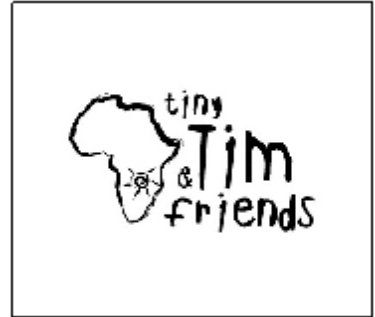


September/ October 2006

Time is passing quickly here in Lusaka. We have presidential elections this week and the hot season is now

here, before the rains in October. The swimming pool at our house is in daily use now. How quickly 6 months have passed from starting the new children at Day Care on ARVs. It is already time to check their immune response, and we started this week with Mwenzi and with Dr. John. Both children have responded beautifully and their CD4% has more than doubled in both

cases. Further confirmation that the treatment they are receiving is working well. John is now called Dr. John by all, because he wants to become a doctor. Mwenzi has turned into one of the prettiest and kindest little girls in the Day Care. What a difference Stuart's extra support has made!



Aaron Z is doing a bit better, you can see him pictured here with his grandfather the Rev. Zimba. Rev. Zimba has also agreed to take our Simon, at least temporarily, until Jeanne Mulenga can take him into her transit home. Last month, the Auntie that Simon was living with died in the hospice, after refusing to take ARVs or even to be tested. She was very good about giving Simon his medicine.

When she died, Simon moved into his grandmother's house along with all 5 of her grandchildren (none of her children survived this epidemic). Unfortunately she is too old, frail and forgetful; it is clear that Simon has not been taking his medicine regularly as he has lost a little weight. He also cries terribly when he leaves our house on Monday to go home to her house, so we know something is not right there.



Rev. Z. also has an unfinished house on his plot which he would like to turn into a small day care or orphanage for boys Simon's and Aaron's age. This is a great idea because there is a huge gap in social services for boys in this age group. The orphanages won't take them and when their family system fails, as in Simon's case, we have very limited choices for them, if any at all. Rev. Z., Constance, and I have met about this idea and we are determined to help him find some help to complete the building and develop this idea further.