

The Noah's Ark Times

A PUBLICATION OF NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UGANDA

Price: your gift
2017 Edition

About Us

NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UGANDA (NACMU) is a Christian based organization that runs a children's home, schools, a medical center and more. Noah's Ark is focused on the most vulnerable children in the society and the poverty stricken community in the immediate area and the whole country.

With this newspaper we would like to report back to you about what Noah's Ark has been doing and is doing. We, Peter and Pita, hope to be able to give you an idea what we have been able to do with your support.

It's amazing to be able to help so many children and adults. It's a struggle to get the people together to do the work and support our vision, but we would not be able to do it with just the two of us. We are convinced that we are not able to do all this without the help and the blessing of God our Sender. But we are also not able to do it without your effort. It is through your support that we exist.

Therefore, from the bottom of our hearts we say 'thank you'. From ourselves, from the children and from other beneficiaries. We would like to encourage more people to join us, and therefore, ask you to share this news with others, so that together we can give more children a chance for a better future.

Enjoy reading and greetings,

Peter and Pita Buitendijk
founders Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda



What can I do?

PEOPLE OFTEN ASK "What can I do?". A sincere question that deserves a sincere answer. Throughout this newspaper you will find several jigsaw puzzle pieces. On every piece you can find something you can do to join our work with either your time, financially, prayers and more. Can you find your piece of the puzzle? ▶

Care and Development

A Home close to Home

page 5

HUNDREDS OF PARENTS MISSING

Children abandoned, abused or thrown away with the rubbish

THE PARENTS OF HUNDREDS OF ABANDONED CHILDREN IN UGANDA ARE REPORTED MISSING. Many of these children were found in churches, barbershops, at the market, on the street, under bushes and even in garbage containers or pit latrines. There is no trace of the parents or caretakers.

For more than sixteen years, Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda (NACMU) accepts these children with the goal of reuniting them with their family. Together with the Children Protection Unit of the police we conduct a search for relatives of the children, but often in vain, since those who purposefully abandon a child do not want to be found. A different group of children has known relatives but because of serious circumstances such as psychological or physical abuse it is not possible for the child to be resettled. These children also find their home at Noah's Ark.

At this moment, more than 187 children have found a loving home at Noah's Ark. The receive the care and attention they

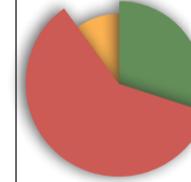
need. They receive an education and are able to play. They are brought up by people who love them.

Noah's Ark isn't God's first plan. His first plan is to let a child grow up with his or her own parents. The second plan replaces the parents by other relatives. Sometimes a third plan is needed if relatives are not able or are not willing. Noah's Ark is that third plan. Not because it is the best solution, but because it is necessary. Too often there simply isn't another possibility.

Peter and Pita started their plan for these children in 2000 by establishing Noah's Ark. Since then they, together with

fellow staff, have housed hundreds of children over the years and resettled about the same number with relatives. The others will receive our love and care for as long as it is necessary, that's why we call each and every one of them our child.

Children at Noah's Ark with missing parents



▲ Some of the children with parents that are reported missing

▶ VIDEO

Not seen enough of Noah's Ark after reading this newspaper? Watch our promotional video!

nacmu.org/en/video



Education

Show us what you got

page 7

Health

With different eyes

page 13

Outreach

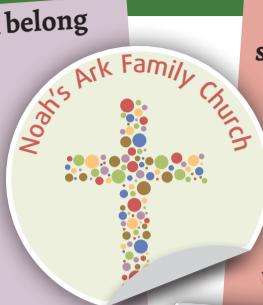
Visiting Grandma

page 12



Dear editors, does Noah's Ark belong to a specific denomination?

Noah's Ark has a clear Christian identity but does not count itself to one specific denomination. The great commission to make young and old disciples of Jesus Christ is the common thread in all our work. The children in the Children's Home are raised with Biblical norms and values and also at school there are daily devotions that include Bible lessons and Bible stories. For our teenagers and youth we have special programs to allow them to develop their identity but to stimulate them to do so in Christ. Read more about our Faith and Religion on page 11.



To Noah's Ark, I am wondering in how many children's live your organization is involved.

At the moment there are more than 180 children under our full-time care, we are involved with hundreds more that have been resettled. Another 500 children attend our schools, and many children are born in our clinic or treated there. It is safe to say that we have been involved in the lives of thousands of children.

How are the December Holidays observed at Noah's Ark?

Christmas time starts in early December with a joint Christmas Celebration of the New Horizon Schools before they break off for two months.

On Christmas Day we remember Jesus' birth in a special Church Service, extra activities for the Children and a barbecue. The day after Christmas is called 'boxing day' in Uganda and all our children receive some Christmas presents.

On the morning of New Year's Eve Pita makes some 3,000 'oliebollen', a traditional Dutch New Year's snack made by deep frying balls of dough filled with raisins or fruit. At night the younger children light lanterns before going to bed. Older children stay up until after midnight and play games or watch a movie. Instead of lighting fireworks hundreds of balloons are popped in a matter of minutes to welcome the new year. We cannot go to bed until we have asked our Lord to bless the New Year so we can start it with Him.



Dear editors, why don't you use the term 'orphanage'?

Most children in the Children's Home are not orphans but abandoned or abused and do have (unknown) family. While not all children are orphans they all did get new parents and family in Peter and Pita and our staff. Because of this new family we don't like to use 'orphanage' and use Children's Home instead.

Hi Noah's Ark, which language do the children speak?

The main language at Noah's Ark is English, the official language of Uganda. New children often speak little or no English. Uganda has about 40 local languages, but fortunately we can always find at least one staff member that speaks one of these languages. In school Luganda (the biggest local language) is not taught but still our children learn the language from their friends at school.



Hello Noah's Ark, I would like to make a donation. How can I do that?

On the back of this newspaper you will find a list of our representatives in different countries. You can contact one of them to get to know how to donate from your country. In this newspaper you can find specific projects or goals you can donate to. Keep an eye out for the puzzle pieces!

Dear Noah's Ark, who is doing the cleaning and the laundry?

For the Children's Home, schools and office buildings we have a team of cleaners who come in every day. In the Family Units the aunties and children are responsible for keeping their house clean and they do their own laundry. All laundry of children from the Children's Home is washed by the staff of our own laundry department (check page 14).



Dear Noah's Ark,

Last year we visited Noah's Ark for two weeks. We would like to thank you for the experiences during our time with you. It made quite an impression on all the members of our group.

We were amazed by the difference Noah's Ark can make in the area. What started as a small project has now grown into something big and has not yet stopped growing, for example new buildings are continuously constructed. What impressed us most was the happiness of the children whose future looked grim at first. We also loved their gratefulness, expressed in their prayers before supper.

During a home visit to one of the students of New Horizon we saw how difficult and hard life can be. We asked the family if they plan for a day or for a year. The answer was: "I plan for a day, but I look forward to the years ahead of me. Every day I can build on better years to come." This taught us to have a simple but solid trust in our God and to lay everything before Him. This visit made us realize the wealth we are living in and all we have to complain about is not having an internet connection. We hope to keep this in our minds even when we return to our daily lives in the Netherlands and find a way to support the mission of Noah's Ark.

We will keep on praying for God to bless the work of Noah's Ark, without Him this work cannot continue and expand.

We are very grateful for the special weeks you gave us,

*Uganda Group,
Guideo de Brès Secondary School,
Rotterdam (the Netherlands)*

INBOX



**Dear Noah's Ark,
are services offered in your clinic free of charge?**

Not all services offered by our clinic are free of charge. We do try to limit the expenses for our patient as much as possible. In general our prices are lower than commercial clinics in the area.

We cooperate with the Ugandan Government to offer immunization programs that are free of charge, but not without cost for our clinic. Don't forget someone has to pay for transport, staffing, and other materials the government does not cover.



CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

In the Children's Home and the Family Units there are more than 180 children and all are welcome. Every child who comes in, first stays in our Family Unit. In that way he or she slowly gets used to being part of such an enormous family and the love between the parents and the child can grow. It is important for a child to know "I am a part of this, I belong here." What we want to give our children is love, stability, and safety so they grow up to be responsible adults who will be able to bring a change in the world around them.



