

November  
2007

# Freitas Flyer

We have "launched" into the second year of our ministry here in Tanzania! We can hardly believe that more than a year has passed already, and yet sometimes it seems we have been here forever!

Our time in the U.S. was wonderful! We spent June 13 - August 12 visiting our supporting churches, family, and friends. We had great times of reunion with most of our family members and a great number of our friends! We were so thankful to be able to see many of you and rekindle our friendships.



*All of Holly's family at Kellen's wedding*



*Friends we visited while on furlough*



*Grandma Linda and Grandma Newman*

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## **CHE among the Maasai**

We continue to help Maasai Pastoralists for Evangelism and Development (MAPED) to use the Community Health Evangelism (CHE) strategy in their work. We will be helping them to hold a school health screening in mid-November in the first of their target communities. Holly's cousin, Eric, and his wife, Leah, will be traveling from California to join us for the health screening and training for their organization.



Just last week they chose their trainers! Please pray for Alaanyuni, Jacobo, and William as MAPED has chosen them to be their volunteer trainers, a nearly full-time position! They also chose their first community project – a Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) Latrine. This is the first latrine in the village *ever*. This might seem like a small step when you live in the U.S., however this is stepping way outside the cultural box for them. They could have chosen anything! This helps us to know what these Maasai feel is important to having a healthier community. They are very excited about this project and many came to help.

**In Memory of: Samuel James Mollel**  
**April 20, 1993 - October 6, 2007**

Many of you know at least a little bit about Samuel. Samuel was a bright, funny, and loving, 14 year-old. He lived in our neighborhood at the home of one of our neighbors. We were told that he was "a child of the boma" – essentially a child that was cared for collectively by the family group, but belonging to no one. Samuel knew only that his mother had dropped him off in the neighborhood near his father and grandmother's homes when he was very young. Samuel's father was never married to Samuel's mom and the new wife had no room in her heart or home for Samuel. Generally, a father here takes on the name of the first born child, but in this case instead of being Baba Samuel, he is Baba Judy (the name of his first born from the new wife).

Throughout the first half of our year here, we began to notice that Samuel was often sick with fevers, fungal infections, and coughs that never seemed to go away. Some days he would sit outside in a down coat shivering, wanting to play with the other kids but feeling too sick to play. Some people said that he pretended to be sick so he wouldn't have to go to school. His nick-name was "comma ngongwa," which means like a patient, because he was sick so often. Over the years different people had taken him to the clinic when he was sick. But the expense made it difficult and he was always sick again, so eventually it seems they stopped taking him. We encouraged them to take him again, because he was sick so often and appeared to be losing weight.

In early May Samuel seemed to have disappeared. When Amber went looking for him she found he was staying at his grandmother's house, sick again, but this time with mouth sores that made it difficult to eat. Again we asked that his family take him to the clinic, but no one did. Samuel asked to go to see the doctor, and we said we would take him to the clinic if his family agreed. We arranged a day to take him and asked family members to go with us. Samuel showed up, but no one else, so we arranged another day to go and



again encouraged his family members to go with us. Again no one except Samuel showed up. Samuel wanted to go to the clinic so we took him. That day our fears were confirmed, Samuel had AIDS.

Samuel was desperate to live, but he was just as committed to keeping his disease a secret. This was very difficult because we felt that his caregivers and family needed to know. He started immediately on medications to build up his immune system (ARV's) and to treat his pneumonia and fungal infections. Samuel became a regular visitor at our home, often spending whole afternoons and evenings playing with Devin and Tony. He and Tony formed a special bond and I loved to come

home to him sitting on the back of the chair, legs hanging over Tony's shoulders with his head on Tony's head watching a movie or football game. He said he felt safe and loved, knowing that we did not blame him because he had AIDS or think that he was bad.

Just a few weeks later, we would travel to the U.S. and be gone from Africa for two months. We agonized over going home and leaving Samuel without someone to love on him. But the Lord knew just what he needed and provided a loving couple to live in our home for the first month of our absence. Another gal, new to Tanzania, also filled in for a couple of weeks and took a special liking to Samuel. Our house lady, Grace, took Samuel to the clinic for medication refills and checkups. Two weeks before our return home, Samuel became very sick and was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with a very severe form of tuberculosis. During his hospitalization, his grandmother and an aunt came to know of his HIV status. Truly this was an answer to prayer because we wanted them to know, but did not want to betray Samuel's trust by telling them against his wishes.

After his hospitalization, Samuel was in need of more care than his grandmother could manage and he couldn't go back to the home where he had previously stayed. Amber arrived home just as he was discharged from the hospital and we were due back in a few days. It was decided that Samuel would stay with us until he was stronger and could live in his community once again.

Samuel was a very sick boy, needing almost constant care 24 hours a day. He was often miserable, hurting everywhere, burning with fever, vomiting, and often too weak to walk himself to the bathroom. We cared for him in shifts so we could take turns staying up at night and sleeping. The nights, although tough, were also the precious times when he shared some of his fears about dying, hopes of heaven, and dreams of becoming a pilot. He loved having his Bible read to him and always knew where we left off. He confirmed that he had given his heart to Jesus and trusted Him with his life.

