

Update November 2019:

*Paul & Jan Henk reunited in Kampala*

*Olyoty* [how are you] → *kurungi* [fine]. Both Paul & I hope this update finds you all well. I visited Paul last month and was warmly invited in his mother's home, in Kampala (Uganda). For the ones who may have forgotten, 'Mama Harriet' also stayed a few months in Haydom while Paul was hospitalized and made a Ugandan dish for most of the (intern) doctors back in 2015 (remember the 'Matooke'?). It was very nice to see each other again and to be introduced to Paul's other family members. I visited Paul with my fiancée Claire and our friend Amy (UK doctor).



Paul's family home

Paul organised a nice trip through Kampala for us during four days. He manages to drive around in an old (automatic) car of his dad with one leg. He is completely used to driving in (believe me) hectic Kampala traffic. We arrived on a Friday morning and had a local lunch with Paul's family at his mother's house. In the afternoon, we went to buy Paul's dress and suit for the Kukyala of him and his now fiancée Immy. A small funfact was the use of teargas against striking students (the tuition fees raised by 15%) in Kampala town, so we tried to stay in the shop but could not prevent getting wet eyes. As Claire, Amy and I did not have anything appropriate to wear for the ceremony, Mama Harriet arranged beautiful local dresses for us (see the pictures). In the evening we wrapped the presents for the family of Immy, a cultural necessity during the Kukyala.



Saturday was the Kukyala ceremony. In short, Paul and a limited amount of relatives and friends need to go to Immy's aunt with presents (for the family). Paul's family is asking the hand on behalf of Paul, a process that lasts the whole afternoon. We were very happy to join this local traditional Ugandan ceremony. Many Ugandans speak excellent English and during the ceremony the ones who spoke did translate for us every now and then. Everybody (especially the women) is/are wearing beautiful dresses. As in our cultures, the men don't have so much to choose from (suit!) as all men are wearing the same kind of dress (picture). At the end of the ceremony there was music and delicious local Ugandan food. Of course he received a small present from us for his Kukyala which included a usb with medical references, the hardcopy of the 'ugandan clinical guidelines' and a sports shirt from the Netherlands.



Sunday morning we attended a church service at Paul's church; a Born Again church in Kampala (picture). A service of approximately 2.5-3 hours with beautiful 'gospel-like' singing and a sermon of over an hour. Monday, we were allowed to attend a class given by Paul to first year nursing student. Teaching is part of Paul's final year and the class was about mental health this time. It is very nice to see the amount of interaction between students and teacher, the questions raised and the answers given. Just before the class started we could make a picture with a view over Kampala (picture).







After the class we went to Paul's university: Clarke International University (CIU) formerly International Health Sciences University. Paul introduced me to Rose Clarke Nayonga (university chancellor; next to Paul on the photo below) and Evelyn Ayot (university registrar; next to JH on the photo). I skyped with Evelyn 3,5 years back to discuss the application process of Paul and the way of paying the tuition fees so it was nice to finally meet her in person. After our visits we had our last local lunch in Paul's family home. Paul is currently in his final year of nursing. Although he will finish his studies June 2020, the graduation will be in December 2020. We (Claire, Amy & I) again would like to express our gratitude to Paul and his family for this very special weekend. *Webale nyoo.*

*Tujakuda mu [See you again]*

