

Blackieonamission

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ISSUE EIGHT



There was a time when each of these children looked up at me from about my knee height and today they still call me Miss Black.

Aurevoir in August...

My Commissioning Service...

My commissioning service was held on August 2nd at Caringbah Baptist Church. I was completely overwhelmed at how many friends travelled a good distance just to come and be a part of it - I felt incredibly blessed. My biggest regret was that I hadn't organised a lunch or a meal for you all to share after church. I also apologies to those of you I didn't even get to speak to as I needed to attend a quick 5minute meeting that, well, in true African style went for far longer than five minutes.



Administration, Administration, Administration....I apologise if I didn't get to relax on Sydney Harbour with you and casually take in the sights of our beautiful city before I left, my time was taken up day and night with administration - sounds hard to believe - but it's true - I was going to bed at 1am and getting up at 5am to start it all over

again. I don't even feel like I went shopping to buy supplies to pack in a suitcase - in fact I have never packed in such a hurry before - seriously the morning of the day I was leaving I still had an empty suitcase!

Why so much administration I hear you ask, well it just seems that admin takes time - I would seriously prefer a class of twenty three year olds - at least I know how to entertain them! I sat in Brod's office in my first week and it took us almost four full days to write an MOU and three weeks later its still not completely sorted. (to no fault of anyone mind you its just the way it is) That's just one thing, then I needed to buy a ticket but of course the afternoon I went to pay for the ticket and didn't have enough daily limit or credit on the master card - I thought I'd go to the bank - but no it was Bank Holiday, so like a 12 year old I had to ring my Mum who came down and over three separate transactions we paid for my ticket. Then there's insurance - easy said - easy done - NOOOO! Not when you have a pre-existing condition in the likes of a bad neck, so once you ask a few very kind friends to read through a policy and tell you whether something jumps out at them then you need to apply.

Once you apply and say that you have a pre-existing condition then you need to wait another two days to have a phone interview with the DR to explain your pre-existing condition and then BAM two days later they send you another email to say your coverage has been declined - there endeth another week and one must start all over again - Can you hear my frustration - and I haven't even told you about my interactions with the Visa department yet! That may need to be a censored newsletter!

To tick another box one needs to have a medical and dental check up - well that's fine because you feel fit and healthy and well and there's nothing wrong with you - heck you just left work three weeks ago with 26 weeks of unused sick leave! So it's Tuesday and you think well lucky I can catch up with so and so on Friday, but no you need to come back for an ultrasound on Friday - and then finally get the all clear on Saturday - Hallelujah!

For you need endurance in order to do God's will and so receive what is promised.
Hebrews 10:36



These two lovely ladies I both had as pray students - they turned out to be the best teachers! I also taught both of their children years later!

My Contacts in Rwanda....

Many people have asked me about a postal address - just let me say I felt like a Visa was more of a priority this month so when I have a postal address I shall let you know. My phone however is +250784444742

Dinners, Desserts and Departures....

Apart from the administration side of my threes weeks of what some called 'a lady of leisure' I felt like all I did was eat - and eat sugar at that! There were plenty of early breakfasts some by the water and some in the caravan, then nearly every night I was out for dinner with another group of friends for a farewell catch up. It was all quite surreal, yet humbling all at the same time - I think I concentrated so much on not becoming overwhelmed with it all and holding myself together that at times I possibly came across as completely numb to it all. At one point I felt like I was attending my own funeral but I wasn't yet dead - but then again it felt like Christmas and birthday's all wrapped up into one. For the many gifts received, I thank you, for the kind words of affirmation and adoration I thank you - just remember them so you can say them in public at my funeral one day! For the literally 'heaps' of cards that I have stashed in my bottom drawer to once again read in two years when I get home - I thank you for taking the time to write them. I felt very loved on, it definitely takes something like moving overseas to make you realise how much you really do matter to people around you.

My Preschool Picnic....



When I was asked what I wanted to do for my preschool farewell, I did not fancy sitting around a long table on a week night when everyone was already tired. I decided the most important thing to me about my job was the relationships I had formed with so many families over my 15 years at Preschool. It brought tears to my eyes when my little friend in the green top there called out my name, "Miss Black, Miss Black", as he zoomed around the park in his wheelchair. You see for many years we prayed with his Mum and Dad believing that he would one day speak and even walk - so when he called out "Miss

Black" all those memories of this cheeky fella in my class came rushing back to me. His Mum reminded me last Sunday about the day he got his first wheelchair and at preschool as a four year old he sat at the top of the hill looked at Miss Black, laughing as he took the brakes off and scooted down the hill - that was probably the day Miss Black ran the fastest down that hill. The youngest ones who were still in my class this year came, in this picture



they are singing a song in Kinyarwanda. Then we had the oldest kids who are now in their first years of Uni who also came to the park and reminisced about their times at preschool, how I made them sleep on their beds and cuddled them when they cried for their Mums. One claim to fame was, until this day, the loudest screamer when her Mum left on her first day - who says kids don't remember - that's why every day has to be a special day because when they are older they will remind you!



What an awesome privilege my life has been to have known and been involved with so many children's lives in their most influential years. I have been to their birthday parties when they were little and still get invited to their 18th and 21st - and I'm looking forward to the season of weddings when they come around! I've been invited to year 12 assemblies, I've been on holidays with them, they've had girly sleep overs at my house when my floor was covered with wall to wall

children. Many still call me Miss Black, and I still love them like my own - yet it was easy to finish the chapter of Preschool because it was the right timing. Apart from the children, one of my greatest assets I received from my time in a workplace for 15 years was definitely the life long friends I have made with their parents, especially their Mums - whom I now call some of my closest friends. We too have shared life together for the past 15 years, we've laughed and cried, we've been there for each other during sickness and health - just what the definition of low maintenance true friendship is all about! See you in Rwanda ladies!!!! Or Dubai!!



And just like that I was gone....

In absolutely no time at all I was in the car for the last time driving to the airport - taking in all the sights over Tom Ugly's Bridge and on our way to Mascot airport. It was already a week ago - one week down and 103 to go huh! It was very special to have people at the airport who were also at the airport ten years ago when I left for Mozambique and some were even there 23 years ago when I left for USA the first time. How precious to have life long friends journey with you for that long a time - all I can say is that I feel more than blessed to have you all in my life whether it has been recently or over decades.

