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Travel report October 2023

The first week

With a suitcase full of letters we fly to Uganda on Sunday 22 October. This time there were no sponsors. A long flight, because due to unrest in Sudan, Middle East, but also in Niger, a different escape route is chosen and the flight will take more than 1.30 hours longer.

Because the private circumstances at home were not optimal (daughter Sanne's illness), we doubted whether our work trip could continue. But rebooking costs a lot of money and if it is not strictly necessary, we prefer not to do that.

In good consultation we finally decided to continue the trip. If things really go wrong, we could always go back earlier.



On Tuesday we have our first meeting with Anthony and we discuss various things that need to be discussed this week. We decide not to start the program tomorrow because of our problems at home, but to go to Lwengo for the welcome ceremony and to view the projects

Again, we had to tell them that we might have to go back earlier and not be able to see all the children. The children listened breathlessly and when Anthony finished translating our story, two children and a teacher came forward to pray with us for healing and recovery and we received a blessing.

How beautiful it is that we can share our worries and sorrows with our friends here in Uganda. It was an emotional meeting and many children gave us a big hug afterwards.

On Thursday our situation will be clarified and we will once again decide to continue our work here in good consultation. So we're going to work Friday! We then see all the children from Baby Class to P2 and that is quite a challenge!

After lunch we continue our program at the Secondary Schools Nakyenye, St. Joseph Mary's and at Laetitia. These are the three schools in the immediate vicinity from which the Primary 7 children can choose since last year to keep monitoring clear for Anthony and for us. At St. Joseph Mary's, a number of students are absent due to a schooltour. We will go back on Monday morning to see them as well.

It was a long day and when we get home at half past seven in the evening, we notice that this day was very long and together with Anthony we adjust the program for the following days.

During the weekend I spend two full days putting the photos taken back in all files, so that you, as a sponsor, will soon have a recent photo of your sponsor child.

The second week

A new plan is in development: the Family House, a house with a "mother" who takes care of children who cannot go home during the holidays because there is simply no home or because of there is an unsafe home situation. We are working on it and while I am working on the feedback, Pieter is working out the plan further. Will certainly be continued, of course after discussion in our board.

The local management here and we think it is an important and wonderful new project.

We solve a misunderstanding about a study with one of our sponsor students and on Monday we go to Lwengo again to see Primary 3 to Primary 6. In the afternoon we do some home visits in the neighbourhood. That is our finest work; Get to know the parent(s)/carers, see how children live, identify and solve any problems and share concerns. And those worries are there in every family: where do we get our food from today? Parents are very happy that their children



can go to school. Not only because of education, but also because the child gets to eat at school and that is one mouth less to feed at home.

On Tuesday we will work at home again on the feedback and in the meantime our thoughts are on the home front where results of investigations are expected and which may make us return even earlier. But surgery will follow, but not in the immediate short term that we have to go back, so we continue our program again.

A



"Parents meeting" was organized on Wednesday. All parents of sponsored children are invited! Unfortunately, it rains and it is a gloomy day. But when we arrive, a lot of parents have arrived and we are wonderfully dry in the new ICT room. Far from finished, but already usable! There will be speeches by headteacher Denis, doctor Samuel, a representative of the parents, Anthony and Pieter will also address the people. A small piece in Ugandan that was very much appreciated! Francis, Anthony's social worker and right-hand man, talks about his work for the Community and introduces Douglas Bwanika to help him with the much work that needs to be done, both at school and in the Community. Douglas, well trained as a social worker, we get to know as an enthusiastic man with a generous smile! We have a lot of confidence in him, a valuable addition to the team.

When everyone has told their story, we receive gifts from many parents from their own garden: bananas, avocados, eggs, homemade baskets and mats. Too many to mention and certainly to take with you to the Netherlands! But this shows their gratitude for the sponsorship of their children, which I would like to pass on to you. Because if we



didn't have you as sponsors, we couldn't follow up on this beautiful work!

The other day we distributed the fruits in the vicinity of our own house to people who also have little or nothing and that's how it ends up well. The mats are in our house and the baskets are waiting for a new owner. We'll see...

This is followed by four days of hard work on the reports. But we are also going to relax for an afternoon. The weather is beautiful and we are going to a hotel/restaurant with swimming pool.



We have a nice lunch and occasionally cool off in the pool. An afternoon we needed!

The third week

The last week arrives and it starts with a visit to the Classical Secondary School, where we still have 1 student in Secondary 4.

This day is also dedicated to the home visits of the boarding children who usually live far from school.

To make matters worse, it rains and we slither through the district by car. This time we all see happy mothers who miss their child very much, but have consciously chosen this good school, our Lwerudeso School. That does us good and gives us a good proud feeling!

Due to the rain, the trip takes once as long and we are also home at 20:00 in the evening. Anthony spends the night with us and therefore we have the rest of the evening to talk about all experiences, clarify ambiguities, solve problems and share concerns.

The next day we talk even more about the concept of "Family House". We visit Marthe at Secondary School Arch Bishop Kiwanuka in Kitovu, Masaka and Henry at the Vocational School for disabled children.

Henry, physically and mentally disabled, is a sweet boy who does very well at this school. He has done leather processing and makes beautiful slippers, belts, wallet monettes, etc.



In December there will be an exam for him and if he has passed, he can work for himself with the

help of a toolbox of tools and materials. Anthony has figured out that he's going to get a place at school where he can fix the kids' shoes. Perhaps people from the village will also come to him. In this way, he earns some money and can support himself.

A great successful project!

In the meantime, we have received word from home that an operation will follow on 1 November. We will be back at home then. It has been a good decision to continue our program here. At the same time, we are now also happy that the end of this trip is coming and we can strengthen the home front again.

Thursday we have a farewell dinner with Douglas, Francis and Anthony.



Saying goodbye to them is always a bit difficult for us. Especially with Anthony, with whom we worked intensively for three weeks. Yes.. We're going to miss it again!

On Friday we clean up our house, pack our bags and on Saturday we drive back to Entebbe with a suitcase full of letters from the sponsor children.

Just a day of relaxing, buying some souvenirs and then we fly back to the Netherlands on Sunday night.

Despite the somewhat restless journey due to the worries on the home front, we had a good trip. We have been able to solve cases, we have seen how the projects, made possible by the large donation we received in May, are progressing.

A new project is in development, we have done tiring, but beautiful home visits and met many parents.

Yes, all with all it was a good trip!

It remains for me to say: Thank you, thank you very much for all the letters you gave us for the children. We will be back with a suitcase full of letters from your sponsor children that I will send or scan and email in the coming weeks. That depends a bit on

the letter. But we are looking for the cheapest way to get the letters to you.

Our next trip is scheduled for April/May 2024. Those who want to join can indicate this from now on. Highly recommended!!

For now, warm greetings!

Pieter and Marga Streefkerk

