

# DECISIONS IN DECEMBER...

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## Merry Christmas...

On Christmas Eve The Salters joined me at a Christmas party at Serg and Jen's place (my iteams leaders). I drank egg nog for the first time - for you Aussies it tastes a little like drinking watered down custard! Again we had a 'secret Santa' gift exchange - first the kids and then the adults.



We had a lovely Christmas day, Church was a little shorter - just three hours on Christmas morning instead of the 3 1/2hrs most Sundays!! After Church was followed by lunch at Fred and Vena's, we took a group photo and then taught them about the joy of a gift exchange! In 44 years it was Fred and Vena's first receiving of Christmas presents.



## Never too old to sit on Santa's knee....

Well Santa is alive and well in down town Kigali - his presence was everywhere this Christmas, so when we went to the Christmas bizarre we took up the opportunity to sit on his knee and have our photo taken. In fact I phoned someone during the week after the bizarre and the guy on the other end of the phone said, "I saw you at the Christmas bizarre!" I asked him, "why didn't you say hello?" He replied - "I did - I was Santa!"

## Body and Soul Christmas Party...

Body and soul is where I exercise on a Friday morning and do a weights class. In early December the girls at body and soul had a class to Christmas music, followed by a luncheon and a secret santa gift exchange which was very fun. If you didn't like your gift or you saw something better you could swap it or steal from someone else.



Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2016!

## The Christmas Cantata...

One of the local churches put on a Christmas Cantata - there was serious security checks as you entered the church, with an airport style security to walk through. The Cantata was simply amazing - you could have been in any country in the world - the quality of the performance was simple sensational - so much work had gone into rehearsal you could tell. I nursed baby Flora through most of the show and all I could think was how incredibly blessed she has been to have been so well cared for since her Mumma had passed away - it was like nursing my own little baby Jesus!



Every baby girl needs her first pink dolly for Christmas - right? Well Flora is holding on tightly to hers and giving Santa a hi-five!



On the Wednesday before Christmas when life is just busy for everyone, I was able to bless Jen and Serg and take Miss Flora for a couple of nights - we all have bucket baths in Rwanda - it's just that some of us fit in the bucket better than others!



During December I also had the opportunity to play tourist and first go up north to Musanze and Gisenyi, and then down south close to Butare to see the National museum and the Kings Palace. I went to Musanze with my friends, The Salters, just for one night and we did the trek to see the golden monkeys - this was my second time to do this but it was just as exciting as the first time - being in the wild it is actually a very different experience each time that you cannot compare. How different your worlds can be, while we were trekking in the forrest looking for golden monkeys, Flora's mum lost her battle to live and passed away on this same day.

I went up to Gisenyi to help look after Flora while Jen and Serg went to a family wedding - now you need to know that they own and sell the best cakes in Rwanda. While they were at the family wedding - when they went to cut the cake - the icing was so hard that the Bride and Groom broke the handle of the knife! Should have ordered on of Jen's cakes I say!



### So I also moved house in December....

Yes it finally happened after four months of living in Rwanda - I do now finally have my own place, where I no longer need to share. I have a lovely brand new three bedroom house that is pretty much opposite the school and church and very much all about location, location, location! So I would humbly like to thank those of you who helped make this happen for me financially and please know that there is a spare bedroom with a double bed just waiting for visitors to come and spend a night or two! This is my coffee table I bought for \$40AUD at a garage sale - and I love it - so this is pretty much what I look out to every day as I sit here on my lounge! I'm fairly certain that last night as I went to bed I could hear the night guard snoring - hmmm!



### School has been on holidays....

Although school has been on holidays, it has certainly been a hype of activity over there as they had the builders in to build the new classrooms for the nursery section. I posted a short video on how much they love to work and how they rejoice as they work. They blew a whistle, all lined up and waited for the last person to fill their bucket as they sang and danced and carefully carried buckets of cement on their heads from one place to another and it was amazing to watch. There were women in their too working alongside the men.

I had the privilege to sit on an interview panel for Fruits of Hope and interview teachers for the new teaching staff of 2016. It was certainly an interesting experience and I had to take away every ounce of western world perspective when asking questions and choosing the right person for the right positions. Then just when we had finished our interviews and made our decision someone walks in off the street because they saw the sign of the school and we decided to interview her and offered her the position - so you just never know!



We have some teacher development training days coming up in January and I have already practised teaching my lessons on the CBC (Community Bible Church) Sunday school leaders, so that was helpful for me to see how what I had planned worked and how I might change it for Fruits of Hope. My routine will be back to 'normal' come the week of the 18th January.

### Flora Update....

A massive thank you to all of you who have asked about sending things over for Flora - my address is PO BOX 1288 Kigali Rwanda and I shall make sure she receives all that is received for her. In a couple of days I shall write you a proper update and let you know the future of this little girl.

I trust you all had a lovely Christmas, I know I certainly did - with my Rwandan family!

