

# BLACKIEONAMMISSION

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## The King's College

As I have mentioned before the Curriculum is written and ready to be presented to the Rwandan Education Board. Fred who I work with was in Australia for all of July and is now running a conference so we anticipate that August will be the time to present the Curriculum to the Board.

## J.Lynn's Cafe

I am still working at the cafe every Friday and while Jen and Serg are in Canada my role has been more of a support role to the staff. Last Friday a lady came in asking to speak to me and I just knew she wanted money. She looked poorly, obviously under nourished and needed some attention. She told me her 'story' and started undressing in the cafe to show me how much she needed food because she was so skinny! At the risk of the cafe becoming a place of refuge, I bought her a bagel and asked the security guard to escort her off the premises. It's always a difficult balance between having compassion and demonstrating compassion and love and not losing the heart of the bigger picture.



## Hobnobbing it in July..

Ummmmm nobody ever told me how little I was?? Who would have thought I was such a shrimp next to a US Marine (and I made him stand down the hill too!) and the USA Ambassador to Rwanda. Yes I was invited once again to the US Embassy, this time for their 4th July celebrations (on the 9th) and I was selling the old faithful cookies and cupcakes oh and of course red, white and blue donuts on a stick! I had a great day chatting to all the USA expats and while I thought most of them liked me for me - I had two of them say to me, "Can you just keep talking because I really like your accent!" Reminded me of years ago at Summer Camp, when someone said, "I heard there is an Australian here, I have to hear her talk!"





### Holiday Bible School

These are some of the teachers I trained earlier in the year to be Sunday School teachers. They came over to my place last week as we planned a holiday bible school to be held this week at church, and can I say it was a huge success!

### July 4th...

Yes Rwanda has their Independence Day on July 4th as well - it is also a day to mark the end of the Genocide and the 100 days of mourning. If you remember my previous newsletter about how eerily quiet the 6th April was as they started the 100 days of mourning - well I am pleased to say that the 4th July was anything but quiet - there were air horns and party goers making plenty of noise, not to mention the inevitable game of soccer at the stadium which you can hear just about anywhere in Rwanda.

### Clinic for Pregnant Mums...

Earlier this month I had the privilege of visiting a village and helping the midwives as they took the vital signs for the pregnant Mumma's. My job was to weigh them - and even at nearly 9 months pregnant some of them were still very light. Oh wow it was a great day, to see the real Africa and to sit with these precious women, some who genuinely had no idea how / where that baby was going to coming out of. The midwives gently showed them pictures in a book and their faces light up as they begin to understand what is happening to their bodies. The area was very poor and it made me wonder how much neonatal care sweet Florence had when she was carrying baby Flora?

July News

### Wollongong University brought over two teams...



Wollongong University has a wonderful initiative where two teams of Engineering Students came over to work on projects as part of their University degree, and honestly it was a delight meeting such an amazing group of young people. They were above measure in every way, even when they spoke to you at the

dinner table they never checked their phones, they were well mannered and incredibly polite. They had just played a game of soccer and I invited them over spontaneously for afternoon tea, they decided they were too 'smelly' for my house so they sat on the driveway!

### More Aussies...

And then there was the dinner at Colines De Mille, with the Secretary General to the Australian High Commissioner from Nairobi and four Members of Parliament from Victoria, Australia.

It was all timing timing timing, as I was speaking to this lady MP Wendy Lovell, who up until

December 2014 was The Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development - and the next day was going to speak to the Minister of Education in Rwanda. After hearing about the Curriculum I have written for the Teacher Training College we put together a list of questions for her to ask on my behalf and she was going to advocate for the need of the College. As they say it's not always what you know but rather who you know!





I have been told from a few people, in fact more than a few:- “Hey Shell I don’t mean to be funny but Flora looks like you!” Well here is the resemblance....can’t see it myself except for those roll polly arms, chubby little cheeks and little tuft of hair!

*Look at her little face....*

There is a song that has the words - Let there be love shared among us, let there be love in our eyes!

I think there is love in her eyes, and I know I love everything about this little girl. She is 8 months old now and growing before my eyes. Still no teeth, she is starting to be more mobile and will be crawling in a blink of an eye. She has one word clear as a bell and it is ‘Mumma’ - the locals tell me that most Rwandan children start with the word Papa and if they say Mumma first, then they will not say any



other words! My Early Childhood knowledge tells me it is just the beginning of making sounds and my Mumma’s heart tells me she knows exactly what she is saying. Thank you to everyone who has loved on her, she is certainly the best dressed baby in Rwanda and I haven’t bought her a thing - she is still receiving parcels in the post filled with clothes for her, and just sometimes when the post takes three months to get here and she has grown out them we have the blessing of passing them on to other Mums who are so very grateful. Thanks again for reading another newsletter we love travelling this journey with you and value your support - blessings, Michele and Flora xo