



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



PV News
September/October 2011

Welcome Edison, Emmanuel, Justus, Iragaba and Zeridah



Edison's father felt lost and helpless after losing his wife. How was he going to look after a new baby?



One morning, Emmanuel found himself abandoned by his mother for unknown reasons.



Justus weighed 4.5kg at birth. His mother succumbed to death after a caesarean operation.

It is always a joy to receive a baby but the stories behind each one of them are distressing and disturbing.

Edison and Justus were born in hospital but their mums did not survive long enough to enjoy the fruit of their nine-months long and tedious journey. Both babies were the first born and their fathers were lost and desperate for help. The good news is that both babies were immediately brought to PV before feeding them on unsuitable feeds like raw egg and concentrated cow milk.

Emmanuel and Zeridah were abandoned by their mothers. Emmanuel's mother had a domestic misunderstanding with her husband and left him early morning with the two and a half months' old baby. As for Zeridah, (8 months old), her mother abandoned her to the elderly and mentally unstable grand parents. Zeridah suffered severe malnutrition and was subjected to other physical abuses so much so that it took her a very long time to settle down. One can imagine the trauma she was subjected to before coming to PV but we believe her circumstances will change for the better under the loving care at PV.

Iragaba's mum is mentally sick and mute. Neighbours snatched the baby from her soon after birth and brought him to us. He is doing very well.



Baby Iragaba may never know who his father is.



Zeridah clung on to her grandmother on arrival, but she has adjusted to the new environment at PV.

TIME TO BREAK CAMP



Andrew is always cheerful and friendly but scared of strangers.



On rare occasions Jackeline gives such a smile, otherwise she carries a serious look.



Colin's health has now stabilized but we keep a close eye to monitor any development.

The joy of seeing a thriving child from PV moving on to a loving home overshadows the challenges we go through looking after these frail and vulnerable babies who come to us. As you may recall, the trio, Andrew, Colin and Jackeline gave baby carers many sleepless nights and a lot of anxiety to all the PV staff. We rejoice that these children surmounted the health challenges they had and can now move to the community in excellent health.

We took Andrew to his home on a Sunday via his local church. He caused a stir during the service. Tears of joy flowed freely as many people could not believe he was still alive. His father, who had resorted to alcohol for comfort consolation for his miseries was the first one to renounce the habit and confessed that he had turned to Christ. Next was his paternal aunt and paternal uncle. On that day, the church received a bigger offering as people brought thanksgiving to God for the wonderful work of giving Andrew good health. The staff who had taken Andrew were accorded a VIP reception. Please join us to praise God for the tremendous work done by baby carers and all those behind the scenes to ensure that every child received at PV enjoys good and loving care.

Colin has not yet joined his family because his father is still unable to provide the necessary care and attention. We have placed him in a foster home near PV so that we continue to keep a very close eye on his development. He found Didi already settled and the two are really having great fun. The foster parent is a loving elderly widow who is committed to the children's welfare.

Jackeline joined her family because she no longer have those episodes of febrile fits. We still keep a close watch over her and we have briefed her family on what to do in case of any re-occurrence of the fits. We pray that she grows out of them completely.

A couple spots a parcel for PV from Kampala



No one knew what was in the box that Hans and Beatrice brought all the way from Kampala. It was a pleasant surprise for Jenny to find lots of useful children's clothing and beddings.

One morning, Beatrice and Hans made a surprise visit with a huge box from Kampala. This couple had been in Kampala on personal business and bumped into a group that was distributing children's gifts. They knew Potter's Village and they became our advocates and were given a parcel to deliver to us. They did not bother to find out who the distributors were so we cannot send a word of appreciation to this group. We are grateful for these gifts and they are useful to the children. Hans and Beatrice are some of the examples in our community who have embraced the ministry of Potter's Village. Bless them.

Maria Discovers Her Surviving Uncle

One Saturday morning, we received two men from DRC searching for Maria. We had spent over a year without receiving news of her grandmother who used to visit at least every three months. We were planning for Maria to be adopted by a family nearby. Vyanne and his brother-in-law, Silver, had a photograph of Maria during her first few days at Potter's Village as a proof that they are genuine relatives. We learned from them that the grandmother had died in May 2011. Their mission was to go to Congo with Maria. As they had no relevant documents from the two governments, their mission was not fulfilled. They, however, went back very happy to know that Maria is well and thriving and in school. We agreed with them that the process of resettling Maria with her family will take a couple of months so that we do not plunge Maria into another trauma. Pray with us that this process will work out smoothly. Pray especially for Peace, her present foster carer, to accept this development gladly because she has been with Maria since we admitted her and she was considering the possibility of adopting her since there was no responsible relative.



Vyanne Mbirinde is the only surviving next of kin to Maria

News From The Children

Babies

The new entrants in this group are Edison, Emmanuel, Iragaba and Justus. Their story is covered on the first page of this newsletter.

