

The Noah's Ark Times

A NOAH'S ARK CHILDRENS MINISTRY UGANDA (NACMU) Publication

Dear Readers,

A number of times a year we send out newsletters to let people know what's going on at Noah's Ark. But, due to limited space, there are many events and activities that never get exposure, so we decided to publish this special Noah's Ark newspaper to try to show you the full extent of our work.

As you will read, the Children's Home is the foundation of our activities, but we also help children and adults from the local community. We run a nursery and primary school for over 300 children and a medical clinic where we spend a lot of our energy helping pregnant women to deliver their babies.

Instructing, educating and living by example are the most important things that we, Peter and Pita, do. We have a vision, we believe God has called us to do this work and we have gathered and trained a team of Ugandans and missionaries to help us. However we cannot care for the children and the community without the support of sponsors, donors and volunteers, so we really welcome any help and assistance you might be able to provide us.

**Peter and Pita Buitendijk,
NACMU founders & directors**



Peter and Pita Buitendijk

Family Clinic

**500 deaths per month in Uganda
Mothers at risk, p. 6**

BABY DUMPED IN PIT LATRINE

One morning, just before lunch, the phone rang. It was the police in Mukono (a town next to Noah's Ark). A baby had been thrown into a pit latrine and the police needed their help to get it out. Peter and Pita and the Noah's Ark doctor, grabbed some ropes and hammers and jumped into the ambulance. As they were racing to Mukono, the police called to say that the baby boy had been rescued by two young men and taken to the local hospital. That the baby didn't drown or suffocate from the toxic gasses during his 3 hours ordeal in the pit latrine is a miracle. In the hospital they found the baby still covered in excrement. The smell was terrible and maggots were crawling all over his body. Peter and Pita wrapped him in a blanket to take home. Meanwhile, the mother of the baby was arrested and taken to the same hospital for post natal stitching. Because there was no doctor or midwife to help her, Peter and Pita took the mother back to Noah's Ark as well.



Jethro moments after being rescued

The mother was given medical attention while the baby was washed. The first two loads of water were saturated with sewage and maggots. It was only after the third bath and lots of soap and baby oil that the baby started to look clean. His temperature had dropped to 32.9°C so their next priority was to treat the baby boy for

potential infections and diseases. He was given antibiotics and placed in a cot with a hot water bottle for his first sleep, after which he was given his first bottle of warm milk. The baby made a full recovery and Pita named him Jethro. His mother was interviewed by the Noah's Ark social...

Continued on page 2

ONE MEAL A DAY!



A very hungry school girl

School lunches are often a source of humor and complaint for school children in the developed world. However at New Horizon, school lunches are very important for the village children. The school lunch is often the only square meal that the village children receive every day. It is not... **Continued on page 5**

KILLER DISEASE SURROUNDS CHILDRENS HOME

Malaria is the most common disease at Noah's Ark. It's a very prevalent and dangerous disease in Uganda which can be fatal. Protecting the children against malaria is serious business. All the beds in the children's home are covered at night with mosquito nets but despite these precautions, many of the children fall

sick, especially during the rainy seasons and they need medical treatment to recover. The type of malaria found in Uganda is called Falciparum. This particular strain is responsible for the majority of malaria deaths globally and is most prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa. The disease is transmitted from one infected human to another via female mosquitoes which only hunt at night - hence the importance of mosquito nets and long sleeved clothing after dusk. Symptoms of infection include headaches, vomiting, high temperatures and dizziness. They become more...

Continued on page 6

WEATHER REPORT

yesterday	today	tomorrow
28 °C	28 °C	28 °C



Church

**It's a Miracle!
Some of the miracles in
the Children's Home, p. 10**

Showbizz

**Yes I do!
Noah's Ark celebrates
its first wedding, p. 15**

Sport

**Baby Champion
Baby Dinah starts walk-
ing at 11½ months, p. 16**

CHILDREN'S HOME



The Children's Home is the epicenter of life at Noah's Ark. Over 120 children ranging from a couple of hours to 8 years old sleep, eat, wash and play here. Peter and Pita live in the centre of it. The home is made up of two wings with a central dining hall and living room in the middle connected to a kitchen and a playground. The babies and toddlers sleep in the first wing. It also contains a sick-bay and a nursery. The older children sleep in the second wing. Both sections of the children's home have their own showers, toilets and changing rooms and each bedroom houses six to eight children. The children are cared for 7

days a week, 24 hours a day by a team of Ugandan caretakers called aunties. The babies spend their day in the baby wing, the toddlers play outside in the playground and the older children go to school during the week. The oldest girls and boys live in 'Family Units'. These smaller homes house 10 children each and are run by dedicated caretakers. They were built to provide the older children with more privacy and individual adult guidance and to free up space in the Children's Home to accommodate new arrivals. Noah's Ark is looking for sponsors who are willing to help fund or build the new houses.



Joshua

and social studies and he loves eating sausages, french fries and pancakes!

Please help the Noah's Ark Children's Home by sponsoring one of our children until they are old enough to stand on their own two feet.

As a sponsor you will receive regular photos and updates about your sponsor child.

Peter and Pita Buitendijk

*Sponsor a child
and watch the
child grow.*

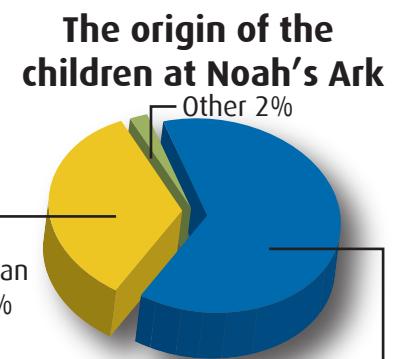
Jefta



For more information please visit
www.nacmu.org



Pita Buitendijk (mama)



BABY DUMPED IN PIT LATRINE

...worker to find out why she had thrown him into the pit latrine. Her story was both sad and shocking. She was only 13 years old and she had been raped by an older man who threatened to kill her if she told anyone about it. She was then expelled from her home when her mother discovered her daughter was pregnant. A distant relative agreed to take her in as a servant girl. But when her contractions began she

was told to carry on working. After giving birth to Jethro, she threw him into the pit latrine believing this would solve her problems. While Peter and Pita do not approve of what she did, they understand why she did it and feel sorry for her. She is a child who needs to be cared for and healed, just like her baby.

(For more information see video on website at www.nacmu.org).



Some of the children with cards and presents from their sponsors

The children are proud of their sponsors!

All the children in the Children's Home need sponsors. Without sponsors, Noah's Ark wouldn't be able to provide the children with a sheltered home, loving caretakers, three meals a day, clean clothing, medications and an education. Many sponsors also send greeting cards or presents to their sponsor children, especially on their birthdays. The children are always very happy when they receive cards or presents and they are very proud of their sponsors, because it's one of 'the few things that they have for themselves. Most of the children are sponsored by individuals in Germany and The Netherlands but as Noah's Ark continues to grow, new sponsors are needed and very welcome. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please visit www.nacmu.org for more information.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Words of Wisdom

- James 1 verse 27

Arrival and Reunion

Tim & Amos

Tim and Amos arrived at Noah's Ark in September 2008 when they were young toddlers. Their mother abandoned them when they were babies. Their father remarried and started a



second family but decided to get rid of his sons by refusing them food. When the new family ate, Tim and Amos would have to lie under the bed and watch. They were also refused clothing. The only thing they did receive, were beatings. The police arrested the parents and asked Noah's Ark to look after the boys. Both brothers were in a very poor state upon arrival at the Children's Home being severely underfed and suffering from malaria. Tim, the oldest, had scars and burns all over his body. Both have recovered and now have a new Papa and Mama (Peter and Pita) and a family with food to eat, clothes to wear, friends to play with, and plenty of love and care. Tim is a friendly and happy boy, Amos is well behaved and very social and they are both very happy at Noah's Ark.



Tim & Amos today

Jeriah

Jeriah arrived at Noah's Ark in October 2010. He was literally found at the front gate.



Jeriah

Noah's Ark doesn't usually accept children left at the gate (in order to avoid an avalanche of children), but the little baby boy was so sick that Peter and Pita decided to accept him. He was malnourished, dehydrated and had chronic malaria. His torso was also covered with razor wounds, a sign that he had been treated (abused) by a witchdoctor. He was renamed Jeriah (which means appointed by God) and given a new birthday. Various attempts were made by the Noah's Ark social worker to trace his family and finally his grandmother was found. The grandmother was furious with her



Jeriah is reunited with his aunts

daughter for abandoning Jeriah and had given up all hope of seeing him again. She was only too happy to take him back. So in January 2011, Jeriah's maternal aunts came to Noah's Ark to take him home. While Peter, Pita and the caretakers were sad to see him leave, Jeriah (and all the other children who have been reunited) are better off with their families. Noah's Ark really is a last resort for children who have no families, or families who can't or won't care for them.

