



The Noah's Ark Times

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

Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda is a non-denominational Christian organization in Uganda that runs a children's home, three schools, a medical center and more. Noah's Ark is focused on the most vulnerable children in the society and the poverty stricken community in the immediate area and country wide.

DIAMONDS FOUND ON GARBAGE HEAP

Dear Readers,

This newspaper is for everyone who in one way or another is involved with the work of our hands in Uganda or who would like to be. Thanks to your support, and above all the rich blessings of the Lord, we have been able to make a real difference in the lives of many Ugandan children and adults. 'Faith in action' is a good description: faith in Him who has sent us, and faith that we will be able to change something for the good in many lives.

This newspaper is a report of what has been made possible and also a call for you to join us in our effort to give more children and adults a chance of a brighter future.

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



How often does it happen that a child is left on the garbage heap? How often does it happen that a child is left to starve? How often does it happen that a child is thrown out of a car? How often does it happen that no one in the family wants to take care of a child? The sad truth is that Noah's Ark would not need to be there if the answer to those questions is 'never' or even 'almost never'.

Peter and Pita Buitendijk (The Netherlands) founded Noah's Ark in 2000 to care for children who have no other place to go. The first boy under their care was destined by his family to be sold to a witch doctor as a sacrifice. To his family this boy was a 'nobody', just an opportunity to make money. Coming to Noah's Ark saved his life. Soon he was joined by new 'brothers and sisters' whose family had neglected, abused or abandoned them. These cases are not rare, in fact, at least once a month



Papa Peter and Mama Pita with their diamonds in the rough

police contact Noah's Ark about a child in a desperate situation. Today, Noah's Ark provides a loving home for more than 170 children. That very first boy, destined to be sacrificed, is now a healthy young man, enjoying life, performing well in school and dreaming of becoming a musician. Noah's Ark tells the stories of 'nobodies' becoming 'somebodies':

unwanted children, looked down upon by people who do not realize that what they throw away with the garbage is a diamond in the rough. Diamonds that can be shaped into children equipped with knowledge and skills. It is the next generation that a country will be built upon, so investing in them is of the most importance.

Band of Somebodies

Experiencing the Noah's Ark Band with their sharp uniforms, polished instruments and wonderful sounds is truly impressive, especially considering most of these children started their lives being abandoned or thrown away like nobodies. Noah's Ark has given them the time,



means and encouragement to master one or more of these prestigious instruments. Today people are lining up to enjoy these wonderful talents. The children no longer stand on the side line of life but lead the parade with a joyful sound.

Continued on page 15 »

How far does it go?

How far do people go in mistreating other human beings? One shocking but real answer is a twelve year old boy, weighing 15 kilos, naked and tied up, for three long years. No one paid attention to him; the food he received was too much to die but too little to live. When Noah's Ark was contacted about the situation of the boy, Silas, there was only one answer to the question 'How far will we go to help this boy?' Silas was admitted into the Malnutrition Clinic at Noah's Ark. Though he will probably never fully recover as lasting damage was done, his life was saved, he reached an acceptable weight and was discharged.

Read more about the Malnutrition Clinic on page 6 »



WEATHER REPORT



After Rain comes Sunshine

Children's Home
A Home for Children without a Home
Love and Care, p. 3

New Horizon
Secondary School keeps on growing
Laboratory opened, p. 11

Family Clinic
Clinic reaches out to local community
Real need met, p. 6

Sports
Jump rope is the new favorite
For young and old, p. 16



WHAT'S NEW?

Since the last edition of this newspaper was published, Noah's Ark has continued to expand. Not only is there physical expansion because of the new buildings that have been built, but also expansion in the number of children in the Children's Home, students enrolled in the schools, patients in the

Family Clinic and expansion of programmes carried out by Noah's Ark.

Noah's Ark is very grateful for the support it receives from donors and sponsors world wide and hopes to be able to expand its activities even more in the future to touch more lives of those in need. Below is a map of the compound to give you an impression of the layout of Noah's Ark.

Family Units

Two new Family Units were completed: one for boys and one for girls. These Family Units allow the children to grow up in a more family-like environment. [Page 5 »](#)



Church

In April of 2013 the new church building was completed and used for the first time for a Sunday service. The multifunctional building features a large stage, colorful lighting and enough seating space for hundreds of worshippers. [Page 7 »](#)



Secondary Vocational School

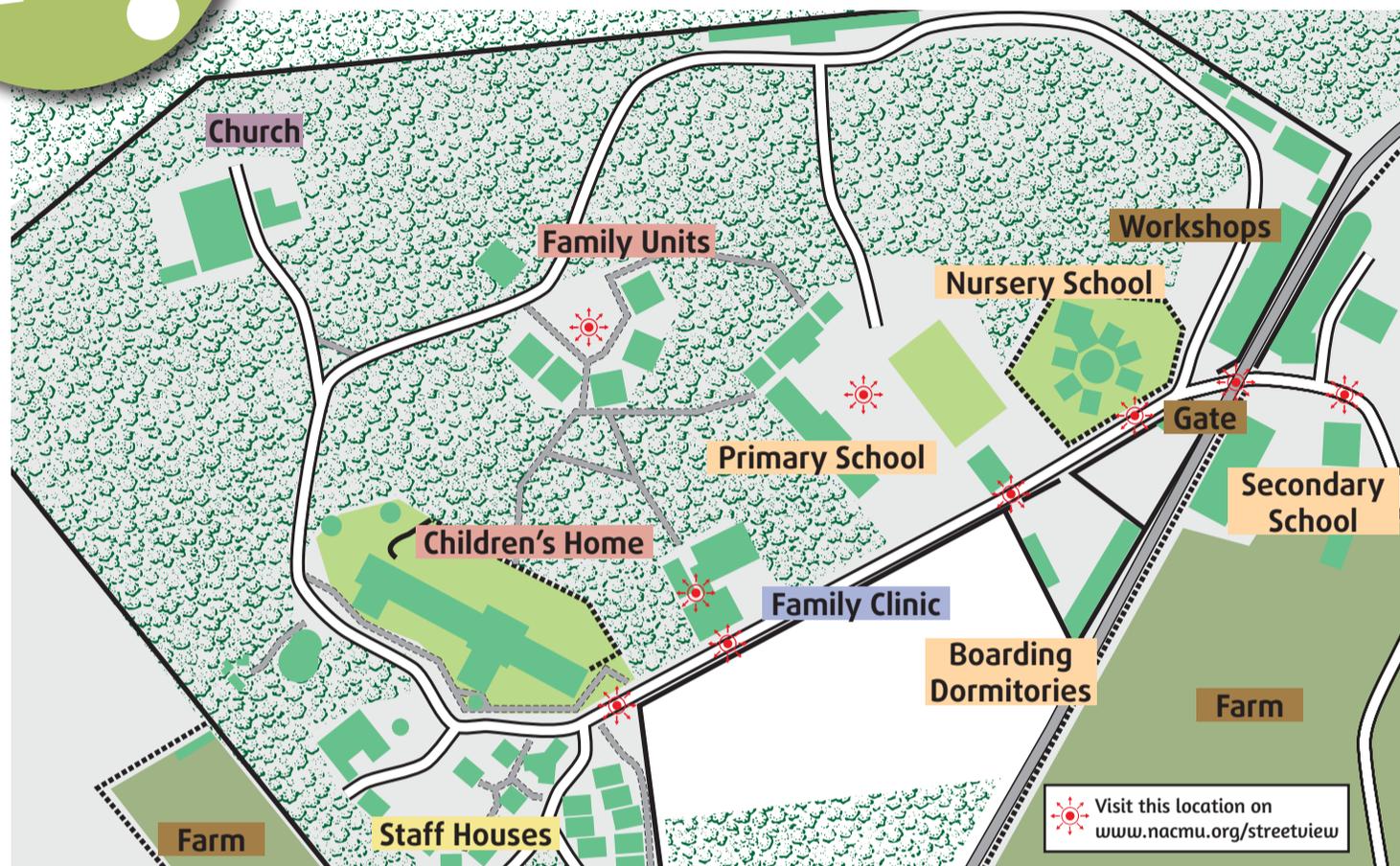
The Secondary Vocational School is a unique type of school in Uganda which is continually expanding. Knowledge gained in the classroom is also worked out practically in various workshops and on the school's large project farm. [Page 10 »](#)



Website

The Noah's Ark website is all new! We decided it was time for our website to refresh it's look and content. You can find photos and the stories of our children, news items and much more on our little piece of the world wide web!

www.nacmu.org »



Visit this location on www.nacmu.org/streetview

The Year in Numbers

27 New children admitted into the Children's Home

18 Children resettled with their family

141.000+ Bibles distributed throughout Uganda [page 11 »](#)

25 Students passed their Primary Leaving Exams

260 Babies born under safe circumstances in the Family Clinic [page 6 »](#)

91.251 Cloth nappies changed in the Children's Home

1.561 Free vaccines given out in the Family Clinic

76.204 Kilograms of food distributed to children's homes all over Uganda [page 12 »](#)



Special Needs

Working with so many children means meeting different and special needs. To focus on those needs, a large building for children with special needs is now in operation. The building has two rooms outfitted with toys and educational aids for the children that need extra help with their development.

