

# RISE & SHINE – AND PRAISE THE LORD!

## Rise & Shine

In December 2024, NOTDEC held a 3-day spiritual camp called **Rise & Shine** from **Isaiah 60 1**, *"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you"*. It was designed as an ideal opportunity for the children to learn whilst having fun. 29 girls and 50 boys attended the function and there were many guest speakers & facilitators.



Morning gymnastic were led by South Rwenzori Diocese Children's Ministry Dept. Activities then included tree-planting (on site at NOTDEC), praising & worshipping, and understanding child rights & responsibilities. The theme was what to do personally to **rise & shine** – with general guidance and counselling, particularly for older NOTDEC children who might soon be moving into the world of work. Director Editor used the event to have one-on-one talks with some individuals – like Joy whose passion is for mechanics and driving.

There were no significant discipline problems, and the whole event was very encouraging for all involved.

## Building & Solar Lighting

In a drive to improve the lives & health of NOTDEC children and the families they now live with, NOTDEC Uganda delivered 3 substantial projects in November 2024 alone:

- **A House for Ibrahim's Family** of subsistence farmers. Eight people once lived in this temporary house of wood, mud & iron sheets, with a horror-story toilet, and smoky outdoor cooking. The dire sanitation put at risk not just Ibrahim's chronically ill father but the health of the whole family.



NOTDEC built a 4-roomed permanent house and toilet with good, clean accommodation



and excellent sanitation. The family is delighted. At handover, they promised to maintain the house well – and even to set a good example to their children! Ibrahim's father Mr Musangi Ibrahim said, *"We are happy for this blessing from the Lord."*

- **A Toilet for the Family of Douglas** in Kitholu Sub County. *"We are so grateful to NOTDEC Uganda and its sponsors for this wonderful gift... it will uplift the family status ... few of its kind exist here in our community and we promise to keep it clean all the time."*
- **A Toilet for triplets (Marjorie, Abraham & Samson) & their elderly granny.** *"We thank the Lord for NOTDEC Uganda who gave us a toilet & water... every day I was worried of my grandchildren walking long distance to get us water, now ... we have water here"*

Also in November 2024, six families received **solar installations** for lighting. Feedback from Martin's family in Nyakiyumbu Sub-county Kasese District spells out what it means. *"You have saved us from dangerous kerosene smoke, we are now having good lighting in the home which will help children read books, and also act as security for our belongings here. We thank NOTDEC Uganda for this great gift that has already changed our lifestyle because we are full of happiness."* The construction team said, "In all homes, it was all jubilations to receive a gift from GOD through NOTDEC. Thank you NOTDEC UK."

## Christmas Gifts

### Presents for Children & their Families

NOTDEC UK sent NOTDEC Uganda funds:

- to buy presents for younger children (here clothes for children living on site),
- to buy & deliver food parcels for 100+ children living with their wider family. This included support for each family to have an extra-special Christmas Day meal.



Jovan



Precious





**Julius's father Muzuwela said...** *"God always helps his people. NOTDEC and the sponsors should be blessed 100-fold for always thinking that vulnerable people need to smile on Christmas Day and any other day. This food contribution is huge; I am blessed."*

Our Social Workers also used the parcel deliveries (one pictured left) to fit in home assessments of 50 more children – for excellent use of their time and fuel!

## Presents for Staff

NOTDEC Director Editor writes that ... "33 NOTDEC staff celebrated Christmas with a huge smile after receiving their Christmas gifts."

Ibrahim, the administration secretary, took the money to his wife and welcomed the boost, using it to buy food for his family. Without it, he said, he'd have been hard pressed to put smiles on his family's faces! All staff said how much they appreciated the support. A few spent a third of their gift on a reflective outing - a boat cruise & game drive then deep reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of different staff members. Whether that will improve their performance next year remains to be seen, but they all say they had a great time.

## More Gifts – by Radio !!

In December 2024 NOTDEC did a radio talk show on local stations **Guide** and **Messiah**. Founder Mama Dorothy was amongst the presenters!

The aim was to raise awareness of NOTDEC's work in child welfare and education, showing Dorothy is still an important part of the team. Many people from the community phoned in congratulating NOTDEC on its loving care for some of Uganda's most vulnerable children, and pledging whatever they could afford – totalling 335,000 UGX (£72) and 100kg of rice!



One local family from Ibanda (a local town) asked their daughters (who live in Kampala) to support NOTDEC. On Christmas Eve, the family came to NOTDEC – bearing gifts: 20 soap bars, cake, rice (50kg),

maize flour (150kg), spaghetti, fizzy drinks, and 4,000,000 UGX (£860) in cash.

It is very encouraging to see NOTDEC Uganda joining in fundraising. Praise the Lord!

## Seven More Children Go “Home”

In December 2024, seven more children left the Kabirizi site. Each went to live with family who live here, there or anywhere, near or far from NOTDEC. But all went to live with family who have agreed to look after and care for



them. The picture above shows a large family reception for the twins Davis & Simon. We pray that the Lord will be with them all, and that the twins will be happy in their new home.

## Things that go “bump” in the night!

Until recently, parts of NOTDEC’s site have been very dark at night and staff would not freely walk outside for fear of what might be there. In November 2024, six solar powered security lights were installed to cover the darkest areas. That is just a start. More are needed!

Security is still good. Working hand-in-hand with John on the gate, the UPDF (Army) still guard the Centre at night. To deter “ne’er-do-wells”, they patrol *in force* around the NOTDEC Centre 1-2 days a month so locals know that it is well-guarded guarded by armed personnel.

Elephants are a different matter. They too come at night – 3 times over New Year and again since. 46 banana and 4 coffee trees were damaged – but wrecked trees make poor pictures!

The district commissioner visited the site and met with the local community. An electric fence is to be allowed around part of the perimeter of Queen Elizabeth Game Reserve. And NOTDEC doesn’t have to pick up the bill – they are now waiting for funds from the Ugandan Wildlife Authority!



## Praise the Lord

Since the previous Newsletter, Chaplain Captain Ezra and Accountant Annah have been very ill. But in the Lord’s providence, both are now very much better. Ezra was given an injection during on-going treatment for prostate cancer; his blood pressure plummeted and he went into a coma. Annah was travelling by motor-bike to speak on the radio along with Editor and Mama Dorothy when she was involved in a serious traffic accident. Praise the Lord for their recovery and for his goodness to them, to NOTDEC, and to the children we all seek to support

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