By Pita (mama)



▲ The living room and dining hall



▼ A bird's eye view of the Children's Home: with the living room at the bottom and playground on the right. The laundry is drying on the left.



▲ New braids



▲ Sweet dreams



▲ Higher, auntie! Higher!



▲ Baby beds



▲ Tim makes his bed



▲ Lemonade after school



▲ Time to play with his brother Amos



▲ Brushing at the end of the day



▲ Making music together



▲ Using the bath-

Their Home

The Children's Home is large and provides a home to about 100 children aged 0 - 11 years. Not because this is the best home in the world but because there was no other home for them. Every child has its own place and there are people who love them. Besides Peter and Pita (papa and mama) a number of aunties (female staff) and uncles (male staff) make this large house a home. A home where they can be sick, are allowed to be sad and can be happy. A home where they can play alone, do their homework or have fun together. A home where they will be taught good behaviors. A home where they are welcome and safe. A true home.

Titus Returned Home

TITUS WAS LEFT BEHIND BY HIS CONFUSED MOTHER. The police were able to track her down but she could not remember anything so she was admitted in a psychiatric hospital in Kampala then Titus was brought to Noah's Ark. Meanwhile Titus' father was looking for his wife and son but his search was in vain from his remote village. A few months later when Titus' mother was discharged from the hospital she returned home. At that time she finally remember which police station sent her to the hospital. By contacting that police station the parents learned Titus was at Noah's Ark. They could not wait a single day longer to embrace their son again. There are no words to express their happiness. For us as a team it is encouraging to see how this child has found his own home again.

In the News: Bernice

ALL CHILDREN AT NOAH'S ARK ARRIVE WITH THEIR OWN STORY. Stories that in the western part of the world are thought to be impossible, but are no longer an exception for us in Uganda: Newborn babies that are literally thrown away with the rubbish or left on the train tracks. Toddlers that are left behind with a small note in their hand saying "Please take care of me". Children locked in a barn because they are not considered to have any value.

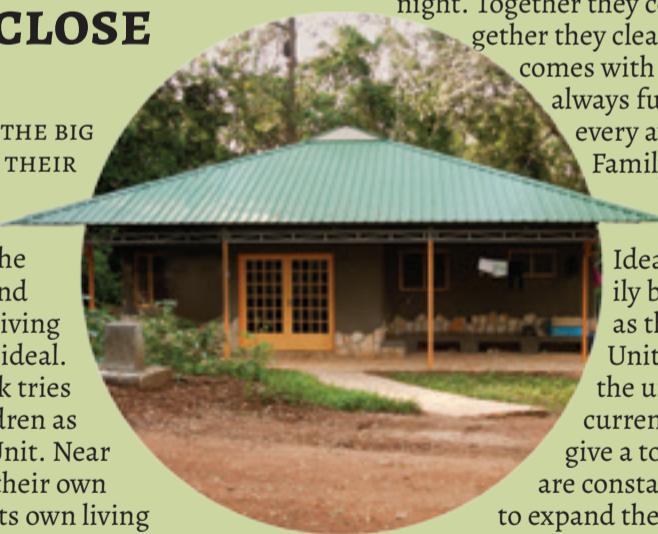
We would like to share one of these stories with you via the 'NACMU News'. You can be a witness to the story of Bernice. See how her life changed drastically in a few hours after her birth. We encourage you to share this news with others so we can work together to give children like Bernice a home.

nacmu.org/en/bernice



A HOUSE CLOSE TO HOME

FOR MANY CHILDREN THE BIG CHILDREN'S HOME IS THEIR FIRST HOME. It is where they grow up safe and sound. But the number of children and different age groups living under one roof is not ideal. That is why Noah's Ark tries to place as many children as possible in a Family Unit. Near their first home, but their own house. A house with its own living room, kitchen, bathroom and bedrooms. Even more important is their own auntie who on behalf of Peter and Pita is there for them day and



night. Together they cook, together they eat and together they clean and organize. Of course this comes with some quarrels, chores are not always fun to do, that is how it is in every average family. The aim of the Family Units is that children grow up in a family setting that is as normal as possible. Ideally it would be their own family but we believe that for as long as that is not possible, a Family Unit is a good alternative. Besides the unit lead by Peter and Pita we currently have six other units that give a total of 75 children a home. We are constantly looking for opportunities to expand the number of Family Units with the help of our supporters to give more children a home like this.



▲ Now she is the one to sweep her room



▲ Homework



▲ Together for Sunday lunch

Miriam

EVERY CHILD AT NOAH'S ARK IS UNIQUE AND LOVED, but children with a physical or mental disability or a developmental delay need extra help and attention. This help is provided by a team of social workers. One of the children that needs this support is Miriam (9). She has a mental and physical disability. She is spastic which limits her in her freedom to move. When Miriam arrived in June of 2015 she could not walk but crawled slowly on her butt. She could not use her right arm due to spasticity. She could understand some Luganda and could count up to three in English. Besides that she was very irritable towards others.

But thanks to a lot of attention from both the aunties and the social workers she has seen some significant development. Since February of 2016 every morning Miriam goes to Nursery School and she absolutely loves it. She has become more social and looks for interaction with the children and aunties. She talks more and enjoys singing. Every two weeks Miriam goes for physiotherapy at a nearby clinic.

They do exercises with her and give us a work plan to continue these exercises at home. Currently she can move much faster, her body is much stronger and more flexible. She can even walk a short distance with some support. We will continue to help Miriam with the therapy and treatment she needs to develop even more.



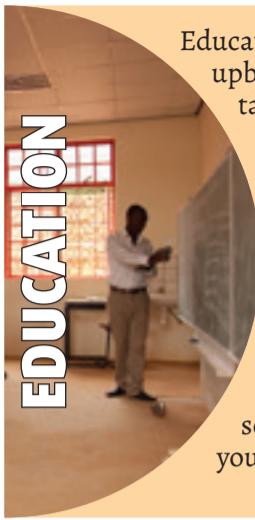
▲ Auntie Maggie helps Miriam



▲ The next Family Unit is being built



▲ Being at home after a long day at school



Education is, next to a good upbringing, one of the most important aspects of helping babies to grow into adults. At our schools we take each moment, from 'Baby Class' until the final exams 16 years later, very seriously. Students learn how to read and write, do mathematics, and acquire knowledge about science, culture and the world. They not only learn theory but also practical skills like growing crops, how to use a computer or do masonry; each step at school prepares them to start life as a young adult with positive energy.



Playing at School?

AT NEW HORIZON PLAYING IS NOT FORBIDDEN. Actually, we encourage playing and creativity in the classroom. In many schools in Uganda the way to teach children is by repeating and repeating, while the creative side of a child is left untouched. We believe that is not the best way to teach.

Our nursery school is equipped with a vast arrangement of educational tools: flash cards, games, puzzles with letters, numbers, and short words. A lot of the materials have been developed specifically for our school. Each class has a play corner with dolls and puppets, a kitchen, cars, and blocks for building. The classes are decorated with art made by the children, even if it was not done perfectly: we want to show we are proud of the progress they have made and want to stimulate the children to continue doing so.



▲ The shelves are stocked



▲ She is learning



▲ A happy classroom



▲ Jolly school children!

THERE'S A LOT TO LEARN

IN SCHOOL THERE IS A LOT TO LEARN, and not only in the classroom! At the New Horizon schools we supplement the Ugandan Government Curriculum with extra activities. The young visit our farm to see the animals and not only see pictures of them and primary school children travel the compound in search of specific types of plants. Sometimes a class has a theme and opens up a little shop to learn about dealing with money or make scale models of all sorts of buildings.

Waking up early for a bright future

Some classes start as soon as the sun rises over the horizon – not in the classroom, but at our farm. Students in the first and second year from the Secondary Vocational School rise early to look after the pigs, cows, chickens, and geese. The work isn't very easy or popular, but obtaining these practical skills is essential in a country like Uganda where agriculture and keeping livestock is the main or only source of income for a large part of the population.

The Secondary Vocational School is located in a green valley and the school ground include large plots where students have their own, small garden to learn about growing crops such as broccoli, maize, pumpkin, watermelon, beans, and tomatoes. Their grades depend on the effort they put in and the yield of their harvest. Several techniques are taught that are not commonly used or known in Uganda such as different types of irrigation, rotating crops and using manure. Part of the crops grown by students are used in the preparation of the school meals so the students can see the benefit of their work.