[Page 4 »](#)



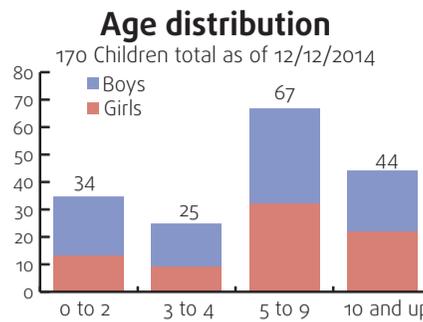
Malnutrition Clinic

Many people in Uganda struggle to get enough food for themselves, their children and other relatives. Knowledge about a healthy, balanced and nutritious meal is absent in thousands of families. In their opinion more food is better. However, a typical meal does not supply all the building blocks a child needs for a healthy development. Most parents don't know what a healthy weight for their child is and are not always aware of the warning signs of malnutrition. To help these children and families Noah's Ark has opened a Malnutrition clinic, which focuses both on prevention and treatment of malnourished children in the wide area surrounding Noah's Ark.

CHILDREN'S HOME

A tour of Noah's Ark always starts at the Children's Home: the center of activities on the compound. This 110 meter long building (see map on the next page) is the home for more than 130 abandoned, abused or orphaned children ranging from newborn babies to nine-year-olds; another 40 children live in Family Units (see page 5). A team of female caretakers called 'Aunties' works around the clock to play with the children, care for them when they are sick and settle disputes.

Children in the Home are divided into three groups, each with its own aunties and facilities: babies, toddlers and schoolchildren. Children can truly call this building their home. They each have their own place at the table and their own bed in a room shared with others of the same age. Their Papa and Mama live under the same roof and are always available when needed.



Auntie's Quote
"The children are full of life; they are always asking questions trying to discover new things. They like jokes and telling fun stories."
— Auntie Sara, caretaker

A Daily Routine

The children in the Children's Home adhere to a regular routine to set boundaries and get them into good habits. As most children have no means of knowing or reading the time, a bell is rung to inform the children of certain events.

The children wake up at 6am and the aunties help them to bathe and dress. School children have their breakfast at 7am and set out for school half an hour later. The toddlers have their breakfast at 8am, and play their way through the morning until lunch is served at 1pm. The toddlers then nap until 3.30pm.

The schoolchildren return home at 4pm. After enjoying juice and



The bell is rung before supper

biscuits, all children play together until it is time to change from their day clothes and school uniforms into their night wear at 5pm. The TV is switched on until supper is served at 6pm sharp.

After supper they celebrate birthdays, read from the Bible, sing songs and close with a bedtime prayer. At 7pm the children brush their teeth after which the toddlers climb in to bed. For the rest of the children the day ends a little later as they are tucked in at 7.30pm. At 8pm the Home turns quiet for the night.

Auntie's Quote
"Children need people to love and care for them, especially when they are unwell. Children need much love in order to create happiness in their lives."
— Auntie Halimah, caretaker

A Small Arrival: Sharon

In September 2014 we received a call from the police. A hospital had asked them for help: a woman showing signs of psychiatric problems had come, and when the staff were treating her the woman suddenly went into labor and gave birth to a tiny baby, weighing just under two kilograms. The doctor placed the premature baby in an incubator. The mother named her newborn Sharon, but refused to feed or care for her. When a nurse came to check on them the mother was nowhere to be seen. The hospital waited a few days for the mother's return, but when she did not come back they asked the police for help. Sharon then came to Noah's Ark and was welcomed with open arms. Because she weighed only 1600 grams she spent her first two weeks in the incubator in Peter and Pita's living room. When she reached the weight of 2 kilograms she started her life outside the incubator. Today Sharon is a beautiful healthy girl who is loved by her new family.



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Can you help care for me?

Just over a dollar a day gives me a chance.

Join Noah's Ark's sponsor program and support a child in the Children's Home.

www.nacmu.org



Fleur and Rose

The one-week-old twin sisters Fleur and Rose came to live at Noah's Ark in April 2011. Rose was very small and had to be cared for in the incubator. Their mother died giving birth and their father had run off. The mother's sister was able to provide for her sister's two other sets of twins, but was unable to care for the newborns. However, throughout the years the aunt faithfully visited Fleur and Rose. The girls became strong and healthy, loved by all at Noah's Ark. But the twins didn't grow up with their own siblings; they never even saw them. After a few years the aunt agreed that it was time for them to return to their own family, so after a period of preparation Fleur and Rose went to live with their aunt and siblings. Of course this is not easy for us, and we let them go with pain in our hearts. We love and miss them, but are convinced they belong in their own family.



Food for Thought

The kitchen staff prepares more than 500 meals a day for the hungry mouths in the Children's Home, Family Units, students from New Horizon and the volunteers. Porridge is served for breakfast. Lunch consists of rice, cassava or bread and eggs. Supper can range from local dishes like Matoke (green bananas) and Dutch inspired menus to chips and sausage on Sundays. 'Coffee' (tea with milk) and biscuits are also provided between meals.



Not just a few cups of rice

The cooking is done in massive cooking pots, which are heated by wood fuelled fires. Many of the products used are grown or raised at Noah's Ark's own farm, like meat, eggs, milk and vegetables.



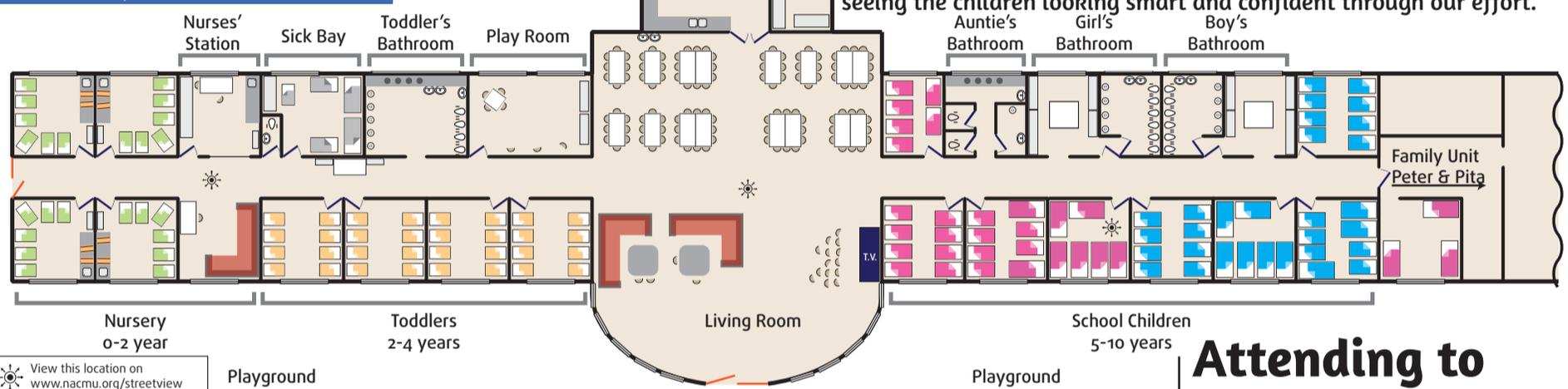
Looking Smart, Staying Smart

By the Laundry Aunties - Doing laundry for such a large family as Noah's Ark is no easy task. We start each day by collecting the clothes, towels, bedding and cloth nappies from the Children's Home. The soiled laundry is collected in large wheelbarrows and taken to the laundry where it is sorted according to type, color and fabric.



Collecting laundry with a wheelbarrow

Fortunately we have several large washing machines, but when there is no power we wash by hand. The wet washing is hung on every available line, or spread out on the grass to dry. At times the rainy season causes problems with the drying of the clothes; this can prove tricky as we still need to provide clean clothes for the children. Finally we iron the clothes with charcoal irons and take them back to the Children's Home using the same wheelbarrows. We feel rewarded seeing the children looking smart and confident through our effort.



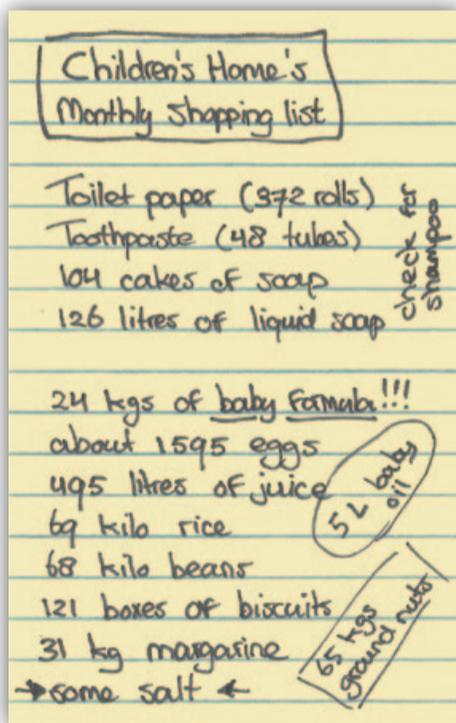
Attending to Special Needs

The 'Special Needs Program' was set up by Reny Nauta (a missionary who worked with Noah's Ark for 5 years) to attend children who have physical or mental disabilities, or delayed development. With funds she raised, a Special Needs Building was built and outfitted with games, learning materials and equipment to cater for the needs of these children. Reny trained a team of Ugandan social workers who continued the program after she returned to the Netherlands.

