

# HOPE RENEWING HOUSE

is a residential care facility dedicated to renewing  
the hope of a worthwhile life for disabled children.

July 2010



*The promise  
of the bloom*



*is in the bud.*

Dear Teammates (pray-ers and financial supporters),

Keith, a friend of a friend, took pictures of the children, but I am not able to include them as Equip's policy prohibits the printing of photos in greyscale, which is all my budget and conscience will allow. Paula said she will put them on the website once I get them to her. Take a look if you can.

#21 Eli [AY-lee] (11 - autism) Eraabo [eh-RAH-bow] is brushing the inside of Eli's mouth (and his tongue) to improve his sense of touch to enable better speech. He can now bounce a ball, alternating hands. He loves to be helpful - I found him one day feeding one of our younger ones. He just kept spooning it in without waiting for the child to finish the previous bite.

Eraabo was one of our 'children' (#10) back in 2001. Sadly, we couldn't help him but he is a faithful worker for us now and our best one for working with the children. He understands them like most of us can't.

#60 Won [wahn] (11 - AIDS + lymph node TB) recently began taking ARV's (anti-retroviral medicines). After two weeks life was no longer worth living for him. He was nauseous constantly, vomited what little he ate, had a very sore throat, ear infection, and fever of 104. He was becoming worse day-by-day, so I stopped the medicines. If God chooses to heal him here on earth, he can do it without the ARV's. (They aren't a cure, anyway.) After a week, Won was his (apparently) healthy self again. Won has been with us for 4.5 yrs. and is now home for a visit.

#83 Bux [boot] (4 - CP) is 'loose' all over but is becoming stronger. He no longer drools.

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#92 Aqli [ah-KLEE] (18 - leg ulcers caused by varicose veins) seemed almost ready to go home for several months. The last of his ulcers healed very, very slowly. The doctor said this is common with ulcers. Then he began developing more varicosities and yet another ulcer. The doctor recommended putting ACE wrap on the leg to keep the varicosities from becoming larger. The new ulcer is healing. Hopefully, he can avoid further surgery.

#95 Med [med] (4 - burn) is almost totally healed. Only a few small scabs remain. She is wearing the hat so she can't scratch off the remaining scabs. She has gone home.

#72 Tam [tahm] (5 - bi-lateral club foot) After a year at home not walking, her feet had improved quite a bit. Then we put her in shoes (on the 'wrong' feet), and they improved yet more. She now walks and runs on the soles of her feet and does not stumble. She, too, has gone home.

#73 Dag [dahg] (4 - CP) His right side is seriously affected. Until recently he has not been able to stand. Chris designed and Kevin made a standing frame for him which he used but no longer needs. His legs have strengthened enough for him to stand alone. Notice his right hand - he did not use it at all. Now he can, with difficulty and a little help, use it to put shapes into a box.

#81 Ain [eye-n] (12 - polio) didn't have her surgery after all because the orthopedic surgeon was in the US, (he's gone almost more than he's here) and his temporary fill-in didn't feel qualified. He even expressed serious doubts that surgery would allow her to walk even with crutches, anyway.

#85 Zer [zair] (11 - CP + epilepsy) tends to curl into a ball so Ain is stretching and shaking his arms to break up the tightness caused by his CP. This enables Zer to lift his head. He is still very seriously limited in what he can do, yet it is a great improvement over what he could do when he came to us - nothing but eat if fed. He can now move, by himself, from lying down to sitting up, feed himself, handle small objects and move himself across the floor in a sitting position.

#96 Bet [bait] (3 - CP) is unable to do anything on her own. In addition, she appears to be blind, though I believe she has light perception as she always looks toward the light.

#97 Iyer [ee-yair] (2 - CP) is Bet's sister. She can sit up but is too floppy. Both were malnourished upon arrival but no longer are.

Buzuunesh [booh-ZOO-nesh] is our principal House Supervisor. Though she is not a children's worker, she is grandmother to all of them.

