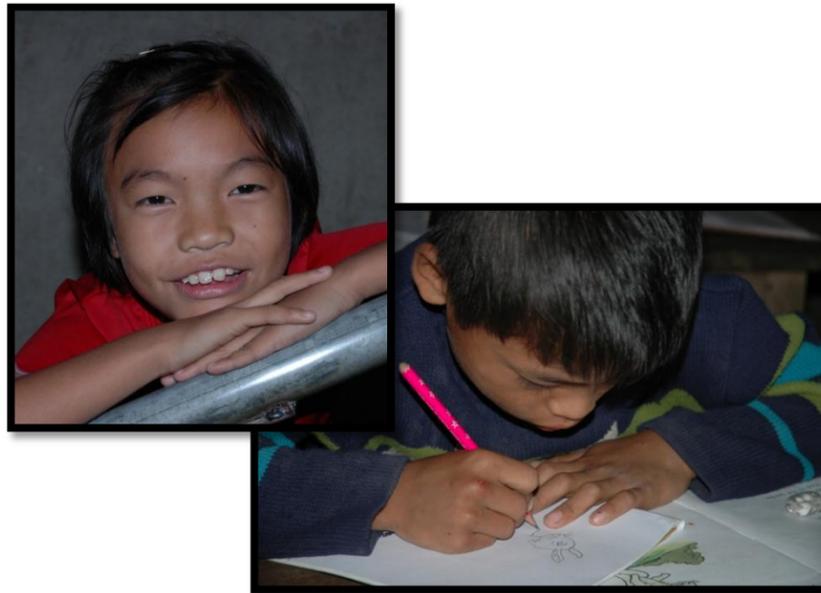


Let's Spread the News About Sponsorship!

We have taken in so many children so quickly that we have outstripped our recruitment of sponsors. *We urgently need more sponsors.* If you already sponsor a child, you know how rewarding it is to not only provide food, clothing and schooling for \$35 a month, but to also learn more and more about that child through occasional correspondence. Please help us find more sponsors by telling about your own sponsorship and inviting your friends to participate. You can find a sponsorship form on our website or call Sponsorship Coordinator Beth Weber with questions: 412-856-6195



Let's Get Green

Help us reduce costs of printing and postage by electing to receive our newsletter by email. Being on our email list also allows you to receive more frequent updates about breaking news at Angels' Place. Please email us at info@jamesconnection.org, put "ADD ME" in the subject line and specify in your message your name so we can add you to our growing email list. Thanks so much for recognizing that every few cents we save means more money for the kids!

On the Web

www.jamesconnection.org
Join our group
<http://www.facebook.com/JamesConnection>



473 Woodland Hills Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235



look after orphans ... in their distress ... James 1:27

473 Woodland Hills Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Email: info@jamesconnection.org
Online: www.jamesconnection.org

An update from the Executive Director
May 2013

All Except One

My wife, Leslie, Jim Ice and I made our annual trip to Angels' Place at the end of March beginning of April. Angels' Place first admitted 60 children in February 2005. We can not only see how much the facility has grown to accommodate the 156 kids, but we can see how much each of our children have grown in the past eight years.

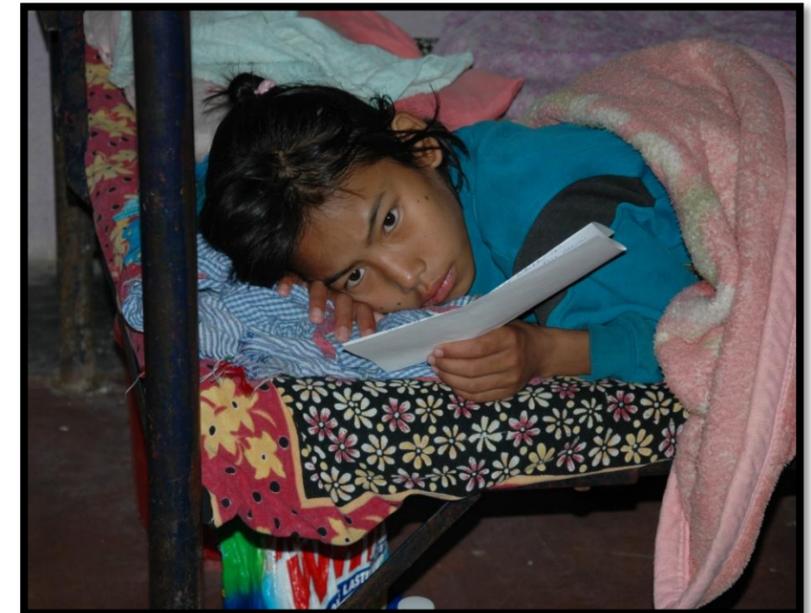
That's right we now have 156 children at Angels' Place. They all lined up on the entrance drive to greet us on our March 28 arrival...all except one. They all looked great as they smiled and waved...all except one. We jumped out and hugged and shook hands with them...all except one.

In the past two months we have taken in 20 new, destitute kids. They all had sad, even terrible stories and all needed TLC and good food. We had them scanned for infectious diseases like HIV and TB, all negative. They responded to the new diet and care of our staff...all except one. Their complexions brightened. Their vitality steadily improved...all except one. This one little newcomer, a girl, Chinlianching, age 10, was so emaciated that her arms and legs looked like McDonalds milk shake straws. Her mouth, lips and tongue had swelled. She could hardly get food down. She could hardly stand and walk due to dizziness. She walked as if on a small boat in a storm. She lay in bed most of the day unable even to walk the 40 feet to the dining hall. Her new little friends brought her food which she tried to eat at her bed.

