

The view from

This Little Row in the Lord's Vineyard

The Dohn Family ~ SAMS Missionaries in Health Ministries



Michael & Anita



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Suffer the little children ...

The two little girls are aged 5 and 7 years. They first came to the HIV unit with their aunt and grandmother. Their father and mother had died of AIDS. Both girls had HIV infection. During that first visit, the aunt seemed educated, articulate, and comprehending about the plans for tests and treatment. The grandmother didn't seem to understand much. Our plan was for rapid follow-up and treatment. The family's plan was for the girls to live with their grandmother in a rural area.

The girls returned today with their grandmother, more than four months after that first visit. Both girls have anemia and damaged immune systems. We started them on anti-HIV and other therapy. Children's doses are determined by the child's size. Accordingly, each girl has a different amount of medicine to take.

We wrote down all the instructions, however Grandma does not read. The nurse and I reviewed all the medicines and plans orally multiple times with Grandma. I just don't think she ever got it, though.

It is a bit of a conundrum. The girls need to get started on therapy, but if the therapy is incorrectly given, it could do more harm than good. Other complications include their rural location and the Grandmother's inability to pay for transportation to come for optimal follow-up. Their nutritional status is a bit insecure, as well.

The Clinic has previously had funding for programs to address some of these issues:

- **Treatment literacy** programs to explain HIV/AIDS and how to get the most from therapy.
- **Home visits** to check on little girls who don't show-up for their appointments.
- Assistance with **social determinants** of health, such as the cost of transportation and food.

However, there is no funding at the moment.

Sometimes the things stacked against children seem too great for them to bear: HIV, poverty, lack of education, isolation from care and support. At least they have each other and a loving grandmother. And us ...

Keep praying, Anita

PS – The Clinic recently did [a summary of what programs would help people living with HIV/AIDS](#) here. A [copy is posted on our website](#) under **“Other mission materials”** on the Media page.

PS II – As a mother with four girls of my own, I especially related to these two little ones. They spent the entire visit holding hands – a sisterly haven of support and alliance, the two of them uniting their strength to face the future.

**SAMS MISSIONARIES
MUST RAISE THEIR
OWN SUPPORT.**

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