

# BLACKIEONAMMISSION

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## One long month of visitors...

From August to October we had back to back visitors for eight weeks and loved every visitor and all that they brought to our household, from playing cards, to cooking us dinner, to re wiring the clothes line - and the next visitor doing it again - what a blessing it is to have friends and to have visitors!

## Flora Meets her Nanna...



Our final visitors were my Mum and my Niece Tianah who arrived the same day our other visitor Erin left, so it was one afternoon spent at the airport. We love meeting people but the goodbyes are getting harder!



## Aaaaah Birthday's in Mauritius.... who would have thought?

If you ever asked me what I would be doing on my birthday this year - I would never have guessed I would either be a Mum to Flora or be celebrating watching the sun set over the ocean of Mauritius! I was blessed to be doing both and thoroughly enjoyed my little taste of western world and to place my feet in the ocean again was good for my soul! The change from red dirt and dust to the blue ocean and white sands was sensational. It was the simple things like walking through an airport and blending in - like having a hair cut - not being called Mzungu by young an old alike, swimming in the ocean with dolphins. One week of holidays was exactly what the Dr ordered - except now my mind travels to 'this time next year'.... and no I can hardly wait!





## Fete Day...

It wasn't all play - when I had to go to work - my visitors had to come. Erin joined me selling cakes and cookies at a school fete day for J.Lynne's Cafe. She was a good little up seller - we nearly sold out this day!

## Flora...

Flora went from a baby who played nicely sitting in one spot to learning how to pull herself up and climbing on the lounge - in the blink of an eye. She's not walking yet but she has strong little legs and it wouldn't surprise me if she walks early - although I'm not encouraging it!

## Friends...

My friends and team leaders Jen and Serg and their family returned in September from two months in Canada - Beni who is 7 had his Canadian accent topped up - and Prince who is 18 had his wardrobe topped up I think....well definitely his shoes! It sure is nice to have them around again - Flora and I definitely missed them.

## Teacher Training....

In 2017 the new curriculum for Primary classes in Rwanda will be implemented. For this whole term three we looked into the theory behind the new curriculum and child centred learning. The teachers explored what their role as teacher will entail and what the role of the learner will look like. The idea of group work is a new concept and so during one teacher development afternoon we had four working stations of science experiments where the teachers had to be the learners and evaluate their own learning as well as that of the educator (who happens to be me). This was used as a demonstration lesson to inspire the teachers to teach through hands on learning and then the challenge for each teacher was to present a lesson to the rest of the staff that allowed them to teach the children with critical thinking and child centred learning. We need some more practise - this is a very new concept and so to change from what you have always known and done to something a little abstract will take time.

Why am I teaching primary teachers? I have been training every Wednesday to develop Fruits of Hope Academy as a model school - one of Fred's visions. He hopes that the



students of the college will be able to observe the children and teachers from the school as a model school in Rwanda. A lot of the methodology also crosses over from the early childhood curriculum too. In fact, just quietly, the nursery teachers have a fairly good grasp of inquisitive learning.