Veronica (4) saw a man staring at Pita and said: "Mama that uncle is looking at you and you're not even a television!".

Abraham's (3) leg was hurting so he went to Peter and said "Papa I think my leg is falling off".

Zippora (3) woke up one morning and calmly stepped over a cobra which was lying next to her bed. Asked why she didn't stay in her bed and call for help she replied that the snake was still sleeping.

Did you know...

Noah's Ark was founded in 2000 by a Dutch missionary couple, Peter and Pita Buitendijk.

Peter and Pita are referred to as 'Papa and Mama' by the children and the staff and volunteers are called 'Aunties and Uncles'.

Noah's Ark is a non-profit, non-denominational Christian organization helping people regardless of age, sex, religion or ethnicity.

There are now over 120 children in the Children's Home and the oldest child is Hannah (13 years).

Caring becomes their specialty



Hulda's in safe hands

The children in the Children's Home are cared for 24/7 by a group of 18 caretakers who are called 'aunties'. The caretakers are Ugandan women in their early twenties and they come from different parts of the country. They are usually hired via local churches or

staff members at Noah's Ark. They must speak English and have at least a primary school education to work in the Children's Home. They are trained on the job and they live next to the Children's Home in the caretaker's houses. The caretakers are divided into 3 teams: babies (nursery), toddlers and older children and each team wears a different colored apron. They are responsible for waking, cleaning, dressing, feeding and putting the children to bed. They also ensure that the children behave, play safely and are cared for when they are sick, injured or unhappy.

A Typical Day in Pictures



7 am: Time for breakfast



7.30 am: Children go to school



11 am: Toddlers play in garden



1 pm: Lunch is served



2 pm: Afternoon nap



4 pm: Playing with the babies



6 pm: Supper in the dining hall

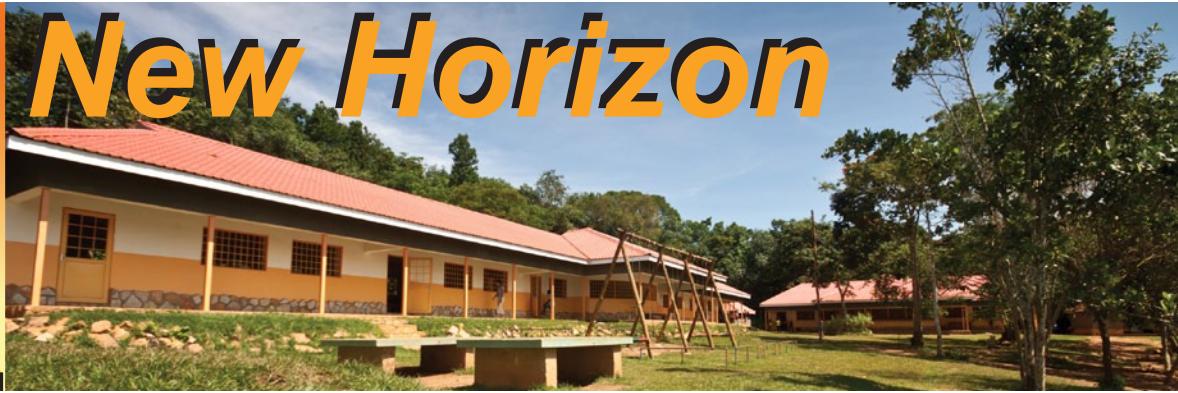


7 pm: Time for bed!

NEW HORIZON
Nursery & Primary
School



New Horizon



The New Horizon Nursery & Primary School was established in 2007 to give the children from The Children's Home an education. The children from the poorest families in neighboring villages were also enrolled to help the local community and introduce the home children to the 'outside world'. The school is called New Horizon and its motto is 'From nobody to somebody' because in the eyes of Ugandan society most of the children are nobodies as they are orphans or poor. Head master Moses Nkugwa, aims to make them some-bodies by giving them an education, good morals and self-confidence. New Horizon consists of a nursery school and a primary

graduate to primary school when they are 6 years old. The nursery school has three classes (baby class, middle class and top class). The primary school has seven classes (P1 to P7) and the children range in theory from 6 to 13 years old. The subjects taught include English, mathematics, science, history, geography, religious studies, art and music. The school year is divided into three terms and at the end of each term examinations are held and reports are made to ascertain the academic progress of the children. Just over 300 children are enrolled in The New Horizon Nursery & Primary School, a third of whom come from the children's home, and two thirds from the villages. However the village children need sponsors to pay for the school fees, learning materials, uniforms, healthcare and meals. Many of them are not yet sponsored and Noah's Ark is desperately looking for people who are willing to help. Please check out the website and send an email to nacmu-uganda@nacmu.org if you would like to sponsor a child from the villages. New Horiozn offers them a better future and a happier childhood.



The nursery school

school. The school is open from Monday to Friday and every day begins at 8 am with morning prayers and finishes at 4 pm with extracurricular activities. The children begin nursery school when they are 3 and

and send an email to nacmu-uganda@nacmu.org if you would like to sponsor a child from the villages. New Horiozn offers them a better future and a happier childhood.



Philemon

Mutawe Philemon is a quiet and rather sad four year old who joined The New Horizon Nursery School in 2011. He lives with his 19 year old mother and stepfather in Takkajunge, a village next to Noah's Ark. His family history is not a happy one. He was born after his mother was raped by a witch doctor and abandoned by her family when she married a man they did not approve of. His mother does not have a job so she is totally dependent on her new husband for the upkeep of Philemon. However his stepfather does not

love him and he refuses to care for him financially. This is why Noah's Ark stepped in to give Philemon an education and a chance to escape this unhappy start to life. Philemon is now in Baby Class where he is learning to speak English. He enjoys the love and attention he receives from his friends and teachers, playing with toys, and the hot lunches in the afternoon.

"If your plan is for a year, plant rice.
If your plan is for a decade, plant trees.
If your plan is for a lifetime, educate children"

- Confucius (551-479 BC)

Words of Wisdom

"Equip the child with the basic skills and knowledge that will enable him or her to become self-reliant in the future."

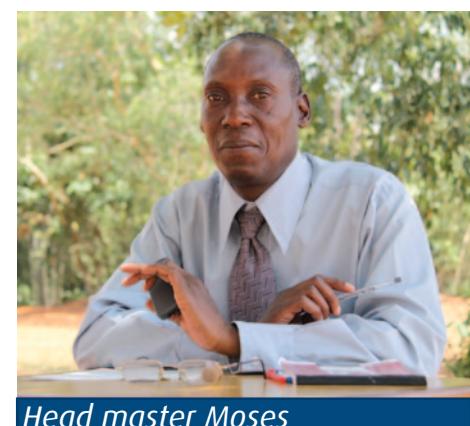


The kids are studying for a better future



Cheerful Uniforms

The New Horizon nursery and primary school has some of the most colorful uniforms in Uganda. Pita designed them herself, while lying in bed when she was recovering from a sickness. She chose the four elementary colors: Red, Yellow, Blue and Green (because she wanted to give the school a cheerful atmosphere) and the children wear Croc shoes because Noah's Ark received a container of donated crocs. The school uniforms are made by a local seamstress. In Uganda, school children wear school uniforms. This tradition stems from the British and is designed to instil discipline and conformity in the children.



Head master Moses

SCHOOL MATERIALS NEEDED

New Horizon is in need of practical learning materials and equipment like textbooks and children's novels; educational computer software; exercise books and paper; mathematical and scientific instruments; pens, pencils, chalk and erasers; sports equipment; and materials for arts and crafts.

TEACHING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

New Horizon Primary & Nursery School is looking for volunteers with a completed study and experience in the field of education. The main goal of your three month stay is to motivate the Ugandan teachers in creativity and lesson planning. For more info, please visit www.nacmu.org



A happier childhood



Nursery School

Primary School

The Village Children

Every year a new generation of children join New Horizon. Many are from the villages and most of them are toddlers starting nursery school. The Noah's Ark social worker searches the villages to find families (regardless of their religious or ethnic backgrounds) who cannot afford to send their children to school. Some of the new recruits are older because every year half a dozen village children drop out of school because they move away or start working to support their families. The new village children usually only speak Luganda (the local language), so they first have to learn English. Others need a crash course in personal hygiene because they live in mud huts which have

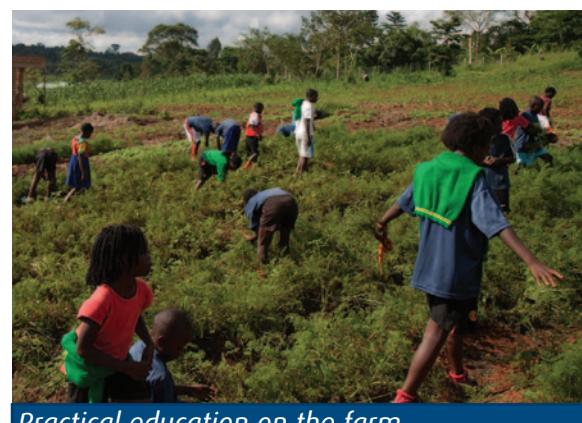
no toilets, showers or running water. All the village children walk to school and some of them live more than an hour's walk away. However they are well behaved, enthusiastic to learn, and very grateful for the opportunity to go to school. They also really appreciate the food, clothes and shoes that New Horizon provides them with. The only thing they still need are sponsors. The village children are destined to remain home in abject poverty and will probably repeat the lives of their parents unless they receive outside help. With a little support you can make a huge difference in the lives of these disadvantaged children. Please visit the website at www.nacmu.org for more info.



