

# The Noah's Ark Times

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

## Did you know...

Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda (NACMU) is a Christian organization based in Mukono, Uganda that runs a Children's Home, 3 schools and a medical clinic for vulnerable children and the impoverished local community.



## Dear Readers,

This 2nd edition of the NACMU newspaper stems from our desire to provide an extra layer of detail to as many people as possible about what our work and lives entail here at Noah's Ark. If only you could come and take a look! But we realize this isn't possible so we hope you enjoy reading this newspaper. It's our hope that it inspires you to take action and that it becomes clear to you how enthusiastic we are about our work and children. When you're done reading, please pass this paper along or order more copies and distribute them to anyone who might be interested. There are many children who deserve a better life - so we need your support.

Peter and Pita Buitendijk  
NACMU founders

# FROM NOBODY TO SOMEBODY

Imagine the shock when a farmer from Kayunga (a town to the north of Noah's Ark) found a discarded newborn lying between his crops. It couldn't have been more than 1 hour old as the navel was still bleeding from where the umbilical cord had been severed. The farmer carefully carried the unwanted Nobody to the local police station in a bid to save



its life - it was 2 months premature, suffering from hypothermia and had lost lots of blood. The clock was ticking but the police were unable to treat the baby or locate its family, so they decided to call Noah's Ark. Peter and Pita (NACMU founders) jumped into the ambulance with Veronica (one of the children) and raced up to Kayunga. They were greeted by a tough looking police officer holding a tiny, fragile baby in the



A tiny baby abandoned in a corn field

cup of his hands. He weighed just 1740 grams. Peter and Pita agreed to take him and after the official paperwork was completed, the policeman handed the baby to Veronica (see photo on left)

who carried him like a loving sister to the ambulance for the journey back to Noah's Ark where... *continued on page 4*

## ROYALS VISIT NOAH'S ARK

"From nobody to somebody" is the motto of Noah's Ark because in Uganda you are considered a nobody if you don't have a family. In September 2011 the Kabaka (the King of Buganda) and his wife visited Noah's Ark to mark the opening of the new wards in the Noah's Ark Family Clinic. Over 1000 people attended the occasion: aside from the children and staff at NACMU, students from 13 local schools were invited to line the procession route and all the children born in the clinic and their mothers were invited to meet the king. Many local officials, dignitaries and journalists were also present. The king arrived accompanied by a convoy of bodyguards and policemen. Flag waving children lining the drive sang and danced as the royal procession arrived at the gates...

*continued on page 15*



Peter talking to the king of Buganda

## A NEW HORIZON

On the 4th of February 2012 the New Horizon Secondary & Vocational School was officially opened. It's the first school in the country which combines secondary and vocational education. The grand ceremony was attended by over 600 guests, parents and school children.. *continued on page 7*



New school, new teachers, new kids



TODAY'S WEATHER  
24°C  
Rain for most of the time

## Children's Home

**Triplets Reunited with Big Brother**  
**Meet Uncle Bosco, p.4**

## New Horizon

**Top Grades!**  
**P7 students rank amongst Uganda's best, p.6**

## Family Clinic

**Living with HIV**  
**Trying to stop the spread of HIV / AIDS, p.8**

## Church

**It's a Miracle!**  
**Pita survives shooting in South Africa, p.11**

# THE COMPOUND



Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda (NACMU) is located in Uganda - a medium sized country in East Africa (between South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo). Uganda lies on the north western shores of Lake Victoria (where the river Nile begins) and is situated on the equator so there is no winter or summer - it's always warm and sunny except for two rainy seasons (March-May & August-November). The country is blessed with fertile land and plenty of water and has a population of about 32 million people divided into 36 different Bantu, Nilotic and Sudanese tribes. The capital city is Kampala, the president is Yoweri Museveni.

NACMU is based in Mukono District between the villages of Nsambwe and Takajjunge - 6 km north of Mukono town between Kampala and Jinja (see yellow star on map).

All the activities and buildings including the Children's Home, 3 schools, a medical clinic, a farm and the staff houses are located inside the NACMU compound which encompasses about 80 acres of enclosed land and sits on a tree covered hill next to a national forest. The southern half of the compound consists of buildings and open farm land, the northern half is kept as tropical jungle full of wildlife and vegetation making Noah's Ark an eco-friendly home for the children and staff who live on site. Below you can see a map of the NACMU compound and the location of some of the principle buildings.



## Dairy Farm



## Volunteer's Houses



## Laundry



## Children's Home



## Family Clinic



## Fish Ponds



## Crop Farm



## Family Units



## Primary School



## Nursery School



## Work Shops



## Secondary School



# CHILDREN'S HOME



Welcome to the Children's Home. It's the foundation and epicenter of life at NACMU. This is where the majority of the abandoned and orphaned girls and boys live, eat, sleep, wash and play. The others live in the Family Units. The building is made up of two long wings with a central dining hall and living room in the middle. The children are divided into 3 groups: babies, toddlers and school children. Each group is cared for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by a team of dedicated female caretakers. The first wing of the Home houses the babies and toddlers. The older children who go to school during the week sleep in the second wing. Both wings have toilets, showers, changing areas and bedrooms which sleep 6 - 8 children.



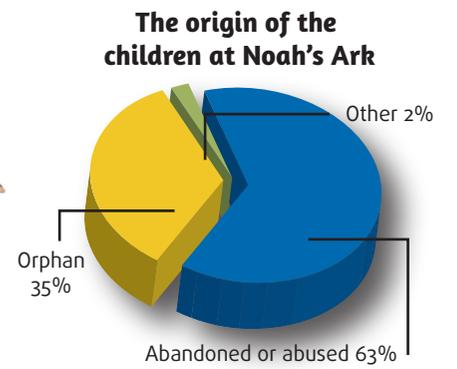
School Children (3 < years)



Toddlers (18 months to 3 years)



Babies (0-18 months)



## Did you know...

- ▶ There are currently (September 2012) 141 children in the Children's Home - 75 boys and 66 girls.
- ▶ In 2011 a total of 17 new children joined the Home and 4 children were re-united with their families.
- ▶ NACMU only accepts babies and toddlers. Most come from the police, probation office or hospitals.
- ▶ There are 13 groups of siblings in the Home. They include 9 pairs of twins and 1 set of triplets.
- ▶ NACMU is officially registered in Uganda and The Netherlands.

## A Good Hair Day



Still 87 more plaitees to go...

Many of the girls in the Children's Home have long hair - but it's not their own. African hair doesn't grow very long and it's curly, so they extend their hair with black wool. Some of the caretakers are specialized in plaiting hair but it's very painful and takes a long time: between 5 hours and a whole day depending on the attention span of the child (and the caretaker). The hair extensions can be short or long and sometimes beads are added for the finishing touch. The extensions generally last for a couple of months before they begin to fall out.



Some of the toddlers in the playground of the Children's Home

## The Family Units

The oldest girls and boys at Noah's Ark live in the Family Units which were built to provide them with more privacy and individual adult guidance and to free up space in the Children's Home. One is run by Peter and Pita together with the Children's Home, the other three are located in the forest behind the Children's Home and are run by dedicated caretakers. Each Family Unit houses 8 - 12 children and contains an open kitchen and living room, 4 bedrooms and a bathroom. The kids have to do chores (wash their own clothes, clean the house) but they also get to watch DVDs, eat their meals and play games as a family - hence the name Family Unit. More Family Units are being built with help from visiting teams of sponsors from North America and Holland.



Boys Family Unit



Girls Family Unit

## Update on Jethro

You might remember Jethro from our last newspaper. He was dumped in a pit latrine after his birth. He's now 18 months old and a very healthy and happy toddler. After his traumatic arrival, Peter and Pita invited his teenage mother to stay at Noah's Ark so that she could bond with her son. Unfortunately, it was too much for her and she left a few months later - so Jethro is still at Noah's Ark.



## NEEDED: Sponsors for Home Children

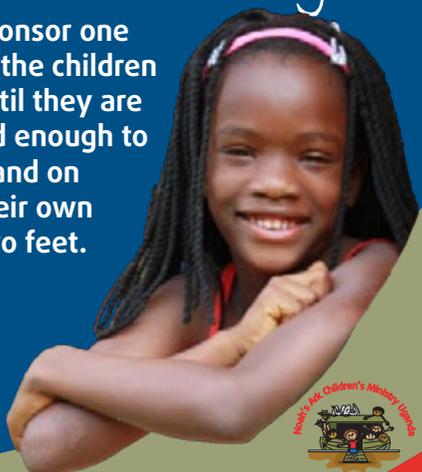
 Tabitha was found in a posho bag alongside the road. She was neglected, malnourished and abused and is 1 1/2 years old. Tabitha is slowly finding her way and starting to trust people and life again.

