

February/March 2006

Since Dad left a couple of month's ago, we have been busy settling the 16 to 20 new kids at Jon Hospice Day Care. Fortunately about half of them are already taking ARVs from free local programs and so we support them through checking on their general health and providing antibiotics and exams when they are sick. The others we are slowly starting on ARVs, after assessing their living situations and getting consent from their caregivers.



Some of these lessons we have learned doing this work include careful assessment and training of the caregivers at home, even though the ARVs are given at the Day Care, we rely on the caregivers over the weekends and holiday breaks, so they must be trained to use the pill boxes and the importance of compliance with every dose. If a child doesn't show up for Day Care, we keep an emergency stash of meds in their home for that day. If they are missing more than two days, we send out our new social worker, Constance, to check on what is going on.

Jeanne Mulenga's group at the Transit House is doing very well, although we have lost Balomi, as it turns out that both his parents are living and his mother is working and it seems they were collecting money for Balomi's condition from various sources and using his illness for their own gain. Jean has spoken to Social Welfare about his situation and on last check, he was off medicine and looking thin and weak. How sad for a young person to die at the hands of unscrupulous parents. We are hoping that we can legally intervene before it is too late.

Our important visitors during this period included the Orange Babies Team. Orange Babies is a wonderful project out of Holland, funded like ourselves from private donations, and whose mission it is to help mothers and children in Africa. They have decided to generously support Tiny Tim and Friends, as well as Jeanne's Transit House in a very generous way. What wonderful people they are and it was such a pleasure to have them in Lusaka. Dr. Sibyl Geenen and I have worked together in the past and she is a great specialist in pediatric HIV and her advice has helped our project enormously. Baba, John and Jack were all great friends by the time they left. Their visit was slightly

marred by a road traffic accident from which they all emerged in tact. There are specific project plans which we have been working on to incorporate the Orange Babies donation into our scheme, when the time comes.

Eric continues to improve at school. His tuition, which is about \$40 per term, is paid for by the Education Fund. He has been under TT&F since its inception and is a graduate from the Day Care. His ARVs are working well and his TB has never returned. He still spends the weekends at our house and is a vital part of the family.