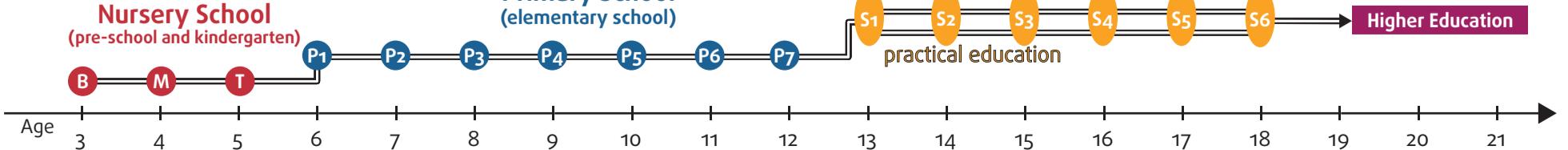


		Thursday		Friday	
Deviations	Tr. Joan	General Assembly (all classes)			
P.E.	Tr. Joan				
Maths	Tr. Joan				
Reading	Tr. Prossy				
		Break			
English	Tr. Prossy			Science	Tr. Prossy
Science	Tr. Joan			English	Tr. Prossy
		Lunch Break			
Religious Education	Tr. Annet			Social Sciences	Tr. Annet
		Library Time		Computer Science	Tr. Annet
				Art Class	Tr. Annet

▲ A part of the timetable of P4 class

From 'Baby Class' all the way to the University

The school system in Uganda is based on the British system, making it different from some parts of the world. Children often start at a later age or cannot go to school for a few years which can make their age an inaccurate indicator of which class they are in. At our primary school the oldest student is 17 years old.



When the children are three years old they start Nursery School in 'baby class' followed by 'middle class' and 'top class'. Usually Primary School is started at the age of six. There are seven primary school classes, P1 to P7. Students in P7 (who are typically around 12 years of age) sit for their 'Primary Leaving Exams'. Usually a child then has to choose between a theoretical education at a secondary school,

or a practical education at a vocational school. New Horizon Secondary Vocational School combines these two types of education into one school, which is unique in Uganda. Every student starts in S1 (Senior 1) with all the available subjects, some of which they drop as they focus on their particular inter-

ests and skills. After completing S4 students can either continue further studies at a technical college or other institute, or continue their Secondary Education at an advanced level (S5 and S6) to proceed to University.

Secondary Vocational School

theoretical education

practical education

Higher Education

Show me what you got!

EVERY SCHOOL TERM AN EXHIBITION DAY TAKES PLACE at the Secondary Vocational School. On this day many parents, workers, students from other schools and other interested people visit the school while the students present their work and newly learned skills to the public.

In the car mechanics workshop visitors could learn about the operation and maintenance of spark plugs. In the carpentry and metal workshops professionally crafted furniture, photo frames and souvenirs could be seen and bought. Students from the construction department demonstrated how to build a proper and well leveled masonry wall.

In the laboratory the students determined the BMI (Body Mass Index) for visitors who wanted to know theirs. Others demonstrated how they had learned to test food for the presence of sugar or acids and demonstrated physics and chemistry experiments. In the main building of the school artwork and crafts were on display as well as blueprints and scale models of student designed buildings. Pillowcases, bags, skirts, dresses and shirts were for sale in the tailoring classroom. Last but not least the culinary students prepared a healthy lunch and a nice snack in the school canteen.



YOUR PUZZLE PIECE?

Many children in Uganda do not attend school. Their families can't afford it. For the most disadvantaged children from the surrounding area we are looking for sponsors. With two sponsors, each contributing \$40 per month, the costs of education, school supplies and a nutritious meal a day will be covered.

nacmu.org/en/sponsorship



My First Day at School

MY NAME IS TAMELWA EDDY and I am 17 years old. Before I joined New Horizon I was at Aiden College but I transferred when I was in S4. My first day at school looked like any other but soon I was impressed by the number of practical subjects that were offered as opposed to my previous school. Because of the subjects I am able to get a good idea of the possibilities for my future career. I was welcomed in the community of New Horizon and Noah's Ark; it feels like I belong here. Thanks!



MY NAME IS HENRY KIRYOWA (P2). My favorite subject is mathematics. I wish there was only maths at school. Maths is everywhere and most people like it. If you have money and you don't know how to count, others can steal it from you.



▲ Uniforms for the Nursery School, Primary School and Secondary Vocational School.

A Long Journey

AFTER A LONG JOURNEY IN A SHIPPING CONTAINER thousands of books finally arrived at their destination. Their journey had begun in the USA where Katie Berkman, a missionary at Noah's Ark had collected them. They were moved away from their comfortable spot on a bookshelf somewhere in their home country and put in a dark box. Months passed while not even a single rear flap was read.



After months of darkness the boxes were finally opened. The books were greeted by Katie and students of the Secondary Vocational School.

Every book was inspected, categorized, labeled and stamped. For a moment the books got excited: 'Will we be used again?', but yet again the dark, dusty boxes awaited them.



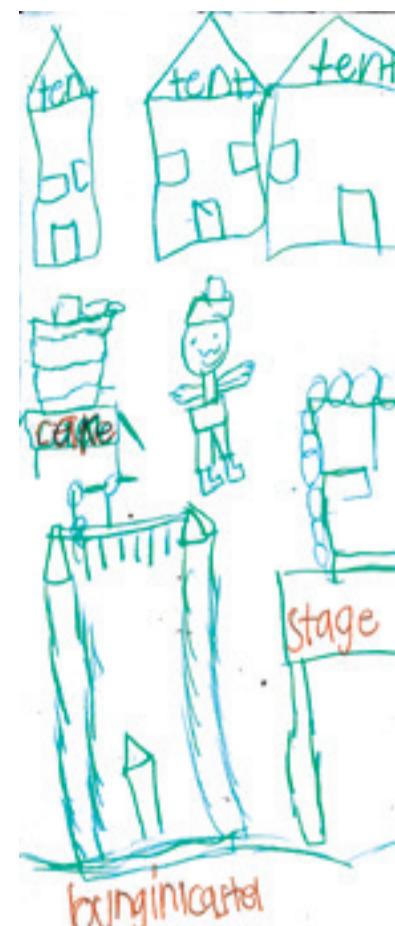

CHILDREN'S PAGE

KID'S QUOTE

Uncle Christian: "Am I a very important person (VIP) or a regular person?"
Mary (11): "You are a regular important person. Auntie Tamar is a VIP. She is a doctor and she saves lives. You are just sitting at your desk at the office."



▲ "Chicken" by Isaac (6) Crayon and marker on paper



▲ The bouncy castle, main stage and the



▲ "I moved from the Children's Home to the Family Unit" (Noella, 10 years)

WE HAVE MOVED!

MY NAME IS NOELLA KIRABO and I am 10 years old. Together with Hadassa, Annabel, Gladys, Rachel, Mary, Margaret, Martha and Mariska I have moved from the Children's Home into our own Family Unit. We live there with our 'own' auntie Stella. I do not miss my friends because they are still close by. Living in a Family Unit is very interesting. We have our own TV and every now and then we can watch the Cosby Show, Little House on the Prairie, 7th Heaven or a movie. And now we have to do our own cleaning, in the Children's Home we did not have to do that. There you could choose whether you wanted to help washing the dishes or not. Now we must do our chores like doing dishes and washing our clothes. And we do not have a washing machine! But in the Children's Home the tap was leaking, and in our Family Unit it does not! That is a big difference too.

On Saturdays we do our own cooking, which is very nice because then we eat chicken and sometimes we drink a Coke. Moving to a Family Unit is great!



KID'S QUOTE

Edwin (11) has a baby on his lap who is crying loudly. Edwin: "Help! This baby wants to eat me!"



Colorful Competition
 ARE YOU IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL and do you love to draw? Then join our drawing contest! In this newspaper you can see what the New Horizon Primary School looks like from the inside and the outside. Now, our students want to know what your school looks like. So, pick up your pencils, markers, crayons or paintbrush and show us your school! All entries will be judged by our students to pick a winner.

