

PRAYERS FOR NOTDEC

**“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**

Strength for Today

The whole NOTDEC community were shocked and sad to hear that 4-year old Ndungu Joshua died on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 at Mulago Hospital in Kampala where he had been receiving treatment for a childhood cancer.

The following day, his body was transported across Uganda in NOTDEC’s pick-up. Shortly before he died he had said that the pick-up was outside ready to take him home. For Joshua, “home” was NOTDEC. Happily he had been able to spend a few days on-site about a month earlier.

His body arrived back at NOTDEC on the Thursday and he was buried the next day on his grandmother’s land about 15 miles away. (His grandmother and an aunt had visited him in Hospital in October 2021.)

Annah said the burial was “so so sad”. His father lives deep in Congo and could not attend. But almost all house-mothers and all the other staff were there. So too were many older & ex-NOTDEC children, the district probation officer, neighbours, his grandmother and aunties. Ronny (who housed him in Kampala), Ronny’s family, and Tayebwa (here nursing him shortly before he died) came over from Kampala.



Both Ronny & Tayebwa are ex-NOTDEC children. We thank the Lord for them, for Gorret who was with him all the time he was in Kampala, and for all who contributed to his treatment and support costs.

Thanksgiving for the Life of Milly Kyakimwa Nzirambi

ONE of NOTDEC Uganda's founders, Milly died of heart failure on 10th October 2021.



Milly had a good education, trained as a teacher and started work in a primary school

But, due to limited family funds in the early years, her older sister Dorothy had received only Primary education. Gradually, Dorothy started caring for orphans at home. In 2003, to support those orphans, a sponsorship scheme was proposed. Immediately, Dorothy's poor English became a problem; and she asked Milly to help. So Milly left teaching, and they worked together. Dorothy bathed babies and Milly managed.

Over the years, Milly oversaw NOTDEC's transition from a small 20-kid orphanage to a large centre caring for 150 children. She was in charge of establishing the 30 acre site at Kabirizi as NOTDEC's new home – liaising with development director John Leftley throughout the construction, and communicating regularly with Janet for 14 years thereafter. NOTDEC soon became widely known as a very caring and efficient operation – the only organisation in Western Uganda that would accept new-borns.

Milly knew all the children personally and understood their individual needs. She worked tirelessly to help each child achieve their potential. The older children remember her with love, and greatly appreciate all she did for them.

Without Milly, NOTDEC would not be what it is today – a place where all the children are loved and accepted and are taught the Christian faith that was integral to Milly's life.

We thank the Lord for Milly's life and work.



A Modern Passion: a musical fundraiser for NOTDEC

Independent musician **Laptop Philharmonic** has donated all profits from his latest album **A Modern Passion** to NOTDEC. The album is a modern take on a classical idea – using music to tell the story of Jesus's death and resurrection. The Passion is given a contemporary setting with electronic arrangements and modern production. One NOTDEC Trustee found it “very moving”; another reviewer mentioned Radiohead – and Pink Floyd! The image above is from the album cover. To listen free, click [here](#).

You can support NOTDEC by **buying** the album from one of the online music stores. Here is the link for [bandcamp](#).

Who is “Laptop Philharmonic”?

You'll find clues – but only clues – [here](#). His debut release was *Craniotomy* in 2016 – a song series inspired by a personal journey through major brain surgery. His work is likened to Thom Yorke's, with influences from classical piano to ambient electronica.

Bright Hope for Tomorrow

The last few months have been tough, but NOTDEC is now getting back normal.

Back to School

By January, most kids had had no education for almost two years. (A few went back briefly before Lockdown 2.) So January was very exciting! All schools & vocational colleges re-opened. The children are thrilled to be studying again!

Back to “Business”

With many West Ugandan women dying in childbirth, and formula milk scarce & extortionate, many families can't feed a new-born – so they come to NOTDEC.

- If no family member can care for the new baby, they are admitted to NOTDEC Uganda for Child Sponsorship. Currently only one child has no sponsor.
- If someone in the family *could* care for the baby, NOTDEC trains them to sterilise bottles properly and prepare formula milk. After a week's training, they leave with the baby, bottles, baby clothes, and the promise to supply formula milk until the child is 9 months old (then baby soya to age one). A social worker also checks on them regularly: and NOTDEC covers the costs of any baby medical issues. That is the Community Milk Project.

The Community Milk Project currently supports 8 babies, and sent out £4,200 in the last 12 months. But in that time, the Project received only £3,540.

If you can help, with a lump sum or monthly donations, **please do – and save a life!**

Ugandan government officials who visit NOTDEC insist that all kids over 3 must live with their family – monitored by NOTDEC to age 18. They provide no funding.

Ten children aged 4–15 went to live with relatives in December 2021. (The family homes of 8 more were “unsuitable”: we're considering home improvements for some.) All returning children are sponsored – for school fees etc. Local families are poor: without sponsorship children would not be sent to school.

Visit by UK Trustees

Janet & Anthony plan to visit NOTDEC Uganda for 3½ weeks from 29th April. They will be accompanied by Jonathan Tidd & Mark Wardle (St Paul's, L/Spa) who want to explore the area around NOTDEC on motor bikes. Janet writes:

“Anthony and I will not be travelling by boda boda! We hope to see many of the children who will be coming to NOTDEC to collect “scholastic materials” before term starts. We know our time there will be a very busy one.”

Please pray for the children we support; for all the families and NOTDEC Uganda staff who care for them; for the efforts of all of us on their behalf; and for happier times in 2022.