
January Prayer Points

So much to give thanks for...
28 January 2016



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If you were wondering what happened to Decembers prayer letter - guess what - I didn't actually send one - slack I know - yes - busy - yes - visitors - yes - a newborn baby needing some love - yes again! So now we head into January and there is much to give thanks for.

The team from my home church, Caringbah Baptist came for two weeks in September and one of their roles was to give continued health assessments on the children of the school. Last year when they came, as they did the eye assessments on each child they found Leila who could barely see out of either of her eyes. Last year she had corrective surgery on her left eye and it was a complete success with much improve vision for Leila. Just last Friday, Leila was able to have a cornea transplant surgery and her sweet Mum sent us through this photo letting us know that it has so far been a successful operation. Part of our team fundraising is what was used to fund this surgery - so for all of you who came and tested your trivia knowledge last year - thank you - you just gave sight to a little girl about to start high school. I have a friend coming from Dubai next week and she is an ophthalmologist and Leila's Mum has agreed that she can come and check on Leila next Thursday - again God's provision in His timing.



Teacher Training



The new classrooms



My Dad (and sister)

January saw me get back into routine, being out of routine is fun for a little while, but I actually like getting back into 'it'! Fred and I planned a two week Teacher Training for the Teachers before their students came back to school. There were many topics covered and a quote from one of the new Teachers (we interviewed and employed four new teachers in December), was "I don't feel worthy to teach at such a good school - I have never been offered training before school starts before, we just go straight into the classrooms." That's a testimony to the quality of the training offered over the two weeks. Praise God hey! The second week however, saw six of our staff go to Government training where they had to learn the new curriculum, so we focused more on planning and preparing our classrooms and will continue what was planned for training for another time.

Part of my role is to mentor the nursery teachers, so we met together as a team this week and they have a huge desire to implement 'learning centres' for their new classrooms. Unfortunately they are also bound by what they know and how they see nursery education so crossing over to the two worlds so far has a few challenges. I would like prayer for wisdom on

how to integrate some of the western world thinking, but allowing it to be their ideas and what they want, as well as what they need to follow in a curriculum.

The P6's from last year received their results and their teachers were very happy as they were all in the top band and the second band of rankings - I still don't understand completely how they grade them but I have seen the joy and heard the buzz of excitement from the teachers and they were all fairly pleased by their results - praise God.

There was a time I didn't think it would actually happen, let alone be finished but there are now three brand new nursery classrooms and three new primary classrooms on the site of Fruits Of Hope Academy - we can praise God for such provision.

There is a plot of land between the school and the church and for years Fred has been having conversations with the owner re buying the land and he (the Landlord) would, each time put the price up etc. Well now - it feels like it happened over night, he has built his own 'Orion Nursery School' with a fairly impressive playground, big blue gate and sign. So it will be interesting to see how two nursery schools - literally side by side will go - Fred and I spoke and decided it was a good thing as more children will have the opportunity to be educated. Please be prayerful for Fred and his vision of a Christian school in his local community.

I am in my new house - praise God for His provision of a brand new house, directly opposite the school and church. I have been sleeping on a mattress on the floor and have ordered a bed - here's hoping the bed arrives this week or next!

Baby Flora moved in with me in January and I interviewed two young girls to work for me - one was more interested in how much I was going to pay her and asked for an increase before I said I wanted her - needless to say I chose the other one - lovely Lea who has so far been delightful. She not only cares for baby Flora but also cleans my house, washes my clothes and re-makes my bed everyday - so I am loving her. Today I have paid for her to attend a 6week cooking class at J.Lynnes cafe (where I work with Iteams on a Friday) and she seems pretty excited about that too and learning some more skills. Her english is good and she corrects my Kinyarwanda - she even uses the baby formula tin as a drum and sings in Kinya to Flora - she's been an absolute God send - thank you again Lord!

So I wrote this on Thursday, and on Friday morning I heard news from home that my Dad, Derek - affectionately known as 'Dekka' is having surgery on Monday. He has been in dreadful pain with sciatica for a couple of months, having to sleep in the chair because it was easier than walking to the bedroom. He's an old (maybe I should say, retired) removalist so I guess after years of lifting furniture it was inevitable that eventually he would get two bulging discs in his lower back that would push on a nerve in his leg. So if you read this before 2pm Sydney time Monday, please remember him and his surgeons and pray for a successful recovery.

On the same day in Western Australia my Aunty Trish is have a brain tumour removed, so she would also value your prayers.

Thank you once again for traveling this journey with me, I am excited for all that 2016 will hold and look forward to telling you through this keyboard. Bless you for being a blessing through praying for my time in Rwanda and the work that is going on here.

Much love, Michele.