 The twins June and Jane came from an orphanage that was closed by the government because they were trafficking children. They are 2 years old. June loves to eat spaghetti and Jane is still getting used to the loud singing after dinner.

 Nathan came to Noah's Ark in April 2012. He was just 10 months old and was found thrown away on a sugar cane plantation. He's got great big eyes and he's a happy baby.

## Sponsor a child and watch it grow

Sponsor one of the children until they are old enough to stand on their own two feet.



Send an e-mail to NACMU if you would like to sponsor a child.

## CLASSIC KID QUOTES

**Lois (8):** Thought Father Christmas was the President of Uganda.  
**Veronica (11)** wrote 'I hope you rest in peace' in a get well card to Pita who was recovering in a hospital after being shot in South Africa.

**Rebecca (10)** told a visitor she was sitting next to that he "stinked" nice.  
**Dorah (10)** thanked God that "Mama & Papa's marriage was finished" during prayers at church on the day after Piet & Pita's 35th wedding anniversary.

**Elisabeth (10)** was surprised that people still lived in Egypt - she thought they all drowned with the Pharaoh.  
**Tim (6)** asked a volunteer if he could stay "forever and ever" because "then you can fix our TV"!

## An Exceptional Arrival: Dorah



Noah's Ark usually only accepts toddlers and babies. Dorah - who is now 12 years old - was a special case. Her mother died when she was young and her father abandoned her into the care of a local witch doctor who systematically abused her. She was saved by a kind neighbor who took her in - despite the anger and threats of the witch doctor who wanted her back - until Dorah fell ill and had to be taken to a hospital. The neighbor then contacted the local child protection officer who alerted Noah's Ark and Dorah was transferred to

the Noah's Ark Family Clinic for medical treatment. Because she could not go back to the witch doctor, or remain in the care of the neighbor or the child protection officer, Piet and Pita eventually decided to let her stay. Dorah now lives in the Family Unit with the oldest girls and she's in P2 in the primary school. Dorah is a polite, kind and happy girl who really appreciates being at Noah's Ark.

## Triplets Reunited with Big Brother

NACMU believes it's best to raise children amongst their family - the Children's Home is a last resort for those who have no one to care for them. Mary, Margret and Gladys came to Noah's Ark as premature babies. Their mother died while giving birth to them. Their father had 9 other children and no means to care for the triplets, so Peter and Pita promised to take them in and they've been at Noah's Ark ever since. Last year we had a visitor at the gates, it was Bosco, a 22 year old man who claimed to be the eldest brother of the girls. He knew they were at Noah's Ark and he wanted to see them again. Their joy at being reunited was overwhelming. Peter took a liking to the young man and offered him a job as a painter. Bosco proved to be so trustworthy, hard working and popular with the staff and children, that he's now a primary school teacher in training and a new member of the NACMU family.



Bosco and his three sisters

## Bittersweet Departure: Adam & Eva



Noah's Ark love reunions, but they can also be bittersweet. Adam and Eva came to us from war-torn Northern Uganda 6 years ago because their mother and father died of AIDS in a refugee camp and their grandmother could not provide for them. Over the years their grandmother visited Noah's Ark, promising to take them back when she could provide them with a safe home, and that day came last May. We had to say goodbye to the twins who are like a brother and sister to the children and a son and daughter to Peter and Pita. But the aim of NACMU is to reunite those children who still have a family and care for those who do not.

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## The Most Popular Place in the Home



Try getting 23 babies, 7 aunties & Peter & Pita to smile and look at the camera!

If you like cute and cuddly babies, the nursery is definitely the place for you. At any given time, it houses between 15 to 25 babies ranging from a couple of days to 18 months old. They are cared for 24 hours a day by a team of female caretakers called nurses who wear light blue and white aprons.

The day begins at 6.30 am when warm water is fetched for bathing the babies. The youngest are fed every 3 hours. The others get their breakfast at 8 am and then play in the nursery or outside if the weather is nice. After lunch all are put to bed. Nap time lasts until 3 pm after which they are changed, fed and put to play again. After dinner at 7 pm all the babies are put to bed for the night. A night duty nurse then takes over until 6.30 am the next morning.

Babies graduate to toddlers when they can walk and eat solid foods (or when they are too naughty to handle like Barnabas and Vivienne). Watching the babies grow, take their first steps and utter their first words is a true joy and makes the nursery one of the most popular places in the Children's Home.

## The Big Hairy Tooth Fairy



As the 140 children in the Children's Home grow older, a lot of baby teeth fall out. Noah's Ark doesn't have a tooth fairy. Instead, the boys and girls happily go to Peter whenever they have a loose tooth because in exchange for their teeth - which goes into the tooth jar (see photo) - they get a nice sweetie!



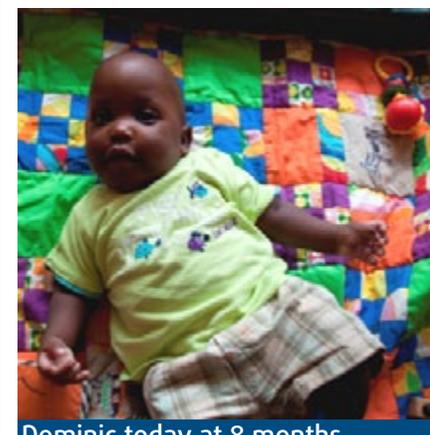
Peter extracts Irene's tooth



Dominic is fed in the incubator

## FROM NOBODY TO SOMEBODY

*Continued from front page* -... Pita carefully bathed, swaddled and laid the tiny baby in a warm incubator after which he was given a thorough medical checkup by the Family Clinic doctor. Pita named him Dominic and after three weeks of tender love and care, Dominic weighed 2 kilos and was allowed to leave the incubator. Baby Dominic is now a healthy and happy 6 month old baby. Though we were never able to trace his mother, he is now a Somebody who is very much wanted and a new member of the Noah's Ark family.



Dominic today at 8 months

## Then & Now: Match the Children

These photos show 6 children when they arrived and how they are today. Can you match them?



Answers: A+6, B+4, C+1, D+5, E+2, F+3

# Nursery School



There are 90 little boys and girls at the nursery school divided into 3 classes (baby class, middle class and top class). Baby class starts when a child is 3 and they graduate to the Primary School when they are 6 years old. Six nursery school teachers and a supervisor patiently care for the kids and teach them basic subjects like numbers, objects, colors, letters and language - mostly through games because New Horizon believes this is the most effective and fun way to teach children in this age group. The nursery school complex is made up of 4 classrooms, 2 playrooms and an office block all built around a thatched assembly and eating area. School starts with morning prayers at 8 am. Lessons, play classes and games take place in the morning and after lunch (which is served at 1pm) the girls and boys take an afternoon nap before they go back to the Children's Home or their homes in the villages at 4 pm.

## Another World



### Welcome home

Most of the boys and girls from the villages at New Horizon live in one roomed houses made of bricks or mud with grass thatched or iron sheet roofing. They have no electricity, running water, toilets or glass windows and some don't even have a solid door. They are mainly used for sleeping and most sleep on mats on the floor. The villagers spend most of the day outside, cultivating their gardens. They drink, cook and wash with water collected from nearby streams. The majority only eat one meal a day made up of vegetables from their gardens and cooked on firewood from the forest. Most of the villagers only have two sets of clothes while many babies wear nothing at all because diapers are too expensive. It's shocking and humbling to see people - especially young children - living like this.

**Items Needed for New Horizon**  
NACMU relies on donations to care for the children. Please e-mail us if you would like to donate.

**Secondary & Vocational school:** Tools for carpentry, electricians, metal working, plumbing and mechanics.

**Primary School:** English books for children and early teens (for School Library) & Arts & crafts materials.

**Nursery School:** We need strong toys that can take a beating. We also need toys for the sandbox and dressing up clothes.



Emmanuel loves going to school

The nursery school kids wear red shorts and skirts



## Juliet Nakimuli



Juliet Nakimuli is in Top Class and she's 5 years old. She's a beautiful and jolly little girl who lives with her parents, four siblings and cousins in a small house in the village of Nsambwe - 30 minutes' walk from Noah's Ark. Her father is a herdsman on a small farm and her mother bakes doughnuts to earn some extra income. But they basically live from hand to mouth because of the small amount of money that they earn does not cover the costs of their large household. Thanks to Noah's Ark and her sponsors, Juliet can now go to school and she's so enthusiastic to learn!

