



# The Linda Project

**A child has the right to be a child!**

## Newsletter nr. 1 - 2011

*April 2011*

### Christmas

2011 is already some good months underway, but let me go back to Christmas 2010. What a terrific happening it was this time! For the first time we could celebrate inside, in our new activity hall.

So, we had decorated a "tree", secretly wrapped all the presents and put them under that tree in the night, so nobody was aware. The next morning everybody was happily surprised.



**Happy with our presents!**



**The Christmas tree and the presents**

After a nice Christmas service everybody received the parcel with his or her name on it and the unwrapping could begin. They had never experienced anything like it. After the unwrapping everybody started playing with their gifts and they admired each other's presents. There was food and drink, all in all: fantastic!

The children also got a sort of multi functional music system for in our activity hall: it plays CD, MP3, Radio and Cassette.

New year's eve was one great party, with dancing and singing, eating and drinking. Everybody agreed: this was unique, long live the activity hall and the sponsor!

## Drought

January was old fashioned hot and dry, with a strong wind. At the moment of writing this, the first rains have fallen, but the real rainy season hasn't picked up yet. We pray for rain, otherwise we cannot plant our gardens. And that is becoming very urgent, as food and commodity prices are going through the roof: 11% inflation last month!

## Schools

In February the schools started again with the new school year. Our Primary School is doing very well. We have a whole new team of teachers. The chairman of LindA Foundation has agreed to become the Director of the school. That way there is always enough supervision. The team is very enthusiastic and when I visited the school I looked at nicely decorated class rooms, happy children and good results for their midterm exams.



**Front row: the security guard; Judith, P4; Caroline, P3 and deputy HM; Kevin, P1; seated: the director, John Ogwang Alele; Vicky the cook. Last row: Isaac, bursar an storekeeper; Isaac Olima, the Head Master(with the specs), P2; Dennis, P6; Ludovicus, P5; Dick, P7 and Jozina.**

The average secondary school here is a real disaster. Children have to get up at 4 o'clock, get dressed and go to prep. At 7 am they get a cup of dry tea and at 8 am classes start. If they are lucky, depending on the school they attend, they get a cup of porridge at break time, around 10 o'clock.

Around 12.30 they get a lunch consisting of beans and maize, then classes resume at 2 pm. At 17.00 classes are finished, at 18.00 there is again beans and maize (polenta).

At 19.00 hours they are expected back in class for prep (homework) and at 21.30 they are finally allowed to relax and go to bed. At around 23.00 lights go out.

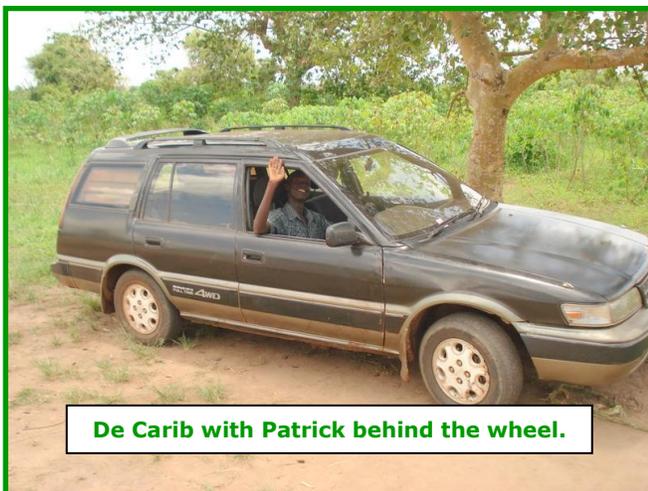
So Uganda is a real example of how not to do things. Not enough sleep and no variety in their diet, this while the children are young and in their growing years. The parents of our primary school often ask if it is not possible for us to also start a secondary school. Unfortunately one can only do one thing at the time, our resources are limited.

Because of the immense increase in prices for everything, we unfortunately have had to decide to stop sponsoring the students that are in the SOS programme, living with their relatives, after O-level.

So, for their continued education they have to look elsewhere for money and support. It can't be helped. "Our" children in House of Grace have to come first in times of scarcity. Those already attending A-level or Institution can finish it.

## Car trouble

Just another day at the Linda Foundation: One day we, Patrick, Felix, Kenneth and me, went to Ikwera Negri School for the handicapped in Aduku, Apac. This is about 35 km from Lira if you take the normal route. However, this road is one washboard full of potholes, so inaccessible. We therefore opted for the detour, 30 km on a good main road and then 50 km on a marram road through the bush. We have a Toyota Carib from 1991 as our means of transport. In desperate need of replacement, but money isn't there.



