

From: Rebecca Baldock

10 April 2008

Dear All

I hope you all had a good Easter. It was a white one so I heard. I've don't remembered having one of those before, although my mum assures me I experienced it as a child – she remembers it clearly as we were camping at the time.

Well we are enjoying "good weather" here. It always makes me laugh when we thank God for the good weather – as it means it is raining, and it is good, rain brings power, clean water, and a good harvest.

My househelp, Enid, is back after her maternity leave. I missed having her around, despite having someone else to help, she's become a very good friend. I'm enjoying having baby Annatasia around too, she's really cute, still sleeps a lot, but smiles lots too. Its very soothing being able to have a cuddle at lunch time especially if I've had a tough morning.

African babies are born white, and their skin goes brown when exposed to the sun. See the photos. In the Bakonzo tribe (the local tribe to where I am living) babies are named depending on their position in the family – see below:

<b>Masika</b>	First born girl	<b>Baluku / Mumbere</b>	First born boy
<b>Biira</b>	Second born girl	<b>Bwambale</b>	Second born boy
<b>Kabugho</b>	Third born girl	<b>Masereka</b>	Third born boy
<b>Mbambu</b>	Fourth born girl	<b>Kule</b>	Fourth born boy
<b>Itungu</b>	Fifth born girl	<b>Thembo</b>	Fifth born boy
<b>Kyakimwa</b>	Sixth born girl	<b>Mbusa</b>	Sixth born girl

**Muhindo** The first male following a female or the first female following a male.

It always amazes me that you can ask for Baluku and usually get the right patient.

Thought I'd share with you some things that made me smile this month.

- The craft stall is continuing to go well and the people who are making the items are good at checking on the sales and ensuring that they are replacing what is being sold.
- Whilst Ceri was here she worked with the two girls, Scovia and Jetress, in making necklaces. There were some people from SADICH there who were helping to translate. (SADICH – is the local organisation aimed at helping children with disabilities). When I visited them the other week SADICH had a production line going of making these beads and they were teaching other people in the organisation how to make them which is encouraging. On Sunday I'm going to teach them how to make the beads into cards. I had originally planned to use some disabled ladies from another local organisation, but they've been unreliable. So I'm going to teach SADICH in generally, as it will help them to generate income to carry out their different activities and benefit more children and families of people with disabilities.

- We've just had the visiting orthopaedic and Plastic surgeon coming within two weeks of each other. We didn't do a mobilising outreach this time. However the Drs were much better at booking patients, and generally remembered to put radio announcements out. They've become much better organised and I can go knowing that these should continue well. When we first arrived they were getting about 10 patients. With the mobilisation we got about 100. Now with booking and radio announcements about 40 patients are coming, which is fine, but it also gives us statistics to try and get funding for community mobilisation and outreach. I'm still waiting for Richard to finish the proposal though.

Someone to pray for:

Biira is 18 years old. She's had osteomyelitis for many years. Osteomyelitis is an infection of the bone. If caught early it can be treated well with antibiotics. Unfortunately people often come to hospital late, or if they come in time it's misdiagnosed (it takes sometime before you get and changes on x-ray, so can be hard to diagnose), and it's also just a difficult condition to treat. She had it in her calf, which has recovered and now has it in her left hip. I saw her on one of my community visits. (I'm in touch with the co-ordinator for special needs education, and I sometimes go out to assess these children). I had no x-ray, but from her history I suspected it to be chronic osteomyelitis. I explained that because it was chronic she really needed to see a bone specialist and we were having one coming this month – so I booked her into see it. Her father didn't want to go, which obviously really hurt his daughter. He was discouraged and worried about money, which was understandable as she'd had this problem for a long time, and they've spent lots of time and money on treating it. The education co-ordinator counselled him and finally he managed to get the money to pay for transport to get here. Her hip bone is destroyed, so they wanted to operate her. The father was again discouraged as he had no money to stay in hospital. However as the visiting surgeons are with CBM – they pay for the operations and there's some extra for the people who can't afford – so they're covering her whole treatment costs. The good news is that she should finally be cured of the osteomyelitis. The bad news is that they've had to do a girdle stone operation – this is where they remove the hip joint. It means she'll always have an altered walking pattern, always need crutches and have a shortened leg. She's happy though, as her father brought her and when the wound is healed, it should be healed for good. Please pray for her recovery, and other people in the community like her. I meet many people in the community who have similar problems, there are problems with receiving appropriate hospital treatment, having finances to access it, and for the family to realise that the children need help, or that it is available.

Love Rebecca

Please Pray for:

- Continue to pray for the work going on to help the disabled in the community
- For wisdom for the Hospital Administrators as they run the hospital
- For a replacement physio
- Pray for Biira and others children with disabilities in the community
- For Richard to finish the community outreach proposal