

Tiyamike Times



Below is Jeffery at eight days of age,, 4 months and then at six months then 20 minutes after his first haircut..

September 24, 2008

Updates from TMC

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News Update

- We now have 127+ kids here at TMC! Also another seven who come for school and or food is available to them.
- The new baby house is filling we have 47+ under three years now and we need to start preparing to move 13 of the soon to be three year olds to another area asap.
- God is Good !!!!
- All the Time !!!!



It's 10:40 am Tuesday morning We are at Queens Hospital in Blantyre...I am sitting in our minibus (van) writing to you. The hum of people is background to everything and my eyes take in so many people ..ladies and babies, ladies and children...and clothes , diapers and sheets hanging everywhere drying in the breeze.... Looking around I notice the gentle purple leaves from the jacaranda trees covering the roofs and areas of ground... the grass is sparse and there is a pile of small reddish bricks alongside some sand waiting for the project behind me. There is some cotton clouds giving respite from the sun. Even though it is not blistering hot, the clouds are welcome. Pam is inside the hospital, with one of our ladies Esenought, waiting for the Doctors, in a queue of about eighty ladies (all with babies).

I think of last night as we arrived seeking care for Martyn and the crowding in the nursery ...the nurses (two of them) dealing with 80 or more babies and their caretakers (usually the mother of the child) Likely many of them their first time in the hospital???? Here the patient has to bring their own caretaker.... The nurses deal with medicine distribution and emergencies...it is so short staffed ...I think of Pam voicing her worry to the nurses over the baby next to Martyn having pneumonia and being nicely told it was alright as the baby had been on antibiotics' for 24 hrs.

Doctors rounds were to start at half seven this morning so we arrived at about 8:10With such a shortage of staff there are many reasons why they would be 3hrs or so off scheduleWe are here because of a beautiful little boy named Martyn . He is 2 ¾ months old , he weighs 2.2 kg (about 4 1/2 lbs). Martyn has been in the Bangula Catholic mission hospital pretty well since he arrived a month ago or so. Martyn's mom died in child birth. He was sent home yesterday (Tuesday) and we were so pleased with the reports that he was doing well ...our staffs big smiles and happy, happy... About one hour later when Pam went to see him , she came to me asking if I would come to see Martyn asap. We knew immediately he was in big trouble and we would lose him soon.... What thinking is it that says all



Jeffery Sept 20, 2008

is well when our eyes so loudly shout the opposite...is it to please us or because the care lady was so used to seeing him in such distressed state and she trusted the medical people at the hospital??? Pam and I question ourselves how can we keep better track of the little ones ?? Why didn't we catch this sooner? We had to wonder... was he sent home to die?? It could be so ... they had no feeding tubes and no IV and and and ... what would I do if I saw so many babies pass away year after year??? Probably the same or worse... what can they do?... so many with babies that will not make it..what would anyone else do in their place and with their background and cultural influences? Longani was one of those .."Don't waste your time .." we were told.... we wasted our time and he is now four years old and what a sweet heart.... Thokozani about 4.4 lbs at one month old and he is now three and such a character we have never seen...

Its 11:05 am now and Pam has returned the Doctors say they think it is primarily malnutrition and stomach problems, Marasmus is the current diagnosis.... they are x-raying to rule out TB and they are redoing the HIV test (in Bangula they tested him and it was appeared negative however we have had misdiagnosis before apparently due to their methods and equipment) Is it the last stage of Aids ?? apparently the symptoms and appearance are similar to Marasmus (spelling \O/)... Marasmus is a stage of malnutrition due to starvation or non-nutritional value food intake...

There is a queue beside the minibus now tea time..... cups in hand and visiting as they wait ...always so many queues in this land of people...people. Life has a flow wherever we go ..Malawians are amazing people adapting and walking thru many situations the western world people would have great difficulty with ... sleeping on the floor of the nursery ward ...(my precious wife having done that herself with two other little ones Lonjezo and then Godfully, both passed away)....listening to and even joining in the often nightly grieving, of a baby or two dieing in the night...there are so few nurses and the nursery ward is over flowing... crying babies and what concerns of infection from the over crowding

So on we go with our day, not a planned trip, we float around doing this and that ... making some calls as to my situation having hit and probably killed a goat which was on the road on the way up with Martyn (I did not stop) thanking Poppa I spoke first to the policeman at the first road block... he already knew and was waiting for me (someone phoned ahead) . I showed him our little one (Martyn) and he said go aheadso that is to deal with on the way home.....an expensive trip with goat and fuel and and but Martyn may well make it... we know beyond a shadow of a doubt he would not have made it had we not brought him up. ..please pray for him and the staff at the hospital. So on with our day we purchased shocks for the minibus and hopefully tomorrow will see them and other repairs completed ..then back home to our ever growing family.....I (Will) am taking antibiotics for an inner ear thing (dizziness) and Pam's feet are hurting much also an elbow so sign off time God is so Good!!!! Thank you for your love and care and please keep praying as you are shown.Update Wed nite GOOD NEWS TODAY!!! Martyn tested negative for HIV!!! Tomorrow we find out about TB we have a hunch that will be negative as well...