Home sweet home

Noah's Ark has a Farm, ee-i-ee-i-oh!

The children at New Horizon are learning to farm. Agriculture is a compulsory subject for the primary school children because Uganda is primarily an agricultural economy. The children study farming in theory in the classroom and in practice on the Noah's Ark farm. Each class has its own plot where they grow vegetables (which they get to take home with them) and once a week they go on a field trip to observe the various farm activities.



Practical education on the farm

Did you know...

- The average age of a Ugandan is 15 years old (60% of the population is under 16 years old).
- 50% of the Ugandans above 15 cannot read or write.
- 80% of the youth in Uganda is unemployed.

- 71% of Ugandan children attend a primary school.
- 20% of Ugandan children go to a secondary school.
- 3% of Ugandan children go on to study at a university.
- The Ugandan school curriculum is based on the British school system and is taught in English.



Rose

Rose Nalwadda is 18 years old (the oldest child at school) and she's has a tough life. Rose joined New Horizon Primary School as an older child and is now in 5th grade (P5). At school she learns and socializes with the other children. She is well behaved and very good at English and sports. But when Rose returns home she runs a household all on her own. Her mother died when she was young and her father abandoned them. Her grandmother then stepped in, but she too has died. So after school, Rose cooks, washes and cares for her six younger siblings and cousins in the mud hut of her late grandmother. They survive on donations from sympathizers and distant relatives. She dropped out of school to look after her family until Noah's Ark enrolled her into the New Horizon Primary School.

One Meal A Day

Uncommon for children to faint on Monday morning because they have not eaten a meal during the weekend. Many of the parents (or guardians) of the village children are unable to provide enough food for their families due to structural poverty, mass unemployment and worldwide increases in the cost of food and basic commodities. The school lunches are hot. They are

(continued from front page)
usually rice with vegetables or posho (mashed corn) and beans - All are traditional Ugandan ingredients. The children also receive sweet tea and cookies during the morning break. The school lunches are another reason why the village children and their guardians are so grateful that they can go to New Horizon school. The lunches are life-giving and not a joking matter.



The new prefects

Children in Power

Some children at the primary school, called 'prefects', are given extra power and duties over the other children. The 36 prefects and deputy prefects are responsible for a number of duties ranging from general discipline to first aid. The prefect system is a British concept and aims to teach children about leadership and responsibility. Each year new prefects are chosen by the student body in a general election. The election is designed to teach the children about

democracy and politics. Every child is permitted to enter his or her name for a prefect post. Campaign posters are made and the children are given a couple of minutes to persuade their peers to vote for them during a general assembly. The children vote for the prefects of their choice and the winners are presented to the school. The election process ends with an official swearing in ceremony and speeches from the head master and Peter about the burdens and duties of leadership.



A small donation makes a big difference

You can make a big difference in the lives of the poorest Ugandan children by giving them the opportunity to go to school and have a better future. Please visit our website to find out more.



www.nacmu.org

From nobody to somebody.



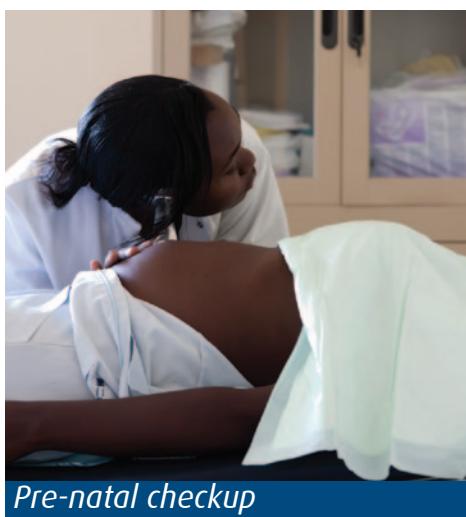
Family Clinic



The Noah's Ark Family Clinic was set up in September 2009 to treat children and staff from the Children's Home and New Horizon school, and to serve families (regardless of their religious or ethnic backgrounds) from the surrounding communities. The clinic employs a doctor, a nurse, two midwives and a lab technician. It has a general practice; a maternal health and delivery unit; a laboratory and a pharmacy. The Family Clinic also operates an ambulance service. A new building is currently being built to house a dentistry unit, an intensive care unit, a nutritional unit and three wards so that Noah's Ark can offer even more health services to the local community.

500 Mothers Die Every Month Giving Birth in Uganda

The Mother and Child Health Program is the most important service offered to the local community by the Family Clinic. It was launched in September 2009 to reduce maternal and infant mortalities in the surrounding villages. In Uganda 500 mothers die every month during or shortly after childbirth from disease, malnourishment or complications, mainly due to



Pre-natal checkup

poverty and a lack of basic medical facilities. Health workers from the Family Clinic travel to the villages to advise expectant mothers and recruit them to the program. Those who join are given pre-natal testing, food supplements and inoculations, and they are guided during their pregnancy by the midwives. After delivering their babies at the clinic, they are given health packets (including mosquito nets, baby food and clothing) and they receive post-natal advice and inoculations 6 weeks after delivery. The program costs about 40 US dollars per mother. Between September 2009 and December 2010 over 200 mothers delivered their babies in the Family Clinic. If the Children's Home is the bucket that collects abandoned children, the mother and child health program is an attempt to fix the hole in the roof. NACMU is now looking for additional funds to continue this life giving project.

KILLER DISEASE SURROUNDS CHILDREN'S HOME

(continued from front page)

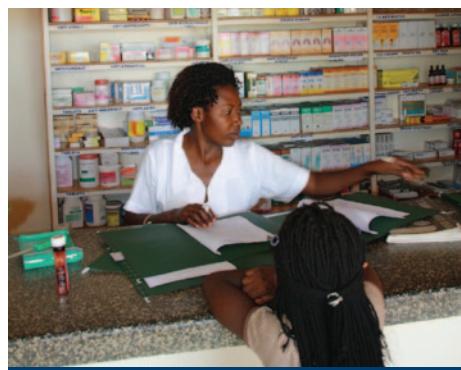
... intense and painful as the parasites multiply and spread throughout the body. The earlier malaria is diagnosed and treated the better. If not treated, this particular strain of malaria often leads to permanent brain damage or death. The Noah's Ark Family Clinic uses Lonart or Quinine (the same substance found in tonic water) to treat malaria because they are effective, quick and relatively cheap. Other common diseases and inflictions in the children's home include chickenpox, measles, flu, diarrhea, lung and skin infections. Many of these diseases come to Noah's Ark through the new children when they arrive. The large number of children living together in close proximity only increases the rate of infection. However thanks to the medical staff in the Family Clinic, the sick and injured children are usually successfully treated and restored to health.



The doctor examines Doreen



Doctor Fahad



The Pharmacy

Did you know...

The average Ugandan has 6.8 children and lives to 45 years old.

The main causes of child death are childbirth problems (24%), malaria (23%) & diarrhea (17%). For adults they are AIDS (25%), malaria (11%) & lung infections (8%)

An estimated 30% of the Ugandan population is HIV+.



The Laboratory

"Peter speaking, what's the emergency?"

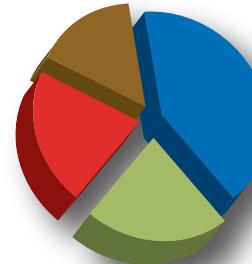
The NACMU ambulance is on permanent standby to take pregnant women experiencing major complications during childbirth, and patients suffering from serious sicknesses or injuries which cannot be handled by the Noah's Ark Family Clinic to the local hospitals. The four wheel drive ambulance was donated to Noah's Ark by rotary clubs of Minnesota (USA) and Mukono. Peter is both the emergency telephone operator as

well as the ambulance driver and when a call comes in, he's very fast!



