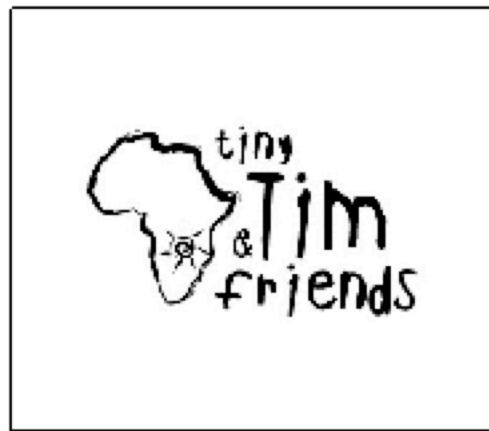


December/January 2007

It has been wonderful to have Charles back in Lusaka for a holiday and he has spent a lot of time at our house. He is the oldest living recipient of medical aid from Tiny Tim and Friends and has been doing so well living with his grandparents in the north of the country. We have continued to provide him medicine and will make a change in his medicine now that he is an adult. Some of the side effects of

the medicine don't affect children but do affect adults, and unfortunately they are more expensive.



This past weekend I visited Reverend Zimba at his home in the compounds just outside of Lusaka. You may recall that Rev Zimba is the grandfather to Aaron Z (see Faces and Stories) and Aaron's uncle, Oman, is his primary care taker. The fact that Oman and Rev. Zimba were able to steer Aaron through the worst part of his recovery from HIV while he adjusted to the medicine is a testament to their care and devotion. Rev. Zimba has an unfinished building on his plot which he would like to turn into a Day Care or Transit home for HIV+ children age 12 to 15 years. This is really important because children, especially boys, in this age range are almost impossible

to place – the orphanages are full and won't accept that age group and many of these children end up living on the streets and totally lost to follow up. We took some pictures at the unfinished site and one of our donors (Stuart from Toronto!) has agreed to help with \$50 per month in the construction costs, so Rev, Zimba is very excited about this, as we all are.

During my visit, Rev Zimba asked several of the sick children in the neighborhood to come by and see me. I was immediately impressed with the number of children who are of school age who are sick and living with extended family and not going to school or receiving medical care. These are exactly the children that TT and F aim to help, otherwise hopeless. Most dramatic of these was little Justine, a boy of four living next door to the Zimba's with his grandmother. He was acutely ill, breathing quickly and had all the manifestations of untreated HIV that we see in his age group. There was nothing I could do for him there and then, but we arranged, with the help of Oman, for him to come to

the clinic on Monday and he is now starting medicine thanks to the efforts of Oman and our donors.

January and February are very busy months at the Day Care because the children graduate and move on to places in primary school. We are busy getting them places and using some of the education money to buy them uniforms and shoes. Constance, the social worker, is busy recruiting a whole new batch of children who will benefit from TT and F attention. It is also a frightening time in many ways, because many of these new children are so ill that there is already very little that we can do for them medically. But without our help, their lives would end miserably in no time at all. Waking up immune systems that have been long asleep is dangerous business for these kids, but there is quite literally no choice. Thank goodness for helpers like Oman, and he wants to go to nursing school, which really warms my heart. I hope that we can help him some day achieve this noble goal. Zambia needs nurses.