One of the children they work with is Damaris Nakyanzi, a five year old girl that lives in the Children's Home. Damaris has a number of physical disabilities due to cerebral palsy which affects her upper and lower limbs. Initially she found it very difficult to hold objects in her right hand, and couldn't walk unaided. She was bound to a wheelchair.

With the aid of special exercises and an assortment of games, they have been able to help Damaris to develop her fine motor skills. At times Damaris is taken to the Occupational Therapy Department in Mulago Hospital in Kampala for special physical therapy treatment.

Damaris's motor-skills have greatly improved whereby she can now walk 5 meters by herself. Also her right hand has slightly improved; she can now hold objects for a short period of time. Damaris will keep receiving therapy and treatment so she can improve even more.



A Right to Play

Every child has a right to play! On the 2500 m² (square feet) playground the children take full advantage of that right. Whether it is on the swings, slides, climbing frames, or just playing together in the large sand pit, they learn to play and

work out their differences under the watchful eyes of the aunties.

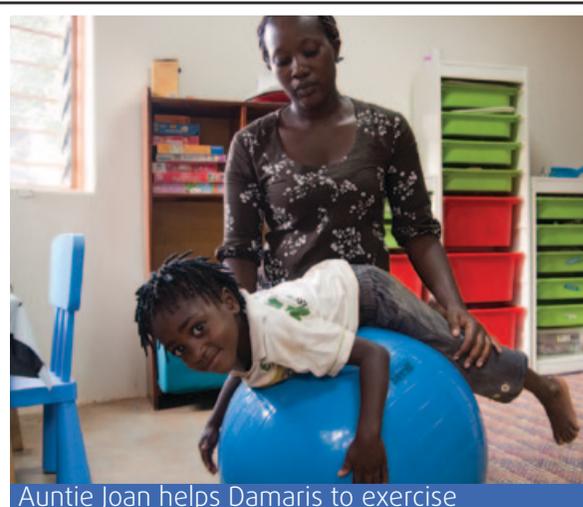
Because all the equipment and toys are heavily and constantly used they need regular maintenance. Any volunteer that repairs, replaces or creates a new climbing structure is rewarded by cheers of joy from all the children.

Resettlement

Most children in the Children's Home were abandoned as babies. In these cases, tracing their families is a nearly impossible task. Some children actually have known relatives who for various reasons weren't able to care for their child at that time. Noah's Ark continues its battle to resettle these children with their families by working hand in hand with the police and probation office.

People often don't agree with this because, according to them,

living within the walls of Noah's Ark offers the child more opportunities for the future. Looking from the material aspect it might well be true, but being part of a family is of higher importance for a child's future, so resettlement where possible is our first aim. To date, Noah's Ark has been able to resettle more than 100 children. Resettlement is essential for them and it also creates space in the Children's Home for the abandoned, vulnerable children who have no other place to go.



Auntie Joan helps Damaris to exercise

FAMILY UNITS

The Unit That Started It All

By Auntie Jessica - There are three aunties including myself that help Papa and Mama (Peter and Pita) run the first Family Unit started in Noah's Ark. At this time our Family Unit has eleven children — nine girls and two boys that range from toddlers to teens. In our Family Unit we welcome all new babies into the Noah's Ark family and care for them until they are ready to be cared for in the Children's Home. At times this could mean we have up to 14 children in our family unit. We all work together. The older children help and encourage the younger ones to help in many different ways. Three year old Nelima loves helping Mama and the Aunties feed the babies their bottles. Our home is a fun home: there is lots of laughter around our table at supper time. We sing, read the Bible, watch TV and play games together as a family.

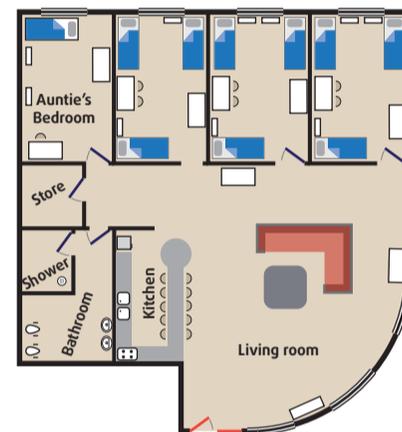


The first Family Unit



By the age of nine or ten the children move from the Children's Home into a Family Unit. Five of these units are situated within a minute's walk of the Children's Home. Peter and Pita's Family Unit is attached to the Children's Home and was the pilot model for the other five Family Units. A group of about ten boys or girls, together with a dedicated caretaker, live in these units in order to help create a family atmosphere. Each

unit can function on its own. The children have their own storage space so they can learn to be responsible for their personal belongings like clothes and toys. The children are actively involved in all the household chores and especially enjoy quality time as a family. Uncle Warwick and Auntie Marilyn, a missionary couple from New Zealand, oversee the Family Unit activities, meeting weekly with the Aunties for discussion and prayer.



REAL ESTATE

Investment Opportunity:
New Family Units to be built on prime real estate location on the Noah's Ark compound.
Unit Price: USD 20,000
*** Guaranteed Profit ***
10 children provided with a family environment
Contact Noah's Ark for more information.



Boys Family Unit 2

Bonding While Waiting

By the boys from Boy's Unit 3



The boys can't wait

Waiting for our Family Unit to be finished hasn't stopped us bonding together as a family. For now we share a room in the Children's Home. Auntie Apophiah, our caretaker, has become like a mother to us. She encourages us to keep ourselves clean, do our homework and tidy our room. She shares with us experiences from her own life, and teaches us from God's word. We all love our Auntie and we are looking forward to living under our own roof as one family.

A HAPPY HOME

Smaller is Better

By the girls in Girl's Unit 2
We all agree that living together in a small group is more fun, even though we have more responsibilities around the home. We have a list of chores to do each day which Auntie says will create good habits in us for the future. We enjoy playing games and watching TV together in the evenings. Some of us are musical and we practice our instruments. Some like cooking and help prepare meals while others seek out a quiet corner to read. We all love Auntie Bernadette, who has a healing touch when we are unwell.

By the boys in Boy's Unit 2
We are a group of nine boys living in a Family Unit with Auntie Innocent. We love her and are grateful for all she does, but at times we forget to tell her this. She is there for us when we are sick or when we need help with our homework. She keeps the house clean and she is also a very good cook — we love eating the food she prepares for us. Each of us have different chores to do every day, and though we sometimes groan about doing them, we rarely leave them unfinished. As long as no one decides to mess up a room or misbehave, our home is a very happy home.

Unique Family of Teenage Boys

By Auntie Christine - I have been the caretaker of the boys in my unit since December 2012, and in that time I have seen many changes in all nine boys. They have developed good habits and work well as a team. They have learned to cook and do their own laundry, which isn't normally considered men's work in Uganda. Many of them play an instrument and spend time developing their gifts. All my boys like watching movies, reading, playing on the computer and listening to music. I have a very unique family of teenage boys.

Blessed Fun

By the girls from Girl's Unit 1
In our house, 11 teenage girls live under the same roof. Sometimes this proves to be a challenge, especially for Auntie Marjorine, who frequently reminds us that she wants us to grow up to be good girls. Yet we have a lot of fun! On Saturdays we are allowed to cook for ourselves, which we all enjoy doing. We also have different tasks to do throughout the week and generally they are completed without complaint. Most of us like to knit, read, watch a movie or listen to music. All of us play a musical instrument. We are blessed with having good housing, tasty food, nice clothes, and a caring Auntie who instructs us on what is right and what is wrong.



Gathered together for fun



Their own place



Enjoying supper together

Serving with a Patient's Heart



By Doctor Barbara - Every single day God brings an opportunity to help someone in need, either socially, mentally or physically, and my earnest prayer is that I will be of some help to every person that comes into the clinic. Working at Noah's Ark Family Clinic has opened my



FACT

There is 1 physician for every 10,000 Ugandans



heart to love, cherish and respect the patients that I attend on a daily basis. I consider their fears, feelings and the pain that they go through. Seeing a smile on a patient's face after a full recovery gives me great joy and fulfillment.

Show me your Teeth

Twice a year a team of Dutch Dentists visits Uganda. Most Ugandans don't make it a priority to go to the dentist because of the high cost. Operating from Noah's Ark the dentists travel the country to educate children on dental hygiene. They check hundreds of thousands of teeth, fill cavities or extract a tooth when necessary. Every year the team is supported by students from our Secondary Vocational School: they help the dentists to clean the equipment, take notes, organize the dental unit, and are very eager to learn. They might just have a future career in odontology ahead of them!



The dentists filling their time



Silas (front page) 2 months later

FAMILY CLINIC



The Noah's Ark Family Clinic was opened in 2009 and provides medical care to all those who live within Noah's Ark. It also extends this service to the village people that live in the surrounding area. The Family Clinic is registered as a Health Center III, which means that minor injuries can be dealt with and common diseases like malaria, typhoid and flu etcetera can be treated. The clinic has many of its own, like a delivery room, pharmacy, medical ward, malnutrition unit, dental unit and a laboratory. There is an ambulance on stand by for emergencies. The prices for treatment, testing and medicine are purposely kept low to allow more people to seek medical care. The medical staff that live on the compound are available 24/7, they include a doctor, nurses, midwives, and a lab technician.

