

# "The Good Samaritan Sponsorship Project"



NEW LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Sam Kasule

P.O. Box 383

Fort Portal, Uganda

East Africa

## FEBRUARY 2003 NEWSLETTER

Romans 8:26 "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Margaret, Margaret oh how my heart ached as Pastor Sam unraveled her story. In Margaret's eagerness in March 2001 she had accepted the Lord, or so we thought. But in the years ahead, Margaret was going to do things in her own way. Margaret went to the tea plantation to work (salary \$9.00 per month), but eventually took up with a young man. Needless to say Margaret returned home and was waiting for her child to be born. He had discarded her like an old rag. He had taken up with another woman, whom he severely beaten up and now the police were tracking him down.

In my weakness I prayed with groans and in my heart I knew that Jesus forgives all if we confess and repent and place our trust and faith in him. I (Barbara) told Pastor Sam we need to explain the gospel again with a love in our hearts.

In Margaret's weakness, she lifted herself to her knee and prayed the most beautiful prayer of forgiveness with tears streaking down her cheeks. When Margaret was done I went over to her and knelt beside her and wrapped my arms around her. She gently placed my one hand on her stomach. I could not feel the child, but I could feel how hot she was and knew she was sick. My prayer was lifted to our Lord. We had taken a 50-pound bag of rice, paraffin and soap, but later we returned with fruit juice, milk and other supplies?



Margaret & Barb Johnson

Several days later we took Margaret to the government hospital to await the arrival of her child. It was not until we returned home did we receive an e-mail from Pastor Sam telling us of the arrival of a little baby boy – all doing fine. Then three weeks later we again received news from Pastor Sam, Margaret had passed away. Thank you sweet Jesus for helping all of us in our weakness. They named the baby Stephen, we purchased formula and Jennifer Chedester made sure they mixed the formula with filtered water and that they gave little baby Stephen vitamins. Testing found little Stephen to be HIV positive, the Aids virus which did not surprise us. However it is possible in time he could become HIV negative as it happens in infants or he may never experience the full negative effects of Aids.

The offer of help financially was extended as our hearts ached to go and get Stephen to bring him home with us. But we know we needed to trust God for all things.

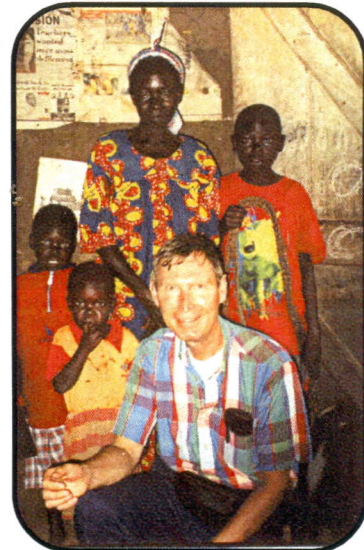
Grandmother Florence has many grandchildren to take care of since many of her own children have passed away, Margaret being only one. Aisha, one of her grandchildren who is 10 years old and a Good Samaritan child had been given the responsibility of caring for little Stephen but had run away numerous times. Last week Bob & Jennifer Chedester took baby Stephen to the Jinja babies' home. The woman who runs it is an American who goes by Mama Jackie and she really looks after the children from ages birth-4. If she can place them in homes, she does. If he stays HIV positive though, he'll stay with her until he is 4 years old and then be put in Kampala at the Pentecostal's Village for orphans from age 5-18. It is a nice set up until they are 18 at least. Then they are on their own, but they do go to school and have Christian influence.

Please pray with us for little baby Stephen's future.

In Him Who Sustains Us All, Dick & Barbara



Margaret, Aisha & Little Richard's brother



Grandmother Florence, Akim & younger grandchildren