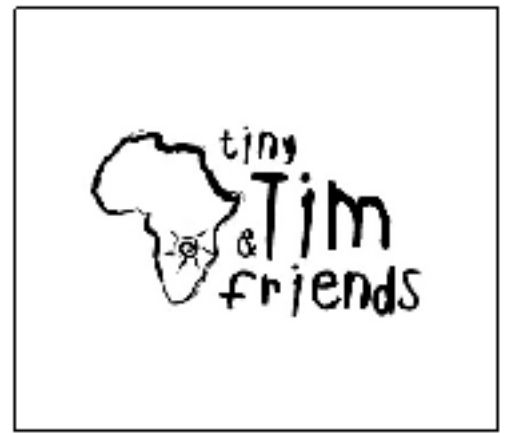


March 2005

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 here that 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 on. The work of several people on this end, such as Jane Lewis, Jeanne Mulenga, Judith Morris, and Sr. Mariola from Kassisi Children's Home, have been instrumental in supporting TT&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 (pictured right) 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 ARVs (just now it is only Joseph, Arnold, Evelyn 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 the 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 ARVs; then his life will really start changing 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.

Dr. Tim Meade