Send your drawing to:
 Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda
 o.v.v Colorful Competition
 P.O. Box 355, Mukono, Uganda

or send an e-mail to
newspaper@nacmu.org

Pick up your
 pencil!



KID
 Nelima (5)



A DAY FILLED WITH LOTS OF FUN

FUN

BY JONAH MUKWANO (11) — In Uganda there is someone (an Indian businessman from Kampala) who buys us ice cream every week. We call him "Uncle Ice Cream". He has a young son called Neil. When it was Neil's first birthday Uncle Ice Cream wanted to throw a big party. Besides his own family and friends he invited everyone at Noah's Ark to come as well. That was very nice of him! The party was at Noah's Ark so we did not have to go by bus. Uncle Ice Cream rented tents so we all could sit in the shade. There was a clown and someone who played games with us, a clown and bouncy castles! We got popcorn and cotton candy! That was very nice. At lunch we got French fries and chicken.

The toddlers from the Children's Home performed a nice dance for Uncle Ice Cream and his son and did it very well. We (the older



▼ "Bird" by Isaiah (7) Paper bag, paper, feathers and googly eyes



▲ These fish are in love!!!!

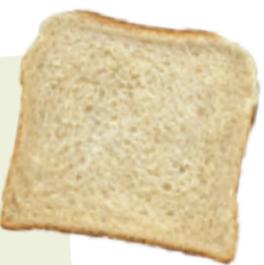
Early Birds!

Ezra (16): "On Saturday morning I often wake up early to go for fishing at the fishponds of the Secondary Vocational School. Mostly we go with a large group of boys and some girls. Uncle Christian and Auntie Katie buy some bread, they repair our bamboo fishing rods and make sure we do not push each other into the water. I like fishing because I am doing it since I was a little boy. You're just having fun while doing it."

Edwin (12): "The best thing is that you can catch a big fish, so you can take it home, bake it and eat it. But even when you do not catch anything we are having fun!"

KID'S QUOTE

While fishing. **Auntie Katie:** "The next time you touch the water there will be consequences!". After 10 minutes Ezra comes back with his head hanging low. **Ezra:** "Auntie Katie, I think I need some consequences. I dropped the bread in the water."



▼ Jonah Mukwano



e cake

children) also did dances and played several songs with our instruments. I enjoyed this day verrrrrrrryyyyyyyy much and I think it was very nice of Uncle Ice Cream that he organized all this and that he also invited us to come. When we went home we even got a present, but it was not anyone else's birthday! How nice was that?



▲ Uncle Ice Cream (second left) cuts the cake for Neil

BIOGRAPHY

April 4th 2008 marked the arrival of new child in the Children's Home. A man on his way to work heard some noise coming from the bushes and investigated. He found a newborn baby girl! He brought her to the nearest police station. From there, police contacted Noah's Ark to take care of her. Peter and Pita named her Manuela. Manuela was 20 inches tall and weighed a little over 6 pounds.

NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UGANDA passport - pasaporte - passeport



Name	Manuela Sanyu	Date of Birth	04/01/2008
Hobbies	Swimming, playing	Place of Birth	UNKNOWN
Favorite Food	Potatoes with chicken	At Noah's Ark Since	04/04/2008
Favorite Subject	English	Favorite Song	I love You, Jesus

NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UGANDA passport - pasaporte - passeport



Name	Brian Muyima	Date of Birth	11/13/2006
Hobbies	Soccer and sleeping	Place of Birth	Mukono
Favorite Food	Chapati and beans	At Noah's Ark since	11/13/2009
Favorite Song	When the spirit says		

YOUR PUZZLE PIECE?

We do not know the exact birthday of all our children, but we all give them one. And we celebrate them all. Do you want to add something to the celebration? You can do so by sending them a birthday card, or even a gift by mail, directly to Uganda!



Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda
(child's name)
P.O. Box 355
Mukono, Uganda

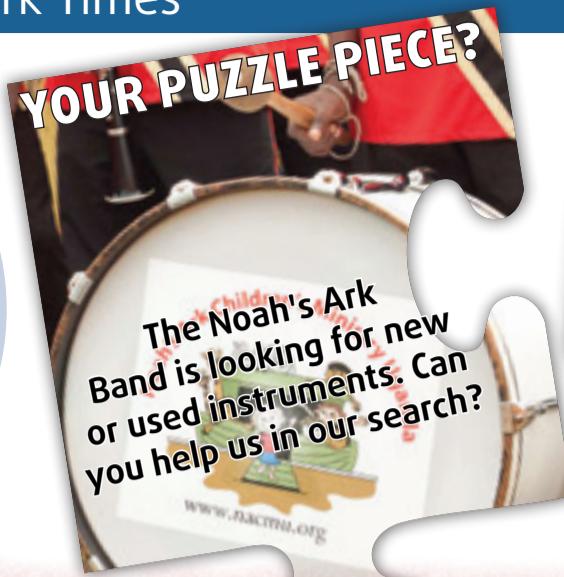
Take in account that delivery of cards and letters can take 3 weeks and parcels a minimum of 4 weeks.

'S QUOTE

to Papa Peter: "Hey, big fellow!"



The time that there were only babies, toddlers and young children at Noah's Ark is long gone. The first child that Noah's Ark took under its care has already turned 18, and the number of teenagers is growing rapidly. That means new challenges but also new opportunities. Challenges of how to deal with the changing desires, feelings and points of view, and opportunities to give them space to develop their talents and identities in a positive way and educate them well – an education and upbringing through which they are able to continue our work in their own future families.



WHO IS ADRIAN?

Mabel, Elisabeth and Ruth were eager to know more about our new Youth Pastor and conduct an interview with him.

Please tell us something about yourself. I am Adrian and I am married to Christine. We have a son, Judah. He is one and a half years old.

What are your tasks? I help the youth by teaching them to better understand the Bible. I am also available when they need practical help. Besides that, I coordinate the Sunday School and the different youth groups. But my main job is to be available for the youth.

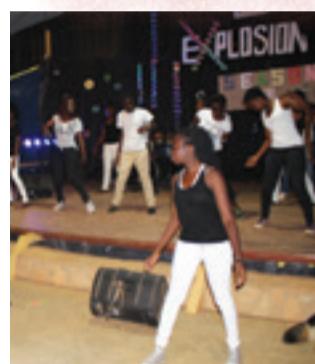
What do you like most about working at Noah's Ark? The youth here are stubborn, but very talented. And it is a beautiful place, full of nature.

What do you think the biggest challenge of your work is? As I said, the youth are stubborn and rebellious. I like that, but at the same time that is a challenge. Time is a challenge as well. The youth are always very busy with other programs and with school, so they must make choices to do this or that. I think it is very important that they keep on track with God and His Word.

Do you find it difficult to separate work from your personal life? If I am at home, I am just Adrian. It is fine when youth come to our house, but then I am not the pastor. Then I will not preach and I will not cite the Bible all the time.

How many children would you like to have? We would like to have a second baby and we would like to adopt one child.

How long do you plan on staying? I cannot answer that question! I will stay here as long as God wants me to.



▲ Dance



▲ Songs and music



▲ Our youth

SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR WE ORGANIZE A 'YOUTH EXPLOSION'. This idea came from Pastor Adrian and his wife Auntie Christine to give us, the youth of Noah's Ark, the opportunity to discover and develop our talents and use them for God's glory. We choose the name 'Youth Explosion' because it is our desire to let our gifts and talents explode (and perhaps the loudspeakers as well). We invite groups from local churches and schools to join us for the event. There are different 'life groups' that each aim to develop one specific talent: music, song, dance, drama and serving others.

The Youth Choir musically and vocally accompanies the event. Some songs are mellow with just one guitar, some are full on with drums, guitars, base and keyboard. They often introduce a new gospel song that makes us swing out of the church. Touchlife is our dance group.

They do dances in different styles like hip-hop, salsa, break dance and ballet. Their dances add an extra dimension to the time of worship by giving us a visual of God's love.

The Good Samaritans sell snacks and drinks during the break. They prepare everything themselves and the earned money is not to fill their own pockets but is to help others. They visit a Musee (Luganda for grandfather, old man) to provide him with some food or items like soap. They do some housework for him as well.