## A Hard Choice

The children from the villages at New Horizon come from the poorest families in the villages around Noah's Ark - families who cannot afford to send their children to school. Every year a new group of boys and girls are selected to join New Horizon. Most are toddlers who join the nursery school, others are older and chosen to fill up the places of those who drop out of school during the year because they are forced to start working or their families move away. The village children are selected by a special committee from six neighboring villages. Sarah, the NACMU social worker, then interviews the families before a final selection is made by her and the general manager. Because of limited space and a lack of sponsors, Noah's Ark usually



First day of school for the lucky few

chooses one child from each family (though exceptions are sometimes made). The village kids at New Horizon are enthusiastic students and very grateful for the opportunity to go to school the only thing they (and NACMU) still needs are sponsors to pay for their schooling (which includes tuition, school materials, meals and medical care).



Abraham and his classmates eagerly wait for their lunch

## Lost in Translation

The boys and girls from the Children's Home and villages meet for the first time at nursery school when they are between 3 and 4 years old. However, in the beginning communication is challenging because the majority of the village children don't speak English and those from the home don't understand Luganda (the local language). So during the first term they are put into mixed classes and lessons are given in English and translated into Luganda. By the end of the first year, new friendships are made, the village children speak basic English and those from the Home understand a bit of Luganda. Both are essential for their further education, development and mutual integration.

## To School!

NEW HORIZON  
Nursery & Primary  
School

Needs a  
Sponsor



You can give children like Caroline a better future by sponsoring their education for 40 dollars a month.

Send an email to [nacmu-uganda@nacmu.org](mailto:nacmu-uganda@nacmu.org) if you would like to help

# Primary School



The New Horizon primary school has 224 students divided into seven classes (P1 to P7). The children range from 6 to 13 years old. The school building is L shaped and consists of 7 classrooms, a school library, a computer room and an office. Subjects taught include English, math, science (including biology, chemistry and physics), social studies (which includes geography, history and home economics), religious studies, arts & crafts and music & drama. The primary school is run by a head master and 10 teachers who are responsible for teaching, discipline and extra-curricular activities. The year is divided into 3 terms. School starts at 8 am with prayers followed by lessons of 40 minutes during the morning and afternoon until 3 pm (except for a lunch and a morning tea break). The day ends with extracurricular activities (like sports, clubs and games) and an afternoon assembly at 4 pm. At the end of each term examinations are held and reports are made to ascertain their academic progress in preparation for their final exams - the Primary Leaving Examinations - which they take in their final year in order to graduate.

## New Horizon



Three cheers for our sponsors ... hip hip hooray !

New Horizon School was established in 2007 to give the children from the Noah's Ark Children's Home an education. By including village children, Peter and Pita wanted to help the local community and integrate the children with the surrounding area. The school is called New Horizon and its motto is from 'Nobody to Somebody' because children who are poor or orphaned are viewed as nobodies in Ugandan society. Over 350 boys and girls between the ages of 3 and 16 years attend the Nursery, Primary and Secondary & Vocational school: 1/3 come from the Home, the rest from the villages. But many of the children from the villages need sponsors.

## Top Grades at The Primary School!

PLEs (Primary Leaving Examinations) were held in November 2011 for the first time at the primary school. All the students in P7 (the highest class) graduated to the new secondary and vocational school.



Matovu is happy to be at school

Examination grades in Uganda range from 1 to 9 (1 is the highest). The 26 boys and girls all passed with fantastic grades - 2x 1's, 19x 2's, 3x 3's and 2x 4's. These results were comparable to the best private schools in Uganda and a real morale boost for the school. Peter and Pita gave a special dinner party for the students to celebrate. Thank you to all the sponsors for putting them through primary school.

## Learning to Read and Write

Reading is not a common pastime in Uganda. Books are expensive and most children learn how to read and write by copying words written on the blackboard by the teacher. So if they don't recognize a word, they can't read or write it. Marilyn Dingle, a missionary at Noah's Ark, was shocked by the number of students who couldn't read or write properly. In 2011 she started a school library in the old storage room and introduced 'jolly phonics' - a technique that teaches students how to identify and blend sounds for reading and writing. Donated books were sorted and graded, shelving was built and the library collection now has over 1500 books thanks to donations from visitors and a church in New Zealand. Each class now goes to the school library twice a week to read with their teachers. The 'jolly phonics' reading program was given an extra push by Ineke, a volunteer and Reny, a missionary at NACMU. They raised money to purchase the learning materials and instructed the teachers on how to apply jolly phonics. The results have been astounding. The reading and writing skills of the children has dramatically improved and they are starting to enjoy reading. More and more kids are now reading to learn rather than learning to read!



Auntie Reny with P1 in the new school library

## Alex Ssali



Alex Ssali is in P3 and he's 11 years old. He's a kind and friendly boy who always has a smile on his face. Alex has serious hearing and speech problems and he's an orphan (his father and mother died of AIDS). He lives with his grandparents in the village of Nkooki (about 75 minutes walk away). But they are too old to work (they live off the food they grow in their garden) and have no money for Alex's education. Thanks to his sponsors he can go to school. His favourite subject is Maths and when he grows up he wants to be a hairdresser!

## The Long Walk to School and Back



Hey ho, hey ho, its off to school we go!

Some of the children leave their homes to walk to school at 5:30 am because their villages are far away. Walking alone is not allowed so the kids walk with other children. Every morning groups of girls and boys dressed in different uniforms walk along the roads to their respective schools. The long walks are especially tiring for the smaller ones, so every afternoon they take a nap at the nursery school. The trip back home at 4 pm takes even longer because the children tend to get distracted. They play football, drink water, chat or watch whatever catches their interest. Sometimes they only arrive home at 7pm when the sun begins to set.



The primary school kids wear blue skirts and shorts

## NEEDED: Sponsors for School Children

 NSANVU Village : My name is John Musisi, I'm in P4 and 12 years old. I'm looking for a sponsor so that I can keep going to school. My father died of cancer and my mother looks after my brothers and sisters.

 NSAMBWE village: Hi! I'm Peninah. I have 7 brothers and sisters, one of whom is deaf and dumb. I'm in P5. My best subject is maths. Please sponsor my school fees!

 NKOOKI Village: I want to be an engineer. My father abandoned me (Joseph Mwanje), my mother and 4 brothers and sisters. I need a sponsor. I'm in P5 and 14 years old.

 NSAMBWE Village: My parents died of AIDS and now my 80 year old grandmother is caring for me. I'm in P2 and I'm 9 years old. My name is Nantaba Stella.

# Secondary & Vocational School



The New Horizon Secondary & Vocational School opened in February 2012 to complete the education of the children who graduate from the primary school. The new school integrates the national secondary school curriculum (O levels and A levels) with vocational training. There are currently 120 students in the first and second year (S1 & S2). They come from the Children's Home, the villages and they also include a number of boarders. They study secondary school subjects (like English, maths, science, history and geography) in the classrooms in the morning and vocational subjects (like farming, carpentry, mechanics, building, tailoring and entrepreneurship) outside on the farm or in the workshops in the afternoons. During the first 4 years (S1-S4), the students study a wide range of O levels and vocational subjects. Afterwards they can continue with a combination of A levels and vocational training or specialize in one of the two.

## Did you know...

- ▶ 60% of the population is younger than 16 years old.
- ▶ 71 % of Ugandan children attend primary school, 20% secondary school and 3% go to university.
- ▶ 80% of the Ugandan youth is unemployed.
- ▶ 70% of the population lives by subsistence agriculture.
- ▶ 50% of Ugandans above 15 years cannot read or write.

## Farming for the Future



Learning the basics

## Training Job Creators Not Job Seekers

Combined secondary and vocational schooling is unique in Uganda. It is designed to produce students who are better qualified to find work, start their own business or continue their studies at a university or technical college when they graduate. Too many Ugandan secondary and university students have difficulty finding work or beginning a business after graduation because they lack the practical skills and knowledge to survive in a delveloping and largely agricultural economy. This is why Peter and Pita decided to combine the standard secondary school curriculum with vocational training. The students all have a favourite vocation and they enjoy the variation between theory in the classrooms and practice outside.



The new Secondary School uniforms for classroom (left) and vocational subjects (right) are blue and orange

Uganda is blessed with a perfect climate and plenty of land but farming is still small scale as most Ugandans lack the necessary agricultural skills and funds for investment. Noah's Ark believes in the future of large scale commercial farming. Agriculture is therefore the most important vocational subject taught at school. In February 2012 the NACMU farm was officially annexed to the school and the students are stimulated with the slogan 'Agriculture is Cool!'. Theory is taught in the classroom and practical lessons are given on the farm. Duties are rotated so that the students experience every aspect of farming and new agricultural disciplines are introduced as the progress with their studies (like machinery operations, drug administration and business skills) until they can literally run the farm themselves.