FACTS

less than 1 hospital bed per 1,000 Ugandans
2.5 million cases of Malaria every year nation wide
6,500+ deaths reported

50% of births is not attended by a health worker



more than 500 Ugandan mothers die giving birth every month

Growth in Malnutrition Clinic

In the area around Noah's Ark many children are fed too much of the same type of food or not enough food or sometimes the mother lacks the ability to breast feed, which leads to malnutrition.

The first six years in a child's life are vital for their physical and mental development. In the past these malnourished children were cared for by Pita in her living room. These children require special attention: feeding them too much can cause them to die but at the same time they need enough nutrients to

FACT

1 out of every 50 children is malnourished or underweight



recover and grow. For several weeks they need to be fed every two hours, day and night.

The Malnutrition Unit was opened in May 2013 to professionalize and expand the care for these children. The unit is working in conjunction with Mulago State Hospital in Kampala, under Pita's watchful eye.

Admitted children are looked after by a family member and medical staff 24 hours a day and are discharged when they have reached a healthy weight. Afterwards the family is encouraged to return for check-ups and to monitor the child's



Regan when he arrived (left) and after treatment



well being. Since May 2013 dozens of children were admitted, the majority of them recovered.

One of these is Regan, a 5 year old boy weighing 5 kg, 15 kg under his normal weight. Due to oxygen shortage during birth Regan was apathetic and had difficulty swallowing. Not knowing what to do when Regan refused solid foods, his mother fed him cows milk. Regan was admitted and his mother, with tender care, fed him the therapeutic milk provided by Mulago Hospital. Together with the nurses they made sure he drank every drop. Slowly but surely Regan started to grow and interact with his

mother. After special laser treatment his ability to swallow improved. At the time of his discharge, 5 weeks later, Regan had gained 4kg and started to eat solid food.

The next step for the Malnutrition Unit is to support families with food supplements and knowledge to prevent chronic malnutrition. This requires outreaches to these isolated families and the staff to be further educated in these matters. However funds to reach these families and support them are currently not sufficient so Noah's Ark is looking for support for this cause.

Health Days

The Noah's Ark Family Clinic takes part in the "Child and Family Health Days" program as one of the community health centers in the area. The program offers a package of



Pain before health

services to increase coverage of life saving services like immunization, malaria diagnosis and treatment, pre and antenatal counseling and family planning education. The health and social workers reach out to schools and communities to meet their target. On an average, 600 children and adults are given de-worming tablets, malaria medication or vitamin supplements, while others are directed to the clinic for more services. The Ministry of Health delivers the needed medical supplies, but Noah's Ark is looking for further funds to support these outreaches. In the future the clinic would like to expand its outreach program with a 'Mobile Clinic' to offer even more services on a regular bases to reach remote communities with a poor coverage of health services.

CHURCH

"START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO, AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT."
PROVERBS 22:6 (NIV)



In Noah's Ark God is honored and Christian values are held high, something that is desired to be transferred to the children and students. Therefore Church plays an important role in the organization. Because going to a church outside the compound would be very impractical considering the large number of children, a church service is held on the compound every Sunday afternoon in Noah's Ark own church

building. Our pastor from Mukono has been ministering in Noah's Ark for many years.

The services are attended by children, staff, volunteers, students and members from the local community. Noah's Ark aims at having fellowship rather than just a Sunday service, so other activities like Sunday School, Bible Class and Teen Club and prayer meetings have been set in place.

Words of Wisdom

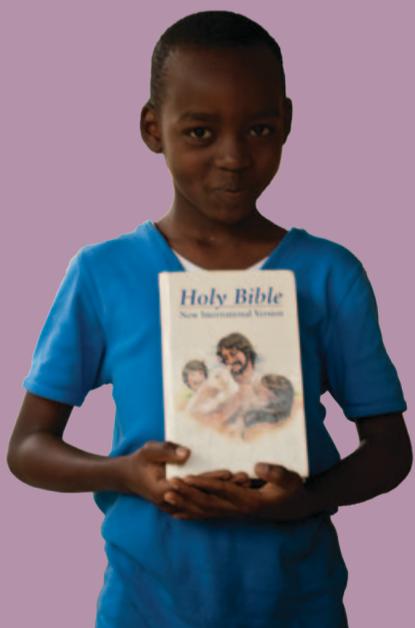
A FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER



STAYS TOGETHER

(advertisement)

WE LONG TO GIVE ALL OUR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS A BIBLE OF THEIR OWN. CONTACT US IF YOU WANT TO HELP.



Sunday School

On Sunday Morning children attend Sunday School. Every week one of the children chooses a number of songs and leads the Sunday School congregation in worship, while others play the guitar.

After the Bible lesson or topic for that day is introduced, the children break up in to groups where they join their Sunday School teachers. In groups with younger children the teachers read from a Bible story book. When children turn nine they receive their own Bible so the older children are expected to read by them selves, in which they take pride and joy.

Sometimes a 'Proclaimer' is used: a digital player containing the full Bible in spoken word. The children enjoy listening to the solar-powered black box while reading along in their own Bibles.

The younger groups do craft work, while the older groups discuss what they have learned and do activities like a puzzle or a quiz.



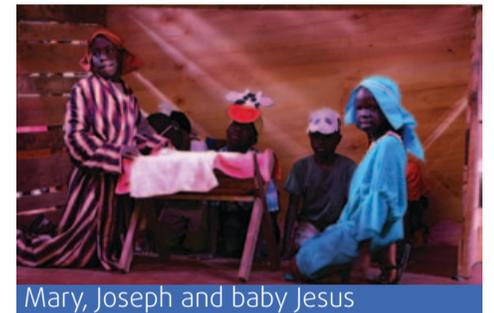
Hard at work in Sunday School

Joy to the Neighbors

Every year a Christmas play is organized for the children at Noah's Ark, but the audience is limited to those within the compound. To reach the local community, a Christmas Cantata was organized in 2014. Scenes from the Christmas story were presented in a mix of songs, dances and performances in both traditional and modern styles. Since English is not the first language of many people in the neighboring villages, performers

narrated essential parts in the local language.

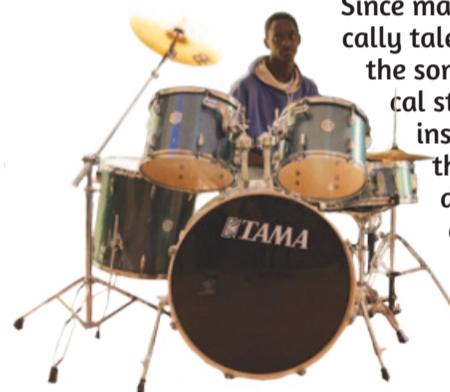
Noah's Ark hopes to make this an annual event in which it can share the joy found in Christ with its neighbors.



Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus



Church services in Noah's Ark begin with Praise and Worship. The worship team leads the congregation in to praising God with a blend of local songs, English hymns and modern day Christian songs. A mix of staff, children and students that fill the stage is led by a different worship leader, often a staff member, every week.



Since many children are musically talented they accompany the songs together with musical staff or missionaries. No instrument is banned from the stage: traditional drums, keyboard, guitar, a drum set, trumpets, flutes and a bass guitar can all be heard during services. By playing in church children can develop their skills and become fully involved in the services.



Growing and Understanding

There are two groups of young adults on the compound: teenagers from the Family Units and the boarding students that attend the Secondary School.

Noah's Ark offers several programs for them during the week: On Sundays the teenagers (age 12 and up) gather for Bible Class. They begin with a capella worship in English and Luganda, then split into groups for a Bible study led by an adult. The meeting ends with the students presenting songs and

dances.

Mid-week there is Teen Club where the teenagers meet in a smaller group setting to have discussion, ask questions and share their experiences on how they can apply God's Word in their daily lives. Topics such as friendships, feelings and relationships are dealt with in a practical, Biblically founded manner. Every few weeks a game night is organized in which they enjoy active games where they interact and compete with one another. A snack such as pizza, popcorn, fruit or ice cream completes the evening.

Built for Worship

Until April 2013, Noah's Ark's church services were held in a big thatched hut in Peter and Pita's garden. Within a short span of time the congregation expanded such that they no longer fit any-

more. Thanks to the generosity of Small Point Baptist Church in the USA a 6000 square foot (650 square meter) multifunctional building was constructed to accommodate hundreds of worshippers. A sound system, stage lighting and musical instruments are all in place to use during services and other activities.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Children are at the center of the work at Noah's Ark, so they are also at the center of our newspaper. This page is about children, by children and for children. Have fun reading!

WHO ARE ...?



Jane and June

The twin sisters Jane Nakato and June Babiriye were born on May 7, 2010 and came to Noah's Ark about two years later. The girls know they are sisters, one is never far from the other. The twins are eager students in the Nursery School and are very talkative. They don't mind getting dirty while playing in the sand pit or getting a better view of the world from the top of the big climbing frame.

CLASSIC KID QUOTE

Samuel (9) said that the bedtime prayer "cover us with the blood of Jesus" does not work, because he still needed to cover himself with a blanket to feel warm.

