



# Welcome Home Ministries – Africa March 2007

*"To Love, Care, and Pray Destitute Babies Back to Health, or into Jesus Loving Arms."*

Dear Welcome Home Friends & Family,

It seems as if the months fly by at the speed of light. Thank you for your care and prayers, and your messages of encouragement. It means a lot to us, as we are your extensions to the helpless children of Uganda. (*Jesus said.. "suffer the little children to come to me.."*)



Do you remember Shamina? (*above, left*) - the little girl brought to our gates by her mother in the middle of 2006. She had a very smelly wound on her upper arm. Esther took her directly to the Jinja hospital where she was diagnosed with bone cancer and had her left arm removed. We supplied all their meals and medications while she spent 2 months in hospital, and then sent her back and forth for 6 months of chemotherapy at the Children's Hospital in Kampala. This photo was taken when they came to say "THANK YOU, WELCOME HOME!"

It is with sadness that we inform you little Simeon who came to us in October 2006 with neurological problems has lost his battle for life. As our mission statement "... to health, or to Jesus loving arms". We tried hard – taking him back and forth to specialists in Kampala, and in process for the special needs medical

adoptions to USA where the type of medical resources that he needed is available. (We would like to add that the US Embassy in Kampala is very helpful in the processing of these applications – compassionate, yet still ensuring that the proper procedures are maintained).

It is in the midst of this mourning that we give thanks to God that for His Grace upon the children – we have had only 4 deaths in over 3 ½ years – previously sometimes there used to be that many in one month! The improved procedures and specially the presence of 3 new local medical clinics have greatly helped in the struggle for the children's lives. Again we ask for your prayers - we have 6 children with AIDS and desire the best possible outcome for them.

In the last week of February 2 new babies have come to us – both are malnourished (*look at their ribs and arms, and sad eyes*). Please add them to your prayer list.



**Allan** is 2 years old and suffering with TB and AIDS – his mother deserted the family when he was 4 months old. The father persevered until he lost his job – and then brought Allan to us.



**Adam** is about 1½ years old, and was found abandoned at a doorstep, and was then brought by the authorities to us.

Please keep our US leaders in Jinja in your prayers – it is a sacrifice just to be there! They leave family and friends, ease and comfort behind for each year's stint at Welcome Home. There is a lot of adjustment to a very different culture (even when someone is just returning, there is culture shock both ways), the unending heat, bugs, extra caution with food and water, the heartaches of the children's suffering (and also the workers). Add to that financial pressures (both personal and Welcome Home) the goal of training the staff (*"working yourself out of the job"* when it is easier just to do it yourself), steeling oneself to the inescapable poverty and heartache, all without the close familiar support systems, makes it all a true sacrifice (it is different for long-term than short missions). And they are there to serve because they are aware that, at this time, this is their Divine calling. So please continue to uplift Esther and specially Karen, since this is her first tour of duty.

Another concern that we share is the future of the older children who have no family to return to. We are working to secure the best possible future for them, including adoptions by Ugandans, and others.

Thank you so much for caring

*Your Welcome Home Family*

**PREEMIE HOUSE (11)** Ben, Grace (*C Palsy- day care*), James, Jeane, Jema, Joyce, Julie, Luke, Naomi, Nathan, Victor,

**BABY HOUSE (18)** Adam, Allan, Daniel, Emmanuel, Grace, Isaac, Jaqueline (Jackie), Jeremiah Moses, John, Joshua Angelo, Margaret, Melissa, Mercy, Patricia, Paul, Precious, Timothy, Veronica Rose **TODDLER HOUSE (35)** Agnes, Allan, Amos, Andrew Okirior, Andrew Otto, Becky, Billy, Brian, David, Elizaphan, Emmanuel, Hayley, Jeremiah Tenuwa, Jeremiah, Jesse, Jonah, Jonathan, Joshua Menya, Joshua, Lawrence, Linda, Lukas, Noah, Paul, Peter, Pius, Rachel Mukisa, Rachel, Richard, Rosie, Sarah, Shammah, William, Wilson, Zachariah.