Drug administration



O-levels and A-levels



Masonry & Construction



Farming



Metal working



Auto-mechanics



Tailoring

## Eva Alikiriza

Eva Alikiriza is in S1 and she's now 16 years old. She joined New Horizon in January 1997 and lives in the village of Nkooki with her four brothers, two sisters, mother and grandmother. Her parents separated when she was young and her mother farms to grow food for her children and earn an income. While her father occasionally visits, he does not contribute much to his family. Eva is a polite, friendly and intelligent girl. She scored good grades (3) in her PLE exams last year and wants to be a nurse or an engineer when she finishes school. She's very sporty and she especially likes playing netball, volleyball and football. Her favourite school subjects are carpentry, auto-mechanic, physics, chemistry and biology.



## A NEW HORIZON



First day and full of expectations

**Continued from frontpage** - The festivities took place under huge tents which were erected in the courtyard outside the freshly painted classroom blocks. The event was also attended by representatives of the two Canadian churches who funded the building (Springbank Church and Promontory Community Church) and the state secretary for vocational training - who was the official guest of honor. Songs were sung and speeches were given by Peter and the Canadian visitors before the state secretary cut the ribbon and officially opened the new school.

# Family Clinic



The Noah's Ark Family Clinic (NAFC) was established in September 2009 to treat the children & staff from the Children's Home, the New Horizon schools and the local community for common illnesses and minor injuries. The NAFC offers high quality health care at very affordable prices. Most of the patients are mothers and children and the majority of the staff are female. They include a supervisor, clinical officer, receptionist, two nurses, a lab technician and two midwives. The clinic has a general practice, a lab, a pharmacy, a maternal health & delivery unit and 3 wards for patients who stay overnight. NAFC also operates an emergency ambulance service. The clinic is open from Monday to Saturday (8 am to 8 pm) and 24 hours a day for patients on ward.



## Living with HIV



Free HIV Lab testing

HIV / AIDS is a serious problem in Uganda. According to official figures 1.2 million Ugandans are HIV positive and the rate of infection is 6.5% a year. Some patients at the Family Clinic are HIV positive and because their immune system is compromised, they are more susceptible to illnesses like malaria, TB, pneumonia and colds. To prevent the further spread of HIV and care for those already infected, the clinic offers a number of HIV health services. The staff travel to the villages to explain what HIV/AIDS is and how to prevent it - Abstinence, Being faithful & Condoms (ABC) and avoiding direct contact with blood. Secondly, the clinic offers free HIV testing. Thirdly, the midwives run free Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) services - HIV positive mothers are given ARVs and other medications during and shortly after delivery to stop the virus from spreading to their newborns.



HIV Test

## Clinic Statistics 2011

- ▶ 3959 patients were treated for minor illnesses and injuries.
- ▶ 173 healthy babies were born in the clinic (15 per month).
- ▶ 41% of the patients were from the villages, 22% staff, 21% children from the Children's Home and 16% were village children from New Horizon.
- ▶ Most common medical problems were malaria, flu, lung & skin infections and diarrhea.
- ▶ The strain of malaria found in Uganda (Falciparum) is deadly unless treated.



Peter and the NAFC medical team

## Combating Malnutrition

Most villagers around Noah's Ark are subsistence farmers who grow their own food - and too much or too little rain can have drastic effects on their food supply. As such, a large number of children brought to the clinic suffer from malnutrition because they either eat too much of the same food or not enough. Infant malnutrition is also common due to the inability of mother's to breast feed. Because malnourishment is so common and serious (the first 6 years of a child's life are the most critical years for their physical and mental development) the Family Clinic is developing a program with Mulago Hospital in Kampala to address infant malnutrition. Supplementary food will be provided to infants while their mothers are taught how to prevent malnutrition and a program to lend goats to mothers who cannot breast feed is being developed - because goats milk is easier for infants to digest than cow's milk.



A typically malnourished baby

## Clean Water For The Villages

Too many people in the villages around Noah's Ark suffer from diarrhea, dysentery and typhoid due to dirty water and poor sanitation. So the Clean Water Concept Project was launched by Noah's Ark and GAIN USA in May 2009 to improve water, hygiene and sanitation in the surrounding villages. Over 4000 villagers were taught about the importance of clean water and sanitation and 332 water filters were given out to schools, churches and homes to clean their drinking water. Noah's Ark and the Dutch charity 'Wilde Ganzen' also constructed a spring box and protected another in April 2010 to protect the natural springs in the villages next to Noah's Ark. The spring boxes are concrete encasements built to protect and keep the springs clean and hold water during the dry seasons when the ground water levels drop.



Dirty water from a stream



Clean water from a spring box

## New Wards Open

The new extension to the Family Clinic was opened by the king of Buganda in September 2011. The new building consists of 6 rooms - three of which are currently being used as wards for sick or pregnant patients who need to stay overnight. The other rooms will be utilized as a dentistry unit, nutritional unit and minor surgery room. The clinic can now operate 24 hours a day.

## Say Cheese!



Open wide for a HUG

Every October, 12 dentists from the Dutch organization Help Uganda (HUG) visit Uganda for 2 weeks to volunteer their services. Noah's Ark is used as a base for their operations. This year they spent 3 days at the Family Clinic inspecting, cleaning and fixing the teeth of all the kids and staff at the Children's Home, New Horizon School and the community. While the dentists are not the children's favorite visitors, their work is important and highly appreciated.

## Every Life Matters



Happy mum, healthy twins

The first pair of twins were born at the Family Clinic in October 2011. Babirye and Nakato were healthy and weighed 2.2 and 2.5 kg. Their mum was enrolled in the clinic's Mother and Child Health Program which offers a wide range of antenatal, delivery and postnatal services to help reduce maternal and infant mortalities in the villages. NAMCU is looking for additional funds to continue this life saving program as the number of pregnant women is increasing.



# NACMU STAFF

## Meet NACMU's Social Worker

Sarah Wasonga is one of NACMU's full-time social workers. She's 28 years old, holds a degree in Social Work and Administration and her services are invaluable. When



Sarah at work in the village

a new child is brought to Noah's Ark, Sarah works with the local police and probation office to investigate, search for and reunite the child with its family. And, when no family can be found, she obtains care orders allowing Noah's Ark to become their legal guardians. Another part of her job is identifying and selecting local children from the villages whose parents cannot afford school fees to attend the New Horizon schools. She also visits the homes of the village children who are absconding from school, or showing signs of abuse or neglect. Sarah especially likes the relationships she builds with the children and resolving their problems. But, she hates the suffering she witnesses and recruiting new school children because of the limited number of spaces. If it were up to Sarah, everyone

would be able to attend the school and no child would ever be abused or neglected.

## NACMU Safe & Sound



Uncle Frank (with the tie) and his team guard the compound

Security guards and a strong perimeter wall are needed to prevent theft and ensure the children's safety at Noah's Ark. The 10 guards are managed by Uncle Frank and they work in day and night shifts. Three guards are always posted at the front gate to check and sign in visitors, patients, village children and staff when they arrive or leave the compound. The other guards patrol the perimeter wall and grounds on the lookout for potential thieves, fire, lost visitors or naughty little children!

## Power On

Electricity is frustratingly unreliable in Uganda. The national supplier only provides electricity for 60% of the time because demand is higher than supply. And when supplied, it's notoriously unstable and blows the fuse boxes and electrical equipment. But NACMU is fortunate to have a generator (donated by a church in Canada) which is turned on when power fails and Isaac, the electrician, who does his best to keep the power running and fix the broken fuse boxes and electronics.

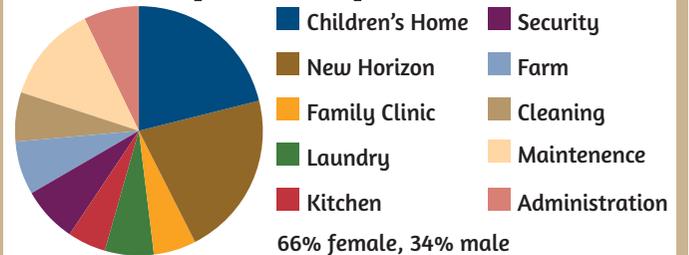
### Did you know...

