



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

### Baby JN



When we thought that we were going to complete a month without admitting a child in need, Baby JN arrived. She is another victim of fatal accident in a hospital where her mother did not have the chance to see her ninth child.

Baby JN arrived with so much mucous that interfered with her feeding ability. She could hardly finish 20 ml at ago. We had to feed her small amount of milk at a time and pray that the little will stay in. Now that is history after a mere week, she comfortably consumes 100 ml and shows a desire for more.

We have not yet established why her mother could not survive the caesarean operation when she went to hospital in good time. Her husband confided in us that during her pre-natal observation, she was diagnosed with fibroids. In a situation where we are engaged in child-survival, we desist to nose into affairs that are beyond our means. It always remains a puzzle whenever we receive orphaned children through the hospital. We understand the challenges the medical staff members face considering the very low doctor-patient ratio that characterise our context.

The Potter's  
Village newsletter

Issue 6: June, 2009



### Time to Break Camp

As children start to celebrate their second birthday, we are busy preparing for their integration into the communities.

Our desire and prayer is that children go to their homes where possible or to the nearest next of kin. We are encouraged by the response of people who are willing to offer foster homes - both short and long term. By the beginning of July, we are expecting at least three children to rejoin their homes.

To enable the children have a less traumatic experience of leaving PVM and joining their homes, we have arranged for those taking the children to visit regularly and children to reciprocate too. So far this has been done with two of the children and the results are encouraging.

In July we will see at least 5 children break camp and move on to permanent homes, God willing.

## NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN



*Time to bathe is always an interesting period. As baby carers look out for items to use, the toddlers beat them at executing mischief. Marie decided to walk with her basin as Sarah joins her to the gate.*

### Baby A

I am comfortable enough to walk back and forth from wherever we take a walk. How I enjoy these walks.

### Baby A

For a few weeks I would take milk and not cry for more. When I learned that it works, I started crying for more and my cries were rewarded handsomely.

### Baby A

I am now part of Potter's Village. I always look forward to end of the day because my mum comes and carries me on her back for a short time.

### Baby D

I am growing well but it seems I am the only baby and James with only one name. Soon I should have two names too.

### Baby D

Well, I am growing steadily as my appetite is paying some dividends. With the help of some support, I can stand on my two feet. My teeth too are increasing in number. I can imitate other children to say dad and mama.

### Baby E

Not only can I stand and walk, I am able to feed myself too though most of the food ends on the table. I still need some help to put all the food on the spoon into my mouth.

### Baby F

All my incisors have shown up and now I am in position to bite some food. My weight is good and all those who look at me say how lovely I am with my facial marks I received soon after birth.

### Baby G

I enjoy all my meals. If there is any peaceful child at Potter's, then I am the one. I hardly cry or make noise. I love staring at nothing. However, when I make noise then every one has to pay attention.

### Baby G

Like my name, I am graceful. I hear that my dad is very busy and always on the move in the army. I hope one day he will have time to come and visit me.

### Baby H

My health has tremendously improved though my size has remained the same. I continue to be the smallest toddler around but my strength is always shown when we go for walks. When the big ones get tired and cry for help, I remain strong enough to go on.

### Baby I

This month I really felt firm on the ground standing and walking on my twos. I miss the visit from my relatives. I see others coming to see my friends but none comes to see me.

### Baby J

Though I am not able as yet to sit up on my own like those who are even younger than me, I enjoy good health. My smiles and brief laughs attract attention.

### Baby J

I am happy that I found a home here. My beginning was worrying but I am now okay.

### Baby J

A few days ago I had a cough which has now gone and I again enjoy my milk.

### Baby J

My mum visits me more regularly than before. I understand I will soon go and stay with my family.

### Baby J

My aunt Ruth comes very often to feed me. I had the first visit home and I enjoyed finding my dad waiting for me.

### Baby J

How I love teasing the baby carers. I hide from them and they really search for me. Of course I prefer to be in the field with men where I use my hands to do some productive work with Uncle Benjamin.

### Baby M

I was happy when I was allowed to carry James on my little back. I could hardly walk so I was given the lighter baby that does not eat nor drink though she looks like a real baby. I make some sentences but no one understands my language.

### Baby M

It is hard for me to say bye to my carer. I always cry whenever she goes home but after she has gone beyond the gate, I compose myself and life continues without her.

### Baby M

When you come in the morning, you are sure to find me at the entrance waiting for staff to come in. The chain used to lock the gate teases me a bit but I always manoeuvre with the help of other staff members around.

### Baby P

My health is completely restored after the burns. I hope next month I'll enjoy good health.

### Baby S

Hi. As the big girl, I volunteer to care for the little ones. I understand that soon I'll have to leave and join a foster home as I wait to join my mother.

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*To show off that they are older than the babies, the toddlers are not ready to sit still after lunch. Each one wants to climb into the back of the truck (with a help of baby carers) to dance and make real noise that affirms their presence. Once in a while they get a ride to a nearby hill to see the lakes near PVM.*

## Please pray...

### Give thanks for:

- The positive response from the community to provide foster homes for children due to be integrated into the community. We shall achieve over 80% of our target.
- The new staff members who have joined PVM to ease on the burden of the baby carers who were being overstretched.
- The children's health. The dry period (June-August) is not health-friendly but we have had no serious illness. Praise God.

### Ask God for:

- Suitable foster homes for those children who are not able to join their families.

### Please keep in your prayers:

- Staff as they say farewell to toddlers joining the community. It is going to be another new experience that is emotionally challenging.