We called the physician who treats our kids. He quickly diagnosed her with malnutrition. Four days of vitamins and a balanced diet produced a frail little girl who could get out of her bed and walk steadily and even smile. By the time we left she could walk uphill to the main building. Within one week of the new diet she actually went to school. She is still painfully thin, but she is progressing and will continue to progress as long as she stays at Angels' Place. Like many of the children that preceded her at Angels' Place, she has already lost two years of school because her guardian could not afford the small expense of books, pencils and paper.



Unfortunately, this one's story is not unique. Too many of these children have come to us with their young lives already at risk. Every time I go to Angels' Place I marvel at what loving care has done for these kids. We have seen these kids grow in body and spirit for eight years. The teenagers play, laugh and joke with us in English just like you expect teenagers to do. We couldn't be prouder of what fine young men and women they have become. You should have seen them when they first came to us. Many of them came in the same condition as Chinlianching who will soon no longer be the "except one."



When I got home I pulled out the pictures of the kids from 2004 when they first asked for admission to our planned orphanage and 2005 when the first group arrived. I was amazed how many of them looked as emaciated as Chinlianching when they came to us. Take a look at just a few of them now. You can see why we know Angels' Place is blessed.

2005



2013



Wish You Were Here by Jim Ice

I just returned from Angels' Place and I can truly say to every sponsor of one of these precious children – "I wish you were here"...to experience the beauty and pleasures of living, even for a few days, among these children.

It is amazing to see what God has done through this ministry. Just two short years ago I stood among these children. How they have grown in just two years! Children that were scared, shy and embarrassed – now stand tall and confident. Although orphans, these children live in a healthy 'family' – a family that only God could provide – to meet their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Englian Valte, the superintendent of Angel's Place summed it up for me this way... "I tell the children not to worry that they have no father, because they have a Heavenly Father that has all wisdom and wealth taking very special care of them here at Angels' Place." Oh, I wish you could meet the Angels' Place staff, see their devotion for each child and feel the beautiful family atmosphere they have created within which these children thrive. Pray for them. Thank God for them!

Jan and Leslie Swensen, my traveling companions, and I had a wonderful and productive visit which I documented for your review in a short travel journal posted to our Facebook page – <http://www.facebook.com/JamesConnection>. We reviewed the progress of the ministry, visited the children's school, met with community leaders, discussed individual children's progress, were entertained by the children, entertained the children, and participated in the celebration of Easter Sunday in worship with the children. We even were able to video conference the children singing songs of worship (in English and Paite) into the Sunday morning service of the Holiday Park church of Christ xxx miles and -9.5 hours around the world (see <http://youtu.be/WOWuOesI0AY> and <http://youtu.be/T4R77AmZ9TE>).

Thanks to your partnership in this ministry. It is a pleasure to report that much has been accomplished – but there is still much to do. We met the 20 new little girls that have recently come to Angels Place for refuge. Some suffering from lack of proper nutrition, some suffering the emotional scars of abandonment but all in need of the hope that only Jesus can provide. They need sponsors. Do you know of someone whose heart is open to the blessings that come from sponsoring a child? Reach out to them please.



Three Beautiful Ladies



These three beautiful ladies are Leslie Swensen, Chingmalsawm (known to us as Sawmi, pronounced sow-MEE) and Awarnei (AH-war-nay). This threesome will teach the kids at Angels' Place how to sew their own clothes. We have the necessary sewing machines, and Leslie brought a variety of Easy-Sew patterns from the US, but the kids still lacked the skill to use the machines. So this past month the three went to town and bought many meters of cloth of varying designs along with matching threads. Sawmi and Awarnei have already started learning how to use the patterns and machines so they can teach the rest of the children. A tutor will come in to teach the teachers. Imagine how anxious the rest of the kids are to have the opportunity to add to their meager wardrobes.

Why did we pick Sawmi and Awarnei to assume this responsibility? Because they can handle it. Sawmi came to us in 2006 at age 9. She lost both her father and mother when she was three, her mother to malaria and her father to a bleeding ulcer. She was so poor she could not attend school for several years. She has grown into a responsible girl who helps all around her including the staff and the other children. Look at her glasses. They are too flashy to wear to school, so she wears a plain pair, but around Angels Place she makes a fashion statement with eye wear. No surprise she chose red fabric for the dress she will sew.

Awarnei's name means "bring light to those in darkness." She tries to live that way for others. She came to Angels' Place in 2006 at age 11. Both her parents died in 2002, her father from injuries from a Jeep accident and her mother from complications in child birth. She lost two years of school due to poverty. She recently took the state exam to qualify for classes XI and XII which will qualify her to go on to college. She wants to be an engineer. She has the smarts to do it. She sings beautifully too. Ironically, she broke her distance glasses and awaits a new pair.

We know these two leaders among the girls will do a great job training the other girls and boys how to make some clothes. The other kids have already come forward to line up for classes.



We need helpers for the work of the James Connection. We have many jobs that need filling. Just three of them are:

1. Coordinator of gift receipts to enter gift activities into the database and maintain sponsor database information including periodic communication with donors.
2. Sponsor recruiter.
3. Writing letters to the children.

If you can help us contact Jim Ice at jim.ice@comcast.net or Jan Swensen at swensenesq@comcast.net.



Jim Ice with the two children his family sponsors, Reijoice and Lenhoital.