



CENTRAL AFRICA STORY

Volume 28

Annual Issue

1986

MISSIONARY CHILDREN AT CHIDAMOYO

by Kathy McCarty

In Matthew 18:3,4, Jesus tells his disciples, "Unless you become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

It has been several years since we have had missionary children at Chidamoyo Mission. Because of the war situation, most families with children had left, and after independence, education of most children became a big problem.

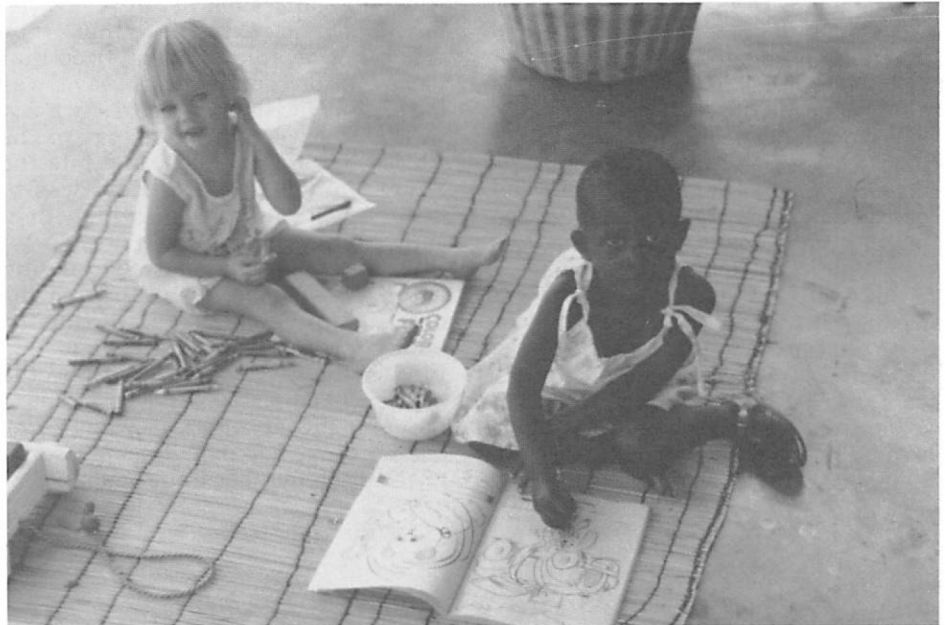
Kristen Williams, who just turned three years old, came with her parents, Frank and Barb Williams, and older sister Holli, age 13, in September 1985. Ever since her parents were recruited as furlough replacements for Margaret Dennis to work in the Secondary School here, she began to tell people she was moving to "Afe-ka." She wasn't quite sure where that was, but she was excited and willing to come!

We were very excited to have children around again at Chidamoyo. Most of us have nieces and nephews, and grandchildren that we never get to see grow up! It is fun for us to have a small child around who keeps us entertained.

Kristen came with her mom and dad to visit me at the hospital several times. She was always fascinated by all the people and children around. She also knew that "Aunt" Kathy and "Aunt" Gloria keep toys and games and color books in their office for kids.

Gradually Kristen began to ask to come with me whenever I came to the hospital, so I would bring her with me. While I was busy with a patient she would go from ward to ward shaking the hands of the children, trying to find food to eat, and when she did, sitting down and eating!

Kristen loves sadza (the traditional stiff porridge eaten by the Africans)



and she loves to go to the hospital because she is sure she can find someone to share sadza with her. The patients love to see this blond-haired little girl who has no inhibitions come and sit down and try to talk with them and eat with them. She is not afraid to eat the sadza with any kind of meat or vegetable. She has eaten goat, pumpkin vines, sardines, and even goat intestines along with her sadza! At home we can't even get her to eat green beans!

The patients have a hard time pronouncing Kristen's name -- it comes out sounding like "Christina." The other day Kristen informed us that she is no longer Kristen, but Christina because that is what the people at the hospital call her!

Shortly after Kristen came we admitted a patient to the hospital who

had a heart problem during her pregnancy. She stayed with us for 4 months until she safely delivered her baby. During this time Kristen would come every day to visit her. They both were able to communicate well with each other, although neither one of them could speak the same language! Each day this lady would save some sadza for Kristen to eat. After her baby came she named it Christina!

Even little children can be a big witness to the work of the Lord in Zimbabwe. If we could all lose our fears and frustrations and just show God's love to people, as Kristen has, what a tremendous witness we can be in Zimbabwe!

Pictured above: Ruthie Kwachenera and Kristen Williams playing together.