The Drama Group brings out a serious message, but often in a somewhat unusual and humorous and hysterical way.

Every time again we look forward to this event to show each other and above all God what we have done with our talents.



Recipe for spiced chicken, rice and stir fried cabbage

Hello Readers, I am Mabel, 16 years old. I am a student of the Secondary Vocational School in the third year. At school I follow lessons about food and nutrition. We learn to cook different meals and how to set a table in a proper way. I have learned how to prepare this meal and would like to share it with you. Enjoy your meal!

Chicken: Pan-fry the chicken in a little bit of oil. When the chicken is almost done, add some finely chopped tomatoes, green bell peppers and onion. Stir all this together until the onions are glazed. Add 1 chicken flavored bouillon cube and half a cup of water. After mixing add 1 tablespoon of chicken spice and curry powder. Simmer for 5 minutes.

Rice: Fill a pot with water and put on high heat. When the water is boiling, add some chopped onion and some cooking oil. Add the rice and cook until most of the water is gone.

Cabbage: Glaze an onion and add some tomato. Mix on high heat and add the chopped white cabbage. Keep stirring for about 10 minutes and you are done!



▲ Mabel (left) and Sandra

Uniform in uniform

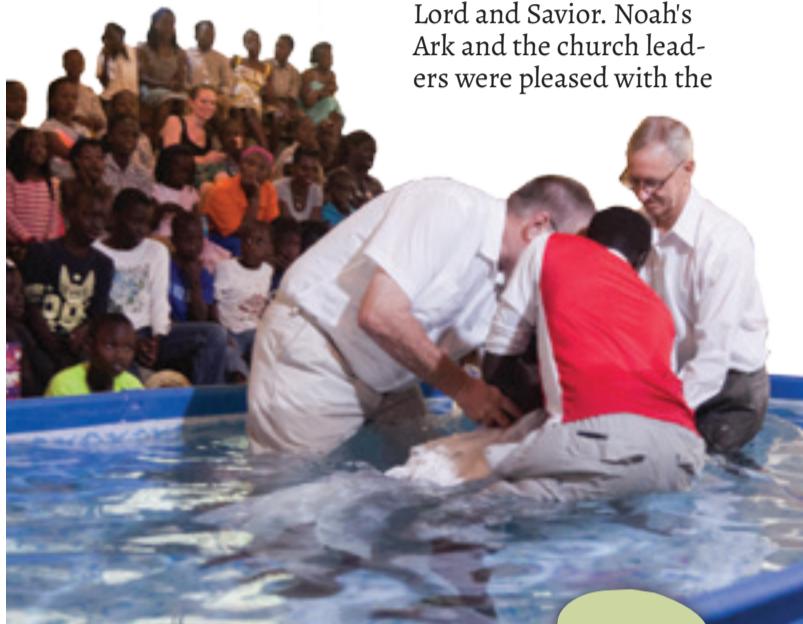
THE NOAH'S ARK BAND IS NOT YET TIRED OF PLAYING their music and continues to grow. The uniforms are worn with pride. The repertoire of songs exists of anthems from all over the world, traditional hymns and modern gospel songs. The band often gets invited to marriages, parties, official functions and of course festivities at Noah's Ark. The first instrument new musicians learn is the recorder. They start reading notes and they learn how their breathing influences the sound. Soon they can play their first melody. Later on they start excising on the mouthpiece of a clarinet or a trumpet to train their lips. After that they begin to play the whole instrument like a trumpet, flute or trombone. Rhythm is also running through the veins of most Ugandans so it is not hard to find candidates to play the percussion.



A Choice for a Lifetime

IN 2016 WE ORGANIZED THE FIRST BAPTISMS AT NOAH'S ARK FAMILY CHURCH. During several special church services dozens of teenagers, students and adults were baptized.

Beforehand they followed a Bible study on baptism so



▲ In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit



CROSSWALK

A SOLID NOAH'S ARK TRADITION ON GOOD FRIDAY is the 'walk with the cross'. Peter, Pita, children and other interested gather for a procession behind a wooden cross carried by our children.

Several stops are made along the way to take a moment to reflect on Jesus' last days and the meaning of His sacrifice. Scripture is read and songs are sung. Questions are asked to make the participants think about their lives and what God can mean for them. The message of God's love for everyone cannot be repeated enough times.



▲ The procession

they could learn what their choice meant and what is does not. Later they were baptized by immersion in water in a pool at the back of our church. They testified to the young and old members of our congregation that Jesus Christ is their personal Lord and Savior. Noah's Ark and the church leaders were pleased with the

choice these people made and hope more will follow. In our church babies and young children are not baptized but when they arrive in our family we dedicate them to the Lord, praying that they themselves will make their own choice for God later in life.

Sunday School Teachers back to School

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS WENT BACK TO SCHOOL for a training by the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). During a five-day training the participants (Aunties, Uncles, teachers, volunteers and teenagers) were trained in planning and giving Bible lessons, making their lessons fit for different age groups and finding creative solutions to keep the children occupied but disciplined. During the training theory was put into practice as the 'students' taught

Noah's Ark is an organization with a Christian identity. We don't only show that identity in the church on Sunday. Every day we encourage our children, students, staff, visitors, volunteers and people from our neighborhood to live out their faith and to grow in it. With various programs for children, youth and adults organized by our own church or by the schools we are working on this identity as an organization and as individuals. Noah's Ark aims to live as one big family; "A family who prays together, stays together" is our motto.

each other, receiving constructive criticism from their fellow students and trainers.

Together with the trainers at first, but later on alone, a five-day Bible Club themed "One Way" was organized for the children of the Children's Home. Thanks to this training the participants are now filled with enthusiasm, inspiration, songs and some tricks up their sleeves for teaching and leading their own Sunday School classes.



▲ Teacher Hannah (18)

GOSPEL PREACHED TO THOUSANDS

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE HEARD THE GOSPEL AT NOAH'S ARK. For several years Noah's Ark has organized a Christmas Cantata. Every year we invite people from the wider community. Last year, out of 7,000 people invited, 8,000 showed up.

Each year the Christmas story is told from a different perspective in Luganda, the local language. In 2015

there were two angels in the back of the church discussing what was happening down below on earth. One of the angels couldn't believe that God would step down to save sinners,

but that was exactly what happened in front of him and the large crowd watching the performance: Jesus was born as Saviour of the

world.

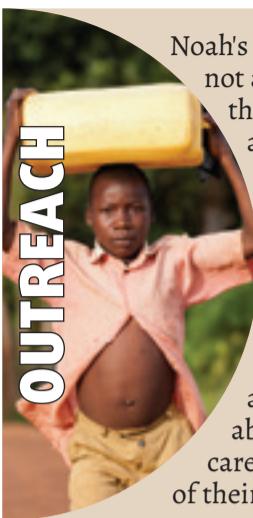
The 2016 show featured a grumpy shepherd who couldn't understand why his fellow shepherds were so excited to travel to Bethlehem after they had seen the angels - until he looked upon Baby Jesus himself.

Along with acting, there were dances in both traditional and modern styles such as ballet and hip-hop, and songs sung by small choirs and a host of angels. After each performance our pastor explained the true message of Christmas.

Children did not go home empty-handed - they were each given a shoebox full of toys, stationery and more. Noah's Ark plans to continue this tradition to make the Gospel of



FAITH AND RELIGION



OUTREACH

Noah's Ark has a big gate, but it's not always locked. We often travel into the communities and villages around us and regularly invite people from around to come to our compound. Through different programs we bring practical, hygienic and medical help and we spread the Gospel. In this way we have reached thousands of people, young and old, man and woman, Christian, Islamic or otherwise. We care for our neighbors and they appreciate our work. We also don't forget about the children who were once in our care, and if necessary we remain a part of their lives.

Fleur and Rose

Rose and Fleur came to live temporarily at Noah's Ark in 2011. Their father had died before they were born and their mother died while giving birth. Due to their circumstances other relatives couldn't take care of them, but they faithfully visited the girls. In 2014 the girls' aunt became able to care for her nieces and took them into her house. Our social worker visited them several times to check on how they were doing. The auntie has taken in the girls as her own daughters and they accept her as their mother. They go to school, are healthy and very happy.



