



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

Birthday Cake



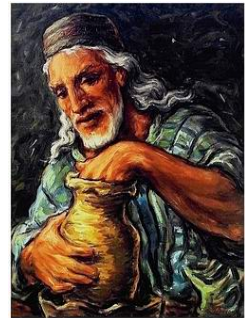
Peace (L) and Agnes (R) help Angel to prepare cut the cake.

When one of the lead baby carers announced that Angel was turning the big O-N-E on Friday (6th Nov.), and that we should make a cake, I was happy to oblige. "Sure, we can make a cake, but only if you help to bake it!" I said, not wanting to let an opportunity to teach pass by. So Friday morning, Peace and Agnes came into my kitchen, and decided to make a Devil's Food Cake. It was a bit of a complicated recipe for beginners, but they took it in stride. At one point, Peace declared "This is a lot of hard work!" But all good things take hard work, and this cake, was a very, very, very deliciously good thing.

At four o'clock we threw Angel a party. All of the staff at Potter's Village came into the day room. We sang happy birthday, then with the help of Peace, Angel cut the cake. Well, actually, Angel grabbed at the cake and started shoving it in her mouth while Peace cut the cake. Everyone laughed. The children all got their piece first, followed by the staff. But for toddlers, one piece of cake is never enough, and they were all out of their chairs asking for more before the staff had all been served. It was a good time, and a very happy first birthday for Angel.

The Potter's Village newsletter

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Here in Kisoro we are
blessed with beautiful
weather year round!
We are now beginning
to enjoy some of the
beautiful flowers that
were recently planted
around PVM!

Are we there yet?

On the seventh of November, Ezra, Heidi, Josephine and Lucia along with a small kitten tucked away under the tarpaulin headed out for what would turn into a very long trip to Kampala. Lucia was due to have her third plastic surgery to correct the damage done by severe burns to her hand. The morning started out wonderful, the sky was blue and the birds were chirping. We reached the next town over, Kabale, in an easy 2 hours and 10 minutes. We would make it to Kampala by five o'clock easily, or so we thought. Shortly before reaching our next stop over, Mbarara, Ezra pulled over. We had a very flat tire. No problem though, Ezra went to work to change the heavy 50 pound tyre and within thirty minutes we were back on the road again. "Only 10 more kilometres until we reach Mbarara," I thought to myself. Just then we got our second blow-out. With the spare tyre already in use there was nothing we could do but wait. Luckily, Ezra knows people in every corner of the world, so his nephew came to our rescue. He took the tyre to the nearest town, repaired it and brought it back. Two hours after breaking down we were back on the road again. After having lunch, we replaced both of the inner tubes of the two tyres, and hit the road again. It was after four o'clock, we were nearly four hours behind schedule! Not long after leaving Mbarara, the impossible happened. A third tyre blew. At this point Ezra speculated, "it must be the cat, this has never happened and I have never travelled with a cat before." We pulled into a nice hotel along the roadside, and Ezra went to work changing the third tyre of the day. By this point, he was pretty tired being that he has to first jack the two ton truck up, then removes a heavy tyre and replaces it with another very heavy tyre. I just taught Lucia how to play tag and we ran around and enjoyed the extra few minutes of stretching our legs. Once we reached the nearest trading centre, we stopped to replace the inner tube, better to be safe than be sorry if we got another break down! We didn't manage to make it to Kampala that day. Instead we stopped over in Lukaya, had dinner with some Peace Corps volunteers, and then headed out early the following morning. Kampala never looked so good.

Epilogue: Ezra's return journey was without a single dilemma. We concluded that yes, it must have been the cat.



Agnes Uwimana

The Potter's Village has gone quite some time without any new admissions; however on the sixteenth of November God blessed us with a new baby. The previous day, her mother bled to death before she was able to reach the hospital, after giving birth to her beautiful daughter. If it weren't for the heroic act of a neighbour to the family, the young child would have died along side her mother because her family does not have the means to feed a newborn. Jenny travelled with the neighbour back out into the village to rescue the baby. She arrived at PVM without even having been named. Thus, in honour of the neighbour who saved her life, we have decided to call her Annette. However, when the father came to see her he named her Agnes. As usual Jenny whisked the baby up to her house to look after her intensely for the first few days which are so critical for a newborn. After a lovely week at Jenny's home, Agnes joined the rest of the children here at Potter's Village. She is as sweet as a button, she spends her day wrapped in a blanket sleeping or looking out at her new world and she never cries! We are happy to have this new bundle of joy with us.

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN



Infants

Didi and Jackie have taken well to eating solid food. Didi especially needs to have lots of nutritious foods to catch up on her growth. Jackie on the other hand seems to have grown a foot with the introduction of solid foods. James, Grace and Abel can now sit up for hours by themselves and can rollover. Daniel, who cannot yet sit up is supporting himself on all fours as if he will begin crawling any day now. It will be a race to see which of the four crawls first. Jordan is doing much better than last month when he had a bout with asthmatic condition. The experience at the hospital compelled us to purchase a nebuliser to manage such attacks effectively. We nearly lost him due to unnecessary delays when the key to the resuscitation room could not be found. He happily coos to himself and holds his own bottle during feeding.



Crawlers

Oh how our crawlers are on the move. Some of the babies who recently discovered the gift of mobility are Angel, Faith, Catherine, and Sheila. Watching over them is becoming quite a task as they are ever on the move and looking for something to put in their mouths.

Diana who hasn't quite begun crawling still enjoys reaching for toys. Watching these babies play can be very entertaining as they all want to go for the same toy.



Toddlers

Hope, Pius and Michael have been visiting with their families (Michael) or foster families, and have really been enjoying themselves. In December they are due to leave Potter's Village and join the communities. We will be sad to see them go, but happy that they are in loving homes.

In other news, the toddlers are busy eating all sorts of strange things. Dirt on a stick is quite a favourite around here. Junior managed to eat a red ribbon and vomited it back up, scaring the staff who believed he was vomiting up blood! Happily, however, all of the kids got to taste a new treat fresh from our very own garden - radishes. Surprisingly, most of the toddlers really liked this new food, and even went as far as to call it a "sweetie!"

The Potter's Village

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Helping Vulnerable Children

Visit our website with its new look!



Alan loves spending his afternoons doing "baby art." His favourite drawings are abstract line drawings!

Please pray...

Give thanks for:

- The grasshoppers which have reached Kisoro. They make quite a delicious snack!
- The fact that we didn't have any diarrhea this month and that all the babies are healthy

Ask God for:

- A suitable home for those toddlers who are due to join the community but do not as yet have a home to go to
- A social worker to help with the challenges of finding foster homes

Please keep in your prayers:

- The family of new baby Agnes as they mourn the loss of her mother
 - Angel as she will be going home for the school holiday to be with her mother
- Fortunate