

I'VE ARRIVED!

I just thought I'd send you a quick update on my last 36 hours or so....

So I left Sydney...

I left Sydney on Tuesday night with an entourage of special family and friends to wave me off. As I walked down the aerobridge I found \$15 on the ground and I came back out to show everyone that God always provides!

I was met in Perth...

Some more friends were waiting for me at the bottom of the escalator in Perth and then my brother Geoff picked me up and drove me around to the International Terminal, via a little detour through the roadworks of Perth!

I was slugged \$150!

As I checked in at Perth airport they informed me that I had a \$150 excess baggage fine - WHAT? I checked my bags in at Sydney where I had plenty of people who could have taken some things home for me, the excess weight was not even mentioned - aaaaaargh! Geoff had gone and my only option after two lengthy conversations was to pay the fine via eftpos. I met another lady in Perth and again in Johannesburg, who told me she only paid \$70 because that was the only cash she had on her - dang I should have told them I only had the \$15 I found in Sydney - or I should have filled the bag up more had I known!



My first impressions...

So after I paid the extra \$150 I arrive in Kigali and my first impression of the airport was - they've got an escalator in Rwanda! Wow times have changed since my first visit back in 2007! Not only do they have an escalator they also have three baggage carousels - Im not real sure why because - mine and others bags did not arrive in Rwanda! Nope - no bag! Of course the bag that didn't arrive was the one with all the clothes and essentials in it and the one that is here had the hair dryer, hair colour, bed sheets and non essential item! All experiences travellers I hear you say would have a spare everything of required items in their hand luggage - ummm that is only the case when the said experienced traveller is what we call sane in the week leading up to their departure date! So just let me say I have minimal clothing and I have been washing one, wearing one!! I'll leave that to your imagination! Back to the airport today at the same time to see if my bag has arrived!

I got some chores done...

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Yesterday Fred picked me up and we got through a short list of chores. I exchanged some money - nearly choked at the exchange rate but am telling my subconscious not to think about it or I will go crazy!

It's amazing what you can achieve once you've got some money in your hand - then I went to get a sim card - I just got a sim for my old Rwanda phone and will investigate one for my iPhone at a later date. Should you be brave enough to send me a text from Australia - it will probably cost you 75c - I text Fred all the time and it works....my new number is:

+250 078 4444 742

From there we went to buy a modem so I can have available wifi - I figured without a car, wifi was one luxury I was going to invest in and so far so good - I guess if you have received this it has worked huh!

What else do you do when you are at UTC - but you have lunch at Bourbon - just like old times sake but it was just Fred and I - very quiet without a team of people!

My house is just lovely...

My house is not just lovely it is in fact perfect! Its bright and airy, spacious, hot water, quiet - such a little oasis to come home to. I am sitting here listening to the birds tweeting - most of the places I have stayed in in Rwanda have been so noisy I don't think I even realised that Rwanda had birds! They have built a footpath in our street and graded the road so I guess the next step is to seal the road. For those who have been to Rwanda, my street is off the same street that 'Speak I'm listening'. When Fred and James brought me home from the airport they said that they thought it was an older style house because the rooms were so big - they also mentioned it was probably here in 1994 - I said I wished they hadn't told me that! I'm sharing with two girls, one is from Canada and the other is Greek. I am yet to meet the Greek girl yet - I think she comes home on Friday.

One of my greatest delights is that in our yard we have two avocado trees and a guava tree - I have always said that one of my greatest loves of Africa is their avocados - they are not yet ripe but I'm hoping they will come good soon and we can have an abundance of everything Avocado! As for guava - I guess I'll have to learn to love that too!

I have already found some great restaurants in and around our street and my flat mate Katie even tells me that Rwanda now has home delivery as well - gold!

Well I was trying to keep this one short, but I couldn't delete the second page so had to fill you up with some more useless information - all is well in Kigali town for now.