- ▶ The NACMU staff stem from over 20 different Ugandan tribes;
- ▶ NACMU has its own water borehole, filter and pump so the tap water is safe & drinkable;
- ▶ The majority of the staff are volunteers & contractors;
- ▶ Every day 3 kg of washing powder is used in the laundry to wash the children's clothes
- ▶ The 16 cows on the farm are a cross Friesian and African breed
- ▶ Most rubbish & waste is burned or used as feed or fertiliser on the farm.

### NACMU STAFF

Noah's Ark could not function without its staff of 140 volunteers and contractors who help look after the 140 orphaned and abandoned children, teach 400 students and treat 400 patients from the local community

## Staff per department



every month. Caretakers are needed to care for the children in the Children's Home; cooks and farm workers are needed to produce and prepare food; laundry workers and cleaners are needed to clean the clothes and buildings; teachers are needed to teach the school children; medical staff are needed to treat the patients at the clinic; maintenance staff are needed to build and maintain the buildings, furniture, grounds and utilities; security guards are needed to guard the compound; and administrators are needed to manage and monitor all these activities. The NACMU staff are found and hired through local contacts, churches and staff members. They include men and women, young and old and come from different tribes and parts of the country. Some of them live on the NACMU compound, others live in Mukono or the surrounding villages. They are all referred to as Uncle or Auntie.

## Mop Around the Clock

The cleaners are responsible for the nearly impossible task of keeping the Children's Home, New Horizon schools and the Family Clinic spotlessly clean. The eleven hard working ladies wear dark



Auntie Connie chases after Jefta

blue aprons and work 7 days a week from 6.30 am to 6 pm under the direction of Auntie Connie, the cleaning supervisor. Because of the nature of working with children, everything needs to be thoroughly cleaned - the floors, bathrooms, toilets, windows, doors, tables and chairs and even the walls - so it's a tough job and the work is never really finished. They get through one big bottle of Vim and Jik every week and 12 rolls of toilet paper every day! The worst days are when it rains and the boys and girls track mud into the Children's Home. Aside from cleaning, these amazing ladies also help look after the kids - sitting with them at the table, cleaning their runny noses and giving them a cuddle. Auntie Connie is a tough but kind and generous lady. She loves all the children especially Mariska, Jefta and Vivienne.

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## The Farm

The NACMU farm was established in 2006 to help feed the kids and teach them important agricultural skills. The farm is divided into 2 sections and employs local farm workers. In the valley next to the secondary school, vegetable



Tomatoes are planted in the green house

crops like maize, beans, onions, tomatoes, cabbage and carrots are planted and grown on a 16 acre plot of land and sweet water fish (Tilapia and Catfish) are reared in 8 fish ponds. On the other part of the farm 16 cows and 27 pigs are reared for meat and

milk on a 18 acre plot of land which encompasses a cattle barn, a pig sty and open grazing ground. Chicken coops are being built to produce meat and eggs and a large mango grove of 250 trees covers the rest of the hill. The food produced by the farm is consumed by the Children's Home and New Horizon. In February 2012 the farm was formally annexed to the Secondary School and in the near future, Peter wants it to be run by the students and he wants to sell and process the food for the local and national markets.



Farmer Peter on the tractor



## Visitors & Volunteers

Every year over 500 people from all over the world visit at Noah's Ark. They fall into 3 categories: visitors, volunteers and teams. Visitors are individuals or groups who want to meet their sponsor children or see and help with the buildings or programs they are funding. Some simply come to meet Peter and Pita and have a look around. Visits can be anything from a couple of hours to days and weeks. Volunteers come to Noah's Ark to work for a three month period on a specific task and need to be qualified for the role they apply for. Noah's Ark also welcomes a dozen teams per year. They usually come from churches and organized tours from Europe and North America and stay for a couple of weeks often helping with building construction. If you'd like to visit, please call beforehand or send an email to [nacmu-uganda@nacmu.org](mailto:nacmu-uganda@nacmu.org). If you want come as a volunteer, read the article below and check out our website for vacancies and more information.

## My Name is not Muzungu!

In Uganda, a Caucasian is called a 'Muzungu' (white man). There aren't many Caucasians in Uganda, and in some parts of the countryside they're such a rare sight, people will actually come out of their homes or cross the street just to watch a Muzungu pass by. In fact a Muzungu can't walk down a country road without hearing the words "Hello Muzungu!", "Bye Muzungu!" or "Hey Muzungu! How are you?" Children are especially pleased when the Muzungu waves back or replies to their greetings. For the Ugandans, all Bazungu (multiple of Muzungu) are very rich, arrive far too early for appointments (on time), walk fast, smell funny and have lots of hair in funny places. So whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever your name is, in Uganda you are a Muzungu.



Hello Muzungu, How are you?

## Flexible & Hard Working Volunteers Needed



Teacher Ineke walking with the nursery school children in the village

Flexible and hard working volunteers are always welcome at Noah's Ark. Peter and Pita want to give people the opportunity to experience missionary and humanitarian work in sub-Saharan Africa and they appreciate all the help and new skills that volunteers can provide. Volunteers work for three months on a specific task in the Children's Home or in another NACMU department in the following periods (Feb - Apr, May-Jul, Aug-Oct or Nov-Jan). Volunteers need to be at least 25 years old, have a positive Christian attitude, speak English, be able to financially support themselves and they have to formally apply (and be qualified) for a voluntary job at Noah's Ark.

The work is extremely rewarding but not without its challenges. Uganda is very different from Europe or North America. There's no TV, no familiar food and the support network of close friends and family is thousands of miles away. Volunteers who enjoy their time at NACMU tend to be independent self-starters or people who are pro-active and have plenty of work and travel experience. A willingness to work hard, flexibility and positive attitude are also required. Some volunteers have made a lasting impact on Noah's Ark - stimulating the growth and development of children in the Home, introducing new systems of teaching at the schools, new agricultural techniques on the farm, or life saving skills at the clinic. Most volunteers return home from Noah's Ark with a new perspective on life and what love really is - selfless giving to those in need. If you want to volunteer, check out our website for vacancies and more information.

## "You are Lost!"

It takes a while for visitors to get used to Ugandan English. Here are some amusing examples:

**Auntie / Uncle** - In Uganda it's normal (and a sign of respect) to call people who aren't relations Uncle, Auntie, Mama or Papa. So staff and visitors are called Auntie or Uncle and Peter and Pita are referred to as Papa and Mama by the staff and kids.

**How are you?** The standard greeting in Uganda. The reply is always "I am fine" (even if you're very sick and need to see a doctor).

**You are lost!** Is actually a question meaning: I have not seen you for a while. Where have you been?

**Well done!** Ugandans will say "well done" to anyone they see working no matter what they are doing!

**I'm sorry!** Ugandans will apologize when you tell them that your mother is sick or you stub your finger. What they really mean is that they are sorry for you and sympathize.

**You're all most welcome!** Common greeting to groups of visitors only - because the East African accent - it sounds like you are almost welcome.



Banker Priscilla helps the kitchen



Gabi & Egbert meet the kids

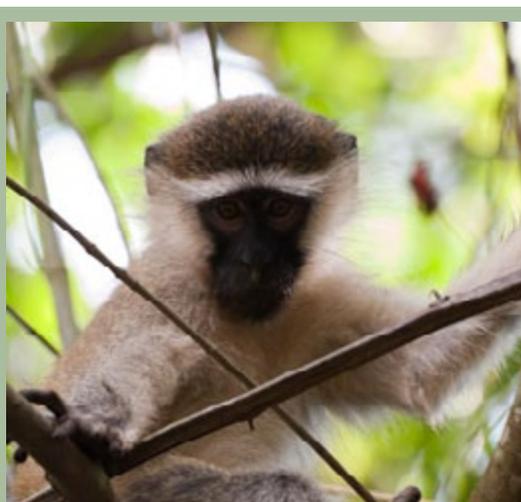


Doctor Elisabeth checks out Danny

## It's in our Nature



Noah's Ark is located in a jungle. The forest is only cut away where needed so humans make up a small percentage of the compound inhabitants - the majority are plants, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals. Original vegetation (like banana and jackfruit trees) flourish everywhere. Insects, from tiny ants to colorful butterflies, are the largest group of living beings. The safari ants - who travel by the millions in long columns across the jungle floor - are particularly impressive (though they bite if you get too close). Common reptiles include lizards & geckos who feed on the bugs around the houses but also snakes hiding in the jungle brush and canopy. The most beautiful birds can be heard and seen like Forest Horn Bills, Torracos, Grey Crested Cranes and Yellow Weaver Birds and various troupes of monkeys (Vervet, Red tailed and Grey Cheeked Mangabey) like to swing in the trees, run across the roofs and even play on the swings in the playground! The most exotic creature is the Pangolin, an armored ant eater who screams at night. So you don't need to go on a safari when you stay at Noah's Ark!