▲ At the police (2011)



▲ Fleur and Rose in 2016

Visiting Grandma

JJAJJAS (GRANDMOTHERS) PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE UGANDAN CULTURE. They are not just baby sitters for their grandchildren. Often the parents cannot or will not take care of their children, so it becomes the jjajja's responsibility to raise them. Most children at Noah's Ark have no known relatives which also means no jjajja. Over the school vacation groups of our children visit jjajjas in our

neighborhood. They learn about their lives, her culture and how things were in the past. Some jjajjas we visit are more than seventy years old. The children do chores in and around her house or hut, make some crafts for her to enjoy or cook a meal together with "their" jjajja. Reactions from both the children and the jjajjas are very positive and everyone is looking forward to meeting again.



▼ Pictureframe made by the children for their jjajja

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS NOAH'S ARK HAS HANDED OUT CHRISTMAS BASKETS to students of New Horizon and their families, as well as other poor families in the neighborhood. Generous givers from all over the world again made it possible for them to have an extra special Christmas.

The gifts are not wrapped in a traditional box but in a practical, plastic basin. The basin contains beans, flour, salt, sugar, soap, cooking oil, matches, matoke (green bananas, a staple food), vegetables, some candy and more.

Shortly before Christmas the gift bas-

▲ Going back home
The baskets are ready to go ▶

▲ Grateful

To Prevent is Better than to Cure

NO ONE LIKES TO VISIT THE DOCTOR and that is not different for people in Uganda. Often people recognize symptoms too late or not at all or they postpone a doctor's visit in fear of high costs. This often results in the sickness getting worse and an increase in expenses. Many cases the staff in our medical center encounter could easily have been prevented or treated at an much earlier stage, lowering the risk and the cost for the patient.

Because 'to prevent is better than to cure', we conduct out-reaches in cooperation with *The Rob Foundation*. We visit remote communities and schools in the wide area around Noah's Ark to sensitize and educate people, ranging from teenagers to the elderly, about hygiene, malnutrition, HIV, and malaria. Immunizations are given to infants and anyone can come to be tested for malaria or HIV for free. We encourage people not to wait too long to seek medical attention and proactively work on their health by keeping their environment clean and making sure their diet has enough variety.



THE ROB FOUNDATION

For example, lack of vitamin A is a major cause of blindness and contributes to the high death rate from infections like measles.. So during outreaches we hand out vitamin A tablets to groups with a higher risk.

Although HIV is incurable, the virus can be suppressed well if it is timely and properly treated. For teenage girls we provide AfriPads, reusable and hygienic sanitary pads. Noah's Ark and The Rob Foundation hope to extend their program to reach more remote areas in the future and also aim to be able to immunize against cervix cancer.



▲ The outreach team

From a different Perspective

NOT MANY PEOPLE IN UGANDA WEAR GLASSES. In many western countries the eyesight of young children is checked at school but in Uganda this practice is virtually absent. Even if someone does not notice anything wrong with his eyes a check could still reveal irregularities that need to be addressed.

Noah's Ark was filled with



joy when Niall McCormick, an optician from New Zealand arrived with suitcases filled with frames, lenses and testing equipment. In less than a week he checked the eyes of

all students of New Horizon. Often there were no problems but some patients left his office with a set of glasses to improve their view of the world.



Right form the Start

MOST WOMAN IN UGANDA SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE EIGHT MONTH OF THEIR PREGNANCY. They fear high cost of consultation and see no reason to go to a doctor as long as things seem to be going well. Therefore complications are often not noticed.

At our medical center we offer a comprehensive package for pre-natal screening, delivery and ante-natal care. The package is priced at 10 USD which is affordable for most woman. The package includes consultation, ultrasound scans and laboratory tests. The women will deliver their children in our clean and safe delivery room under the eye of one of our professional midwives and nurses. After

birth mother and child are monitored for a while and can stay for a day, as opposed to many clinics where they are left alone as soon as 'the job is done' and they are only attended to when things go wrong. If complications arise we can use our ambulance to transport mother and child to a hospital with more facilities in less than 20 minutes.

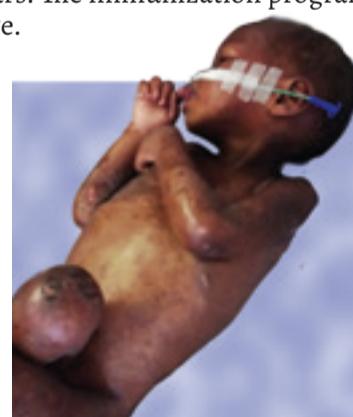
The first Tuesday after delivery mother and child are expected back at our clinic for the first immunization. We encourage woman to come for checkups on a regular basis and have their child immunized over the course of a couple of years. The immunization program is free of charge.



▲ Timothy: skin and bones



▲ Timothy: what a difference!



▲ Gift: swollen and painful



▲ This makes us happy!

NEW CHANCES

IN OUR MALNUTRITION UNIT WE ENGAGE IN THE BATTLE WITH MALNUTRITION: a serious situation. Treatment often makes the difference between life and death. We aim to prevent malnutrition by conducting outreaches in the wider area. The medical team educates parents on how to prevent malnutrition with a healthy and varied diet. They also assess if children are malnourished and if needed they will be admitted in our Malnutrition Unit.

This was the case with Timothy, a two year old with a weight of only 10

pounds. His grandmother took care of him for a while (a common situation, see page 12). When his mother came back for him she found him in this state. Because of malnutrition and lack of oxygen during birth Timothy was behind in his development and thus was not considered of much value. Timothy was admitted and was fed small amounts of therapeutic milk. After three weeks he had gained more than two pounds and was released. For three months his mother came back for checkups and consultation. Timothy was sent home with *plum py'nut*, a therapeutic peanut paste, to grow

more and gain more strength. During every visit we noticed improvement. Now he is able to sit up and has a big smile. Timothy got a new chance.

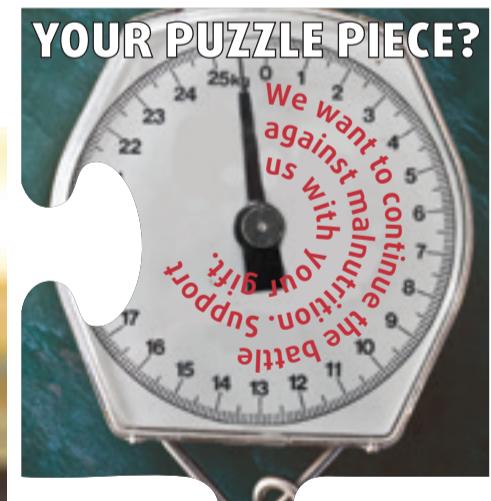
Gift also got that chance. This four year old girl weighed a little over 16 pounds. Her stepmother did not see her presence as a gift and neglected her. Her legs and arms had edema (fluid retention) and she had painful wounds. A family member was touched by her situation and brought Gift to the Malnutrition Unit. She was too weak to drink or eat so she was fed via a tube in her nose. She received a lot of love and attention from the staff and her family

Being healthy is important, but health-care in Uganda is often a challenge. That's why we have our own medical center equipped with the right knowledge, know-how, ambulance and a dedicated medical team. With all this we can offer our children, staff and people from the wide community affordable and quality healthcare that they need. We also actively try to prevent people from needing our services by education and sensitization on topics like hygiene and simple ways to prevent illness.



DRILL KEEPS DRILLING

TWICE A YEAR THE HUG FOUNDATION SENDS A TEAM OF DUTCH DENTISTS and dental assistants to Uganda. Assisted by students from New Horizon Secondary Vocational School the puts in a lot of effort to check the teeth of all our children, students and staff for cavities our other inconveniences. The dentist's chair in the well equipped dental room of our medical center is always occupied and the drill does not stop spinning. During their last visit the team inspected all the teeth in 557 mouths, sealed 314 molars, filled 119 cavities and pulled 40 teeth. This mega project is carried out with much pleasure and effort by the team. Although the children have mixed feelings towards a visit to the dentist, we have the dentists and their assistants to thank for helping them to keep their teeth clean and healthy!



member. Slowly but surely a smile appeared on her face.

