



Michael & Anita

The view from *This Little Row in the Lord's Vineyard*

The Dohn Family ~ SAMS Missionaries in Health Ministries

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A counterpoint to last month's mission email

Baby Shower

Last evening I went to a baby shower. Five years ago, one of our HIV patients (a teen boy at that time) met a girl at a camp for HIV positive adolescents. They became friends ... one thing followed another ... they became a couple and now they are about to become parents. She is due to deliver by C-section within the next two weeks. They will be living with the young man's mother (also an HIV positive patient of the Clinic).

The baby shower was held in the HIV unit at the Clinic (surprising how festive a medical office can look with enough balloons!). There was food, cake, soft drinks, and music. It was a large group. Ten clinic staff (including an accountant and laboratory technician), about 25 patients from the AIDS support group, and additional friends and neighbors all brought useful gifts for the new baby.

What a contrast to the situation of the two little girls we wrote about last month.

This baby will grow up in an extended family with supportive friends and dozens of "aunts" and "uncles." Chances are excellent that the baby will be free of HIV so that it is unlikely to be an overwhelming factor in her life. While members of her family may be living with HIV/AIDS, they are on treatment, doing well, and benefiting from both professional and personal support systems.

In 1848, Rudolf Virchow came to the conclusion that the most important determinants of who became infected and died during a deadly typhus epidemic in the Upper Silesia region of Germany were social factors, not medical or biological ones. Things have not changed much in the past 165 years.

Some days we look at the dismal circumstances, do what we can do, and redouble our prayers. Other days we go to baby showers.

Keep praying, Anita

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

DONATE NOW

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