Vervet Monkey

## Volunteer Vacancies

A full list of vacancies can be found on our website under volunteers.

### HANDY MAN / WOMAN

Are you a fixer? Can you fix & make toys, repair furniture, maintain buildings & ensure the steady supply of electricity & water?

### PR / Sponsorship Expert

To expand our PR activities in Uganda and sponsoring countries we're looking for someone with experience in Public Relations and Sponsorship to help us out.

### Are you an Agriculturalist?

We are looking for an agriculturalist who can help us on the NACMU farm. There are plenty of improvements to be made.

### IT expert in Uganda?

Are you an IT expert who can help us with our IT infrastructure and planning. You'll also teach the kids and teachers about computers.

## It's a Miracle!



Iscah & Zippora welcome Pita

Miracles happen at NACMU thanks to the Lord and the prayers of our friends. Of all the miracles that occurred last year, one case stands out hand over fist: Pita's miraculous recovery in South Africa. In November 2011, Peter and Pita flew to Johannesburg for a medical visit. But on the first day tragedy struck. They were followed by a gang of thieves from the airport to their guesthouse and brutally robbed. During the struggle Pita was shot in the head. She lost 5 litres of blood and nearly died. Peter stayed by her side as she was rushed to hospital and their son flew in from Holland expecting the worst. But the prayers of the children and countless people around the world were answered. Pita was operated on and made a full recovery. It was truly a miracle, and we cannot thank the Lord enough for bringing Mama back from South Africa.

## The Teen's Club

The oldest boys and girls at NACMU are now teenagers - a time of great change for the kids (and worry for Peter and Pita). So the 'Teen's Club' was initiated to give them some extra guidance. Every Tuesday evening the 18 teenagers get together with Peter and Pita to sing songs, study the bible and discuss teenage topics in order to teach them the difference between right and wrong and help prepare them for the trials and temptations of adult life.

## The Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday morning, during the Easter weekend, begins with 300 hard-boiled eggs which the kids paint and transform into abstract works of modern art. The next morning, while the children are at Sunday School, the eggs are hidden in the playground - in the grass, above the swings, under the climbing frame etc.. After Sunday School the children gather in the dining hall and Peter explains the rules of the game - whoever finds and collects the most eggs wins the game. The toddlers go first and with the help of the caretakers, they get to find and bring back one egg each. After this, the rest of the children are let loose and the Easter egg hunt really begins. Everyone has enormous fun running around the playground searching for the eggs, and not a stone is left unturned. Even the dogs join in. By the end of the morning all the surviving eggs are collected and during lunch they are served with bread and lemonade to fill their hungry tummies. The rest of the Easter weekend consists of a Friday procession with the cross around the NACMU compound to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus and a special church service on Sunday afternoon.

*'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.'*

- James 1, verse 27

# CHURCH

NACMU is a Christian organization where God is honored and the children are taught about The Bible and Christian values. Every Sunday, the children attend Sunday School in the mornings and church in the afternoon and every Monday morning devotions are held by the staff to pray for the new week. These activities are run and organized by Warwick and Marilyn Dingle, former teachers turned missionaries from New Zealand and the church service is led by Pastor John, the NACMU pastor.



Marilyn leads the singing on a sunny Sunday morning

## Sunday School

Even on Sunday the girls and boys at Noah's Ark go to school - Sunday School which begins at 9 am. The youngest children stay in the Children's Home where they sing songs, listen to Bible stories and color pictures with the caretakers. When a child is 6 years old he or she graduates to the 'Big Sunday School' which is led by Warwick and Marilyn and held at the primary school. The activities begin with the children singing songs to the tune of Marilyn's guitar. The songs are chosen

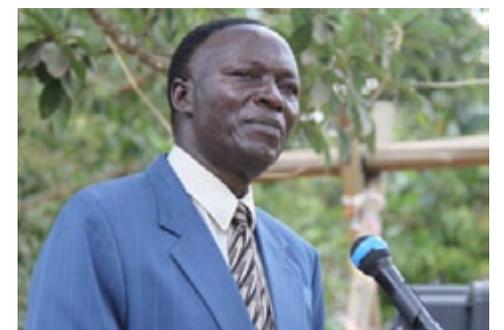
and led by a different child every week. Responsibility for the opening prayer is also rotated so that everyone gets a chance to lead the prayers. Afterwards the children break into smaller groups for the rest of the morning. The older kids read and discuss passages from the Bible while the younger ones do related arts & crafts in the classrooms. Full of pride, the boys and girls then walk back to the Children's Home to show their creations and spread the word to the aunts, uncles and visitors before enjoying a well deserved biscuit and cup of juice in the dining hall.



Merry Christmas from NACMU with Caleb, Abigail & baby Ronald

## Pastor John

Pastor John Kabuye is NACMU's official minister who's much loved and respected by the staff and children. He and his wife, Joan, run a church in Mukono. Every Sunday his wife helps at Sunday School and Pastor John preaches at the afternoon service. He also counsels the NACMU staff. His sermons are stern but relevant and he occasionally performs songs with his wife and children for the inspiration of the congregation.



Pastor John



Peter explains the rules of the game

## A Warm Welcome

Every girl and boy who joins the Children's Home is welcomed and blessed at the Sunday church service. Holding the child in their arms, Peter and Pita present the child to the children and staff and explain who he or she is, where they were found and why they have joined Noah's Ark. The child is then dedicated to God by the pastor and the congregation before being welcomed into the Noah's Ark family with the traditional NACMU song "We welcome you with songs of praises..."



Welcome baby Fleur



## The most important Book they will ever read!

Noah's Ark is looking for donations to buy a Bible for all the children.



See our contact details on the back of this newspaper if you want to help.

## Do We Really Make a Difference?

Does what you're doing really make a difference? Isn't it just a drop in the ocean? There are so many children in need, you can't help them all! What motivates you to care for these children? We regularly get these types of questions and I often feel I have to justify what we're doing at Noah's Ark.

If you really want my opinion, YES, I'm convinced that what we're doing does make a difference in the life of children who have been emotionally or physically neglected, orphaned or literally thrown away. To be allowed to care for, love and nurture a child who has no hope of a future, not even a hope for tomorrow or of finding love, and who's seen as worthless in the eyes of society, makes complete sense to me. When a child learns how to accept love, and to give love in return, then there's hope for Uganda. Without care and love, there's no future for this country. For me, to see a scared child, that looks at humanity full of mistrust because of what it's been through, change after a few weeks or months into a happy bouncy child that looks up to you, makes all the difference in the world.

Each and every one of us is here for a reason and not by chance. Personally, I believe God loves these children and he's using me to allow them to experience this. I know we can't help all the children in need, and that it's just a drop in the ocean when you take all of Uganda, but for the few children that cross our paths we can make a difference between life and death, and that's much bigger than just a drop in the ocean. Yes, it requires our effort 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Yes, it's exhausting and often frustrating. But for us it's not a 'job', it's our life and it's worth so much more than the effort we put into it.



Pita collects Rose and Fleur

**Pita Buitendijk,**  
Mama & co-founder of NACMU

## Girl Power

As 18 girls full of girl power, we enthusiastically started our 2 ½ week stay at Noah's Ark. Our tasks were diverse. We helped to build the 6th family unit and found out that for some of us Dutch girls working in these hot conditions isn't so easy. But secretly we didn't want to give up. If the locals could do it so could we. Man, they can work hard! We also helped out in the Children's Home by organizing activities, helping put the girls and boys to bed and playing with them. And of course we helped with changing their diapers. At a certain point the Aunties yell "Changing time!" and the diapers of 40 children need to be changed. The cotton nappies took a bit of getting used to but after a few dirty diapers we started getting quite good at it. After the kids have clean nappies they also need to get dressed. Here, you grab the first thing you can get your hands on and quickly put it on them before they wiggle away. We're also super excited that we could organize a 'ladies night' for the aunties. They work so hard so they deserve a bit of pampering! We've had lots of different experiences in a short time.

It's been fun but it hasn't always been easy. Seeing this makes us realize how lucky we are in Holland and we've learned what's really important. Suddenly we didn't care that we were dirty, covered in wee, had to take cold showers or eat the same thing every 3 days. During our 2 ½ weeks here we've tried our best to make a difference in the children's lives. It's difficult to leave them behind knowing that there is still so much to be done. But we can rest assured because we know that Peter and Pita (and God) will take good care of them.

