
October / November

Praise and Prayer Points

Ephesians 4:1,2 I urge you to live worthily of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.



Introduction

I feel like I could give you a whole bunch of excuses or reasons as to why you haven't received a newsletter since August or a Prayer letter since September - but instead I am just going to ask you to forgive me and say - happy reading of our combined October / November prayer letter and yes there are newsletters in the pipeline to come!



Praise Points

So our last three weeks of an eight week run of visitors was my Mum and my Niece, their visit came and went way too fast and goodbyes are never fun! While they were here we had an early first birthday party for Miss Flora and the obligatory Bunny cake that we all had for our first birthdays! Her real first birthday will be this coming Sunday 20th November.

One week to the day that my Mum left I went to court with my lawyer and my friend Fred and as I previously mentioned we won and Flora was officially adopted as my daughter - so I give much praise for the outcome and now this little girl has a life filled with hope and opportunities that 12 months ago she didn't seem to have - thank you God. As has been said to me many times re adoption - God is bigger than the law!

I went to my third Fruits of Hope Academy closing day last week and it is always nice to sit back and watch the year unfold as the children present their items and things they have learnt and achieved. I was particularly thankful for two children whom a friend of mine sponsors, and to see the light shine in their eyes as they presented items and received awards, when they were once the 'dirty kids on the other side of the fence' brings me great joy.

A big thank you to every one who prayed for Serg, yesterday was his first day that he didn't wake up with a headache after two weeks - so he is well and truly on the mend now praise God.

I attended the Global Leadership Summit at the end of October as I was so impressed with it last year that this year I insisted that Fred joined me - he too was impressed and we had a great two days together away from school to reflect on leadership. I was so taken with the church where it was held that I have started attending for the last three Sundays - I hope to make this my home church in the future as it is english speaking, with worship songs that we all know and you can sing to and it only goes for an hour and a half! Feeling 'at home' with church has been one of my challenges as I take Flora to her Dads church once a month, as well as visiting the church attached to the school where I am working - now I feel like it is time for 'me' and for now I need to attend a western church so I am thankful I feel 'at home' at Christ Church Rwanda.

Coincidentally last week I also joined a day time bible study, which happens to be on the day where I have some more time - so I went last Thursday and again I loved the interaction with about 15 white ladies who are all here either as expats or missionaries, it was a wonderful group and I felt really at home there too so I shall go back again this week. I did start going to a night bible study last year but then Flora came along and nights became difficult and it was also in Kinyarwanda and I needed to rely on an interpreter, so hopefully an afternoon will work for me for now.

Last week I taught the staff at J.Lynne's cafe about 'identity' and we looked at their identity in their family, their community, their workplace and in Christ.....interestingly one group grasped it all so well and really 'got it' and the second group - not so much! Some are very 'village' people and so even reading and writing is a challenge let alone tracing around your hand and writing five people who are important to you! (3rd photo pictured above)

Prayer Points

So the day we left court, the lawyer left the copy of our adoption with the Judge to have it translated from French to English and I was to pick it up the next day on the Friday.....wasn't ready, went back on Saturday.....wasn't ready, went back on Monday.....wasn't ready.....waited a week.....still no documents. I asked Fred to call the lawyer and she told us that the day we left court the Judge left riding a moto and had a serious accident - and now three weeks later he is still in King Faissal hospital in a critical condition. My first response was quite gracious as a human being I want him to be well and healthy enough to leave hospital.....as a new Mum I want those documents signed and delivered to me so I can start the next process - a passport!

This week I am meeting up with Fred to edit the curriculum and hopefully book a date to visit the Rwanda Education Board - please pray this would be a favourable document and we can start training next year.

So I met last Monday with Bishop James (Fred's brother) from the church I am here under and he is desperate to start a Girls' Brigade - long story short he is sick of unmarried girls falling pregnant and he has started going into the schools to talk to the girls about not getting pregnant - so not cultural as he is a man and don't normally talk about girl things with the girls but he said he has a burden and a passion for the girls - on October 11th the International Girl Day he had 700 girls turn up to his lunch time group - he says the Rwanda law is that he is not to preach the gospel unless the girls are learning life skills at the same time - so perfectly ties in with GB - I have written to GBAfrica and both email addresses have bounced back - so I must get onto it and find another contact. He has ladies he wants to train and so I am up for a training session on the 28th and then he wants to start GB in January when school goes back!

Already I have booked accommodation for teams for next year - some teams are coming under church affiliation and one school team from Dubai in February, please be prayerful for the school girls (all 15year old girls) as they learn about the genocide, see and experience poverty first hand and have their hearts broken for the people of Rwanda. Pray that I can be Jesus hands and feet to these girls while they are visiting Rwanda.

While she looks cute and gorgeous with those big brown eyes, Florabelle is one heavy weight - and I didn't realise that I always carried her on the same hip until about two weeks ago when I started feeling pain in my right hip and lower back - its difficult for me to sit for long periods of time - but thank goodness I can lay in the bean bag and play with her and have cuddles. So I have been trying to carry her on the other side while I am nursing this sore back of mine for as long as it takes! I'd value your prayers to heal this back and protect my previous bad neck at the same time - thank you.

See what happens when you put two months together - it makes it a long read! Thank you for taking the time out of your day to bless us by reading our prayer and praise points and we will continue to pray for you too as you head into the Christmas season and all that entails.

Many blessings,
Michele and Flora.