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Travel report October 2024

On October 12 we will fly to Uganda again with full suitcases to monitor our work in Lwengo.

A journey unlike any other journey. It started when booking the tickets, twice an error at the end of the booking process. Then I started calling, which took a lot of time, but also provided advantages: a fourth suitcase can be taken with you for free and also a free meal of our choice!

Once in the air, Pieter discovers that his yellow book and visa are no longer in his bag. We search everything twice, but we don't find it. Fortunately, the visa is on the mobile, but the yellow booklet is annoying, because they can ask for it.

But it goes fast at customs, no one asks for it and the visa on the mobile is accepted, so this hurdle has been taken. It was a bit exciting.

The custom officers look suspiciously at the number of smartphones in our suitcase, but that is eventually accepted and then we meet Joseph who takes us to ViaVia where we spend the night.

The next morning we drive to our home in Masaka. A restless, hot ride of about four hours. Fellow road users drive fast and sometimes overtake irresponsibly and eventually we are in a traffic jam caused by a terrible car accident. An overloaded taxi van is upside down on the road and a passenger car on the other side crumpled on the roadside. We didn't look very closely. People have certainly lost their lives here. We are silent for a while...

Safely we finally reach Masaka and we are happy to be there. Tomorrow, Monday the 14th, we will have our first interview with Anthony. We discuss the program, share our concerns and problems, and we will search for the answers to all our questions in the coming weeks. It was a good first meeting!

In the evening we go out for dinner with Anthony and that's where things go wrong again. When we

come back, I'm strangely tired and go straight to bed. Anthony stays the night and tomorrow at 9:00 am we have a conversation with one of our graduate students. Then we go to Lwengo and our program can begin.

In the middle of the night I wake up from a huge pain in my intercostal muscle and I can hardly breathe. The other day I'm very, very sick and the whole program is shut down. The doctor comes, blood is taken and after half an hour we know that I have food poisoning. I get antibiotics and pain relief, it doesn't really help and the doctor comes back to give medication through the infusion. It's better, but my energy level is 0.0 and I can barely walk from bed to the toilet. The bacterium seeks l out the weak spots in the body and that puts my whole body in imbalance. So the first week goes by in which the doctor comes back twice more to see how I am doing and s more medication.

Unbelievable, now we have been coming to Uganda for so long, always eat in good restaurants or at home and we have never actually been sick. Pure bad luck!

After a week in bed, the recovery slowly sets in and in the second week we decide to drastically change our program: We go to Lwengo for half a day, drop off the letters and the present and then go home again. This is how we finish Primary School. In the afternoon I'm exhausted on my bed outside.



No personal reports this time, but this travelogue and a group photo of the class your child is in. If there are any special features, I will mention them separately. We were unable to visit a number of children at the Secondary Schools. Francis, Anthony's project manager and right hand, will later give them the letters, monitor them and take a photo. This report will therefore take a little longer.

We find it very annoying, but it is just the way it is.

We also drive past the Health Center, because we want to get to know the new doctors who have been hired in the meantime. Fred, our sponsor boy who is doing an internship



here, immediately takes my blood pressure, which was much too low, but is now slightly better. Remember how Fred lived with his father in a part of a garage? Fred, with the help of his sponsor, now receives enough money to build a small house for his father. And in July of the following year, he will continue his nursing training to get his diploma! Thank you dear sponsor!

Of course, we can't skip the Family Home, which is now almost ready, and will be put into use for the first time in the coming holidays. At home I made a nice painting with Mr. Monkey and 15,000 small Diamond stones, for at the wall in the Family Home, which we hand over when we say goodbye.

Saturday October 26th the Top Class children say goodbye to the nursery school and the Primary 7 children to the Primary School. A festive day where parents, interested parties and also we are invited. Pieter was there for a few hours and during this special day he was allowed to receive an Appreciation Award for all the work that Lwengo Kids Foundation does and has done. We are honoured!



By our neighbours in Masaka lives Sauda with her mother. I told you about her in the previous travelogue. In the meantime, she has recovered sufficiently and will follow the training to become a hairdresser in February. We have also found a sponsor for her.



Do you remember the story of Florence? The girl who didn't want to continue her education but wanted to go to Dubai to earn money for her family and turned out to be pregnant? In the meantime, she has given birth to a beautiful son and will be training to become a seamstress in February. Again, a

sponsor who is so sympathetic and wants to support Florence. Thanks!

We really want to visit the Secondary School St. Joseph, where there were quite a few problems last time. We also visit St. Mary's Laetitia and we want to know if the poster against homosexuality disappeared at St. Bernard.

At St. Mary's Laetitia we see cheerful young people. They're having a good time. It's also a beautiful, brand-new school. The atmosphere is good.

On St. Joseph we find a cheerful group of young people. All problems seem to have been solved because when we were away last time, our complaints were indeed discussed. Glad it's been resolved! How good it is that we monitor regularly!

Then a long drive to St. Bernards. I'm exhausted when we finally get there, but on Pieter's strong arm I walk to the young people who are already waiting for us. The poster is gone. The youngsters are satisfied at school and the results are good. Fine!

Then we plan one more morning in Lwengo. We visit the Secondary School Nakyenyi and then visit the Primary School before saying goodbye. It's a short but powerful goodbye and we leave with the promise to come back safe and healthy in April.

Excruciatingly slowly I recover, get more energy and one of the last days Pieter and I can go to Masaka together to visit two sponsor children.

It wasn't a nice trip. We did what we could. Pieter was a huge support and caregiver and together we were able to do a few things.

We hope to go to Uganda again in April 2025. Then a more extensive report as you are used to getting.

Thanks to all sponsors who have given us a letter for their sponsor children. The children were so happy with it!

Thanks to Jesca who took care of the nice gifts from her small shop in Lwengo. We will definitely arrange this again in April! It was a success.

Thanks to the staff of Lwerudeso who did everything they could to make it as easy as 2 possible for me/us.

Thanks to Anthony who picked us up many times by car to do the work in Lwengo.

This time we are happy to be back home!

Kind regards!

Pieter and Marga Streefkerk