**Livingstone team 1, 2012**



18 Dutch volunteers building a Family Unit

# Opinion

**"Children are the most important people on our premises. They are not dependent on us. We are dependent on them. They are not an interruption to our work. They are the purpose of it. They are not outsiders to our work. They are part of it. We are not doing them a favour by serving them. They are doing us a favour by giving us the opportunity to do so."**

## Never a Dull Moment

I lack monotony! I can imagine YOU might have issues with monotony, the daily grind and a lack of variation in your daily routine. But I've been given a place by the Lord in the vineyard of life where I really don't have a day that's the same. I'm constantly confronted with new issues and am expected to know the answers. A child has a scrap and Papa needs to dress the wound with a plaster, there's a difference of opinion between 2 children or 2 adults and I need to function as the mediator. A broken faucet, the toilet doesn't flush, the car has broken down and how do we repair this? The questions and issues never stop.

People sometimes ask me if I know the answers to all the questions I'm asked. No, I don't, but that doesn't matter because sometimes people just want any answer. Then you pray for guidance right? Yes, I literally and figuratively am in constant prayer but these issues make my life extremely interesting. I love challenging people



Peter with Geoffrey and Christy

to push their boundaries... 'No, it's not possible' are words that actually challenge me to prove it wrong. So it's no wonder that I don't suffer from a monotonous life. But I don't think my life was meant for that. I see an endless need in people that are not capable of action, in people who are stuck, who are being held captive by the fight for survival- and when people tell me that change is not possible, I work even harder.

Do you want to help me change people's lives? If so, I have just the right shoes for you to fill. Of course, not everyone can fill these big shoes, but if you would still like to help then please donate generously so we can continue changing lives.

**Peter Buitendijk, Papa, Vision-**

## Very Grateful

Every day I thank God for introducing me to Mama and Papa because they gave me work and a home for my kids. I don't know where I would be or what I would be doing without them. I come from Pallisa (a town in North East Uganda) where I lived with my husband and 3 children: Brenda, Mabel and Oscar until things went horribly wrong. My husband divorced me and I was forced to leave my children and move to Kampala to find work. A friend introduced me to Mama and Papa, who were then based in Kampala, and I worked in the kitchen and helped look after the children for 4 months. When Noah's Ark moved to Mukono in 2006 I stayed in Kampala, but shortly afterwards my former husband expelled my children from his home (because his new wife refused to care for them). The money I was earning was not enough to provide for them so I went to Mukono hoping that Mama and Papa would give me a job again. Thankfully they welcomed me with open arms! Mama asked me to help look after the children in their Family Unit and the new babies when they arrive at the Children's Home. She said I could live at Noah's Ark with my children where they could go to school, make new friends and be fed, clothed and cared for. I was so happy - all my problems were suddenly solved!

I love my work - especially looking after the new babies. I have learned so much and it makes me so happy when they smile and grow into healthy and happy children. In fact, I don't like taking time off (unless I'm sick or have to travel to Kampala or Pallisa) because Noah's Ark is now my home and I'm so thankful that I can provide for and be with my children.

**Jesica Arikod, NACMU Caretaker**



Jesica feeds baby Maurice

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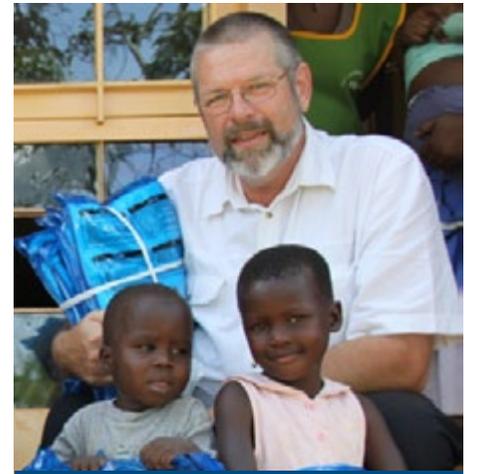
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**Peter Buitendijk, Papa, Vision-**

## Very Grateful

Every day I thank God for introducing me to Mama and Papa because they gave me work and a home for my kids. I don't know where I would be or what I would be doing without them. I come from Pallisa (a town in North East Uganda) where I lived with my husband and 3 children: Brenda, Mabel and Oscar until things went horribly wrong. My husband divorced me and I was forced to leave my children and move to Kampala to find work. A friend introduced me to Mama and Papa, who were then based in Kampala, and I worked in the kitchen and helped look after the children for 4 months. When Noah's Ark moved to Mukono in 2006 I stayed in Kampala, but shortly afterwards my former husband expelled my children from his home (because his new wife refused to care for them). The money I was earning was not enough to provide for them so I went to Mukono hoping that Mama and Papa would give me a job again. Thankfully they welcomed me with open arms! Mama asked me to help look after the children in their Family Unit and the new babies when they arrive at the Children's Home. She said I could live at Noah's Ark with my children where they could go to school, make new friends and be fed, clothed and cared for. I was so happy - all my problems were suddenly solved!

I love my work - especially looking after the new babies. I have learned so much and it makes me so happy when they smile and grow into healthy and happy children. In fact, I don't like taking time off (unless I'm sick or have to travel to Kampala or Pallisa) because Noah's Ark is now my home and I'm so thankful that I can provide for and be with my children.

**Jesica Arikod, NACMU Caretaker**



Jesica feeds baby Maurice

# Children's Page



By our special guest editors **Brenda & Hannah**

This Children's Page is for kids by kids. It's about us - the children from the Children's Home and New Horizon school. We have included some stories, opinion, brain teasers, jokes and pictures for all the kids in Uganda and around the world who read this newspaper. We are teenagers and kids - just like you. We have the same interests, problems and dreams. We hope you like our page and we send you our fondest greetings from Mukono, Uganda!



James drove a wooden bicycle. I asked him "where did you get it from?" He replied "the carpenter".  
- By Namutebi Grace (S1A)

One day a teacher came in class and asked us to lend her our ears. Then the students asked her what they will use to hear if they lend her their ears. - By Alikiriza Eva (S1A)

## JOKES

## Kids have their say

New Horizon



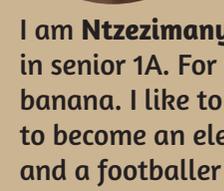
My name is **Namande Linda**. I am 15 years old and I am in P7. We are yet to do our Primary Leaving Exams. My best subjects are mathematics and social studies. In the future I want to become a musician.



My name is **Nakanwagi Diana**. I am 13 years old and in P7 this year. I like wearing clothes like skirts. My best food is matooke and chicken. My best games are netball and football. I don't like social studies because it needs your mind to go far and think.



My name is **Namagembe Joweria** and I am 15 years old. I am in senior 1B. I like wearing the orange t-shirt and navy blue skirt which is my new school uniform. I am interested in netball because it makes me feel like a monkey.



I am **Ntzezimanya Samuel**, I am 16 years old. I am in senior 1A. For food I like chicken, rice and cooked banana. I like to drink Splash or Mirinda soda. I want to become an electrical engineer, a mechanical engineer and a footballer when I finish school.



## Everyone is special

children's Home

All our brothers and sisters at Noah's Ark have special personalities - some are loud, others are quiet; and some are very naughty. For example:



Lois

Jafeth

Hananja

Lois (8) is a joker who laughs and laughs while Jafeth (2) is the master at getting attention. Smiling and batting his eyelashes he will sidle up to the aunties asking them how they are and, if that doesn't work, he will 'fall down' and 'cry' to catch attention. Hananja (9) is calm and quiet and likes looking after the younger kids.



Doreen

Jaella

Emmanuel & Jeremy

Doreen (10) might be our future actress because she's addicted to TV. She even goes to the clinic to watch videos on hygiene. Jaella (3) is an energetic and strong minded character who does and says what she wants. Jeremy (9) is well behaved and wants to be a preacher, but his twin brother, Emmanuel (9), is one of the naughtiest boys in the home and he's often sent to his bed while Jeremy reads the Bible after dinner.

## Brain Teasers

by Nakanyike Ruth (S1A)

Hannah's Mother gave birth to three children, namely January and February. Who was the third one?

Hannah

I own something but other people use it more than I use it. Which something is that?

My name



## My Home



by Mayega Brian (P7)

New Horizon



Artist

## Did you know...

According to most of the kids....

**Best things about school:**

Playing with friends, graduating to a higher class, sports & games, learning new things, not having to work at home

**Most popular sports & games:**

Football, Netball, Dodgeball, Kick the Can & Volleyball.