The NACMU Ambulance

Source of Family Clinic Patients



September 2009 to February 2011

* from the villages

DOCTORS, NURSES & MIDWIVES NEEDED

We are looking for doctors, nurses and midwives who would like to do voluntary work in the Family Clinic for a period of 3 months. You will be working with the local medical staff. Doctors and nurses specialized in child care are especially welcome. For more information, visit our website at www.nacmu.org.



You can give a Ugandan mother and child life.

For US\$ 40,- you can sponsor the safe and healthy pregnancy, birth and first few months of a mother and her newborn baby. So that she is not one of the 500 mothers who die every month during childbirth.

Mother & Child Health Program
www.nacmu.org

SUPPORT STAFF



Noah's Ark could not function without its support staff. It would be impossible for Peter and Pita to look after so many children all on their own. Cooks and farm workers are needed to produce and cook the food; laundry staff is needed to wash the clothes; and cleaners are needed to clean the home every day. Besides this, maintenance staff is needed to construct and maintain the buildings, furniture, grounds and utilities like electricity, water and waste; security guards are

needed to guard the premises; vehicles and drivers are needed to transport everything; and administrators are needed to manage these extra activities. All of this is under the guidance of the General Manager, Sam Nsereko. The support staff is Ugandan. They are men and women from different backgrounds and parts of the country. Some of them live on the compound, others in Mukono and its surroundings.

Working with Nature

Noah's Ark sits on a steep hill partially covered by jungle. Were it not for the daily work of the grounds and maintenance men, the heavy rains in the rainy seasons would wash away the roads, and the jungle would slowly reclaim the buildings. The groundsmen are also responsible for removing the rubbish and the sewage which is either burned, used as fertilizer or used as feed for the farm. The Noah's Ark farm was established to produce food for the children's home and to teach the school children important farming skills. The farm workers grow crops (like maize, beans, tomatoes, carrots and onions); maintain the animals (cows, pigs and chickens in the near future); and cultivate a large mango grove. They also oversee a fish farm (catfish and tilapia). The food the farm produces (vegetables, fruits, meat) is used to feed the children in the home and school and the animals on the farm.



Glimpses of the Noah's Ark Farm

"Working with NACMU is a service to the destitute children of Uganda which calls for commitment, love and intimacy. I am proud to associate myself with people of good heart worldwide who keep our service to children rekindled through donating money and other kind. The children need us and we need you. God bless you."

Sam Nsereko, General Manager



Thank you Auntie Sadia!

It's a dirty job

Children are very messy but this doesn't seem to bother them. When healthy, they and their clothes are quickly covered in dirt, food and just about anything else too. And when they are ill it's even worse! With over 120 babies, toddlers and youngsters, you can imagine what they and the floors would look like, were it not for the ladies who wash their clothes and clean the home every day. The laundry staff collect dirty clothes, bedding and re-usable diapers and take them to the laundry where everything is washed during the night. The next day, the laundry is hung out to dry in the sun and after lunch the laundry ladies iron and fold the clothes before taking them back to the home. The cleaning ladies, meanwhile, spend their day mopping the floors and cleaning the walls, windows and furniture in the children's home. Its a dirty job but someone has to do it!

Enough to feed an orphanage



Only 320 plates to go...

In Dutch there's an expression "It's enough to feed an orphanage" when you cook lots of food. If you ever visit the kitchen at Noah's Ark you'll understand where this expression comes from because the cooks do a lot of cooking! Every day - from 5 am to 8 pm - the four cooks prepare and serve breakfast, lunch and dinner to over 120 children

from the children's home - plus lunch to an extra 200 children at the school. They also serve tea and biscuits to all the children during the morning and the afternoon break. And afterward they have to do the washing up as well! They 'relax' in the weekends when they only have to cook for 120 children. Everything is cooked on four wood burning stoves which also produce the hot water for the kitchen and the home. The food comes from the farm, the local market or is donated by sponsors and the food waste is given to the pigs on the farm.

Did you know...

- 19,000 liters of milk is produced by the 7 cows on the farm every year?
- In the rainy seasons drying the children's clothes is almost impossible.
- While salt is widely used, Ugandans are not familiar with, and never use pepper.
- The children call the tractor that empties the sewage tanks 'The poo-poo truck'.
- The electricity only works 60% of the time at Noah's Ark.



The carpentry workshop

INSTITUTIONAL COOK AND AGRICULTURALIST NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer institutional cook to run the kitchen of the Children's Home and manage the kitchen staff for a short period. We would prefer someone who has experience working in the kitchen of a large organization.

We are looking for an agriculturalist who would like to help and advise us on the Noah's Ark farm for a couple of months as a volunteer. Please visit the website www.nacmu.org for more info.

NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S HOME

The Ugandan children below are cared for by The Noah's Ark Children's Home and are in need of a sponsor. All the babies, toddlers and children below have been abandoned, orphaned or mistreated by their parents. Poverty and despair are usually the reasons why Ugandan mothers abandon their children and every month 5000 women die during childbirth due to poor healthcare. Noah's Ark provides these children with a safe and loving home but the number of children is still growing and we need your support to provide for them.

The Noah's Ark Children's Home provides the children below with the following:

Life: Many of the children would have died from starvation, abuse or disease if they had not been taken in by Noah's Ark;

A new home: The children are given a new home and they are cared for 24/7 by a team of dedicated caretakers;

Food and clothing: The children are provided with clean clothes and three square meals every day;

Healthcare: At the Noah's Ark Family Clinic a doctor and nurse are on hand to treat the children when they are sick or injured;

An education: The children are educated at the New Horizon School from nursery school to primary school.

Without sponsors, The Noah's Ark Children's Home would not be able to care for these unwanted children. Please sponsor one of the children below. Your support is used to pay for the caretakers, food, clothing, healthcare and the education of the children and you will be kept informed by a quarterly newsletter and twice yearly updates and photos of your sponsor child. Please visit our website at www.nacmu.org for more information and registration details.



Please sponsor one of our children
Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda

NEW HORIZON SCHOOL

The Ugandan children below attend Noah's Ark New Horizon School and are in need of a sponsor. They come from the poorest families who cannot afford to send their children to school. Most of them live in simple brick- or mud huts without windows, flooring, electricity or running water; most of them are cared for by a single grandparent or mother because their parents or fathers have died or abandoned them; and most of their guardians are peasant farmers who struggle to survive by casual labor and growing vegetables.

New Horizon School is run by Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda and it provides these local children with the following:

An Education: They are given an education from nursery to primary school;

Food: Most of their guardians are too poor to provide for even one hot meal a day so the children depend on school lunches to survive;

Healthcare: The children rely on the Noah's Ark Family Clinic when they are sick because their guardians cannot afford healthcare;

Clothing: Most of the children do not have any proper clothes and shoes other than the school uniforms provided by New Horizon;

Escape: New Horizon provides them with a happy environment where the children can socialize and escape their everyday problems.

Without an education the future of these children will probably be as bleak as their childhood. Please sponsor a child at New Horizon and give him or her a happier childhood and a better future. Your support is used to pay for the school fees, food, healthcare, uniforms and school accessories and you will receive twice yearly photos and updates about your sponsor child. Please visit the NACMU website at www.nacmu.org for more information and registration details.



NEW HORIZON
Nursery & Primary
School

It's a miracle!

Miracles do happen at Noah's Ark thanks to The Lord, and the people across the world who pray for the children. Of all the miracles that have occurred in the past year, the following cases stand out:



Dinah was a very sick baby. The doctors discovered that she had two holes in her heart and she needed open heart surgery to survive. The operation was very risky and success was not guaranteed. But, little Dinah survived and thanks be to God she is now even walking at 11 months old.



One day Petra felt ill and 24 hours later she was lying unconscious in the intensive care unit of a Kampala hospital with a severe case of cerebral malaria. The doctors weren't sure she would survive, and presumed she would suffer from permanent brain damage. Many prayed and God answered: five days later she made a full recovery and was back at the home playing with her friends.



Jethro was thrown into a covered pit latrine by his teenage mother moments after his birth. He spent the next three hours of his life floating in sewage until he was rescued by bystanders who heard his cries. Thanks to God he did not drown, suffocate or die from infections afterwards.



Hannah was diagnosed with a severe case of skin cancer. The doctors prescribed a heavy cure of chemotherapy, which they warned would take a year and make her very sick. Within a few months she made a full recovery. The cancer has disappeared and she never experienced any pain.



The fact that Caleb is still alive is a miracle in itself. This jolly toddler has been HIV positive since birth and his immune system is so weak that he is often seriously sick and in hospital. Pray with us for healing.