Although he missed many months of school, Samuel was steadfast in his commitment to take the required national examinations so he could move on to secondary school. He knew exactly when the exams were to be held and forced himself to study. The days before the tests he was very sick with high fevers. We tried to prepare him for the possibility that he might be too sick to take the tests, but he would hear none of it. Miraculously on the two days of the exam he woke without a fever, got himself ready, and we took him to school for the exam. He was exhausted, but elated at his accomplishment and so were we! Two days later he was back in the hospital, his third admission. We often drove back and forth taking his family members to see him and spending the night. His grandmother often stayed with him.

Samuel was again discharged from the hospital. He had two more days of relative health and joy – of dancing and playing. For two days he was nearly himself again. Then Friday, October 5, Samuel was sick again, very sick. He was admitted to the hospital, every body system failing. His grandma stayed by his side through the night and into the morning. Samuel died around noon on October 6.

His funeral was attended by nearly 400 people and lasted all day. It was a time of grieving the loss of a child, a child of everyone, a child of no-one, a child of the King.

It is difficult to express our feelings on that day. We had been hopeful, and yet knew the truth – Samuel had advanced AIDS and was too sick to recover. We were grateful that he wasn't sick any longer and would not spend any more days enduring pain or treatments. We were angry at people who rejected Samuel and could not see him for the amazing and wonderful child he was, and yet we could sense their remorse and felt sorry they could not turn back the time. We felt frustrated that everyone was here *now* and yet were absent when Samuel needed them. We felt sorrow knowing that Samuel felt unloved and unwanted by his family and community. We felt shock when his mother arrived at the funeral and distress that he never knew a mother's love. We felt disappointment over the things he would never experience on this earth. But over all we were thankful; thankful because we know about grace. Grace offered by a God who sees all of these things we do to hurt others and yet he offers His grace. Grace that, when we accept, it covers all of these things and offers healing for our pain. We were thankful for a God who knows it all and loves us anyway. We will miss Samuel! We will never forget him and his memory will be a constant reminder that he was only one child.

This story happens every day here. Many children die alone and unloved. Fortunately we were here and were able to become a family to him and show him God's love. Please pray for us as we still grieve this loss. Samuel's life has opened many doors for us to help the community gain a clearer understanding of AIDS and that people affected by AIDS need love. This was truly a tragedy that did not need to happen.



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### HIV Happenings

The HIV program has continued to grow throughout the world! Holly receives reports on thriving programs and requests for further training. She was in Ethiopia for HIV training during the last week of September and expects to travel to India in April.

We were blessed to receive an unsolicited grant for our AIDS work in Africa! One major project will be able to develop and produce an HIV prevention education film for the Maasai tribe. This video will be a tremendous help to LifeWind and other organizations working to help save the Maasai from being wiped out by AIDS.



## Tony's Technology Corner

As the work with the Maasai continues to grow, so does the work in the Sudan. Tony has been very involved in working with churches in the U.S. to bring the CHE strategy to Sudan. These programs are being very well received and are growing very quickly. Upon our return from the U.S. he was home for one day and then off to Pageri, Sudan, to help a short-term team from Calvary Evangelical Free Church conduct a health screening and vision seminar to see if CHE would be accepted by the community. The community was very excited to start and Tony will be going back at the end of November with the team to officially begin a new program. He will also return to Nagishot,



Sudan, in November to encourage their new trainers. He will fly back again in February to help the Austin Evangelical Free Church continue training the Didinga people, deep in the Didinga Mountains, for the second level of CHE Training of Trainers (TOT II). This will be a key training for the Didinga trainers as they will begin to train committees and the community in all aspects of CHE. This is the point at which development really begins and the community recognizes their own people as official trainers. The Sudan is in a state of rebuilding after many years of war, and the people are realizing that community development needs to happen soon before they fall further into the depths of poverty.

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## Please Pray For Us

As we continue to grow in our ministry so do our costs. We personally have a difficult time asking for help when it comes to finances. It is about as uncomfortable for us as preaching a sermon on giving or tithing, but the reality is we are here because of our faithful supporters. Without them we would not be able to stay. We appreciate every one of you who are reading this letter and pray for you often. You are all a vital part of our ministry and people are learning about Christ, communities are becoming healthier, and lives are being transformed because of your gifts and prayers.

Our support has been declining these past months. We have lost some supporters, our ministry costs are continually rising, and our reserves are just about gone! We need your help! If you know anyone who might be interested in supporting what we are doing here, or if you know of a church that might want to be a part of our ministry please pass on our newsletter. They can contact us for information at [Tony@Lifewind.org](mailto:Tony@Lifewind.org) or contact the LifeWind office (209-524-0600) or see our website at [www.lifewind.org](http://www.lifewind.org). LifeWind would be happy to send any information that would help give them a clear picture of our ministry.

May God Bless You All,

*Tony, Holly, Lauren, and Devin*

