

WELCOME HOME MINISTRIES – AFRICA

“He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; he offers strength to the weak.” Isaiah 40:29-30 NLT

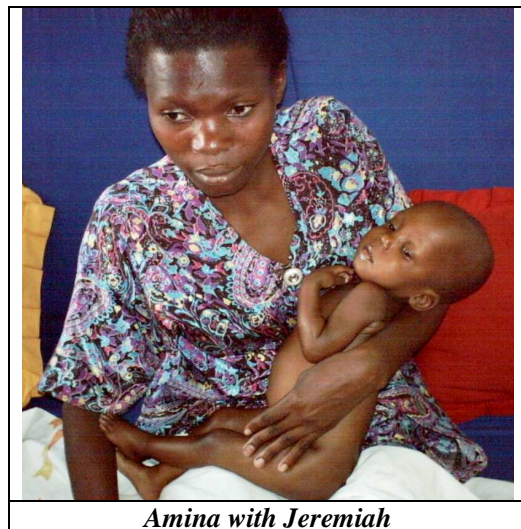
January 2005

Dear Family Foundation and Friends,

God is so good! Greetings and blessings to you from Welcome Home! We have been very busy this Christmas season visiting and bringing God’s love and joy to the boys and girls at Jinja Children’s Hospital, the women’s prison and another local very poor orphanage.

As we begin 2005, my heart is filled with gratitude for all God has accomplished for us this past year, but I also feel the weight of the need for additional facilities. Welcome Home is the only orphanage in the area that will accept newborn babies and our home is filled to capacity. Presently there are four abandoned babies (preemies) in the hospital waiting for someone to love them and care for them. In addition, we’ve received calls from the local women’s prison. They have two children needing God’s love in an environment that is better than in the prison. People have come to our home seeking our care for other orphaned or abandoned babies. The Department of Probation (Uganda’s welfare Dept.) is also asking us to take more babies. We’ve had to turn all these away because of lack of space. We are at the legal capacity for our home. **Would you please pray with us that God would open the door (literally!) for an additional home for more children?** The time is right. The need is great.

About two weeks ago, a missionary friend came to our door and told me about a neighbor of hers who has a baby needing immediate care. When the mother came the next day, I met Jeremiah who was 1½ years old and weighed 11lbs. He was very weak and looked like a 7 month old baby. We took Jeremiah into our fold and he is now doing very well. Jeremiah has a twin we were unable to help with assistance (because of lack of space we were unable to take him into our home). Then the Lord did something that totally blessed me. I asked the mother (Amina) what religion she was and she said she was a Moslem. When I asked her if she wanted to be a Christian, she said, “yes.” I asked if she knew what she needed to do and the reply was, “repent of my sins and turn to Jesus”. She then got on her knees and received Jesus as her savior. **This is what Welcome Home is all about.** Please pray for Amina and Jeremiah.



Amina with Jeremiah

Our children are growing, learning and enjoying life. I wish you could see them. Thanks again for your love, prayers and generous support for our children.

God Bless You Richly!

Janet, and your Welcome Home family wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

PREEMIE HOUSE: Allen, Andrew, Elizaphan, Jesse, Joel, Joseph, Joshua, Shammah, Timothy, and Wilson.

BABY HOUSE: Andrew, Becky, Billy, Hayley, Hope, Jenay, Jeremiah, Jonathan, Lawrence, Lisa, Lois, Lora, Lucas, Maria, Martha, Matthew, Rachael, Rachael Mukisa, Rosie, William and Zachariah.

TODDLER HOUSE: Amos, Anastasia, Christopher, Cissy, Dafin, David, Dean, Deborah, Dorcus, Emily, Jackie, Jeremiah, John Otata, Jonah, Joshua, Juliet, Linda, Mark, Mary Claire, Michelle, Paul, Peter, Raymond, Rhoda, Terrye and Victoria.

A note from Mandy. It is very hard to have to say "no room at the inn" to any needy child. At this time we are only taking in children who would die if we did not receive them. I want to assure you that when we have to turn a child away we make sure they get the medical care they need and also the formula needed to bring them to better health. Please read the 2nd page to see how you can help.

Would you do some Public Relations work for Welcome Home?

To be able to expand we need to have a faithful monthly support base to sustain the expansion that is so needed to care for another 60 babies.

I have to confess it is the monthly support part that is somewhat scary. We would need to double what comes in now. After Jackie died we experienced a large drop in financial support. I want to thank those that continued their support and also those that came back as you have seen our home is progressing well. I also want to welcome all of our new supporters. God has always seen us through, even though some months it was touch and go.

We have been preparing and training our workers in order to staff another home and add new workers for both facilities. They are ready for the challenge. I am very proud of our team of dedicated workers.

In your last newsletter you received our **new brochure** (it was paid for by a friend). I have more of them available if you need them for **outreach material**. I also have a simple **power point presentation** to use with your computer. If you have or have access to email I could send you some **email pictures** for you to print out. I have some wonderful pictures taken the last year and a half of our Welcome Home Babies. My phone is (714) 282-7050 and my email is LMSydo@sbcglobal.net. Bill will also pass your messages on to me. www.welcomehomeafrica.com is our new web-site which will be ready soon.

In October Bill shared with you about the possibility of obtaining rent-free property. We were very disappointed when we went to take possession of the one property that was in very good condition, sadly, a renter had come and leased it the day before. This experience caused us to conclude that we should purchase property for expansion, as the other "free rentals" offered were in very bad disrepair and had many undesirable strings attached. Rental properties are rapidly increasing in price (and the US dollar is sinking in value). A house in good condition would cost us about \$150,000 (minimal work required), or a run-down place could be purchased for \$50,000 and would need about \$100,000 in restoration costs. An additional start-up cost would be for the equipment necessary for orphanage operations - about \$70,000 (for cribs, industrial washers and dryers, refrigerators, cooking equipment, vehicles etc.)

Grants: Please pray for God's favor as we actively pursue this arena. I am seeking Grants at this time in order to purchase property, to equip and furnish it. It would be well to also purchase the home where we are presently. Some times you have to knock on many doors before one opens.

Do you know of any grants that are available?

We are up for Adoption! Who can you influence to adopt Welcome Home as a long term partner with our family? There are many ways in a community to make people aware of our needs. Some do walkathons, others a presentation at their work and start a monthly Welcome Home fund. Some are able to do a presentation at their church and invite people to give. We've had friends hold art auctions with a gathering of friends. The Lions club, the Rotary club, a school, a bible study group are a groups to share with.

Would you consider volunteering for a trip to see what we are doing firsthand so that you could share the Welcome Home vision with others? Volunteer information is available. If you would feel more comfortable having someone to travel with, I will be going again in April and September (airfares are lowest at that time). It is a lot nicer having someone to travel with.

We wish you God's best for the New Year; it looks as if it will be another adventurous one for Welcome Home.

Blessings,

Mandy