*Jesus said:
"And whoever welcomes one such child in My name welcomes Me."*

Matthew 18:5

CHURCH

Noah's Ark never rests but every Sunday, staff and volunteers stop their work for a few hours to thank and praise God. The day begins with Sunday School. The younger children sing songs and paint pictures with the aunties in the home, while Uncle Warwick and Auntie Marilyn run a Sunday School for the older children in the new church. Songs are sung, the Bible is read and the children do activities related to the theme of the day. A church service is held in the afternoon in the small church next to the children's home, attended by children, volunteers and staff. Songs of praise are followed by performances from the children and enthusiastic staff or volunteers. A collection is then held after which a sermon is given by Pastor John, a friendly but stern preacher from a neighboring church in Mukono. The service ends with prayers and testimonies. As the number of children and staff at Noah's Ark grows, the old church is beginning to burst out of its seams. Thanks to the generosity of several churches and private sponsors, the foundation, walls and roof of a new church has been completed but funds are now needed to complete the interior of the building to turn it into a real church. Sunday school and church are important institutions at Noah's Ark. Firstly because Noah's Ark is a Christian organization. Secondly because Peter and Pita want to give the children a solid understanding of God and his love for mankind. And finally, because they want to thank The Lord for all that he has done for the children.



Amen.



The current church

church in Mukono. The service ends with prayers and testimonies. As the number of children and staff at Noah's Ark grows, the old church is beginning to burst out of its seams. Thanks to the generosity of several churches and private sponsors, the foundation, walls and roof of a new church has been completed but funds are now needed to complete the interior of the building to turn it into a real church. Sunday school and church are important institutions at Noah's Ark. Firstly because Noah's Ark is a Christian organization. Secondly because Peter and Pita want to give the children a solid understanding of God and his love for mankind. And finally, because they want to thank The Lord for all that he has done for the children.

Our children walk with Jesus



Children carrying the cross

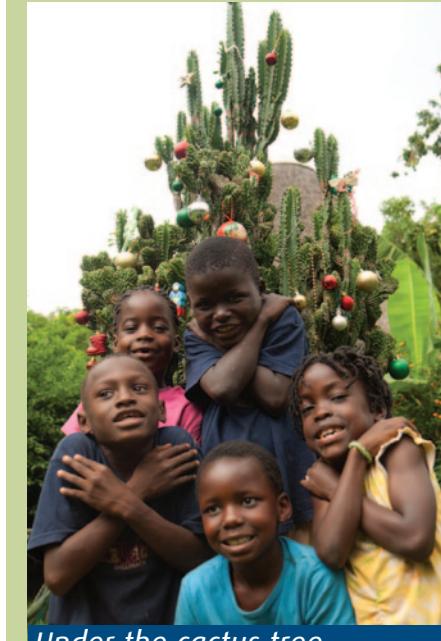
The highlight of Easter this year was the procession on Good Friday to commemorate the crucifixion of the Lord. As the sun set, Peter explained the relevance of Good Friday to the children and staff who had gathered in the garden. Hymns were sung and the children carried a cross, while passages from the gospels were read

by staff members along the way. Easter Sunday was celebrated with an Easter themed Sunday school and an Easter egg hunt in the playground afterwards. Following a special lunch of bread and eggs, the children and staff attended a church service in the afternoon to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

If you would like to pray for our children please send an e-mail to nacmu-uganda@nacmu.org in order to receive our Prayer Request Updates.

Christmas in the Tropics

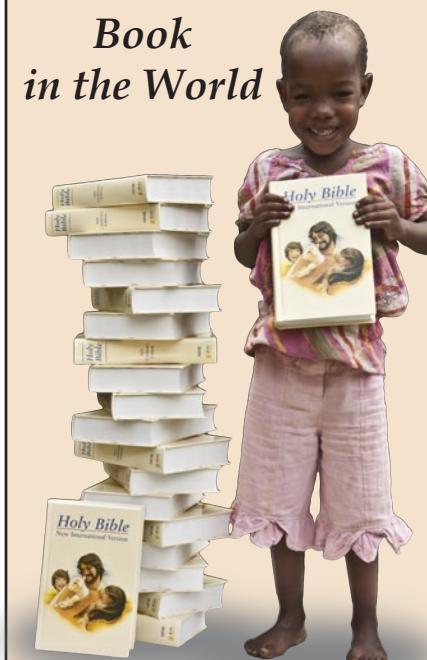
For the children of Noah's Ark the setting of Jesus' birth is not particularly shocking because many of them were born in similar circumstances or found along the side of the road in a plastic bag. It is the significance of His birth that is instilled in them. Jesus' birth is



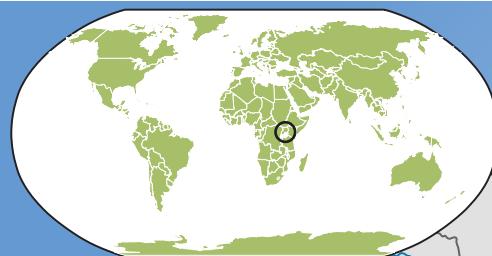
Under the cactus tree

celebrated on the 25th of December during a special Christmas service. Afterwards the children perform the nativity play before an enthusiastic audience of staff and holiday volunteers. Finally, after a special Christmas lunch, all the children receive presents and watch a movie. The day ends with a Christmas barbecue for all the children and staff at Noah's Ark.

The Best Book in the World



Noah's Ark is looking for donations to buy Bibles for all the children. Please see our contact details (page 16) if you would like to help.



Republic of Uganda

Area 236,040 km²

Population: 32 million

Capital: Kampala

Head of State: President Yoweri Museveni



Tribes, Clans and Families

Uganda does not have a social welfare system because the government does not have the money or the means to provide it. Instead, Ugandans rely on their families, clans and tribes for employment and mutual support. Every Ugandan is a member of a tribe, which is divided into clans and families. Ugandans often find jobs through these connections and those who have jobs are obliged to help their compatriots find employment and to give a share of their income to their unemployed family members. Ugandans who refuse are usually expelled from their families. Because of this system, Ugandans can survive despite mass poverty and unemployment but they cannot save money and orphans find it almost impossible to obtain employment. This is why Peter and Pita are already looking for ways to guarantee the children a good education and future employment. When they finish school they will be totally dependent on the Noah's Ark tribe because they no longer have a family, clan or tribe of their own.



The Noah's Ark Tribe

Visitors, Volunteers and Missionaries

There are three categories of foreigners at Noah's Ark: visitors, volunteers and missionaries. Visitors are individuals or groups who visit NACMU for a couple of hours, days or weeks. Some are sponsors who want to meet their sponsor children or see (or construct) the projects they are funding. Others simply want to visit. Volunteers are individuals who come for a 3 month period to work on a specific task. They need to be at least 21 years old, speak English and be qualified for the role they apply for. Missionaries work at Noah's Ark on a long term basis. Renske Bakker and Reny Nauta are both from Holland, in their late twenties and they have been at NACMU for 4 and 3 years respectively. Renske worked as a lab technician and now runs the nursery in the Home. Reny is a child therapist. Warwick and Marilyn Dingle are in their late fifties and from New Zealand. They run the Family Units, the Church and many other activities. They have been at Noah's Ark for 2 years. Visitors, volunteers and missionaries live on the NACMU compound and have to pay for their own upkeep. No one receives a salary, not even Peter and Pita.

Did you know...

The average Ugandan earns only US\$325 per year.

67% of the women in Uganda need to work to make ends meet.

- Agriculture employs 82% of the Ugandan workforce, Industry 5% and Services 13%.
- But agriculture is responsible for only 30% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product), Industry 25% and Services 45%.

The Republic of Uganda is situated in Eastern Africa along the western shores of Lake Victoria. Uganda is a beautiful country with mountains in the East and West, hills in the South and great plains in the North. Winston Churchill called it 'the Pearl of Africa'. It's blessed with fertile land, plenty of water, abundant natural resources, and a comfortable sunny climate due to its location on the equator. Uganda is also the source of the River Nile and its wildlife and friendly people make it a popular destination for tourists. Despite these blessings, Uganda has been cursed by years of dictatorship, war, poverty, corruption, and disease since gaining independence in 1962. The main cause of Uganda's troubles are tribal rivalries. The country is



Uganda, the pearl of Africa

made up of 36 different tribes who were banded together by the British in the 19th Century. Lake Kyoga forms the boundary between the Bantu tribes in the South and the Nilotics and Sudanese tribes in the North. They have been fighting each other to win political control of the country since 1962 in a game of winner takes all. For now, under President Yoweri Museveni, there is peace and stability, but millions of Ugandans have died and serious political and economic problems remain.