The government hospital in Uganda's capital Kampala is sharing knowledge and expertise with our unit. Because of that we are even better equipped to give quality care. Thanks to financial support received we have been able to help many children already, but our work is not yet finished. The team is filled with joy and thanks. Children like Timothy and Gift are the reasons why we have a Malnutrition Unit and keep us running.

MORE WORK

Caring for children does not simply stop with providing them with food, shelter, medical care and an education: there is much more to it. Noah's Ark has a holistic approach to raising children and uses all the different departments to equip the children and young adults to be able to face the future with confidence. Personally I have had the pleasure to lead the team of social workers and now I find the same pleasure in the challenge of overseeing all departments. Overwhelming at first, but rewarding at last.

— Sarah Wesonga, General Manager



The logistics of it all

NOAH'S ARK IS ONE LOGISTICAL NETWORK. Goods and supplies are stored dry, secured and organized in shipping containers on a central location on the compound. Every day a pickup truck drives many miles to make all kinds of deliveries on the compound. We buy food and building material in bulk and collect them from shops nearby with our own truck to save on delivery fees. Every year we receive shipping containers loaded with all sorts of necessities and food as humanitarian aid. About 350,000 shoeboxes from Operation Christmas Child are received and handled by Noah's Ark before being distributed throughout the whole country. As you can see, we are no strangers to dealing with a lot of logistics!

Never skipped a meal

THE KITCHEN IS STAFFED WITH NINE

MEN AND WOMEN who take care of breakfast, lunch and dinner for more than 700 children from the Children's Home, Family Units and Schools. They are also tasked with providing tea and biscuits during break time. As part of the vocational training, everyday a group of students joins the kitchen staff. After school children can be found in the kitchen to help out (and hoping they get to taste).



Auntie Betty is the head of the kitchen and together with Mama she makes the weekly menu. Commonly used ingredients include rice, beans, matooke (green cooking bananas) cabbage, green vegetables, sweet potatoes, and once in a while beef or on special occasions chicken or pork. When possible, the birthday boy or girl for that day gets to decide what is for supper which usually ends up being either pancakes or chapati.

Unfortunately with multiple birthdays per week not everyone is able to choose their favorite.

▼ Just returned from the market



▼ Under construction



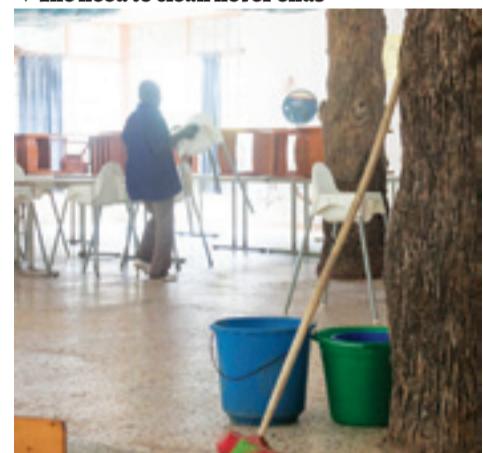
▼ Heavy machinery at the construction site



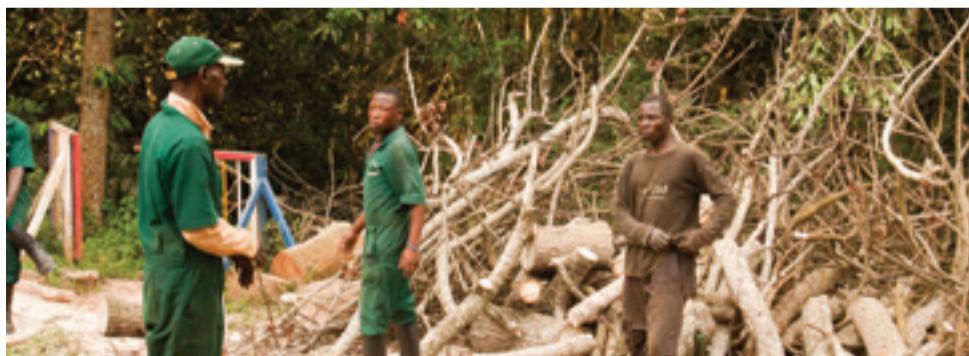
▼ At times branches rain from the sky



▼ The need to clean never ends



▼ Tractor with trailer



▲ Green thumbs in their green overalls

Green Work

When listing important jobs on the compound many forget the hard work of our gardeners. They keep our compound, where more than 400 people live, clean and safe. They keep the grass too short for snakes to hide in and keep it tidy so our children can play without worries. The gardeners are also tasked

with collecting the garbage before the bins start attracting unwanted wildlife or rodents that can spread disease. For special events like visitation days at school we can call upon these men and women to set up tents and chairs. Visitors are usually quite positive about the state of our compound, thanks to this department!

Wash, dry, fold, repeat.

Every day doing laundry at Noah's Ark is a big undertaking. The ten staff in the Laundry work hard to wash, dry, iron and fold hundreds of pounds of clothes, cloth diapers, bedding and towels from the Children's Home and our Medical Center. They rely on the sun to dry the clothes so when it is raining getting enough clean clothes is a real challenge. When power is out (which happens several times a month) everything has to be hand washed. Two or three



times a year we receive a shipping container from the Netherlands, the US or Germany filled with clothes, towels and bedding for the children in the Children's Home and Family Units.

Auntie Agnes, head of the laundry department, spends several weeks sorting through one container and counting and marking all the items.

The clothes are used so often that repairs are inevitable, auntie Agnes' gets the job done to repair rips and cuts with her sewing machine and skill.

A Digital Challenge

NOAH'S ARK IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE DEPENDENT ON COMPUTERS FOR the administration, reports, communication, this very newspaper, and more. In the computer lab at the school, students are introduced with this piece of technology.

In a country where technology is not all up to date, keeping about 75 PCs and laptops running can be quite a challenge. Our IT instructor Dennis is not only teaching students but also tasked with Noah's Ark digital maintenance. High peaks in the electricity mains have caused many power supplies to blow up and viruses regularly circle around. Internet connections are expensive and unreliable. Insects love to build their nest in the warm computer cases.

Despite the headache it can give we are grateful for the technology we have received that helps us with our daily work and makes the students ready for living and working in a society that becomes more digital every day.



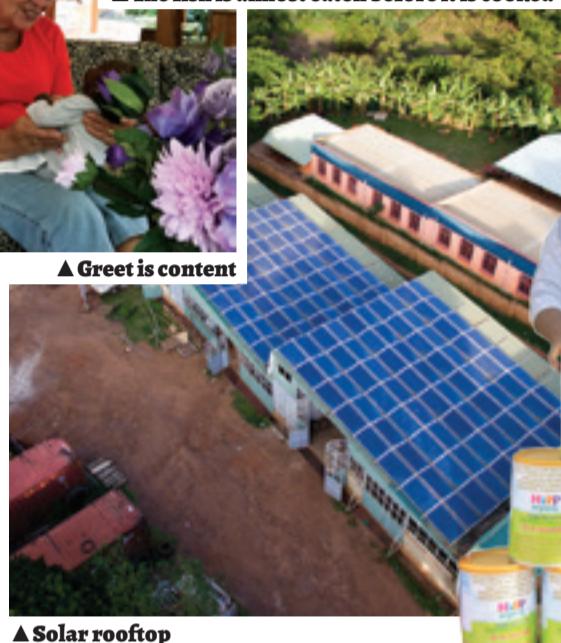
▲ Future IT personnel being trained

Wim and Greet

FOR MANY YEARS WIM TENNEKES, A RETIRED PLUMBER, AND HIS WIFE GREET (the Netherlands) have been connected to Noah's Ark. Wim collects goods and sends them to Uganda by shipping container. He often finds spare parts that no one else could find. Wim and Greet are regular visitors to Uganda. Greet loves to help Pita care for the babies, and Wim checks all the taps, water heaters and toilets so that they remain working well. This lovely couple often treats the children to fried fish, which Wim buys from the local market and skillfully prepares himself. Everyone is looking forward to their next visit!