BIRTHDAY REPORT

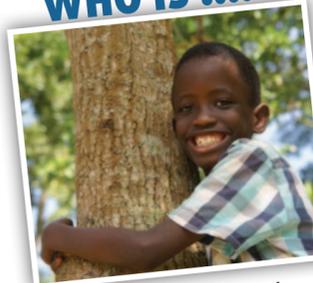


By Stephen Okwera (10) — Papa's birthday was one of my best days because I enjoyed eating cake, hamburger, ice cream, chapatti and I drank soda.



There were children and aunts presenting songs and dances. Together with my group I presented a dance for papa. I would call Papa a father and a missionary. A father who takes care of one hundred seventy children, and he works like a missionary because he came from Holland to Uganda because of God's will and did what God told him to do. I like my father and mother. Like it says in the Bible: "A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother" (Proverbs 10:1).

WHO IS ...?



Jonah Mukwano

Jonah was born on May 29, 2005 and came to Noah's Ark as a small baby. Currently he is in P4, where his best subjects are mathematics and arts. After school Jonah likes to play football with his friends Samuel and Boaz. Together with eight other boys he will occupy the new boy's Family Unit. Jonah likes eating chips and chicken, but he doesn't like the local dish matoke so much, though he still finishes his plate of food.



By Jonah Mukwano (9)

ART BY PRISCILLA BABIRYE (11)



Christy Nakanyike

Christy was born on September 19, 2006 and came to Noah's Ark when she was four years old. Christy did not speak English at that time but she picked up the language very fast. Today Christy is in P1 where she is second of her class and a very strong reader. Her best subjects are English and Mathematics. She loves playing netball and always makes beautiful drawings for the aunts who care for her. Christy is very bright and a happy girl.



WHO IS ...?



CLASSIC KID QUOTE
Nelima (3) was trying to lift a heavy box: "Mama, help me, this box is too fat!"

CLASSIC KID QUOTE

"Coconut-ilatons is when something nice is happening" - Mariska Mulungi (9)

Noah's Ark Salon

By Hope Afono (14)

Most of us girls at Noah's Ark use black wool to braid our hair because our own hair is coarse and difficult to comb. Some girls don't choose braids and keep their own hair very short, or if their hair is soft they tie it into a pony tail. It can take from 7 in the morning up to 6 in the evening to get braided by just one person, it takes less time when more people help. Getting braids can be very boring if you don't have a friend to talk with. It takes between five and nine balls of wool of 250m (820ft) to braid one girl's hair. When they are braiding they tug the hair from the skin and they need to pull it tight, so it pains a lot. Many girls cry and they have trouble sleeping for three nights after because their head hurts. But I think it is still worth it because it makes you look very smart. The braids start coming out after a few months and we need to get new ones. We only need to cut our own hair when it is not level any more, I cannot remember the last time I had to cut mine.



Bob with beads



Bob without beads



Own hair



Own hair short



Long braids



Pony Tail



Catapult Style



Advice from Papa
DON'T
face book
FACE
GOD

Parents please be careful not to leave sharp objects, broken glass, nails or let the children play near the fire because they will be hurt.
By Mark Boys family unit 1

CLASSIC KID QUOTE

Volunteer: "I am flying back on Tuesday, not on Monday. I was mistaken."
Petra (10): "Oh oh! Did you tell the pilot?!"



Onward to the Secondary School

On behalf of all teachers, aunts, uncles, children, volunteers, and Papa and Mama Noah's Ark wishes to congratulate all P7 students for finishing their Primary Leaving Exams. We trust that the results will again be among the top results in the country. Like we say in Uganda: "WELL DONE!". We wish you all the best on your new school.

OUR FAVORITE FOOD

Of course we are grateful for all the food we receive, but that doesn't mean we have some favorite dishes:

1. BARBECUE HAMBURGERS
2. Chips and Sausage
3. Chapati and Beans
4. Pancakes
5. Oliebollen (Dutch new year's eve speciality)





(advertisement)

We have the school. Do you have the school fee?



Take part in paying school fees and make a real difference. www.nacmu.org/newhorizon

Christmas Gift Basket

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Out of Reach

Children from the poorest families in neighboring villages are also enrolled into the schools. Most of these families live either in a one roomed mud house with a grass thatched roof or a brick house with an iron sheet roof.

Most caretakers are unemployed so they grow crops or have some livestock to provide food for their family. To get money for basic needs like clothes soap they rely on casual labour or selling the surplus from their crops, but jobs are scarce and a surplus is often not there. Many families are unable to generate



A typical village setting

enough income to send all their children to school.

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Nursery School

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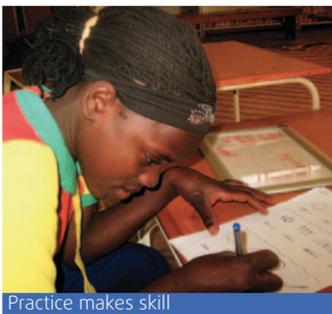
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Each classroom is outfitted with toys, educational posters and decoration to brighten up the classroom. There is an extensive library of puzzles, toys, educational aids, CDs and books available to aid the enthusiastic team of teachers.

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Practice makes skill

More than A B C

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The New Horizon Nursery and Primary School has introduced a different learning style via a method called 'Jolly Phonics'. This fun and child centered approach teaches literacy through synthetic phonics. Letter sounds are used rather than letter names. The sounds are taught in a specific order (not alphabetically). This enables children to begin building words as early as possible. The method uses games, songs and actions and is very motivating for children and teachers, who can see their students achieve. The majority of students following this program pick up reading and writing faster and turn out to be stronger readers, even tackling some tricky words.

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and gain self confidence to sustain themselves for the future.

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Climbing up through education

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The development of the children's self-esteem is stimulated and they are encouraged to ask questions and investigate. Education is the first step in development. For a child, for it's family, for a whole community.

Uniform but Unique

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Nursery (L) and Primary uniforms

CHURCH

"START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO, AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT." PROVERBS 22:6 (NIV)



In Noah's Ark God is honored and Christian values are held high, something that is desired to be transferred to the children and students. Therefore Church plays an important role in the organization. Because going to a church outside the compound would be very impractical considering the large number of children, a church service is held on the compound every Sunday afternoon in Noah's Ark own church

building. Our pastor from Mukono has been ministering in Noah's Ark for many years. The services are attended by children, staff, volunteers, students and members from the local community. Noah's Ark aims at having fellowship rather than just a Sunday service, so other activities like Sunday School, Bible Class and Teen Club and prayer meetings have been set in place.

Words of Wisdom



(advertisement)

WE LONG TO GIVE ALL OUR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS A BIBLE OF THEIR OWN. CONTACT US IF YOU WANT TO HELP.



Sunday School

On Sunday Morning children attend Sunday School. Every week one of the children chooses a number of songs and leads the Sunday School congregation in worship, while others play the guitar.

After the Bible lesson or topic for that day is introduced, the children break up in to groups where they join their Sunday School teachers. In groups with younger children the teachers read from a Bible story book. When children turn nine they receive their own Bible so the older children are expected to read by them selves, in which they take pride and joy.

Sometimes a 'Proclaimer' is used: a digital player containing the full Bible in spoken word. The children enjoy listening to the solar-powered black box while reading along in their own Bibles.

The younger groups do craft work, while the older groups discuss what they have learned and do activities like a puzzle or a quiz.



Hard at work in Sunday School

Joy to the Neighbors

Every year a Christmas play is organized for the children at Noah's Ark, but the audience is limited to those within the compound. To reach the local community, a Christmas Cantata was organized in 2014. Scenes from the Christmas story were presented in a mix of songs, dances and performances in both traditional and modern styles. Since English is not the first language of many people in the neighboring villages, performers

narrated essential parts in the local language. Noah's Ark hopes to make this an annual event in which it can share the joy found in Christ with its neighbors.



Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus



praise & worship

Church services in Noah's Ark begin with Praise and Worship. The worship team leads the congregation in to praising God with a blend of local songs, English hymns and modern day Christian songs. A mix of staff, children and students that fill the stage is led by a different worship leader, often a staff member, every week.



Since many children are musically talented they accompany the songs together with musical staff or missionaries. No instrument is banned from the stage: traditional drums, keyboard, guitar, a drum set, trumpets, flutes and a bass guitar can all be heard during services. By playing in church children can develop their skills and become fully involved in the services.



Growing and Understanding

There are two groups of young adults on the compound: teenagers from the Family Units and the boarding students that attend the Secondary School.

Noah's Ark offers several programs for them during the week: On Sundays the teenagers (age 12 and up) gather for Bible Class. They begin with a capella worship in English and Luganda, then split into groups for a Bible study led by an adult. The meeting ends with the students presenting songs and

dances. Mid-week there is Teen Club where the teenagers meet in a smaller group setting to have discussion, ask questions and share their experiences on how they can apply God's Word in their daily lives. Topics such as friendships, feelings and relationships are dealt with in a practical, Biblically founded manner. Every few weeks a game night is organized in which they enjoy active games where they interact and compete with one another. A snack such as pizza, popcorn, fruit or ice cream completes the evening.

