



The Linda Project

A child has the right to be a child!

Newsletter nr. 3 – 2012

December

While listening to Christmas songs, where they are dreaming of a white Christmas, I am writing this newsletter in radiant sunshine, it is 30C. in Lira. And the Christmas season is in full swing.

Vacation has started and all the children are at home. The P7 (primary school) and O level (high school) candidates have started their long wait for the results of their final exams. It is expected at the end of January. The others brought home reasonable report cards. Two have to repeat.



P7 candidates

Nowadays there is a very busy road just in front of our children's home, Soroti road, where big lorries are speeding by on their way to Juba in South Sudan. In order for the kids to reach school, they also have to use this road. That's why we had bright green vest made, to make them very visible.



At the end of the school year there was a “fun day”. There were songs, dances, and drama by all classes. Very nice. After that there was the distribution of the report cards. The best 3 of each class got a small reward.



In January all sponsors will receive a letter with a recent picture, the report card and a short update of “their” child.

The new kitchen is “finished”. Because I wasn’t there during the construction, I had to go to the hospital again in The Netherlands, some things haven’t been done the way I wanted, but we are working on it now. It looks good though.



And my health is very fine, haven’t felt so good in 4 years. So hopefully this hospital business is now finished.

As far as the electricity company is concerned: we are now in court and will await the judges’ decision.

During such a long vacation the children cannot just sit and do nothing all day long, so we have started



arts and crafts, fairly unknown in Lira. Modeling with binding wire, knitting and bead work. We are also going to cut and paste and do painting. We are replacing the musical instruments, like the drums, so we can make music. Many plans!

The boys use the binding wire to make cars. They tie things together with old bicycle inner tube. Next week I am planning to teach them to make smaller things, to make wind chimes for instance.

At the tailoring market, where our 2 deaf girls are training to be tailors, I noticed a heap of off cuts. I asked: "What are you doing with these?" And the answer was: "We throw it away". Ah! "Can I have it

then?" "Yes, sure, you're welcome to it." Perfect, this material we are going to use making our things. Knitting is only known here from the knitting machines that produce school sweaters. What they call knitting is actually crocheting. The girls are very enthusiastic to learn how to knit. Jennifer sees it very clearly: "If I learn how to knit, I can make a lot of money!"



The necklaces and bracelets that are offered for sale in Kampala are mostly imported from Kenya. But you can buy the materials from Odwino Market in Kampala. So we are very busy making our own jewelry and key holders. The kids are very enthusiastic and eager.

This week we will also start decorating the activity hall for Christmas. So, a lot of cutting and pasting. Then there is of course the "Christmas tree", also in need of decorations. The presents have all been bought and are waiting to be wrapped. Every day I take 7 or 8 children to town to buy new clothes. It is quite a job, especially in this heat. But also a lot of fun, as you can imagine. The kids do not go to town often, and are very excited to see everything. A strange phenomena: the clothes at the second hand market are now more expensive than the brand new ones! So this year everybody gets real new clothes. They feel very spoiled.

The matron, Christine, has left us.

We have found a new and good matron in Janet, who used to work as our cook.

Her English is fine and she is actively involved with the children. They like her very much.

We also realized that the older children, the teenagers, could help with chores. And so the girls take turns cooking and the boys take turns doing the dishes and keeping the dining/activity hall clean for other activities. At first, when we suggested this, there were all kinds of comments, but now they like it and are actively doing it. The boys are even found peeling the potatoes. They feel more involved and are more a part of their living environment.
So, there will be no new cook.

One day Brian and Elvis went to visit their grandmother, Jedina. She can't walk anymore and has to sit on the floor of her small house all the time. Just terrible. She still has 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren to look after. On coming home the boys were quiet, realising how lucky they are to be able to live in House of Grace.



And so another year has gone by, full of ups and downs, how time flies.
We know ourselves blessed and full of good cheer we will start the new year.

The children, the teams in Netherlands, Northern Ireland and Uganda, they all thank you very much for your generous gifts and wish you all a blessed Christmas and a fantastic 2013, full of good health, love and happiness. Jozina



The Linda Project: Care and education for orphans in Northern Uganda

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The Linda Project UK is a registered charity under no. XR918667, we are also on the SA return list, no. BAS60KG. On our website, under "contact", you can find all our details, including BIC and IBAN data. Also you can find the details of our Dutch banks there, as well as the details of the Dutch secretariat.