We have shocks mounted on the minibus and a few other repairs to the tune of 58000 Kwacha or about 375 USD... another 1000 USD waiting to be paid for formulae and a welcome e-mail from a friend funds are coming.... How little money matters when lives are saved, that is what we say in the west with how many billions spent on medical ...however as we know money does matter mucha baby clinic ...staffing it and operating costsand let alone the clinic..... just raising these children ...schooling, staff , formulae and and and...wow this is bigger than we can handle!!!! Hmmm that is the good partwe need Poppa's help every day (especially at the end of the month \O/) Thank you Jesus Lord of all , Thank you Holy Spirit for your comfort, council and power, thank you Father for sending your only begotten son ..what a Dad we have!!!! And always thank you friends and family for your prayer and care and financial help ..THANKYOU!!!! **Very Sad news continues on page five...**

TMC BABIES BABIES BABIES



This was the last and perhaps only Mother's kiss Martyn received during his short life.....(Pam didn't know I took this one)



Willing and able for whatever tasks we asked of them ...their time was so short but their hearts willing St. Mary's from Wales was well represented!!! Even a day or two makes a difference Thank you!!!!

This picture has not been doctored you are looking at a truck having been floated across the Shire River on one of the boats.... Our friend Smart K. decided he didn't want to waste the fuel and time and such to take his newly purchased truck the long way around to Bangula ...so he took the box off and loaded it on a boat and then he loaded his truck on the boat and over it came...WOW what a character ... I would have been calculating water displacement and weight ratios and water lines and and and ...then again it was this same man who built a bridge from timbers across this same river and vehicles drove over it ... talk about going for it!!!!!!



Steph and Sue our friends from UK enabled us to take 74 of our older children to Lake Malawi and Blantyre for nine nights . They looked after the babies and ladies wonderfully ...(and much more!!!) now if their husbands would be willing to move to Malawi....

For Gillian n friends, the Goodman's, Riverside Church, Storm Teams extraordinaire and everyone else, what busy times and thank you all for your help and love you poured out on us all here at TMC. Last but not least in any way Hazel from Australia you are a diamond!! . (pic below)



What a way to end a News Letter Dolina came looking for a job ... She had never heard about Jesus and her Heavenly Father in the way we shared with her... Lenard (in the picture) and I had the wonderful joy of introducing this 20 yr old orphaned young lady with a 3 yr old child and no means of support to her Father. She said at first she did not go to church because she was not feeling ok in her heart. So this Saturday Sept 27 she feels ok in her heart :)



This n ThatStill no word on the following from last newsletter they should be meeting sometime in Sept is our understanding ...so we wait with bated breath (that's Listerine washed and scoped thru n thru) ... so please continue pray as to the size and location.... What a tremendous help this will be... I can still hear Reg's voice saying several times .."This is not going to get smaller!" meaning there are many more babies coming to TMC..... We agree....boy do we agree!!!!



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We are not a big organization ..just two people (with many staff) stumbling our way to Victory" (saying courtesy of Rolland B.) supported by those who agree with what we are doing as Holy Spirit lays it out... We need others to join with us ...please pray .

We at Tiyamike Mulungu Center are dedicated to making our children's lives whole through family love and care. You are welcome to visit.



Martyn on Wednesday with a feeding tube in his nose and IV for medicine in his arm



Martyn on Tuesday

Well life has gone on and here I am finishing our news letter to you at 12:40 Friday Sept 26. We were just leaving Blantyre yesterday when we received a call from Esenaught ..Martyn had died. With heavy a heavy heart I called the Social Services officer to contact Martyns father and let him know the burial would be tomorrow (Friday) . We had the funeral this morning and Martyn is now with his mom getting to know Jesus. Martyn's father and relatives were so gracious and even while broken did their best to encourage us in what we are doing here. A very humbling experience. People living in what the western world would call abject poverty having more grace, wisdom and love than so many we can all think of (myself included). We need nurses and teachers, for three or six month commitments. Hmmm we wouldn't balk at 12 months :) so follow Holy Spirit if he puts it to u to do then do it if not pray and bless whom ever else comes. Thank you for your care and prayer and support in the many different ways for Pam and I, we look forward to many good things . Pam and I , watch and wait for the people to join us... please be sure it is Holy Spirit calling you ...He does not make mistakes... trust him. So here we are 4:57 pm Friday afternoon after many diversions ...another week in our lives shared with you be so blessed friends. Without your obedience and heart to share we would be helplessYou have a major impact here not only thru us to the childrens lives saved, but in the provision of income for over 120 staff...so many baby care ladies , teachers , cooks, guards, general workers...it is amazing.