Felix, deaf, but since a little while showing signs of hearing something, and Kenneth, the epileptic boy, were accepted at the afore mentioned school. Felix for carpentry and Kenneth for tailoring.

They were very happy. So, we loaded the car and there we went. With their mattresses, boxes, jerry cans, buckets and school supplies. Patrick was driving. We left late, at 16.00 hours, because the car had spent the day in the garage. We thought we could still make it to be back home before dark, around 19.15. But: half way on the marram road the car stopped. Boys out of the car, me out of

the car and behind the steering wheel and: let's push.

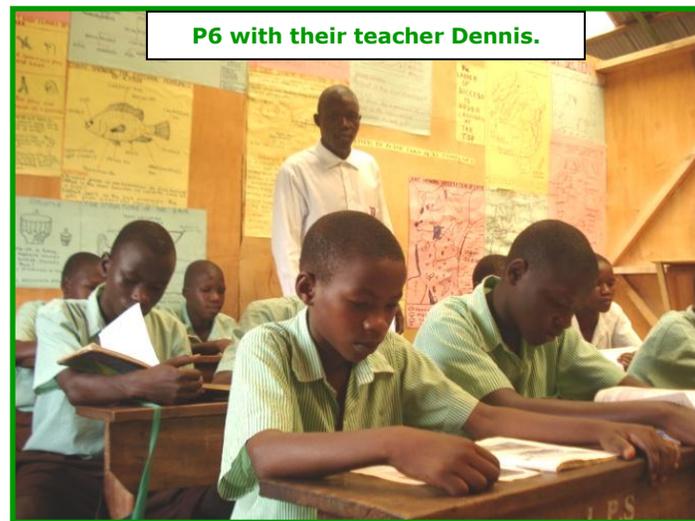
And yes, the car started up again. Everybody back in the car so we could "rapidly" continue to the school. We finally arrived there at 18.30.

All the children there ran towards us, as they know us, because 2 of our girls, deaf, are also attending that school. The director was called, who was already wondering where we were. After finishing all administrative businesses and installing the boys in their beds in the dorm we could go home. By then it was 20.00 and very dark.

We looked at each other and declared ourselves insane to start this perilous journey in the dark through the bush at this hour. But what else could we do. We will be fine, Patrick said. After about 10 km the car stopped again and there was nobody around to push. Luckily we were standing on a slight elevation. Patrick got out of the car, hand on the steering wheel, running and pushing the car, and yes, the car started again. He quickly jumped in and there we went. After 25 km the same thing happened again. No elevation this time. We looked at each other: what to do? At some distance we thought to see a light and Pat went to look for it. The light came from 2 cyclists, man, who thought we were dangerous. Thank God we were able to convince them that we were ok and they agreed to push the car. The car started and this time we safely reached the highway. At least we were back where there were people. 2 times the car had the same problem, but there were always people around to help us push. Arriving at home, hooting in front of the gate to warn the guard to open the gate, the car said: you now figure it out, I stop completely. But we were home and that was all that mattered. It was 22.30 and everybody had been so worried. Happiness abounded.

## Visit to The Netherlands

In February and March I was in The Netherlands for medical treatment. There I was invited to visit a school, an institution to become nursing assistant. The students had organized a fundraising activity for us. It was so nice to meet these students and their teachers and to inform them about our work.



## In conclusion

I wish you a wonderful summer and would like to thank all our sponsors for their help!

A special thanks to a group of people from the Greek island Kefalonia. They are called KIDS (Kefalonia International-Children Dedicated Society) and they have been organizing fundraisers for us regularly over the last 6 years. Thank you all very much!

Finally an urgent request: We are looking for people who will help us to find sponsors, to organize fundraising activities, to try to sell our CD, or to help us in any other way! Please consider one of these options if you have a few hours to spare. You can always ask for assistance and materials at our office.

Warm greetings from Lira from Jozina

## The Linda Project: Care and education for orphans in Northern Uganda

Website: [www.lindafoundation.com](http://www.lindafoundation.com)  
E-mail: [lindafoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:lindafoundation@yahoo.com)

The Linda Project UK – located in Belfast, Northern Ireland:

Postal address: Albert Morris, 34 Station Road, Green Island, Carrickfergus BT38 8TP,  
Northern Ireland, UK. Phone number: +44 (0)75 43824349

Bank: Ulster bank, Rathcoole office, Newtownabbey. Sort code: 981143  
Account number: 49 9720 44

The Linda Project UK is a registered charity under no. XR918667, we are also on the SA return list, no. BAS60KG.

On our website, under "contact", you can find all our details, including BIC and IBAN data. Also you can find the details of our Dutch bank and office there.