



The pitter patters of... The Potter's Village

The Potter's
Village newsletter

Issue 5: May, 2009

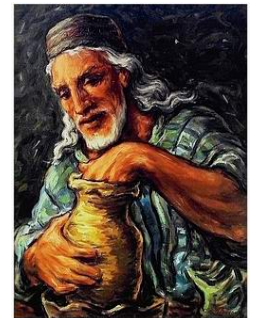
Fortunate Finds Refuge



Schools were to open on 25th May for second term. Fortunate (16) was stuck with her 6 months' old baby, Angel, because there are no facilities at the primary school for day care services let alone being admitted with a child. Yet Fortunate, in her final year (P.7), desires to complete her primary education. Her education career was at stake because of her condition.

Fortunately, Potter's Village is a stone's throw from her primary school and offers services to such young mothers with vulnerable children. She was the happiest person when on the very day schools open Angel was admitted in PVM on the understanding that Fortunate visits the child daily and during holidays she takes her home.

After counselling at Teenage Pregnancy Crisis Centre, Fortunate delivered a bouncing baby she loves so much. She is now part of Potter's Village Ministry.



Tragedy Next Door

One morning Kisoro downtown was woken up with a stir. A house was in flames. The smell of burning plastic mixed with human flesh filled the air. All efforts to extinguish the fire yielded no result. The fire fighting equipment was 15 minutes away but the vehicle's fuel tank was empty. Neighbours watched helpless as the house roof top collapsed inside.

By the time fire was put out, nothing was left worthy of rescue. Two charred bodies were shovelled in boxes and taken to police for record purposes.

The mother of the two burnt-to-death children (30 months and 5 months) was filled with grief and regret because she could have prevented this tragedy had she not left a naked flame from a wax candle near the children.

This incident is one out of many examples of how children in Kisoro are face fatal but preventable accidents some of which claim lives. It is not an isolated incident.

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN



Left: It was a pleasant experience for the children to be allowed to play with "coloured" dirt without restriction.

Right: As this girl child grows up she takes on the role of carrying on her back a young sibling.



Allan

I know the carers by name. I no longer fear strangers. But I do not smile at them until I am sure they mean well.

Abel

I do enjoy my bottle and I am gaining weight. I wish I could have a little more milk than I am given.

Angel

My mum goes to school everyday but comes to see me before she goes home. I have now settled in with other little ones.

Daniel

I only cry when I am hungry or sick. This has pleased my carers because they know that I cry for a genuine reason.

Daniel T

Two lower teeth have emerged and I am trying to balance on two legs. Soon I should be able to join the morning walks.

Emmanuel

I now join the morning group to walk though it is for a short time. Gone are the days of moving on my bottoms.

Faith

My appetite for food continues to rise. Even when I finish my share I feel wanting more only to receive comfort.

Gift

I am so happy that I enjoy good health and enjoy my food. Now I am able to sit without much support. My pleasant smile attracts people to hold me.

Grace

I must be the most beautiful baby because everyone who looks at me gets a desire to look on and wants to hold me for long.

Hope

In spite of my small size, I am firm on the ground. When the young babies cry, I go to them and try to soothe them.

Ivan

When my carer takes care of the other little ones, I help myself with food but most of it goes on me instead of going into the mouth.

Jackson

I am making steady progress on sitting on my own. It is slow but I am happy that I enjoy good health.

James

I am happy and settling in very well. My carers have also known how much milk I need so no more crying for more.

Joel

My weight is continuing to hinder me when I take long walks but I am told I am doing very well. At the end of June I'll join my family.

Jonah

At first I was afraid of Ethan, the dog. Now I enjoy playing games with him. At the end of June, I am going to live with daddy. Aunt Ruth will take care of me.

Junior

My numbering skills are improving. I count up to six. I like fixing things and enjoy slashing the compound with my stick.

Marie

Grandma came to visit me and tells me that things at home are not good. So I cannot go home until things improve.

Michael N

I enjoy the afternoons with my grandma Marie twice a month. Each day I am growing stronger and stronger and adjusting well with other children.

Michael T

I have struck good friendship with Junior and Jonah. I enjoyed my dad's visit a few days ago and told me news from home.

Pius

After recovering fully from the burns, I enjoy playing football with Uncle Benjamin. Soon I'll go to mum.

Sarah

When you see me carrying a real baby on my back you know how helpful I am trying to be as the big girl in the house.

The Potter's Village

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Helping Vulnerable Children

Visit our website with its new look!



In line with environment protection and in an attempt to cut on costs on fuel, we have installed 3 energy-saving stoves in the outside kitchen. These stoves are designed to conserve firewood and provide a pleasant cooking environment. Gone are the days when kitchen staff going home with wet eyes due to smoke. The other advantage is that there are little chances to have a fire accident with such stoves. Kitchen staff received instructions on how to operate the stoves efficiently. We now use the stoves to heat water for bottle sterilisation. The rinsed water is used to bathe the children. Thanks to those who made it possible to install such a facility that has added another value to the Potter's Village.

Please pray...

Give thanks for:

- Heidi who is adjusting quickly to the routine at PVM and for her involvement with the children and staff. Her input on the menu and games for the children have added value to baby caring.

Ask God for:

- Special protection to the children as we enter the dry spell for 2 months. This period many children fall sick and others die due to the weather conditions.

Please keep in your prayers:

- The staff members, Board and Trustees. We are searching for dedicated staff members to fill in the gap produced by increased number of children. Some of the baby carers will be leaving for further studies in a few months' time. Pray for smooth transition as new carers take on their duties.