
December / January

Praise and Prayer Points

For nothing will be impossible with God - Luke 1:37



Remember these faces because these lovely 6 ladies have just completed Girl's Brigade Leadership Training and are keen to start Rwanda's first Girls' