

A Trip's *Journal*

September 2012



The purpose of the trip

After the contacts we have had by E-mail, we now longed to see with our own eyes how this home is being run by Angie and Randy, the family, the helpers and the volunteers. How can we support Hope Centre Uganda in future and does being Christians take priority in all their dealings? In what way is money being spent? All these questions were met with positive answers. Please read on in our trip's journal.



On September 7 we – David Gosker and Theo Afman – left for Entebbe, Uganda. Late at night we arrived at a guesthouse in Entebbe. The next morning at 9:00 we were picked up by Angie Goering and Emma. Angie is the one who manages the orphanage and Emma is an important Ugandan staff member. During the drive to Mityana there was plenty to be seen. You get completely tangled up in the traffic, especially Kampala was really crowded with motorcyclists with passengers in their back weaving past cars and women risking their lives by wiping the roads clean with small brooms.

People live on the roadside really over there. The butcher chops his meat and hangs it outside on a meat hook for sale. Next to him a cabinet maker furnishes chairs and next to him a group of boys is cleaning cars and motorcycles.

Hundreds of small businesses like it string out along the dusty road. You have to watch out for everything and everyone. Angie, who used to be a bus driver in the past, steered us with great ease through the chaotic traffic of downtown Kampala and the 'highway' to Mityana. After nearly two hours we arrived at the orphanage in Mityana. We were welcomed by Angie's children, two volunteers from America, some hands in the household, a couple of children's nurses and the orphans themselves, of course.

The first day we spent on activities around the house itself. The residence consists of two houses, walled in by a fence. Washing and cooking is done outside. Rain water is collected in a huge plastic tank. There is electricity in the house, but it fails frequently and then the generator must be turned on. What really strikes you when driving through Uganda, is the greenness of the countryside. In the south people can often harvest twice a year.

On the second day we handed out "pepernoten" (= gingerbread nuts). Rather early in the year, but a typically Dutch treat. The "stroomwafels" – another Dutch delicacy – met with enthusiasm as well. Ugandan dishes, by the way, taste quite fresh and pure.

The children are doing fine. Some of them are still lagging behind a little, but most of them improved admirably after having been admitted to the HCU quite sick. For some of the children lasting medical aid will be needed. Mimi for instance, a little girl, (see picture on the left) is still in need of medical treatment. She is both mentally and physically handicapped. She looks seven or eight; she limps, her feet are at an angle and there is a distortion in her back. She lags behind mentally, yet is a cheerful little girl. Whether she can be helped in America by way of surgery is now being examined.



Angie bought a piece of land in a village not too far from Mityana. In the afternoon we went and had a look at the purchased land. In the vicinity of this property there is little medical care; neither is there a school. Angie is planning to put up buildings there for medical care, a church, a school and some shops. A start was made with the building of a First Aid Unit (picture left)

Besides, the land is used for growing vegetables for their own consumption but they are put up for sale as well. In future Angie plans to have all activities around HCU take place on this property. She intends to install a water well, too.

We clearly see God's blessings bestowed upon someone's work. In a short time much has been accomplished. Sponsors from England, America and the Netherlands have made this possible. It is great to see how He leads these things. With gratitude we see the LORD at work here.

On Sunday we took it easy. It was a day of rest, including the listening to a sermon from America.

On Monday we accompanied Angie on her trip past a number of schools handing out deworming tablets. As a result of tainted drinking water worms may nestle in children's intestines and these must be eliminated –the process of deworming. Children who are affected often sport fat bellies. Later on that week we came across posters in a village warning against the consequences of bad drinking water. Horrible posters showing worms crawling out of a the body.

Children make a small reverence at receiving the tablet. They regard you as Mzungu (= white man). Ugandans are friendly and gentle people.

We also met a little boy with an eye-disorder. He receives help in Kampala. The costs for treatment are being paid by our foundation.

On the final day we distributed the clothes we had taken along, toy bears and other cuddly animals, toys, pens and writing paper.

Our conclusion: the orphanage is being run well. Children and staff are being treated in a loving way. The money we collected is spent in a wise way. For us there is ample cause to keep sponsoring HCU. We may ask and expect the LORD's blessing over all these endeavors. Your help would be very much appreciated.



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