



The Linda Project

A child has the right to be a child!

Newsletter nr. 1 – April 2020

Dear friends and other interested parties,

From a completely changed world I am going to inform you yet again about the vicissitudes from Lira, Northern Uganda.

On arrival, just before Christmas, I found a huge garbage dump next to the house, just behind the fence wall. What a smell! Rats, cockroaches, thousands of flies, yuck yuck! Upon inquiry, it turned out that the municipal garbage truck was broken down and they had no money to repair it. Since this piece of land was wasteland, it had been decided to bring the dirt there. Unbelievable. Some of our board members had been actively working to stop it, but no



response had been received. Fortunately, there is a governmental organization for the environment in Uganda, which we then wrote to. After a week I received an answer that they had forwarded the complaint to the local department.

When I hadn't heard anything from that local department after a week, I wrote to them again. And two days later, yes! they were there, all the way from Kampala, with police and all. Well, then it was quickly settled. After a few hours a truck arrived to remove all the dirt and take it to the real rubbish dump outside the city. The municipality was given 2 days to clean it all up. And after 5 weeks we were finally rid of all this inconvenience.

Christmas and New Years were again very nice. With barbecue, music and dance, gifts and great fireworks on December 31. The hotels in the neighborhood are competing with each other and so there are more spectacular fireworks every year. So, we don't have enough eyes to see it all. I brought "stars" for the children, they liked that very much.



Less fun are the attacks on some of our children by street gangs. They attack passers-by with knives to rob them. For example, 3 older boys, after celebrating New Year's Eve in the city, were attacked right outside the gate. One boy got a knife through his hand, the others were in shock but ok, after a fight. On New Year's Day, one was attacked from behind with a bicycle chain. He barely made it home safely. From 19.00, after dark, no one can go outside alone anymore. If someone has to go to the bus, he will be brought by car.

On February 1st at about 2:30 PM, something very strange happened. The girls were sorting through things in my room, one was in the dining room and the boys were outside in the compound. Suddenly there was that huge bang, deafening! We were completely shocked. It turned out that a huge beam of light had hit our roof from a cloudless blue sky. Fortunately, we have a lightning rod there.

The boys saw it coming and were scared to death, the girl in the dining room saw the blue light bounce off and continue as orange light when it disappeared over the wall fence. The lightning rod is now bent! In the evening it turned out that 3 lamps were no longer working. Investigation revealed that 3 conductors had burned out. Can you imagine: without lightning rod we could all have been dead! The house on fire!

In January we got the results of the primary school leaving examination (PLE) and a miracle had happened, all 5 passed! Even Kizito, who would have thought it possible. He was so proud. (he has a lot of trouble reading and writing) Mirriam, Nancy and Dinah can now go to S1, Kizito is going to take a 2-year house painter course, David is going to junior technical school.

I had warned the children that there might not be enough money to send them to school in 2020, but thanks to all sorts of great donations, everyone went back to school happy.

A loyal donor from Culemborg had brought in her church and we were able to buy all school supplies.



Wilbert Arnoldink came to visit after 12 years. What a nice reunion. The older boys still remembered him very well. It is important for the kids to notice that they are not forgotten in the Netherlands when volunteers leave. He also brought all kinds of school supplies.

And now the world has changed.

Who could have guessed this when I left for the Netherlands on February 15? All the children were in school, everything was arranged, so I left with confidence that all would be well.

Various measures have now also been taken in Uganda to stop the spread of the coronavirus. It started with the closure of all schools, so all children are back home. The airport is hermetically locked, no incoming or outgoing air traffic. At first you could still come, but you had to go into quarantine somewhere near the airport for 14 days. That is also no longer possible. There is no more public transport. Very problematic in Uganda, where everyone uses taxi buses and buses. Churches are closed, as are shopping centers. Food prices are now skyrocketing and since April 1st there is a complete lockdown.

Gladly, two days before the lockdown Morrison bought enough food so we can provide all children with a decent meal for a full month. I cannot go to Uganda at the end of April. They have to rely on themselves.

We will see how everything develops and we will wait.

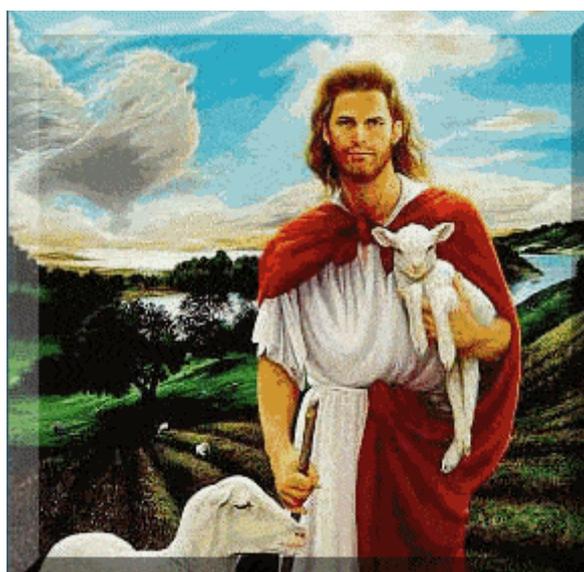
I would like to bring to your attention some psalms that we can pray to affirm God's presence and to know that He is with us in this confusing and difficult time. Psalm 1, 23 and 91.

We are going to celebrate Easter without meetings, it will be very strange.

Despite everything, we wish you a **blessed Easter**. Full of hope for a good ending of the corona pandemic and a new beginning.

Team Netherlands
Team Uganda

Team Northern Ireland
The children



The LindA Project

Care and education for orphans in Northern Uganda

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