Built for Worship

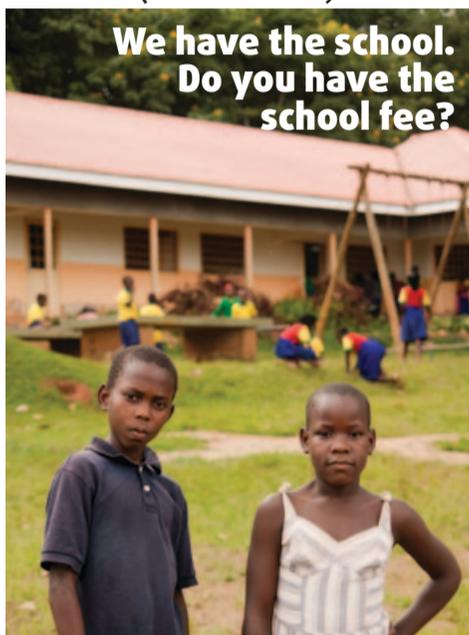
Until April 2013, Noah's Ark's church services were held in a big thatched hut in Peter and Pita's garden. Within a short span of time the congregation expanded such that they no longer fit any-

more. Thanks to the generosity of Small Point Baptist Church in the USA a 6000 square foot (650 square meter) multifunctional building was constructed to accommodate hundreds of worshippers. A sound system, stage lighting and musical instruments are all in place to use during services and other activities.



(advertisement)

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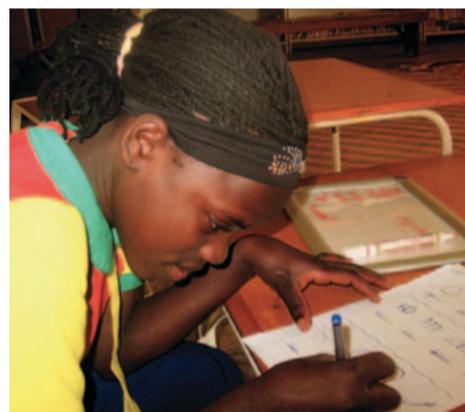
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NEW HORIZON

from nobody to somebody



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Nursery (L) and Primary uniforms



SECONDARY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

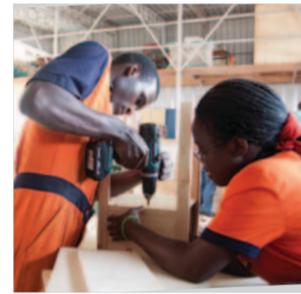


The New Horizon Secondary Vocational School combines secondary education with vocational studies into one school: a unique concept in Uganda.

Secondary School subjects like English, math, science, history and geography, are taught in the classrooms. Vocations like farming, carpentry, masonry, mechanics, food and nutrition and tailoring are put in

to practice on actual building sites, the school's own workshop and farm.

In the first four years (S1 through S4) students follow a wide range of subjects, after they specialize in a few theoretical and vocational subjects. With this combination students will be more prepared for the future, the school is hoping to create job creators, not job seekers.



8 Years in School

Week after week Musee (grandfather) Bitalo can be seen chopping firewood at the kitchen to express his gratitude because his daughter Safina joined the Sponsorship Program. Musee Bitalo: "I am unable to pay school requirements for my seven children. Eight years ago people from New Horizon heard my story and told me Safina could join New Hori-



Musee Bitalo and Safina

zon at no cost." Safina joined in P2 and is now in the Secondary School. Safina: "In my old school we studied under a tree. The school was free but all school requirements including

books, meals and a poor quality school uniform, had to be paid for. No money meant no lunch. For seven years now I have been at New Horizon and I never had to skip lunch a single time. I was even helped with glasses to improve my sight."

Practical and Stylish

Skirts are not so practical when working on a farm so students have different uniforms for in-class lessons and vocational subjects. In an orange polo and a blue skirt or trouser is worn. During vocational subjects students wear an overall colored in New Horizon's bright shade of orange.



Theory (left) and Vocational uniforms

A school that keeps growing

At the moment the Secondary Vocational School offers classes up to Senior 4 (S4) but it is constantly expanding. Secondary education in Uganda goes up to S6, but New Horizons has plans to add an extra year (S7). So in the coming years these classes, along with their requirements will be added year by year.

In August 2014 the Science Laboratory was ready for use. The lab room offers several work stations with a solid workbench, tap and a bunsen



Future scientist at work

burner to carry out practicals for physics, biology and chemistry. The lab is equipped with enough chemicals, glasswork and tools for the students to work in small group rather than all gathering around one small set up. More vocations and subjects will be added or expanded in the coming years to offer students ways to specialize, gain knowledge and experience and prepare themselves for the future ahead.

Learning a Trade

When asked "What do you want to be in future?", most Ugandan students will answer doctor, lawyer, architect, football player or an artist. Discouraging these dreams is not New Horizon's aim, but in reality 90% of the students cannot fulfill their dream because of one reason or the other: that's why at New Horizon every student has to complete at least one vocational subject next to completing their secondary education which can get them into a university, but circumstances might prevent that. Finding a high-end office job in a developing economy like Uganda is a challenge, but properly trained people in vocational trades will always be needed: houses will be built, cars will break down, and people need clothes. In the near future New Horizon hopes to help students start some small scale businesses.



Bringing Vocations Home

Students are taught practical subjects so that they will be able to apply these skills straight away. Some students have already took their newly learned skills home:

Henry Ddamulira started a small garden at his home, after he had learned to plant and care for various crops like French beans, carrots, cabbage and spinach, in his demonstrational garden at school. The food from this garden helped his parents to worry less about where the food for the next meal would come from.

Sirajje Kyagobya followed classes in brick laying and plastering. Sirajje

decided to put his experience into practice by plastering the exterior of the house he lives in with his mother and siblings. He says, "I am glad that the skills from school have enabled me to plaster the exterior of our house, saving my mother from hiring somebody for a fee."



Henry in his garden

SUPPORT

Noah's Ark is supported by people and organizations all over the world, by different means. In turn, Noah's Ark supports different organizations in Uganda, supplying goods or services to help them in their work.

Partnering in Holistic Care

Noah's Ark is running different projects both within the compound and country wide. One of these projects is 'Partnership in Holistic Care', supported by Legacy World Mission (USA). On a regular basis, staff from children's homes from all over Uganda meet with the aim of improving the care for the children under their care. Noah's Ark gives trainings on topics such as children's rights, hygiene, education, special needs and other aspects of raising a child. In this way thousands of children are reached. The homes receive mosquito



Moses enjoying his lunch

nets, clothing, special fortified food packets to help give their children a nutritious meal, and a 'proclaimer': a digital playback device with the full Bible in spoken word. As the Bible says: Faith comes by hearing. Noah's Ark is very grateful for the support of Legacy World Mission and the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda which pays the taxes on the goods imported into the country. In turn, Noah's Ark assists the Ugandan Ministry of Disaster Preparedness where possible with goods or services. Together we strive to improve the lives of as many Ugandan children as possible.



A box containing the food packages

ON A MISSION

A team of missionaries from all over the world and from different disciplines is working side by side with Peter and Pita. They do not receive a salary from Noah's Ark, but are responsible for raising their own financial support. Noah's Ark is still looking for more people who are willing to commit themselves for an extensive period of time to serve at Noah's Ark, specifically in the area of education and administration.

Warwick and Marilyn Dingle, New Zealand — After their retirement from being Secondary School teachers Warwick and Marilyn moved to Noah's Ark in 2008. For some years they led a Family Unit themselves and now oversee all the Units. They are both actively involved in the Primary School and the church.

Christian Berkman, the Netherlands — Christian joined Noah's Ark as in August 2013. His main task is supporting the Public Relations of Noah's Ark. As a Physics Engineer he assists in the Science Lab at the Secondary School and further he is involved in Sunday School, church and the Teen Club.

christianberkman.nl

Colin and Beu Winters, New Zealand — In May 2014 this couple from New Zealand joined Noah's Ark. Colin is involved in the Bible studies at



sunday school and for the students and is very a skilled carpenter. Beu keeps the children warm for the winter by leading various knitting groups. She also has a reading group and makes sure every child gets nice birthday presents.

cbwinters.com

Katie Schinnell, United States Katie set sail for Uganda in July 2014. Being an English and Religion major and having worked at a Bible camp, she tutors students with reading problems and is responsible for the activities during the holiday.

nzekatie.blogspot.com

Jared and Stefani Scheppmann, United States — After many visits to

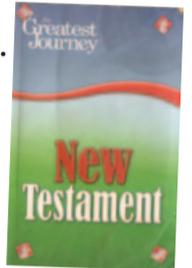


A rewarding smile

A Shoebox filled with Joy

For many years now Noah's Ark is in a partnership with Samaritan's Purse (USA) to distribute hundreds of thousands of shoeboxes throughout the whole of Uganda. The shoeboxes do not contain shoes but are filled with toys, soap, pens, clothes, small books and a toothbrush and toothpaste. These boxes are filled by school children, families and churches world wide. Noah's Ark coordinates the transport of the boxes throughout Uganda, sometimes accompanied by children from our Children's Home handing out the boxes to their age mates.

Receiving a gift is a once in a year event for most children, so they are extremely grateful to receive a whole box just for themselves. The smile on the face of a receiving child is very rewarding after the hard work of moving all those boxes. In addition to shoeboxes more than hundreds of thousands of Bibles and Bible study books are also given out to children and other organizations. We are convinced that our combined efforts will enable many children and young adults to get to know the Lord Jesus Christ.



