



# **The Linda Project**

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

## **Newsletter nr. 1 – April 2019**

Dear friends and other interested parties,

Here we are again with the latest news from Lira, Uganda.

For the first time in 20 years I wasn't in Lira for Christmas and the Happy New Year. I arrived there on January 5th. The children rushed towards me and couldn't wait for the suitcases to be opened, because, yeah, their Christmas presents were in there! We have spent a very nice time together.

Getting there, when I was flying at a high altitude over South Sudan and Northern Uganda at night, I saw one big blaze. The farmers had set their fields on fire to get rid of the agricultural waste. Incredible, the fires in California were nothing compared to it.



On January 23rd we went to Murchison Falls National Park. The younger children who now stay with us had never been there. We were able to purchase a nice big car, a Toyota Wish, with 7 seats. With a little pushing we all fit in, 9 children, the driver (Patrick) and me.

We enjoyed it very much, seen a lot.

Only, on arrival at the entrance, when we wanted to pay as a group, that was not possible. According to the lady at the counter we were not a group! Eventually we all had to register and pay separately.

Then we drove through the park and finally arrived at the Nile. We wanted to arrange a boat trip there.

As a group it is affordable, but individually it is too expensive for us. The lady says: you should have registered as a group. Yes, yes, well, never mind.

We then crossed the Nile with the ferry and drove across to the top of the waterfall. Beautiful view!



There was a nice house where you could have a picnic. And we brought our picnic with us. Totally successful.

On the way back we had to wait an hour for the ferry and Patrick had bought 24 bottles of water.

While drinking that, a large baboon was approaching us. He had already knocked over trash bins, he was hungry. He walked very aggressively to the table, threw all the bottles of water on the floor in one movement, noticed that it is not food and approached my bag. Very scary!

But luckily in the meantime the park guards came to us and they chased the baboon away. So it ended with a hiss.



After finishing another tour of the park, we went home. In the meantime it was eight o'clock in the evening and dark and we had to drive straight through the fields on fire, not really great. Windows closed, what a smoke, stink and loose swirling ash particles.

Suddenly one of the children says: where is the moon? Isn't it full moon? We had watched the lunar eclipse 2 days earlier. Indeed, we couldn't find the moon. After half an hour, another one sees the moon, dark red, orange, in the sky. As if another eclipse took place. When we arrived home at half past ten, the moon was just shining in its normal yellow light again.



The pool is also open again and so we went there a number of times. Some are already learning how to swim. It is always great fun.

Then there was the old problem of a good school. Wherever you go, it is crowded in the classroom: with 3 people in a double desk, about 70 students per class. And if you dare to open your mouth, the stick is ready in the corner.

David Odur had gone to another school, on his new bike, remember? And he had a great time there. Erute Primary School. So, I went there. It turns out: the teachers are all 50 years and above and you notice that. They know how to teach! They want the children to participate! No stick to be found!

After the first day of school, Fina comes indignantly to me: the teacher had left the classroom and had only returned after half an hour. Well! I ask: why did he do that? "Well, we did not participate". Great isn't it? Finally a school where they are going to learn something, where they have to participate. Every day, they come home happy, enjoy going to school, looking forward to it. And only 25 children per class. Morrison brings and picks them up safely in the car every day.



David Odur has unfortunately failed his primary leaving exam and is repeating P7. Isaac Ongom did his junior technical school final exams and came home radiant with joy with his certificate. Now you must know that this boy has epilepsy and fell into the fire at a young age, causing his foot to become distorted. He also stutters, did not speak English at first and his family does not want to know him, epilepsy is still a taboo in Uganda. That's how he came to us. Special shoes, joining Linda Primary, medicines for epilepsy. And you don't recognize him. He is 23 now, but you don't give him that, he is a bit childish.

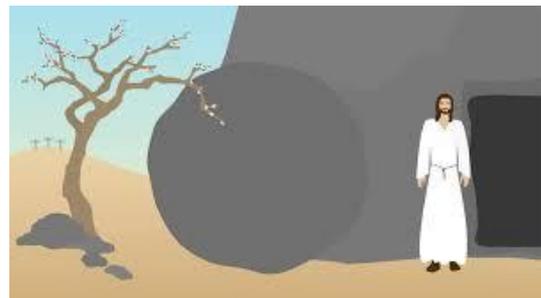
And now suddenly Isaac passed his bricklayer training, with a credit! The director had told him that he would be admitted to the 2-year craft course. We thought he was going to work as a helper and earn 5000 sh (1.25 euros) per day. But after the craft training, he is a "fundi" and may earn a fourfold of that (5 euros). So, after careful consideration, we decided that he could continue learning.

Betty Adongo is studying meteorology and is completing her studies. She is doing very well. At the end of May she hopes to do her final exams; she is doing her research, she will be doing fieldwork. Then she has her bachelor degree. In Uganda there are few or no jobs for her. Her question: is there anyone among you who could advise her about a job?

On May 5th I will go to Lira again, the holiday starts on May 6th. I look forward to all the stories. On Mother's Day we will celebrate all birthdays with a big party. My birthday is on May 11th and usually falls on or around Mother's Day. There is no beginning to celebrate everyone's birthday separately and that's why we solved it that way.

In a short while we will celebrate Easter again. Where we remember what Jesus did (and still does) for us.

**We are very happy with all your generous gifts,** thank you very much for that. We could not do our work without your support. The children are also very grateful. It would be nice if you would like to tell your friends and family about our work. Maybe they want to help us financially.



**We wish you a happy and blessed Easter**

Team Netherlands

Team Uganda

Team Northern Ireland

The children

**The LindA Project**

**Care and education for orphans in Northern Uganda**

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