



As promised Mummy came home....

And we all enjoyed a two week visit from Nanna, when she left, Flora kept going into her room and saying 'Nanna gone!'

The ban on Foreign Adoptions has been lifted in Rwanda!

Well, this Friday 20th October marks one year since our first day in court to receive our adoption - we did in fact have to go back to court on the 20th December and received a second adoption - so who really knows when our official 'adoption day' is! Anyway, two days before my birthday, when I was in Australia, I received news from Rwanda to say that Rwanda had lifted the ban on foreign adoptions - that is a massive thing considering the ban has been in place for nine years. In an ideal world it should mean if children are allowed to be adopted they are also allowed to travel. What does it mean for us - I am still not sure and so I plough my way, single handedly through ministries and bureaucracies and I wait and I wait and I wait - but I have a delightful little girl who makes the waiting all worthwhile. The Australian High Commissioner has been outstanding and I am in fact more than happy to pay my taxes as I see them being used for good in how they help their own people off shore - highly commend Nairobi.

So, How was Australia...



✿ Australia was freezing - I left Dubai and it was 44°C and Australia was a chilly 8°C and I am pretty sure it didn't get much warmer before I left!

✿ I got my hair cut and my nails done, I wore clean clothes, there was always hot water in the tap, I enjoyed customer service, I wasn't called Mzungu, no one picked their nose while they were talking to me (that I noticed), no one spat their food on the ground or did the draw back with their nose, the kitchen was in the house, there weren't any mosquitos or stinky open drains that gave grief to my lungs - and there were not any people walking the streets!



✿ In six weeks I put on a whopping 6kgs - must have meant I had a good time I'd say! And I am not sure I paid for a meal - so bless all of you who contributed to my weight gain by buying me breakfast, lunch or dinner!

✿ My time was very short and so, I deeply apologise for those who I didn't get to see or catch up with - I really did prioritise my time with my family - two years was a long time to be away.



✿ I also had some personal appointments I had to attend to and those took up nearly a whole week. I had one skin cancer cut out of my shoulder that left 8 stitches and several burnt off my face - if you saw me with a face full of peeling skin I can tell you it has all healed now and back to normal.

✿ Being by the water is one of my absolute life's pleasures and I just can't get enough of it - especially when you move to a land locked country.

✿ Every thing about Australia is my 'normal' and so I absolutely loved absorbing myself into MY culture and MY 'normal'. I still call Australia home and I count down the days to my return with Flora in tow!

✿ I was in Australia for four Sunday's and I visited three churches, in one I was interviewed, another I gave a kids talk and the other I was the speaker for the day - so quite varied yet all enjoyable experiences - thank you for having me.

I will never tire of looking at the water, I miss it terribly when I am here in Rwanda - the red dirt just doesn't cut it for me!

What is happening in Rwanda...

As I walked to school yesterday on my first day back at my desk, I turned the corner and here was the Teacher Training College having its second storey being built. I understand that it will one day be a three storey building, yet funds are not yet available to complete the third storey so it will sit as two storey's for a while. So, my immediate role is to

complete the curriculum we have started by making it 'competency based' as per a requirement from the Workforce Development Authority to gain our accreditation. I also need to write a Concept Paper to accompany the curriculum and then we can lodge our application for accreditation. Once we have the accreditation certificate then we can start training from the building (once it is finished of course). Writing both of these documents are not particularly my forte - but we trust that it will all work and it will be accepted with favour.

I am no longer here with International Teams, I am now here independently and have the administrative support from my home church, Caringbah Baptist Church. I have committed to another two years and will return back to Australia after just one year this time. For my own mental health, as a single parent in a foreign land and after feeling very 'culturally fatigued' after two years I trust this will be a wise decision.

If you would like to support Flora and I on a monthly basis we would value your contribution in helping to keep us here for a little longer - please visit blackieonamission.com and it will take you to the appropriate links.

She loved having her Nanna here and we will both miss having her around and the special times that Flora will need to wait for until another trip! We love visitors so if you're in the neighbourhood please call in - we even have a wonky bed we could let you sleep in!

Blessings to you all - much love Michele and Flora xo

