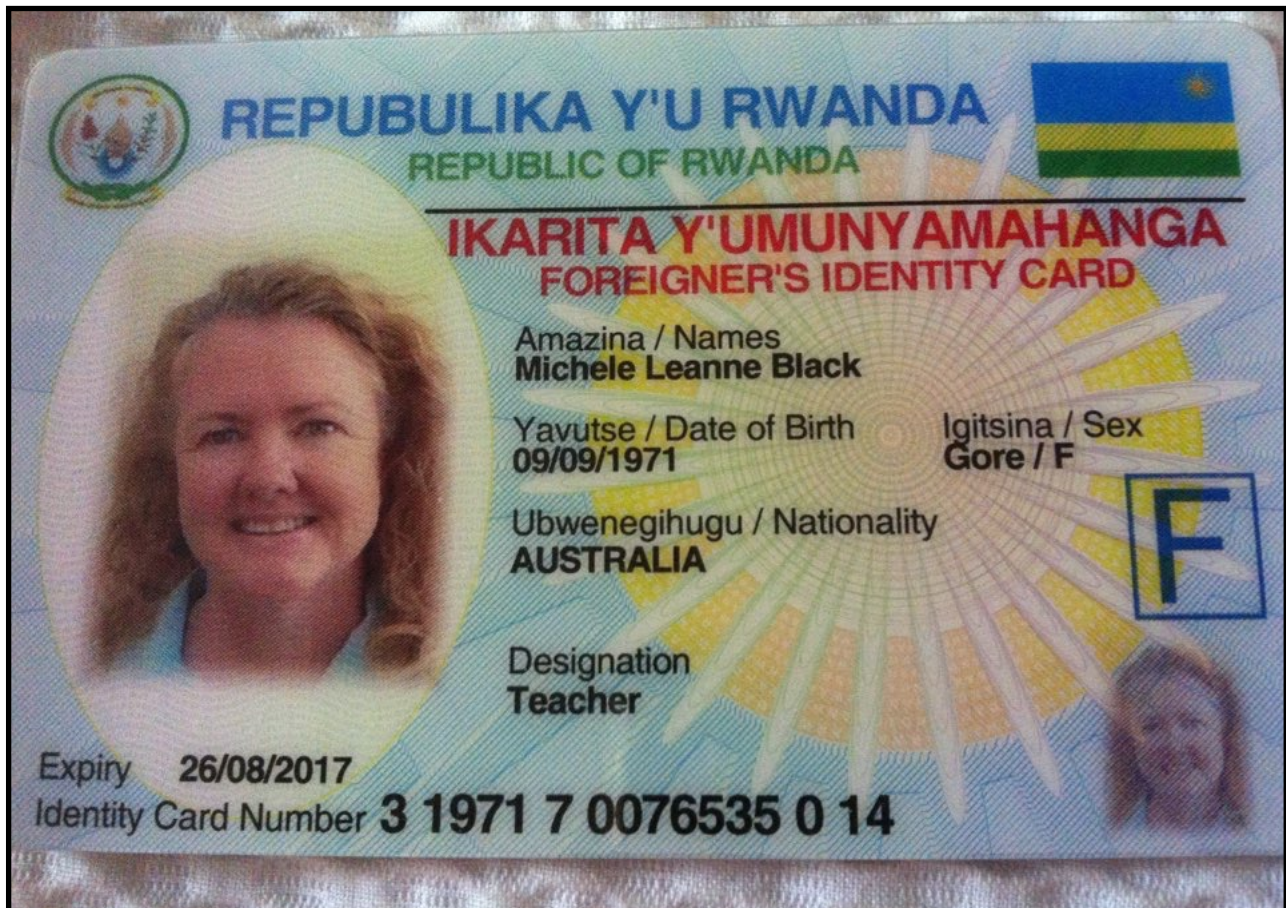

October Prayer Points

I'm a local....

25th October 2015



Yep - lesson learnt - NEVER go to immigration just after you have been to a weights class, NEVER go to immigration when you need to colour your hair, NEVER go to immigration when you're not wearing any makeup - because your hair needs a colour and you've just been to a weights class! You never know when they are going to take your photo - and it gets plastered on a plastic card for the next two years! Watch this space in two years this photo will be a glamour shot because I will know the system!

