

Travel report September/October 2018

Our travel companions this time are our youngest daughter and a friend of hers with partner.

In the early hours of 27 September, the three of us will leave for Schiphol by car. We hand over the car to an employee of Parkos and then we wait in the departure hall for dormaal's mother and Irene and Peter. We quickly found each other and we go smoothly through customs towards the plane. We have a great flight and at the scheduled time we arrive in Entebbe, where Lisette and Andrew are waiting for us. We say goodbye to mother and Lisette. They go their own way and tomorrow we will meet them again. Together with Andrew, our driver, we carry our 5 large suitcases, 5 big shoppers full of relief goods, 5 small suitcases and some handbags in Andrew's bus. Then we cram ourselves in and so we drive to the New Annex Hotel in Kampala, half an hour away.



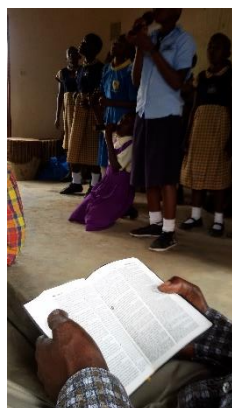
After a good night and a simple breakfast, Lisette shows our fellow travelers the slums of Kampala. It is very hot and stuffy in the narrow alleys and after handing out a bag of clothes, we walk back and drive to Java's for lunch. While we are sitting there, a shower erupts with severe thunderstorms. But when we go to the Women's Kraft Market it is dry again and we buy the necessary gifts, but also things that we can sell at markets and fairs in the Netherlands. The women are always very grateful to us!

In the afternoon we drive to Masaka and we are "home" again.



Saturday will be cloudy and there is a threat of some rain. Nevertheless, we drive to Lake Mabugabo, drink coffee in restaurant Rwakobo Rock and Tamara, Irene and Peter go by bike in search of Zebras and other beautiful wild animals. We install ourselves with a book on the veranda until they come back. It is indeed going to rain a bit. We are especially very cold! But the cyclists are not bothered by anything.

Sunday we go to a church service organized by Kabiswa Pius in Masaka. It will be a wonderful service with a lot of emotions and a lot of singing and dancing. We enjoy it. We hand over to Pius and Pastor Patrick a set of children's Bibles that I had ordered for free from the bijbelvereniging.nl. Was a great success.



In the afternoon we bring another big shopper to "Nazareth". Here a former nun takes care of a large number of street and orphan children. She can use the children's clothing very well. We also give her a set of children's Bibles and she is very happy with them.

Then
a
strips.



back to Masaka Backpackers where we get
workshop in "making dishes" from paper
Quite an art!

Sunday
planning

evening we meet Anthony and discuss the
for our visit to the children.

On Monday we leave on time for Lwengo and we are enthusiastically greeted by 550 children. We are welcomed by the headteacher and then by the boy school speaker and assistant school speaker, and then by the girl school speaker.... It is a whole ritual that we enjoy watching and listening to.

Then our program begins. and we go with the first group of children (Baby Class and Middle Class) to a classroom. Pieter tells some simple things about the Netherlands on the basis of a record book and then we learn a song in Dutch. We start with a house in Holland. In the older children we teach them "head shoulders knee and toe".

Then the children come to us to measure and whether or not to receive a letter from the sponsor. We also have a grab bag, from which they can grab a small gift. That's how we do it with the other children. The children from Primary 4 to Primary 7 fill in a short questionnaire. It rains all morning, but when we walk to the volunteer house at half past two to have lunch it is dry again.

In the afternoon we visit a few children at home and we end this day with the lesson at P4 to 7.



On Tuesday Anthony picks us up and in the morning we do a number of home visits with new children and a few problem cases. In the afternoon there is a games afternoon for the sponsor children organized by Irene, Peter and Tamara. And we take a group photo for the first time. A very successful afternoon!

On Wednesday and Thursday Peter and Irene leave for the Queen Elisabeth wildlife park. We stay in Masaka and in the morning we work out our notes and I put all the photos of the children in their own digital file. Quite a job, but in the afternoon it is finished and we walk at our leisure through Masaka, have a drink at Grass Roots and see a company that prints t-shirts, which we are interested in.

Thursday morning Pieter has an appointment at the Kitovu hospital because of the mortuary project and Tamara and I install ourselves in the garden with Joseph with a book. Laze around! In the afternoon we go to a carpenter, who may be able to make furniture for our house with Joseph. In the evening Irene and Peter are back with a lot of stories and we have dinner with Andrew and Joseph in Plot 99.



Friday we drive back to Entebbe. The last night in Uganda we spend in wonderfully large rooms in the Victoria Beach hotel. We have a lovely hot shower and enjoy the warm sun on the beach on Lake Victoria.

In the evening we meet Lisette, her mother and Steve and we eat together in restaurant Gorette with our feet in the sand, but also with a huge amount of lakeflies. They come around 7 o'clock and disappear at 8 o'clock. In the meantime, it looks really black from those animals and it is difficult to eat and drink outside!

Saturday morning we walk at ease to Victoria Mall, shop there, drink a glass of smoothie and buy our last souvenirs across the street at the souvenir shops. I score a few nice slippers and a funny salt shaker that we don't really know what to do with, but it's just fun.

Back, we sit out our last hours at the lake and eat at the hotel. At 20:00 we leave for the airport.

After a good flight, we landed at Schiphol half an hour earlier than planned. However, we cannot go to a gate, so we are taken to the hall by buses, but that all takes a very long time.

In a beautiful morning sun we finally drive back home tired but satisfied. It was a good trip with good memories. We have a lot of work to do to inform all sponsor parents of the ups and downs of their sponsor child!

