

Travel report April 2019

Pieter and I make this trip together again. Paul, husband of board member Hetty, brings us to Schiphol in the early hours of 24 April. We check in our suitcases ourselves at ease and get through customs smoothly. After a quiet flight we land around half past eleven in the evening local time, in Entebbe. Joseph picks us up and we stay the first night in the already known and good hotel Victoria Beach hotel overlooking Lake Victoria.

Thursday we get up in time because we want to go to the hospital today, where one of our sponsor children is lying. If all goes well, he has undergone skull surgery and we want to see if that went well and immediately hand over the envelope of the sponsor. It's a separate story.

It was a bit of a search for the Old Mulagi Hospital in Kampala. We found it on top of the hill, where the old hospital was built in stages. We parked at the bottom of the hospital at the direction of a police officer and walked the long paths uphill to the Ward 11 where Innocent was located.

Along the way we came across the most bizarre things: an old man lying lifeless (it seemed) on a heavily worn mattress on the floor. A patient who was transported with a thickly connected leg where the blood came through, many relatives of patients who had done the laundry or were cooking or just waiting.

It was a coming and going of people and in the warmth of Uganda it was a very chaotic situation for our standards.

Almost upstairs was the room where Innocent was lying. At the entrance of the crowded hall was a stretcher with a human under a sheet.... Not very hopeful....



The doctors and nursing staff looked a bit surprised by our visit, but when I gave them a card from our Foundation, there was movement in the doctor on duty and showed us the way to the bed where Innocent was lying. Among the many beds close to each other we find Innocent on a number of sheets and blankets that we prefer not to look at. He was out of surgery and responded pretty well. He seemed to know who we were and what we were coming to do. Mother was very grateful and also a friend and uncle were with him.

He will have to stay in the hospital for a few weeks before everything is healed again. We hope he's okay!

After about ten minutes we were asked to leave the room. With a good feeling about this visit we continued our journey. I was quite touched by the circumstances in which this male was nursed and I did need some time to give it a place.

This week (May 10) Anthony reports that Innocent is back home. He will have to go back to the hospital for the necessary checks, because he still has a long way to go from rehabilitation.

In the afternoon we visited the Palace and prison of Idi Amin. Impressive. Thousands of Ugandans have been brutally tortured and murdered here. They were crammed into the main hall, a layer of water came in and then the power was put on it



We also visited the Gaddafi National Mosque. A special experience, because as a woman I had to cover everything, which resulted in a colorful whole and the necessary hilarity. But it was definitely worth it. With our group that will join us in October, we will certainly go here.

We stay in Backpackers hotel Bushpig (Wild Boar). In the evening we are invited to celebrate King's Day at the Residence of the Dutch Embassy. For the occasion we have brought orange shirts and when Joseph is also dressed in orange, we leave for the Residence, where we have a fantastic cozy evening.

At night, the rain comes out of the sky with buckets at the same time. We are on the third floor (six flights of stairs walk!!) and have a nice view of the sky lit by lightning.

The other day we drive out of the city of Kampala after breakfast on our way to Masaka. But first we drive to a new accommodation address: the ICU guesthouse. It looks fine and book it right away for October. Also arranged again.

Halfway through the afternoon we drive into Masaka and we are "home" again. In the afternoon we discuss a few things for Pieter's work in the Kitovu Hospital concerning the mortuary.



On Saturday Anthony comes to pick us up and we go to work in Lwengo. Great to be there again and see the kids. They are all so excited to see us again!

We notice that all children look good. Most children are cheerful and enjoy our attention. This Saturday we do the house visits and visit all the new sponsor children at home. This way we see how they live and who takes care of them. All sponsors have now received a personal message about the ups and downs of their sponsor child(ren).

On Sunday I take the time to process all the information on the laptop. Always quite a job to get the good brown heads in the good files! But although there are more and more,

this time it succeeds again.

In the afternoon we have another appointment in Kitovu, after we have waited for hours for Sister Maria to have lunch with us. However, she only came at 16:00 and then we had already finished lunch

On Monday we drive again to Lwengo to visit all the children at school. We take a nice group photo of (almost) all sponsor children.

Then we take small group photos of the sponsor children in their class. I made small maps where the children should stand. It is quite a job to put all the children exactly in the right place and also to leave them, so that I know later who, who is. Because some children I know very well and I pick out, but there are also quite a few where that is not the case and if they secretly use the clippers in between I sometimes have big doubts! But we did it. Thanks to Isa who helped a lot!

Then I have a short conversation with all the children in class and they get their mail and a small grab bag gift from the Foundation.

It's quite a job again, but at the end of the day we're done and we go home feeling good.

Tuesday we will go back to take a picture of the children who were not there today and to take a look at the Technical School in Kitovu (Masaka) where we also have two sponsor children to visit.

For the afternoon lunch we are back and we do some shopping that are needed for our small house in Masaka.



Wednesday we go back to Entebbe to recover from work and relax. We do some shopping, have a drink with Lisette and in the evening we have dinner with the Chinese! Very, very hot soup!

On Thursday I settle in with my stuff on the balcony of the Victoria Beach Hotel and work out a number of children for the sponsors. It is quite warm and at the end of the morning I think it is nice and together with Pieter we go on the bodaboda to Victoria Mall for a cappuccino and a few small souvenirs. Tonight we eat at the Indian around the corner. Fine and at half past nine we leave with all our suitcases towards the airport to fly back to Schiphol in the night.

It's over. With a little melancholy we say goodbye to this beautiful country with its dear inhabitant. We had a good trip. Being able to discuss many things with Anthony again and found that things are getting better with Lwengo and its residents, thanks to our sponsors, among others. Thank you so much for that!

KLM brings us home safely and then the processing of all this starts well.