Apart from Iragaba and Justus, the rest of the babies have moved on cow milk since they have attained four months and above. Joanne was already on cow milk when she came to us and she was doing fine so we did not interrupt her feeding with formula milk .

On the whole the babies are enjoying good health and are responding well to new environment.

Davis is very cheerful and enjoys playing with toys. He is trying to sit when one holds him in that position.

Moses gets excited when we take them outside on a fair morning. The mornings have been wet and cold so most of the time the babies are kept in doors.

Doreen is the crying baby. Even when she is feeding, she cries. During the night she is awake most of the time so the staff on night shift is kept alert. On most occasions, she will not settle down until she is put on someone's back.

Emmanuel loves his feeds and is always asking for more. The carers have to ensure that he is not overfed because he cannot not show that he is satisfied.

Crawlers

Zeridah came straight to crawlers after the two weeks' observation period. As already pointed out on the front page, Zeridah was abandoned at 8 months and she felt and expressed her trauma through constant crying. She is now settling in with other crawlers. Her grandmother, on a recent visit, was completely surprised to find Zeridah quiet and enjoying life.

Emmy and Edison (aka Squeak and Grunt) are coming out of their frail condition and are growing well. Their father who lives in Kampala makes regular telephone calls to check on them. Emmy is more active than Edison.

Peter continues to grapple with his hearing and speech impediments. He crawls on his bottoms and we sometimes feel helpless to know how best we can meet his needs. We need an expert on children with disabilities to give us some hints on interpreting his communication. For example, he sits and rocks his body for a long time and staring in the sky. Apart from those physical handicaps, he is growing well and looks cheerful.

Naomi's moods are never constant. One day she is very pleasant and outgoing, another day she is sulking and crying. She is attempting to stand and to utter a few words.

Amos likes to suck his thumb and has picked up his appetite. Kyomugisha and Justin are soon joining the toddlers because they are getting firm when they stand up.

Esther has not been well but she is getting better and she wants to be with a carer all the time.

Toddlers

With Andrew, Colin and Jackeline gone into the community, the number of the toddlers has dwindled but for a short time because some of the members of the crawlers are soon joining the toddlers.

Jackson continues to improve on neck and body movements due to the regular exercises. Next week he will have a review and we believe the OURS experts will see the marked change.

For the first time, Benjamin overcame his fear and allowed his dad to hold him in his hands. Every time of the visit, the father would go back disappointed because he had no chance to touch him. He is such a loving boy with a generous smile. Jackeline received a very big welcome. Her only brother was so excited to see her. We learned that the brother was always prompting their father to bring her sister home from where she was.

Derick is very cheeky. He has specialised in making the carers very busy. He loves singing and playing with other children but one has to keep an eye on him for any mischief.

Joan is gradually overcoming her shyness and she is having good health. Now she is firm enough to run around without falling down. Jennifer is a lovely girl who loves singing Baby Jesus. She teams well with Joan.

Favour continues to grow big and tall. However her mum seems to be engrossed in bad company. She is sitting the National exams for primary leaving and she is likely to pass because she is very intelligent but we do not know whether she'll make it for secondary school. Nyiransenga helps with nappies and sweeping. Lucia enjoys the company of crawlers when the two groups combine.



The Infants' Residence—phase 2 will be ready by the middle of November if all materials are available.

The new structure, Infants' Residence – phase 2 is near completion. There has been a slight delay because some materials were not readily available. The contractor is working round the clock to ensure that by mid November, the building will be functional. We look forward to shifting the administration office to the new building to free space for the set up of the neo-natal unit in the Medical Centre.

The Potter's Village

P.O. Box 252 Kisoro, S.W. Uganda, Africa
E-mail addresses pvmkisoro@hotmail.com
pv.kisoro@gmail.com

Project Director: +256-772-203-390
Senior Administrator: +256-772-427-206
Office: +256-775-208-489

Helping Vulnerable Pre-school Children



Praise and Prayer Focus

Give thanks for:

- Providing all our needs in spite of high and erratic national inflation during the financial year which ended on 30 September. We look back with gratitude to God for His faithfulness and trust Him to provide for the new year.
- The children who have been placed into their homes and foster homes. The vision is being fulfilled.

Ask God for:

- Suitable applicants for Domestic Manager, Social Worker and Accounts Assistant to help meet the demands of the ministry. As work expands, there is need to bring on board professionals.

Please keep in your prayers:

- All the children and staff at PV. Pray for the good health of the children and staff, pray for the team to support each other and have wisdom to make right decisions for the welfare of the children under our care.
- The high cost of living continues to pose a daily challenge. National Inflation hit the 30% mark at the end of October. Please pray that a solution to stabilize the economy will be found.