



## News from Piet and Pita Buitendijk from Noah's Ark Children's Home

May 2016

Dear friends and family,

We are back in Uganda after a five-week stay in Holland and it feels as if we were never gone. Time does not stand still at Noah's Ark! While we were away, we were blessed with three new children and others left to be with their families. The first term of school is almost finished. Time to bring you the last news from Noah's Ark.

### Our time in Holland



From March 4<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup> we were in Holland with three of our children: Daniel, Veronica and Nelima. We had a good time, though we found it very cold, we are not longer used to that weather.



On March 12<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting for our German sponsors. The support was overwhelming. People from all over the country came to meet us and especially the children. It was an informative and enjoyable day. On March 19<sup>th</sup> we had a special day for Noah's Ark friends in Holland. We wanted to

highlight that Noah's Ark has now been in existence for fifteen years. The number of people who came was encouraging and had a chance to meet old and new friends.

The children also enjoyed. Daniel and Veronica gave lessons to anyone who wished to learn to play the Ugandan drum.



We also attended a dinner organized as a sponsor meal called: eat for food.

Some of our good friends organized this dinner to support the malnutrition clinic. It was a great success, and generated a lot of interest. It was a very pleasant evening with a good atmosphere, and by the end of the

night yielded 4500 euro's for the malnourished children.



While in Holland we did many family visits. We stayed in Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Piet's place of birth. We visited Piet's mother many times, she especially enjoyed the children who immediately adopted her as grandmother.



It was special to see our children and grandchildren. We miss them and it was great to be part of their lives. Of course we showed a part of Holland to our Uganda children. They liked our day Madurodam, a tourist (and local) attraction with small-scale replicas of Holland's mayor uties. The children called it 'small Netherlands' of course we visited the beach. Though short, it was a time to remember with much nice memories.



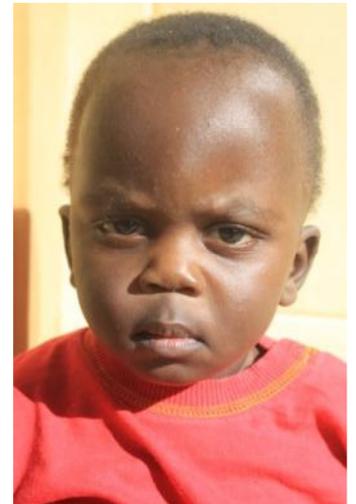


### **Ian**

On February 20<sup>th</sup> we welcomed a new child into our lives. Ian, as we named him, was found at the rubbish dump. The police searched for information about him in the surroundings, but as so often happens: nothing. We went with the founders to the place where they had discovered, which was extremely sad. If a child is abandoned turned up in the hospital, I can somehow imagine that, but throwing away as rubbish..that touched me deep in my heart. I think we will never become used to this. Now Ian is a beautiful, healthy boy who is growing very well. His date of birth is February 18, 2016.

### **Titus**

On March 20, 2016 a one year old boy was abandoned in the hospital. His name is Titus. After an extensive search we know that the mother, who went away, was mentally confused and was getting treatment in the psychiatric hospital. She left from the psychiatric hospital and is untraceable. We are now looking for family members who can take care of Titus.



### **Cora**

Cora joined Noah's Ark on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Her mother has mental problems as well and she is in the hospital for treatment. We did not know her name when she arrived, so we gave her the name Cora. She is about 3.5 months old and we estimate her date of birth to be December 14 of 2015.

### **We say farewell to three of our children**

In the beginning of March when school started again Nickson and Mercy went back to their families: Nickson because he was supposed to be here for a short time, and Mercy because she was homesick after meeting her mother over the school holiday (November, December, January). We have brought the mother here and explained the situation. First the mother protested because she receives no salary, can't pay the school fees and

can't take care of Mercy. We have committed to pay for the school fees by asking her sponsors continue to helping.

Mercy walked out the gate of Noah's Ark with a big smile on her face.

Angel Jr. who was placed here by the police and Court, was reunited with her mother on April 15<sup>th</sup>. She and her mother are placed under the supervision of her uncle, who will ensure that Angel gets everything she needs.

### **Wartburg College (school in Holland)**

In February we enjoyed group enthusiastic student's visitors with their teachers.

The students helped in all departments: laundry, school, kitchen, baby- and toddler care etc. For them it was also a social internship, required by their school in Holland. When they came back home they gave a presentation of their time here. We always enjoy these visits and for the students it is an instructive learning experience. It is good to discover when you are young that there is more than your own comfort because it affects the way you look at life.



One last thing.. we are daily confronted with begging parents who literally kneel before us and plead for us to allow their child to go to school even though they have no means to pay school fees.

We feel uncomfortable when they kneel and beg but we understand the need!

Therefore I ask you to look in your purse if to see you can do something more to help a child go to school, for US 40 month you can be part of the sponsorship.



We beg on behalf of all these children who don't get a chance to make their dreams come true on their own!

(\$40 is for all amenities including dentist and doctor costs. It also includes a nutritious, hot meal for lunch. On school days is for many is the only meal of the day!)