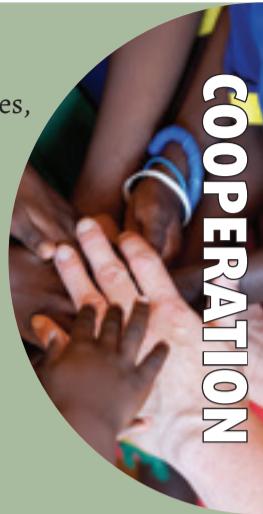
▲ The fish is almost eaten before it is cooked



▲ Solar rooftop

▲ Vielen Dank! (thankyou)

Without cooperation Noah's Ark would not be what it is today. Churches, schools, individuals and organizations from all over the world are involved with our work in one way or another. We do not underestimate the power of working together whether it is by supplying goods, praying, contributing financially or with knowledge. Noah's Ark also cooperates with other organizations in Uganda to help them with their work. After all our work has no competition, it is only a shared goal.



German Cuisine and German Power

FOR MANY YEARS NOAH'S ARK HAS BEEN COOPERATING with Global Aid Network (GAIN) Germany. Through GAiN, Noah's ark has been able to find sponsors for many children from the Children's Home and the schools. GAiN often sends shipping containers with goods that are not easily available in Uganda but needed by Noah's Ark. Most of our babies are used to the German cuisine as we receive jars of baby food and formula powder made in Germany. Our laundry gets the job done with the washing powder we receive from GAiN. The roofs of our workshops are covered by solar panels supplied by GAIN and installed by German electricians. The higher the sun is in the sky, the lower our electricity bill. Thankfully sunshine is readily available in Uganda.



SAFE LANDING

SAFE LANDING MINISTRIES IS NOAH'S ARK'S REPRESENTATIVE for the United States. Safe Landing Ministries is based in Boothbay Harbour in Maine and is founded by Dan McNutt and Jim and Linda Corcoran who got inspired to help after visiting Noah's Ark several times. The organization, a 501C3 Tax Deductible Charity connects people from the US with Noah's Ark to enable them to help the children through sponsorship or donations. Many children are sponsored by people from a wide range of states. Noah's Ark is grateful for this connection with the US that opens up the possibility to help more and more children.



▲ Dan, Linda, Joanita (sponsorship coordinator) and Peter



Peter and Pita Buitendijk (the Netherlands) started Noah's Ark in 2000. Nowadays they are supported in their work by a team of missionaries from all over the world. All of them have the same goal: to serve children (young and old) in God's Kingdom.



Tamar Goossens (the Netherlands) has been at Noah's Ark since 2007 for shorter periods but settled in 2014. Tamar is a doctor and found her place at the clinic. She organizes the clinic outreaches. In July 2017, Tamar and **Daniel** (our volunteer coordinator) will join each other in marriage.
therobfoundation.com



Christian and Katie Berkman met at Noah's Ark in 2013. They started out as neighbors but became husband and wife in 2017. Christian (the Netherlands) is involved in church and Sunday school work, and writing this newspaper. Katie (USA) can often

be found in one of the school libraries to help children to read better and she organizes the 'holiday program' during the school breaks. Together they help with Bible lessons at school assemblies and lead a group of teenagers that have a heart to serve others.

nzekatie.blogspot.com

Miranda van den Berg (the Netherlands) joined Noah's Ark in 2016. Together with the social workers she is involved with children with a mental and/or physical disability. Miranda also helps writing newsletters and updates.



Jan en Marie-José Alblas (the Netherlands) joined Noah's Ark in 2017 to be involved with the Family Units. Jan has technical skills and helps with the water and electrical installations around the compound.



Stephen and Maren Hawkins (USA) were placed at Noah's Ark by the Peace Corps in 2017. Stephen is working with farmers on adaptive agri-

cultural practices and business skills. Maren combines health education and media and enjoys working with the youth.

Since the last edition of this Newspaper some new missionaries came to join and, sadly, some left. We are very grateful the work and devotion they showed the children, students, and staff and many more.

Colin en Bev Winters (New Zealand) worked with Noah's Ark for 3 years. Bev always had a warm heart for the woman in our community and Colin used his skills in woodworking and led Bible study groups for the youth.



Aldert and Patricia de Gruyter (the Netherlands) and their children **Sarah and Amos** have worked with Noah's Ark since 2014. Aldert was overseeing the storage of goods and tools and Patricia worked in the Malnutrition Clinic and joined the outreaches. Their children schooled in New Horizon.



SPORTS AND GAMES

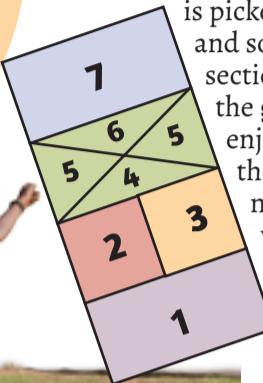
At New Horizon we do not only concentrate on academic work but we also want to discover and develop other talents in the children via sports and games like soccer and volleyball. To be competitive all students are divided into 'houses' which during the school year compete to be the best house of the school. Of course being a good sport is an important aspect of how we as teachers deal with competition. Sports are a nice and effective way of learning skills and improving talents outside of the classroom.

— Teacher Bonface (sports and games)



Up on one leg

A POPULAR GAME IN THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND AT THE SCHOOLS IS "SONKO", a game that resembles hopscotch. The field consists of seven sections. Lines are drawn with charcoal or scratched in the dirt. Each player takes turns to throw their 'sonko' (a stone, twig, or ball) in the first section. The player has to hopscotch to the last section without touching the section with the sonko. On the way back the sonko is picked up to be thrown in section two and so on. Whoever lands in the wrong section or has to use two feet is out of the game. Aunties and volunteers also enjoy playing this game together with the children. It does not use a lot of materials so it is easily set up anywhere. During the game children both show patience and a healthy competitive spirit.



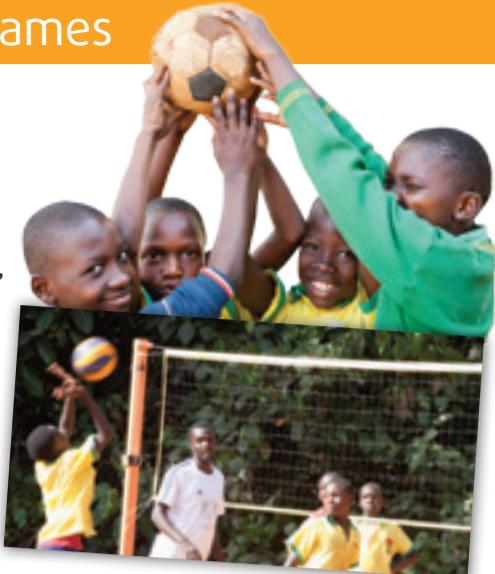
▲ Jane stands firm on one leg



▲ Dorothy jumps over the section with her sonko



▲ Michaeala picks up her sonko



Three Champions!

LIKE ALWAYS WE WILL ANNOUNCE our 'baby champions' that started walking first. This time the honor goes to Lawrence, Philip, and Martin. Lawrence was an early walker at only 10 months. Phillip followed at 15 months and Martin at 16. These young men are setting an example for the other babies and encouraging them to take their first steps as well.



China brings home the gold

THE ACTIVITY PROGRAM DURING THE SCHOOL BREAK (holiday program) had an olympic theme. The children became temporary citizens of eight participating countries and competed for gold, silver and bronze medals. During the opening ceremony the children got a glimpse of the Olympic Games held over the years. Auntie Katie, coordinator of the program, lit a small fire in a ceremonial manner, which was carried to the sports field via a relay race. Finally a large fire was lit to mark the opening of the games. Each country made its own flags and bandanas to use during the competitions.

The countries competed in athletics; including running, relay races, and swimming, as well as other sports like climbing and soccer. There were also medals to win during a treasure hunt, spelling bee contest, and math games. Competitors were also quizzed on their knowledge of their temporary home countries.

Between the eight teams there was a healthy atmosphere of competition, friendship, and sportsmanship: there were cheers for everyone (but especially their own team members). Finally, during the disco that marked the end of the games medals were awarded. China brought back the most gold medals and was the big winner, but all countries certainly earned praises as well!

Table of Medals

China	5	3	3
New Zealand	4	1	4
Kenya	4	3	
United States	1	5	3
The Netherlands	2	3	2
Tanzania	2	1	5
Germany	1	4	
Brazil	2		2



▲ Running



▲ Water games



▲ Monkey bars



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