#98 Tin [teen] (3 - CP + epilepsy) is still tiny. She's healthy but gains very slowly. She's a hilariously happy child even though she can do nothing for herself. She is learning to hold her head up. Her mother did a good job of caring for her, but we have her because she no longer has a mother and her father couldn't care for her and work.

#100 Els [else] (7 - broken elbow) had surgery but still cannot move her elbow joint more than a little bit. We are trying to improve her range of motion according to the doctor's optimistic instructions, though I have my doubts it will work.

#84 Worq [wore-k] (13 - results of spina bifida) gets around very well on her crutches. She likes doing puzzles and Sudoku and helps out by washing or drying the dishes and by cutting up the potatoes and carrots for cooking.

#101 Erm [airm] (3 - malnutrition) really surprised me with the speed of his recovery. It was so quick I knew he didn't have TB. He was with us only 7 weeks and went home. I hope I impressed upon his parents their responsibility to see that he (the younger child) gets his share of the food. It isn't part of Wolaittan culture to supervise their meals and the older/stronger usually take the lion's share.

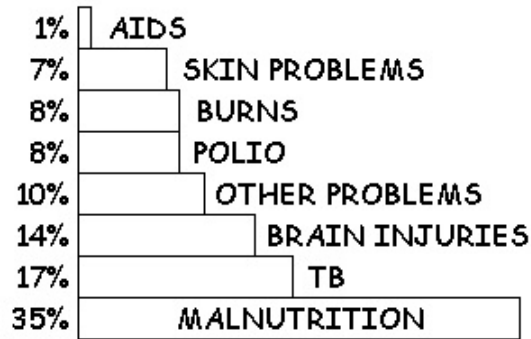
#102 Mes [mess] (13 - skin problem) is our newest arrival. Her right lower leg was itchy due to a poor diet. She scratched and broke open the skin and it became infected. It continued to worsen for 6 mos. before her parents brought her to us. We are doing nothing more than washing it three times a day with soap and water, and of course, feeding her a more nourishing diet. It is clearing up nicely. I hope this impresses her family with the value of sanitation and nutrition.

Imeebet [ee-MEH-bet], our Supervisor who left to attend nursing school, returns once or twice a month "to visit my children," she says. I do believe she'll return to work with us again.

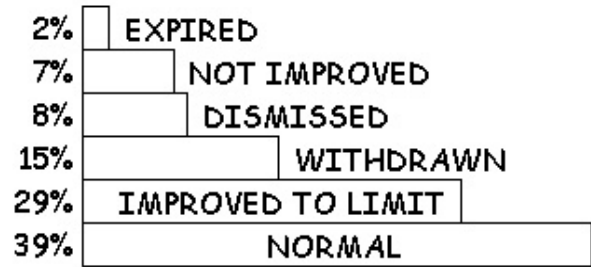
I've heard that it's a sign that a person knows a foreign language well when he can make people laugh (with him, not at his mistakes). Well, I've related a number of amusing incidents and my hearers have laughed, so don't believe that bit of 'wisdom' because it just isn't true. Pre-school children know the language far better than I do.

I'll be arriving in the US in mid-July. I'll be in NH first to see family. One of Alex's sisters appears to be in the end stages of her cancer. I want to see her before it's too late. Then I want to see as many of you as possible. PLEASE BE SURE I HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFO. This is the third time I've asked and I have received less than a dozen responses so far. I'm still lacking a lot of tel. numbers and E-mail addresses and street addresses for those with post office boxes.

## PROBLEMS



## OUR RECORD



Laurie for all the children,

Eli, Dag, Ain, Bux, Worq, Zer, Aqli, Bet, Iyer, Tin, Els and Mes

Children are meant to grow up, not to remain children forever.

People are meant for Eternity, not to remain Earthbound forever.

O, how we should rejoice at the departure of our loved ones  
when God calls them to Himself!

July 2010

P R A I S E for:

Won's quick recovery from side effects of ARV's

Tam, Med, Erm and Won able to go home

Dag's amazing progress

Pix of the children

P R A Y for: (Write in the prayer assignment(s) God gives you.)

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