In the Spotlight

All year round Noah's Ark is put in the spotlight by churches, schools and other communities. They collect funds for Noah's Ark by washing cars, baking cakes, charity runs or collecting money directly via a church offering or in class. As well as the wonderful contributions to the work of Noah's Ark these events show the commitment and efforts of people all around the world supporting Noah's Ark.



A wonderful amount for Noah's Ark

inventory and tools in the workshops and will drive the ambulance.

Tamar Goossens, the Netherlands Traveling back and forth between Uganda and the Netherlands since 2007, Tamar plans to settle in Noah's Ark after she finishes studying medicine in 2015. Her wish is to expand the clinic's outreach activities with a mobile clinic.

tamargoossens.wordpress.com

Reny Nauta, the Netherlands Reny worked with Noah's Ark from 2007 to 2014. One of her main activities was setting up and expanding the Special Needs Program to support children who have a problem with their physical or mental development. Reny trained a team of Ugandan social workers who took over the program after she returned to the Netherlands in August together with her adopted Ugandan daughter Suzannah. Noah's Ark gives thanks to the Lord for the work she has been able to do at our place.



Reny and Susannah

Uganda this young couple decided to settle at Noah's Ark in September 2014. Jared, a Youth Pastor and an MBA helps around at the office and is involved with the teenagers and church. His wife Stefani works alongside the Ugandan social workers with the special needs children from the Children's Home and the schools.

jared-and-stef.blogspot.com

De Gruyter Family, the Netherlands — In October 2014 Aldert and Patricia de Gruyter and their two young children Sarah and Amos packed their bags and moved to Noah's Ark. Patricia is a pediatric nurse who will mainly work in the Malnutrition Unit, Aldert will oversee the

OPINION

I choose Life

Some people have asked the question, "Why have you started a Malnutrition Unit; don't you have enough to do already?" Some have even asked what my motivation is, and where my passion came from. My answer is simple: 'LIFE'.

Most of the children that arrive in the clinic are extremely frail and severely malnourished, with very little hope of survival. Getting a child accustomed to regular feeding isn't easy; often times it can be a long intensive struggle. A tiny portion of food is frequently fed to the child 24/7. They can gain a few grams, but unfortunately they can lose them just as quickly. I ask you what more motivation does one need than seeing a child healed, happy and full of life. I say "Go for it!"

Yes, sometimes a child can sink too low and we lose the battle. Each time this happens it breaks my heart a little more, but for the number of successes I'm filled with deep gratitude and this refuels my passion. I praise God for the many lives that have passed through my hands, and are now full of life - ready to face a bright future.

Pita Buitendijk, Mama

A Smile is my Reward

By Auntie Sylvia — Noah's Ark is a place where I have experienced God's love through caring for the children. Many of these children are rescued from appalling places, being previously dumped and discarded as rubbish. However, the Noah's Ark family sees them as a precious gift - one of special value. Each child is named, welcomed, and dedicated to the Lord. They are then given the basic needs of life - love, shelter, food, clothing, health care, and an education. Most of all, a family.

My greatest reward is a smile, a hug, a kiss, and a complement from these children.

— Auntie Sylvia, team leader caretakers



The Greatest Gift

The greatest gift that God has given me is life, and I have received it through Papa and Mama. Not because I deserve it but because God loves me despite all the wrong things I do every day. I thank Jesus and praise His Name.

Paul Ecosi, Boys Family Unit 1

Disillusion

Most likely you have heard the saying "if the problem of _____ was solved, it would make the world a better place". How much has been done already to make the world a better place? As far as I can see, we have reached the opposite: more wars, more terror attacks, floods, earthquakes and diseases which we can't cure are happening and we can't stop them. In our case it is the poverty in Uganda, what has been done and what is the sense of it all?

I think I am able to say of myself that I am not a pessimist, but I am a realist for sure. I do see what has been done through the years, and what has brought little or no change. In our western world poverty is a phenomenon which is difficult to understand. Poverty is like being in prison, and in most cases it is a life sentence. Few see a possibility to get out and escape. Poverty becomes a way of living.

If in society there are a few people who can't cope with the difficulties of life then we western people quickly come up with all kinds of solutions, we want to tell them how they can do it differently. Because if the majority can make it, it shouldn't be too hard to care for the minority who is not able to make it. But, if it is the other way around, when the majority can't cope, the minority has to solve the problem and it becomes an entirely different case.

In a poverty stricken situation the following happens: if one is able to climb out of the ditch and his struggle becomes less, the whole family wants to share. The result is that they then fall back, and he will never be able to solve all of the problems. In Africa people have the willingness to care for each other but poverty makes it all impossible. In the end, that is something that sits between the ears. "We are poor, and that's it!". "We are poor, so no solution will work for me".

Sadly enough, for many there is no way out of the imprisonment of poverty and the story repeats its self. It is our duty to be there for those people and to try to live as an example until a number of them is able to follow and get out.

We therefore strive to educate and equip the children under our care to think differently and to never give up!

Peter Buitendijk, Papa

Prayer Letter

Every week Peter and Pita send a prayer letter via e-mail. If you wish to receive this letter, please send an e-mail with your name and e-mail address to nacmu-uganda@nacmu.org.

Pita's Recipe for Ugandan Rolex

A 'rolex' (from 'rolled eggs') is a fried egg rolled inside a chapatti (an unleavened flatbread). This popular food can be bought at almost every streetcorner in Uganda for about 60 dollar cents.

- Sieve 350 grams of flour and mix in a bowl with 250ml water and half a teaspoon of salt.
- Knead it lightly into a non-sticky but soft dough. If the dough is too hard add some cooking oil, if it is too sticky add some flour.

- Roll the dough into five to seven balls of roughly the same size and form them into a thin, flat circle a little smaller than your frying pan.
- Heat up the frying pan, add one tablespoon



- of cooking oil.
- Place the chapatti on the frying pan and fry one side until it is brown, then fry the other side.
- Beat 2 eggs for every rolex and mix in small cut pieces of tomato, carrots, onions and paprika.
- Fry into a thin omelet.
- Place the egg in the center of the chapatti and roll tightly.

Your rolex is now ready to be served. Enjoy your meal!

A FLOWER

BY MARY STRONKHORST

BROKEN, TORN
A FLOWER, STILL IN THE BUD
THROWN WITHOUT CONSIDERATION
PUSHED ASIDE.

BUT SUDDENLY: SEEN!
PICKED UP, CARRIED AND PUT IN A VASE
NOW SHE IS FLOURISHING,
HER LEAVES OPEN
EVERYONE ENJOYS HER LOVELY SMELL
PERFECTLY FITTING,
FOR A BEAUTIFUL BOUQUET
A FLOWER:
DESTINATION REACHED.



READER'S PAGE

Dear editors, are children brought to you or left at the gate?

We don't accept children who are brought to us or dropped at the gate, and we are not allowed to. All children must come in via the police who requests Noah's Ark temporarily take care of the child as family is tracked down or the situation is clarified. For children who stay in the home Noah's Ark receives a 'Care Order' from the Probation Office giving us custody over the child.



Dear editors, do many of the children in the Children's Home get malaria?

Unfortunately, we have several cases per month. The number depends on the time of the year (more rain means more mosquitoes) but they occur year round. The beds of the children are covered with mosquito nets but this cannot guarantee that there is no opportunity for a mosquito to bite: they can be active from 4pm onwards. Luckily we are blessed with our own clinic that is capable to treat almost all cases of malaria. Though having malaria is not pleasant at all, with proper – and timely – medical care it is quite easy to cure.

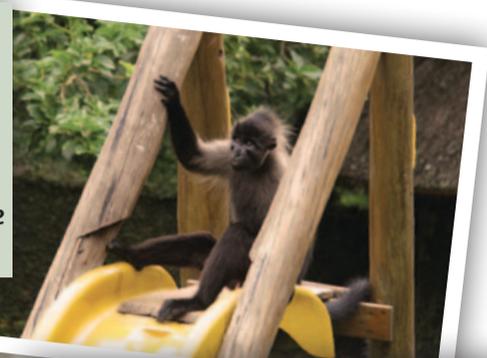


Dear editors, do you follow up children as they are resettled with their family?

We don't simply forget about children who were reunited with their families. Our social workers keep in touch with the families and follow up with the well being of the children. In some cases Noah's Ark supports the families by paying the school fees or other school requirements for some time until the family is able to provide for themselves.

Dear editors, does the wall surrounding your compound stop wild animals from entering?

Not by far. Wildlife seen on a Noah's Ark safari includes various types of monkeys, birds, antelopes, and even leopards. On the ground you may encounter snakes or fire ants, but to make up the skies are filled with the most beautiful butterflies. Though most animals you'll never see or never be bothered from so a visit to Noah's Ark is quite safe.



Dear editors, does Uganda know school holidays, and if so, how do you go about them in Noah's Ark?

In Uganda the school year starts in February and ends early December. It is divided into three terms. Between every term there is a three week holiday, at the end of the third term there is a two month holiday. There are also numerous 'public holidays' observed in the country on which schools are closed. Noah's Ark organizes special programmers for the holidays to keep the children occupied. Divided into age groups they do crafts, sports, activities or watch a movie. With over 170 children in the Home holidays are more busy than school days!