Uganda's Orphaned and Abandoned Children

There are over 3,4 million orphans in Uganda. Due to years of war, systematic poverty and diseases like malaria and Aids, entire families - who usually look after the children of deceased parents - have been wiped out. Most of these orphans live on the streets of Kampala and other towns around the country. The children who are old enough to survive are often abused and have to beg for food or

turn to crime and prostitution to survive. Thousands of other children are abandoned by their parents because they cannot afford to keep them, or because they don't want to keep them. Because the Ugandan government does not have the means to look after these children, they are abandoned to their fate unless they're lucky enough to find a charity, like Noah's Ark, willing to look after them.

Ten Minutes from Mukono



Mukono Main Street

The Noah's Ark Children's Home is located on a forested hillside next to the village of Nsambwe, 10 minutes drive north of Mukono (a large student town situated along the Kampala-Jinja Road) and about 40 minutes drive east of Kampala (the capital of Uganda). From Entebbe International Airport it takes approximately 2 hours to drive to Noah's Ark via Kampala.

Uganda's main export products include coffee, tea, cotton, fish and flowers (mostly to Europe) and it mainly imports machines, vehicles, petroleum and medical supplies (mostly from China, India and UAE).

42% of the population is Catholic, 42% Protestant, 12% Muslim, 3% other and 1% non-believers.

Uganda's official language is English, but the 36 tribes also speak their own languages.

What did we get ourselves into?!

What did we get ourselves into? This is a question that Pita and I have had to face and answer on numerous occasions since we started Noah's Ark.

What did we get ourselves into? We didn't know, when we took in our first child, Owen, that so many children would follow and that so many people in Uganda, The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, The US, Canada and New Zealand would also become involved.

What did we get ourselves into? We can't do this work on our own. We need help from Ugandan's, missionaries and volunteers.

What did we get ourselves into? What do we need to run a children's home? How much money do we need? What papers do we need?

What did we get ourselves into? We want to help everyone, but where do we start?

What did we get ourselves into? We are going to an unknown country with dangerous animals, insects and diseases and an unfamiliar climate.

What did we get ourselves into? So many people advise us not to begin this project and they use this very quote when they describe their own experiences.

What did we get ourselves into? If the Ugandan government can't look after all these children, what makes us think that we can?

What did we get ourselves into? We have to be there for the children 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Being there is usually enough, because we don't know everything and we can't do everything ourselves. For the children and the adults who help us, the fact that we are there is more important than the answers or solutions that we give.

What did we get ourselves into? We know one thing for certain: we did not start this work alone. God sent us, otherwise all these 'What have we gotten ourselves into's?! would have prevented us from continuing. Another thing that is certain is that the Lord is always with us. Only people let us down, or advise us in the wrong direction.

Now, after so many years, we still have no regrets and we hope that we can continue our work for many, many years to come. As the Bible says "it is better to give than to receive", and we are so grateful for God and our sponsors. Let us continue to save these Ugandan children who have literally and sometimes physically fallen into the gutter.

I recommend this with all my heart,
Peter Buitendijk

We depend on Noah's Ark

I am the child and family protection officer for the Mukono police. I deal with about 30 cases of abandoned children every year.

Most of them are found by the side of the road or in taxi parks and hairdressing saloons. Some are abandoned because their mothers are prostitutes who cannot afford to keep them (or they are dying of AIDS). Others are teenagers who were raped or accidentally impregnated but can't afford to raise a child or don't want their families to know. I try to find their families by interviewing witnesses and local institutions or through announcements in the media. Sometimes I'm able to trace the mother if she is a local girl. Child abuse including neglect of food, clothing, shelter or physical / sexual abuse is unfortunately even more common in Mukono. I have to deal with about 10 cases every month. Some parents are warned or fined, others are imprisoned and their children



Police Sergeant Nabirye Ruth

taken away. However I do not have the facilities to look after the children at the police station. I'm therefore very grateful

and almost totally dependent on the help that Noah's Ark provides me. When a lost child arrives, I call Papa (Peter) and he takes them to Noah's Ark until the situation has

been resolved. But if the family can't be traced, or the parents are imprisoned and there are no other family members to care for them they are often given a permanent home at Noah's Ark. It makes me very happy to see children reconciled with their families or given a new, better home.

Police Sergeant Nabirye Ruth,
Mukono Police.

Opinion

The best job in the whole world!

To get a baby is a very special experience for a woman. Most mothers would agree with me. Only the method by which I get babies is slightly different. I get most of my babies from the police. They are often found in the most miserable places and circumstances: along the side of the road; under the bushes; in the trash can; in the gutter; or literally in a pit-latrine. The children are usually very sick, malnourished (or both) and it is often a battle to keep them alive during the first few weeks after I have received them. Despite getting these babies in this rather unorthodox manner, my love for them is no different to the love of normal mothers.

When I am travelling to a police station to



Peter and Pita Buitendijk

pick up a baby, I feel like a mother and I look forward to seeing my new child. These children have not been born from my body, but they are born in my heart. It's a real joy to watch these little babies grow into beautiful healthy young boys and girls, full of joy and self-confidence. But when a baby dies, after a long struggle to keep it alive, I feel completely devastated and defeated. Despite these occasional dark moments, I believe the work I do is the best job in the whole world. Giving all my time and energy to the children is more than worth it, and I am grateful to be the mother of so many beautiful boys and girls.

Pita Buitendijk

"I expect to pass through life but once.

If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again."

Words of Wisdom

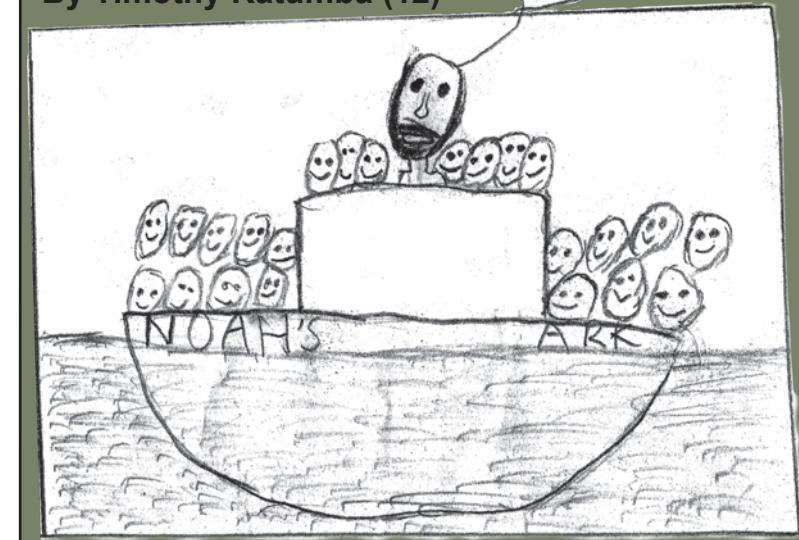
- William Penn

IT VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Do you have a diploma in IT? Do you enjoy change and a challenge? Come to Noah's Ark for a couple of months as an IT expert. You will look after our computers and you will teach the children and the teachers how to work with Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and the internet.

CARTOON

By Timothy Katumba (12)



"Still room for two more"

Reader's Page

If you would like to receive the quarterly Noah's Ark Newsletter, please send an e-mail with your contact details to nacmu-uganda@nacmu.org

It's not an Orphanage!

Dear Editor,
Why is Noah's Ark not an orphanage and what's your policy for accepting new children?

Noah's Ark is not an orphanage - it is a Children's Home. Firstly, because not all of the children are orphans and secondly, because being an orphan in Uganda has a very negative connotation. Most of the children at Noah's Ark have been abandoned by their parents (usually left by the side of the road or with strangers). Others have been orphaned when their parents died of disease or during childbirth. And a third group have been taken away from their parents by the police because of sexual or

physical abuse.

Pita and Peter have three general rules (though they are sometimes broken) when it comes to accepting new children into the children's home. Firstly, they must be younger than 2 years old because older street children have in the past caused serious disturbances in the children's home. However these children are happily accepted by other charitable institutions. Secondly, they do not accept children who are left at the front gate otherwise word would soon get out and lots of people would leave their children at the gate hoping that Noah's Ark will look after them. Finally, they will only accept children who have no other family members who are willing or able to look after them because Pita and Peter believe that a child is better off with his or her own family and they want to keep space free in the Children's Home for the children who really have no one.

Where are they from?

Dear Editor,
Where do the children in the children's home come from?

Most of the children come from the police in Mukono, Kampala or Jinja and many are found in the most miserable circumstances. Elisabeth, for example, was dumped in a forest in a plastic bag just after her birth with the placenta still attached; Michaela was also found abandoned in a forest. Nobody knows how long she was left there but she was eating mud when she was discovered; Ezra was locked in a shed and buried up to his waist in soil. What little food he

received was thrown to him through bars; Lydia was found wrapped in a newspaper by rubbish collectors; Stanley Moses was found in a swamp with his head just above the water-line; and Simone was literally found in the gutter. She had been thrown into the Kampala drainage system during the rainy season, and was only discovered because she was blocking the drains.

