

Blackieonamission

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How lucky I am that makes saying goodbye so hard - Winnie the Pooh

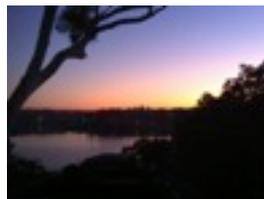
July - where did you go?

The July School Holidays

I started July off with a few chilly days down in Cooma with some wonderful friends whom have been in my life for a very long time. I went down to not only catch up with them but to also have my last snow ski in what will be a couple of years. How wonderful is technology because as we watched the snow cam it soon became apparent to us that there was only brown grass and a man made strip of snow under the chairlift. Hence we didn't hire skis nor spend money on lift tickets. So shopping and lots of hot cups of tea it was then!



When I returned from Cooma I had the lovely privilege of house sitting for some great friends for three and a half weeks. I have to say it was pretty hard admiring this view over the water on a



daily basis. The rest of my holidays I enjoyed spending some quality time with incredible friends and each time I was in the company of others I treasured every moment and memory trying to savor it.

Independence Day 4th July

It was the morning of the 4th of July - independence day, before my feet even hit the floor I was on facebook and on the expats in Rwanda page I saw a house that I thought would be perfect for me to live in. I decided that day if I wanted to get that house I needed to resign from work

and be available when the house was available. So the letter that I thought for so long would be the hardest letter for me to



write, flowed out of my finger tips, and I can see now that it was exactly the right time for me to have finished that season of 15 years of teaching preschoolers. It was certainly a wonderful time of growing in all aspects of my life and I just know that I will be taking so much of Inaburra with me. Some of the best things I have taken from Inaburra are the genuine friendships that I formed with both staff and families of children I have taught from 2001 right up to this year.



This was the last glimpse of my classroom on Friday 31st July!



Do you think you could consider supporting me for a second year?

While my finances are over in initial set up costs, I am in need of regular monthly supporters, no dollar is too small, we would love to hear from you, please contact rod.bishop@iteams.org or bstorey@ecbc.org.au.

So I've resigned from work - what next...

Yes I resigned and gave my four weeks notice, so my last day was last Friday the 31st July. In the end it all became a bit of a blur. It was certainly busy. So I have had one week off work already, some have suggested I was this week a 'lady of leisure' - please let me set you straight and say oh no - I was anything but 'leisure' - in fact it would have been easier to go to work! I met with Brod our executive Pastor who has been more than diligent and wonderful to not only work alongside but also as he genuinely has my best interests and well being at heart. On monday we brain stormed and came up with a three page list of jobs that needed to be done - from buying a ticket to applying for a Visa and buying insurance and so the list goes on and on and can I tell you - office administration is so time consuming! Give me a class of twenty three year olds any day!

I am starting to panic just a little because my ticket is booked for the 25th of August and apart from catching up with all you lovely people there is still so much more to do like sell a car and lodge my tax for this year, have a medical, go to the dentist, try to get DFAT to answer their phone, oh yeah actually pack a bag and tidy up what there is here that is not coming...and so the list goes on and on and on!

Goodbye may seem forever, Farewell is like the end, but in my heart is the memory and there you will always be.... Walt Disney



Some special relationships

On my last day of preschool

One of my students whom I taught in the first year I was there and is now in his last year of school came into my classroom and asked me for a photo with him. That was enough for me to start crying. I just love that over a 15year period these little three years grow up and actually remember the love, care and support that you invested into their lives and it demonstrated to me that I might have meant to them what they have meant to me over the years. A sense of family as I loved them like my own.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

And then there was the girls

The girls, on the other hand, they sent their Mum in to give me some story about needing my car key to show one of their friends my car who may have been interested in buying it. What they actually did was move my car, fill it up with balloons, cover every window with silly string and tie helium balloons and streamers on the door handles. They had an absolute ball and again I felt the love and am so grateful for the opportunity to watch these nine girls grow into the amazing young women they are today and I had the privilege to have taught all nine of them when they were three.