Dear editors, judging from photos I've seen, Noah's Ark seems pretty big. How large is your compound?

The Noah's Ark compound stretches over a total of 90 acres (36 hectares) of land. Most of it is still forest, we only cleared the land where needed. A tour of the whole compound by foot can take up to two hours!

Dear editors, do you accept new children of all ages in the Children's Home?

In general we don't take in new children above the age of 3 years old. The reason being that there are few places around that can take proper care of young infants so we rather focus on providing for this fragile age group. Also from past experience, children who join at an older age have quite some difficulty adapting to their new way of life. No rule goes without an exception: if a child really has no other place to go, either to a family member or another organization, Noah's Ark considers to step into the situation.

Dear editors, is it possible to send a letter, card or a gift for my sponsor child in the Children's Home or at the school?

Yes that is possible and highly appreciated by the children. All children know they have sponsors and are happy to hear that somewhere in the world people are thinking about them. You can send your mail to Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda, P.O. Box 355, Mukono, Uganda. Keep in mind that mail (especially packages) take up to 3 months to arrive, we do our best to give a confirmation upon arrival.



Dear Editors, can I come and work as a volunteer?

During the year we receive dozens of volunteers from around the world. Volunteers need to be at least 25 years old, speak English and be able to financially support themselves. Volunteers have to apply for a volunteering position and be qualified to do so. For more information about volunteering visit our website: www.nacmu.org/en/join/volunteer

Dear Editors, if there are not enough sponsors for a school child, or a sponsor stops, does the child get sent home?

Absolutely not, if children are enrolled in the sponsorship program they can go to school. At the moment about 75% of the children at New Horizon is fully or partially sponsored. This does not mean that those children receive less food or have to share school books. It does mean that fewer new students can be enrolled because the funds are not sufficient.

Dear editors, are there any children with HIV/AIDS in the Children's Home?

Yes there are, but fortunately the number of children that are HIV positive is very low. They receive the proper medication to suppress and slow down the virus. Blood contact is avoided at all times, also with children who are HIV negative, so there is no need to treat these children any different when they have a wound or when they are sick. They also happily share the same toys, cutlery and clothes.



Find and Deliver

Need a tire for your wheelbarrow? A new lock for your door? Chances are Matthew (15) and Timothy (15) can be of help. These two young men like to help Uncle Bbira, the universal handyman of Noah's Ark, find materials from one of the many buildings, workshops and storage containers and get them to the person in need. Though this might not be a regular talent, it is sure useful and appreciated within Noah's Ark.



Sound and Lights

Week after week Emmanuel (11) faithfully helps to set up the sound system and lights for church and other special events. He is very eager to learn how to connect the wires, adjust the microphone levels and set up the projector. Thanks to his practical talent, others with talents in music can be heard and seen!

TALENTS

The children at Noah's Ark have many talents, and every one of them is encouraged to develop their gifts. This is part of our strategy to make them into somebodies rather than letting them be looked upon as nobodies: developing self-confident children who use their own strengths to make the most of their futures.



BAND OF SOMEBODIES

Continued from front page — The Noah's Ark band is formed by children from the Children's Home, who were once regarded by society as a nobody, as well as some boarding students from the Secondary Vocational School. The band is often called upon to play at festivities at schools, clinics or police functions in Mukono and Kampala. On multiple occasions the band has even stood face to face with His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda, while playing the national anthem opening an official government gathering.

Though being in a band or meeting the President is not the only way to become a somebody, it is a good indicator of what love, care, devotion, and prayers from around the world can do when invested in the life of a child. Noah's Ark will continue its efforts to make all children into somebodies, no matter their background or social status.



Talent to Care

During the holiday program, children are on 'duty' for two hours every day in the different departments. Ezra (14), Priscilla (11) and Ruth (12) have liked working with the babies so much that they often can be seen helping the aunties in the Children's Home. This talent of caring for others means they don't need to sit around and wait for instructions; rather, they change a baby when needed and know when it is time to feed.



Delicious Talent

Sarah (11) and Lois (11) live in a Family Unit that has its own kitchen, so they could easily cook for just themselves. However, they like to join the kitchen staff to help cut vegetables, cook rice, clean the workbenches and set the tables for their brothers and sisters in the Home. A truly delicious talent!



Some of the girls in their self fashioned fashion

Knitting and Looming

Though the winter season is unknown to Uganda, the knitting season surely is present. After several volunteers and visitors have introduced the children to knitting, with various results, the children now seem to be hooked. Scarfs, dresses, bags and hair bands, the children are able to create all sorts of things from just a couple of balls of wool. Those knitting include mostly girls, but some boys have mastered the skill

as well. For Mama's birthday the knitting group known as the Knit-wits made small knitted baby dolls as a present, showing their appreciation of what Mama has done for them since they were infants. Some children don't knit for themselves; they put their hands to work making small hats for babies born at Mulago Hospital in Kampala. Another favorite past time is looming: using small rubber bands to create bracelets and necklaces. When the rubber bands eventually break they get a second life beautifying the threaded hair of the girls.

Never Silent

With over 170 children, staff and farm animals living on the compound, a silent moment is rare. Yet it is not all the noisy hustle and bustle of work and school. Most of the children are musically talented and like to sing, dance and play instruments.

Outside of the brass band, many of them have learned how to play the guitar over the years. They start with group lessons once a week and eventually can use their skill to accompany church worship, school

assemblies and Sunday School. On special events like Easter, Papa's or Mama's birthdays, lots of children present their musical skills in a song, dance or both!

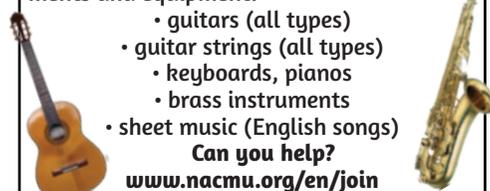
Noah's Ark's Wish List

Noah's Ark is looking for musical instruments and equipment:

- guitars (all types)
- guitar strings (all types)
- keyboards, pianos
- brass instruments
- sheet music (English songs)

Can you help?

www.nacmu.org/en/join



Patricia, David and Rebecca leading the Sunday School songs with their guitars

SPORTS



Will the ball go in or stay out?

Netball

Netball, a sport based on early versions of basketball, is a very popular sport in Ugandan schools, especially amongst girls. The Netball match between New Horizon and Cradle Land Primary School this year showed one of the greatest records in talent so far. The New Horizon girls managed to make a staggering seven goals in the first half of the game with another five in the second half. The final score was an impressive 12 - 3 in favor of New Horizon. Despite a slippery ground twin top scorers Naomi and Deborah (13) both managed to score twice.



One of the football matches in progress

SOCIAL FOOTBALL

Two teachers and two staff members attended a training on how to train and coach a football team. The multi day training in Entebbe was given by Scort Foundation from Switzerland. The aim of this initiative is to train people who work on a regular basis with children to be a positive influence in their development through targeted social football activities. With their freshly learned skills and knowledge the new coaches trained the football teams of the New Horizon Primary School and the Secondary Vocational School.

A first match between the two New Horizon Schools resulted in a 2 - 1

win for the Secondary Vocational School with the winning goal in the last minute. A return match resulted in the same score, coaches of both teams were happy with the effort of their respective teams. The Secondary Vocational School also entered a inter-school championship. The boys team completed thirds in their group while girls finished second in theirs, giving them a place in the semi-finals. The match was played against Bishop Secondary School, painfully the girls were kicked out after a 1 - 0 defeat on Mukono Secondary School sports ground.



Baby Steps

In good tradition Noah's Ark is proud to announce this year's baby champions: babies who started walking at the earliest age. For the year 2014 the winners are Daphine, followed by the twin sisters Anna-Christine and Janet who all started walking before making one year. The earliest crawlers included Louis, Michelle and Daisy.

FRIENDLY COMPETITION

All students of New Horizon Primary School are divided into a 'House'. Each house is named after a bird. Children from all seven classes are represented in each house. The houses compete against one another in many areas, like debating, singing and craft work. The

houses also strive to be the best in sports: once a year a big inter-house competition is held with a wide range of games and sports. The youngest children from each house competed in 'get ready for school', a relay race where the children wash their face, brush their teeth, put on their uniform pack their bags and finally reach the finish line. The day also decided who was the fastest to peel green bananas, which house could transport a message by whispering without adding or losing words and finally there was a one hundred meter sprint. Expectations for the Eagle house to win were high, but the Crane house took the title. Crane House patron Teacher Fred: "I did not expect to win but was pleasantly surprised by the performance of my house members. Our training paid off and we are looking forward to defend our title next year".



New Zealand
Warwick and Marilyn Dingle
wandmdingle@gmail.com

Russia
Olga Formanchuk
olyacocoa@gmail.com

Defying Gravity

In the second half of 2014 two sports gained a tremendous amount of players: jump rope (skipping rope) and Chinese jump rope (elastics). On a typical afternoon the playground of the Children's Home is filled with dozens of children jumping up and down in an attempt to defy gravity. Aunties and visitors gladly join the games to revive moments from their youth while some toddlers fall victim as they are put in place to hold the elastic of the Chinese jump rope in position while their older brothers and sisters enjoy their game.



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The Noah's Ark Times



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NACMU is an officially registered organization in Uganda and is represented in various other countries (see below).

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Who can put on their socks the first?