**Favorite Music:**

Justin Bieber, Chris Brown, Jaden Smith, Usher, Iyaz, Sean Paul.

**Most popular future occupations:**

Doctor, Mechanic, Lawyer, Teacher, Accountant & Hairdresser.

**Country they would like to visit:**

United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Holland, Germany

**Most admired person in the world:**

In order of importance: God, my mother, myself, President Museveni.

**Favorite Films:**

Hannah Montana Forever, Pair of Kings, Jessie, ANT Farm, Let it Shine.

# Showbizz

## Knitting for the Winter

### ROYALS VISIT NOAH'S ARK

(continued from front page)

...and little Zipporah had the honour of giving the Kabaka a bouquet of flowers when he stepped out of the car. Swarmed by bodyguards, royal officials and journalists, Peter and Pita first showed them the Children's Home where the queen cuddled Jethro. Next, they took the royals down to the Noah's Ark Family Clinic where they met all the children born at the clinic and helped immunize some of the most recent babies. The Kabaka then cut



Flowers for the Kabaka

a ribbon, officially opening the wards, before the whole procession moved down to the New Horizon Nursery School where he planted a tree in the playground before holding court under the thatched nursery school assembly hall. Much to the amusement of the king and the attending dignitaries, Peter, who was dressed in a Kanzu (the traditional white robe worn by Baganda men) prostrated himself before



Kabaka's welcoming committee

the king as a sign of respect. The Kabaka then gave a speech, reinforcing how important health was for Ugandans and Peter thanked him for visiting Noah's Ark saying: "Your Majesty, we are deeply honored by your visit. With your visit, you have shown Ugandans as well as these children something that WE already know, and that is, that they are NOT nobody's but somebody's."

### Still in Love

Peter and Pita celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary this year with the children and staff at Noah's Ark. A thanksgiving service was held in the playground and Pita surprised the guests by arriving in her old wedding gown. The children performed music and Peter and Pita reconfirmed their wedding vows in front of the children and staff. Afterwards, there was dancing, dinner and a slide show in the Children's Home with photos from their childhood up to the establishment of NACMU. The purpose of the ceremony was to teach the children about the sanctimony of marriage, and to reinsure them - especially after South Africa - that 'Mama & Papa' will always be there for them.



Pita in her old wedding dress!

## MUSICAL PRODIGIES



Do re mi fa so la ti do! - The kids can play music western style...

Music plays a central role in African culture. Even in the Children's Home, most of the children pick up and practice music like naturals. Before they can even speak or walk, the babies in the nursery are taught to sing, clap and dance. The aunties use music to soothe and entertain the babies. And when they graduate to toddlers, they sing and dance at Sunday school and after dinner with the older children. At the primary school, all the kids are given lessons in music & dance twice a week - The Ugandan teachers teach traditional Ugandan songs, drumming and dance, Auntie Marilyn teaches them how to read sheet music, sing hymns and play the recorder. She also



Mabel, Deborah, Elizabeth and Naomi don't have time to talk right now

Balls of yarn and knitting needles were donated to Noah's Ark this year. Marilyn and Pita taught the oldest girls how to knit and it's now the latest craze. Scarves, hats, potholders, you name it, they are knitting it. You'll see the girls and boys knitting in the home; while walking to school, while watching TV and even when they are eating - which is now forbidden! NACMU relies on donations for arts & crafts activities and they improve the manual dexterity and concentration of the kids. Plus they will have plenty of things to keep them warm when it snows this winter (i.e. never!).



Eunice likes the swimming pool

### Summer Holiday

Every holiday, staff and volunteers organize a holiday program for the kids in the Children's Home. The children are divided into 4 age groups and during the week treasure hunts, relay races, football matches, face painting, arts & crafts, outside excursions and movie nights are organized to keep them busy. The holiday highlights are the trip to a local swimming pool and the disco. The oldest kids also have to help the staff in the kitchen, laundry, farm and the other NACMU support departments. The most popular "chore" is working in the nursery. The least popular is washing clothes in the laundry!



NACMU's holiday makeover

### Puppy Love

One year on, Wendy, the only pup kept from Wolfie's litter has turned into a fearless guard dog chasing after monkeys and barking at anything she finds suspicious. At night the children and staff are sometimes awoken by the commotion and Peter's shouts of "Puppy! Knock it off!" But Wendy is as gentle with the children as the other 2 dogs. During the day, Jolly and Wendy slavishly follow Peter around while Wolfie prefers to stay behind with Pita and Mickey - the 12 year old fat cat. In fact, Mickey hasn't really moved from her food bowl (which doubles as her pillow) since Peter and Pita moved to Mukono!



# SPORTS

## HOOKED ON FISHING

It all began on a Saturday afternoon when Peter decided to entertain the kids by teaching them how to fish. Fishing rods were quickly crafted from the forest, string and hooks were found in the tool shed, bread was pillaged from the kitchen, numbers were pegged around a Tilapia filled fish pond on the Noah's Ark farm, and all the children aged 8 and above were invited to take part in a fishing competition. After a few basic instructions from Peter, the 20 children dipped their rods over the water and the Noah's Ark fishing craze began. Over the course of a few Saturday's, it became very clear who had fishing talent and who did not. Brenda, Timothy and Deborah consistently caught the most fish (8 - 15 fish per session) and won the competitions. While the smaller fish were thrown back into the pond, the big ones were taken to the kitchen and eaten with chips in the Children's Home on Sunday evenings. Though most of the other children have now abandoned fishing, they all had a lot of fun and learned how to fish. And if you wake up early on Saturday mornings, you can still catch a group of passionate fisher-kids going to the ponds because they're hooked!



Richard is determined to outwit the fish

## Record Breakers

It's been a record breaking year in the nursery. This year's champion baby (the one who starts walking at the earliest age) is Vivienne who took her first steps at 9 months! Vivienne is a very energetic girl who recently graduated to the toddlers. Second place went to Barnabas who started walking at 10 months and Kaireh came third at 10 1/2 months.



## New Horizon Match Results



The New Horizon girls and boys soccer teams

Like last season, the New Horizon football and netball teams beat their sporting opponents, this time from Central View Primary School from neighboring Nsam-bwe village, in soccer and netball. The girls soccer team won a resounding victory. The final score was 6 - 1. The boys soccer game ended in 3 - 2, just enough to win the match. And last but not least, the girl's netball team scored 8 - 1. Well done to everyone from New Horizon Primary School - especially the girls!

## Introducing Volleyball

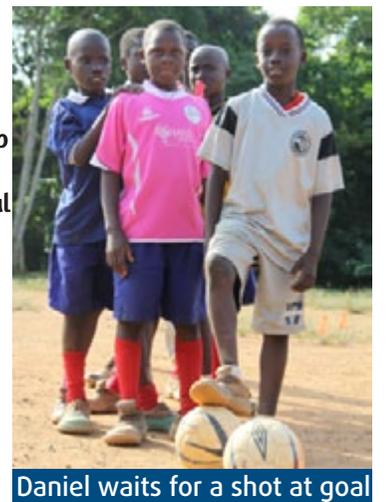
The most popular sports at New Horizon are definitely soccer for the boys and netball for the girls. But this year Teacher Timothy introduced volleyball and it's starting to become a popular rival. Serving, spiking, bumping and diving are replacing kicking, throwing, tagging and shooting. Perhaps Noah's Ark will serve up Uganda's first Olympic volleyball team in a couple of years?



Teacher Timothy is ready to serve

## Soccer Training

The Scort Foundation is a Swiss charity which gives soccer training to social workers in developing countries to help them contact, get to know and help vulnerable children via soccer. Four members of the NACMU staff were trained in Entebbe by professional German soccer players. Since then they have used these skills to train the kids from New Horizon and organize competitions with local schools. The boys and girls enjoy these extra activities, their soccer skills have dramatically improved and the NACMU social worker is better informed about the lives and problems of the children.



Daniel waits for a shot at goal

## Toddler Racing

In the Children's Home its usually the older children who compete in sports but, every now and again, the toddlers get to enjoy a bit of sporting fun as well. Recently, the aunties gathered the toddlers in the playground just before dinner for a running race. A race course was set out and then the aunties and older kids lined the paths to cheer



One last race before it's time for bed

them on and point them in the right direction (i.e. forward as many toddlers were slow to grasp the rules of a new game). During the race, some toddlers still managed to stray from the path, some dawdled at a snail's pace wondering what all the fuss was about and some really went for it. It was great fun for all!

## The Noah's Ark Times



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