiet and shy and seems quite traumatized. She has extensive signs of sexual abuse and it's going to be a long time before we get this one smiling again.



Patricia - March 2007

Patricia has continued to improve after being treated for TB and starting on ARVs. She is doing very well in school. It is clear that she is happy and getting healthier in the wonderful environment of Jeanne's home.



Aaron - April 2006

Aaron came to Day Care in 2002 but stopped coming because he got sick. At that time we had no ARVs at Day Care. He is an only child and lives with his grandparents who decided not to take him to one of the free ARV centers for children. He continued to lose weight. When the grandparents learned that we were now giving ARVs at the Day Care they brought him back. Everyone was so shocked at the changes, the skin rashes, the weight loss. And no smiles or laughter from this one - he is sick and quiet and unhappy. Definitely a case for Tiny Tim and Friends.



Aaron - October 2006

Aaron is doing well, we are happy to report. After months of no improvement, he is finally gaining weight and his immune system numbers have doubled on medicine, although still the lowest in the day care. Even after this first difficult 6 months of medicine, Aaron still has a very low immune system so we watch him extra carefully.