A quick prayer review of October before I write Blackieonamission.

So another month has passed us by - wow what is happening to life huh - I guess if it goes quick you must be enjoying yourself. I've had a few people email me and ask me if I'm homesick - I can honestly tell you - not yet - this IS my home for now, I have wonderful 'FAMILY' here who look after me and care for me every day. I have also made some friends and starting to get into a routine albeit one that changes nearly every other day.

My last prayer letter said that I was starting work on the 28th - well thank you to those who prayed because I have had such a time of blessing as I connect with teachers and work alongside the primary teachers and more closely with the nursery teachers. All things that cannot be achieved when you are here for just two weeks at a time. I initially observed each nursery teacher in their classes and then wrote them a detailed report on their teaching - they were all quite excited and keen for some ideas on how to make their teaching more valuable. I have been on their side many times and so I have tried to be sensitive to the 'white gal' telling them what to do and how to do it. I have tried to empower them to come up with the ideas and together we can work from there.



I have also been doing some teacher training at their 'Teacher Development afternoons on a Wednesday and that has been a very successful time that has seen every teacher interact and participate and give positive feedback. I have started to write a curriculum for 'The Kings College' and we are using some of those modules to train the teachers, so we are all winning - they are being trained and I am testing my modules I have written - and guess what???? I love it - I've waited 8years to do it and I love it!

Not only am I the trainer - I am also the student - yes I have started learning Kinyarwanda for real - not just greetings to get you by, when you actually say them with an Australian accent and get them wrong most of the time - I have been 're-learning' a lot of what I have been saying for the past 8 years. But I am also loving learning and walking through the village on my way home and using some of what I have learnt for the day. I have 'rules' and 'vocab' written up on posters in my bedroom and visually I can remember most of them but I just need them to come out of my mouth at the right time instead of having to look up my little pocket book. So I'd value your prayers for learning Kinyarwanda - instead of one two hour lesson a week - I've stopped eating food and prioritised my spending on three two hour lessons a week cos I've got to learn this language! (For those who know me well know I would never sacrifice food for language - there hasn't been a day since I got here that there hasn't been chocolate and a box of pringles in my cupboard!).

The first photo shows my identity card, I am now officially a Rwandan expat - just means I have some formal Rwandese identification I guess - I used it yesterday as I spent the day at the United States Embassy - more about that in Blackieonamission.

Yes I am here under a team called iteams....

While many of you know I am here sent by my home church Caringbah Baptist Church, and I am also here working with Fred Buyinza through Revival Palace ministries, I am also here under 'ITeams International' - well last Friday after seven weeks here in Rwanda I finally got to meet the whole Iteams team - albeit one girl left this week and a two are leaving in April, which will just leave me and the team leaders and one other. We did have a nice time together as we went through all things business and I look forward to getting to know them all a little more. My only 'official' day with iteams is Friday so I will get to know them as I work with them on Fridays.

So in brief some praise points.....

- Praise God for my Rwandan family and friends who make life living here so very pleasant.
- Praise God for giving my finger tips the thoughts He placed in my head to start writing a curriculum for Early Childhood in Rwanda.
- For my Identity card that came through - also relatively easily.
- For meeting my 'iteams' team.

And some prayer points....

- To learn Kinyarwanda and be able to use it day to day.
- For continued health - people around me are falling flat with various bugs you get when living in a different culture.
- For continued relationships with the Teachers.
- School closing day is in two weeks and then holidays begin for about six weeks.
- For wisdom in what to write for modules.
- For the rainy season that is upon us that the locals don't get too flooded. We have already seen mudslides into houses and villages, and while it is a part of their life it just seems to incredibly unfair. As I was eating my breakfast yesterday morning I was standing in the kitchen and I could see women walking up a mountain across the valley with yellow gerry cans on their heads, with mud at their feet and this white warrior princess was eating her breakfast in the comfort of a western kitchen and with water freely available, not only to drink but also bathe and wash my clothes in.
- While I am very happy and content with where I am living, I still feel like a visitor, I am good to stay here for as long as I would like but a more permanent house would be so good so I could host people just for dinner or as visitors come.

Murakoze Cyane - Thankyou very much for being faithful prayer partners - it's a blessing to know there are people literally all around the world praying for little ole me in Rwanda - be blessed for being a blessing. Much love Michele xo