Pita's recipe for Elephant Stew

Ingredients

1 medium sized elephant
20 bags of salt
500 kg pepper
750 kg potatoes

125 kg carrots
2000 sprigs of parsley
1 rabbit

- Cut elephant into bite size chunks (takes about 6 weeks)
- Chop vegetables into cubes (takes about 4 weeks)
- Place meat in large pot with 500½ liters of water and simmer for 28 days.
- Shovel in salt and pepper to taste. Be sure to mix well.
- When meat is tender, add vegetables.
- Simmer slowly for another week, then garnish with parsley.

Serves approximately 3000 people. If more guests are expected, add the rabbit.

Next edition: Pita's recipe for fried white ants



This is a joke. We don't really eat elephants!



Ntambi Charles K.

A letter from the chairman

I thank GOD for helping the vulnerable and abandoned children of Uganda through Peter and Pita Buitendijk. We have been friends for many years and I watched them start the Noah's Ark Children's Home. However, things have not always been easy and I thank them for their hard work, courage and vision which has made Noah's Ark a shelter for more than 120 children. I would also like to thank the people and the organizations who have supported NACMU through the years. The children are totally dependent on your help and support, and I appeal to new readers to join the cause. Finally I would like to thank the NACMU board in Uganda and The Netherlands for all their wisdom and support.

God bless you all!

Ntambi Charles K.
Chairman NACMU Uganda

The Witch Doctors

Dear Editor,
Does witchcraft and child sacrifice really exist in Uganda?

Some Ugandans, especially in the region of Mukono, still worship traditional African 'gods' and visit the witch doctors who claim to communicate with spirits. The witch doctors

From Nobody to Somebody

Abandoned I lie by the road,
No one loves me, I have no home,
I'm a nobody.

I'm hungry and lonely,
But nobody seems to care.
Nobody!

Then by a miracle,
Two strong hands carry me away,
And a friendly face tells me it's OK.

I wait and watch,
Where are they taking me?

They are taking me to Noah's Ark,
Where the doors are open,
And children like me are welcome.

Now I'm no longer hungry or alone,
I have a Mama and a Papa,
And a place called home.

Once I was a nobody,
Now I'm a somebody,
I have a future.

Though I am still small and weak,
My life is now happy and complete,
In the Ark that saves.

By Marielle van Essen
(Translated from Dutch)

encourage their 'clients' to kidnap and kill children believing that the 'gods' will then give them riches, fame, revenge or children of their own. But the police cannot arrest them unless they are caught in the act and many of the victims are orphaned or abandoned children because they are easy targets. Some of the children at Noah's Ark escaped and can speak from personal experience.

VOLUNTEER HANDY MAN NEEDED

We are always looking for a volunteer handy man to help us to repair and maintain buildings, furniture, toys, bicycles and playing equipment etc... for a 3 month period.



Hannah with some of the many postcards she received during her illness (Cancer)

Thank you for the cards.
I was so happy that you gave me them.
They made me feel that I had people praying for me.
Now I am fine.
Greetings from Hannah.



Return to
senders
Worldwide

Business News

Step Two: The Secondary and Vocational School



Local builders working on the foundation of the secondary school

A new combined secondary and vocational school is being built in the valley opposite Noah's Ark because the oldest children are about to complete the primary school and Peter and Pita want to complete the education of the children. Combined secondary and vocational schools are not very common in Uganda because most schools do not have the resources to combine the two. Nevertheless, Peter and Pita have decided to combine secondary schooling and vocational training. Firstly because Uganda is a developing economy and a vocational skill is a better guarantee for future employment and also because not all children are academically interested or capable. The secondary schooling will be in Ordinary (O) levels and Advanced (A) levels according to the Ugandan national curriculum. The vocational training program will include agriculture, metal working, home economics, mechanics, tailoring, art & crafts,

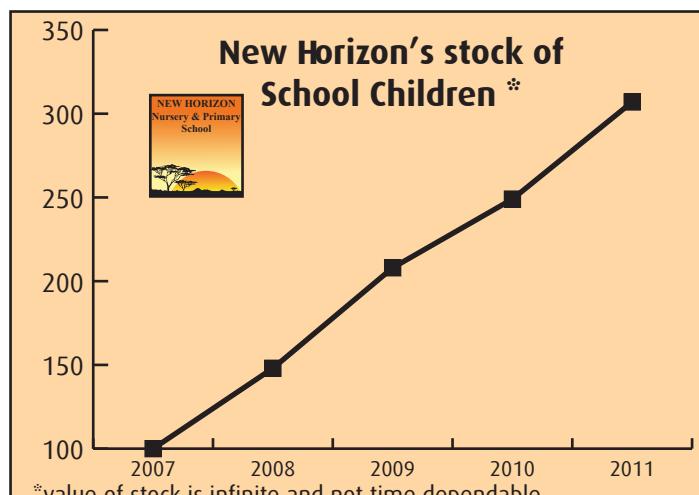
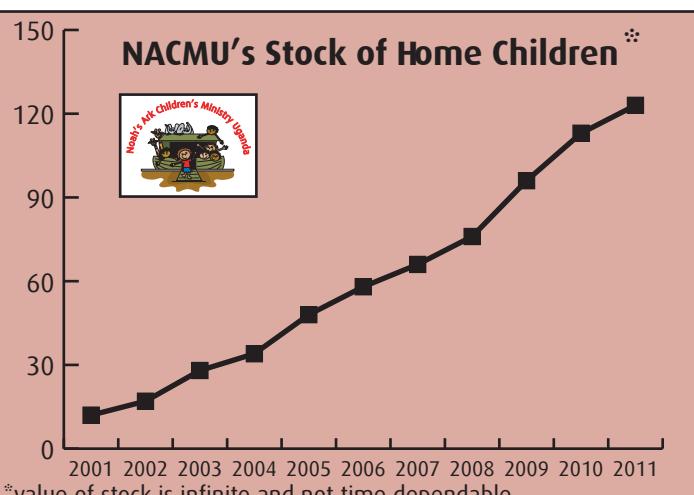
masonry & painting, electronics, and carpentry. The current support staff and departments at Noah's Ark will be utilized to provide this training. During the first four years, all the children will have to study for Ordinary (O) levels and learn a vocational skill. Afterwards they can either continue studying for Advanced (A) levels or specialize in vocational training. Peter and Pita believe this will give the children the best guarantee for future employment.

Did you know...

- In most countries donations to charities are tax deductible.
- NACMU is supported and represented in Germany by GAIN-Germany, in Canada by Hungry For Life, and in the US by Safe Landing Ministries. See page 16 for more details.

NASE - Noah's Ark Stock Exchange

The following financial information is for current sponsors or new investors who are interested in investing in stocks of NACMU Home Children and / or New Horizon School Children.



Worth the Wait

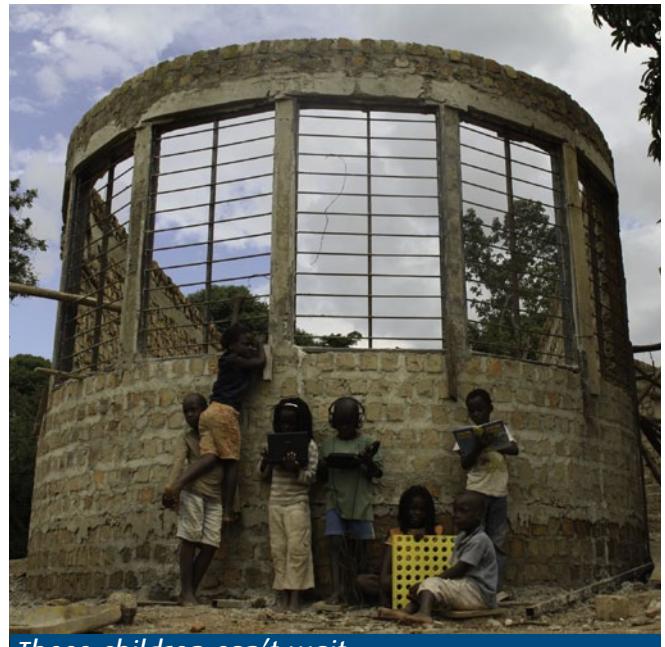
Several times a year NACMU receives containers with donated supplies from Europe and North America. The containers full of food, clothes, toys, and other supplies are very important for Noah's Ark. But sometimes it can take a long time for the containers to reach Noah's Ark. The containers first have to travel

by ship across the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean, through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea (where they have to avoid Somali pirates), to the Indian Ocean and the port of Mombasa in Kenya. The containers are then offloaded onto trucks and driven across Kenya into Uganda. They then drive past Noah's Ark to a customs

office in Kampala where it can take between one and four months for the customs officials to check and release them! Finally the containers are driven to Noah's Ark where the donated supplies are handed out or off-loaded into the storage containers next to the workshops.

Therapy & Development Centre

A number of the children in the children's home are psychologically or physically impaired due to their traumatic experiences of physical abuse or abandonment. Reny Nauta, a missionary at Noah's Ark, runs a therapeutic program to help these children. The Therapy & Development Centre will provide her with a place to work. It will house a small gym to train the children with physical disabilities; a combined library, music and video room; a playroom where children can play with and borrow toys; and an office for Reny. Noah's Ark is looking for funds to complete the building. Also needed are English children's books, DVD's, music, sports equipment and strong toys. Please contact Noah's Ark at nacmu-uganda@nacmu.org if you are interested in helping.



Words of Wisdom

"Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;
the Lord delivers them in times of trouble."

- Psalm 41

PR VOLUNTEER NEEDED
To extend and improve our PR and marketing activities in sponsor countries like Canada, the US and Europe we are looking for a volunteer with knowledge and experience in the field of Public Relations for a 3 month stay.

CHURCH OFFERINGS NEEDED
If you are looking for a purpose for your church offering, please consider the Noah's Ark children's home, school, clinic or our church program.

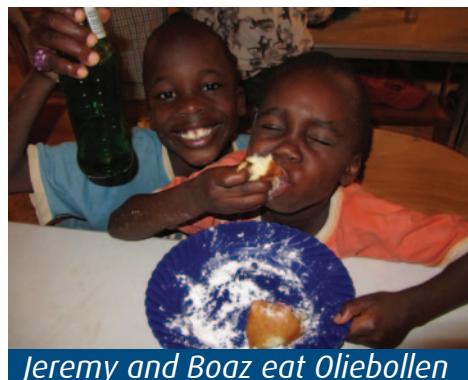


Wolfie gives birth to eight puppies

One of Peter's two loyal German Alsatians, Wolfie, has given birth to eight healthy puppies. The pregnancy and birth came as a surprise to everyone at Noah's Ark. While Peter and Pita are pleased with the new litter, they are at the same time disappointed with Wolfie's behavior and choice of partner. The father has not introduced himself and he refuses to take care of his children. He is probably a stray dog from the neighboring villages. Jolly, Peter's other dog, has stepped in to help Wolfie look after the new arrivals. Peter and Pita have retained one of the puppies (Wendy). The others were given away to friends and staff.



A very proud mother



Happy New Year!

Every year New Year's Eve is celebrated in a very unique way. The children enjoy Dutch 'oliebollen' (fried dough balls with fruits) and soda for dinner. The older children (who are allowed to stay up) then watch movies, while the grownups fill the church with balloons. When the clock strikes 12, the children get to burst the balloons (there are no fireworks in Uganda) and drink a glass of 'champagne' (soda).

Every holiday ends with a party

During the school holidays the volunteers and staff at Noah's Ark organize a special holiday program for the children in the Children's Home. The holiday activities usually include arts, crafts, sports, games, movies and quiz nights.



Noah's Arks' got talent

YES I DO!

Noah's Ark hosted its very first wedding this year. Auntie Leticia (kitchen) and Uncle Bira (general maintenance) were the first staff members to tie the knot at Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda. The wedding took place in the new – still to be completed – church and lasted from midday until early evening. The marriage was attended by about 300 guests including all the children, staff members and families of the bride and groom. Some of the children were chosen as bridesmaids or ushers while others performed songs and traditional African dances. The couple vowed before God to care for each other in sickness and in health. May they live happily ever after!



The wedding party

Your Gift Is Our Fashion

Noah's Ark is completely dependent on the generosity of its sponsors for the clothes of the children. With over 120 babies, toddlers and older children, the children's home goes through a lot of clothing each year. Noah's Ark would like to thank all the sponsors who donated clothes, shoes, diapers, towels and bedding to the children's home. The following photos are a selection of the children wearing some of the donated clothes.

The holiday tends with a talent show. The most talented (and bravest) children perform songs, dances and plays before an enthusiastic collection of their friends, volunteers and staff. The evening then ends with a disco. This summer's performances included keyboard and guitar recitals, an improvised play about life at Noah's Ark, a ballet performance from the oldest girls and break dancing from the boys. And after the weekend it's back to school again!

Showbizz

Happy birthday to you and you and you...

With over 120 children, someone's birthday is celebrated almost every week at Noah's Ark. For most, their real date of birth is unknown because most of them were abandoned or orphaned at a young age. So Pita usually guesses their age and gives them a new birthday. The children's home has its own way of celebrating birthdays.

Zippora can't wait to start
The day begins with all the children singing Happy Birthday at breakfast and the child gets to choose his or her favorite meal for dinner (usually pancakes). After dinner, he or she sits behind a separate table on which the presents and

a birthday cake are placed. The children sing Happy Birthday and an auntie asks the children to guess the child's age. The cake is then cut and everyone is given a piece of the cake (the birthday child gets the largest) and presents are opened. A final Happy Birthday is sung before it's off to bed. The birthday child, by this time thoroughly stuffed with cake, then has to rush to bed in order to safeguard his or her presents while avoiding the other children who all want to see, play with or take the new toys.

Noah's Ark Pop Chart

Older children (6-13)

- (1) He knows you
- (2) How great Thou art
- (3) A new hallelujah
- (4) Amazing Grace

Younger children (2-5)

- (1) Happy birthday to you
- (2) Ba, ba, ba...
- (3) Baby Jesus
- (4) Thank you Lord for giving us Food



NACMU's top fashion models showing this year's collection

Match results

New Horizon - Cranes
 Girl's soccer 3 - 0
 Boy's soccer 2 - 1
 Girl's netball 4 - 1

SPORT

NEW HORIZON BEATS CRANES

Babirye Lydia and Tino Brenda celebrating their victory

RECORDS BROKEN ON SPORTS DAY

New records were set at the annual New Horizon inter-house athletics competition. Despite the stifling heat, the children from the four houses (Crested Crane, Eagle, Peacock and Dove) competed against each other in running, relay racing and high jump. All the children at the New Horizon Primary and Nursery School are divided into houses. These houses compete against each other in sports

*New Horizon boys soccer team*

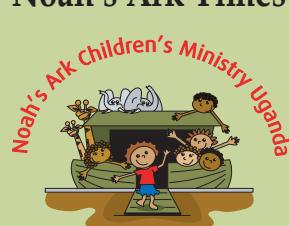
and academic activities. Old records were broken and new records were set by Nalwadda Rose (P5), Nsubuga Yusuf (P7). Peacock was this year's overall winners. The highlight of the afternoon was the relay race between the teachers and the children - The boys lost to the male teachers, but the girls won a comfortable victory against the female teachers. The children enjoy sports day because they love sports and it's a nice change to normal studying.

*Musisi Ivan leads the pack*

The New Horizon Primary School girl's and boy's football teams and the girl's netball team beat their local rivals from Crane Primary School. The games took place on the New Horizon school playground and were watched by hundreds of children, aunties and uncles from Noah's Ark as well as a large number of supporters from Crane Primary School. The girls won decisive and overwhelming victories, while the boys had to struggle to win their game. The atmosphere was electric with the sound of drums and children singing, and the home crowd grew increasingly ecstatic, hugging each other in happiness as New Horizon won match after match. Uncle Frank, head of security, reported that there were no incidences of trouble between the rival supporters. This season New Horizon will play against a number of local schools. Beating the Cranes was a great way to start the year. Well done New Horizon!

Visitors Organize Games

Students from a secondary school in Rotterdam (The Netherlands) organized a day of sport's activities for the children at New Horizon Primary School. The activities included high jump, long jump, running, an assault course and ball throwing. Many visitors from Europe and North America organize sports and cultural activities for the children and the kids really appreciate it.

*The swimming pool***The Noah's Ark Times**

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For more information about sponsorship, donations, volunteering or visiting please visit our website, facebook page or send an email.

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Baby Champion
 Baby Dinah started walking at 11½ months breaking all previous baby walking records. Fiona (16 months) and Jafeth (18 months) are this year's 2nd and 3rd place winners. She won a nice pot of baby sauce!

*Baby Dinah*

TOYS NEEDED

The Children's Home is looking for very sturdy toys; playground equipment; sports equipment and musical instruments.

The Soapy Swimming Pool

When the children talk about swimming and the swimming pool it's not what you think. Noah's Ark does not have a swimming pool and most of the children can't swim! But sometimes in the weekends, when it's very hot, a large plastic sheet is placed on the grass in the playground and covered with liberal amounts of soap and water. The children then go 'swimming' in the 'swimming pool' as they run and slide across the sheet on their tummies and bottoms.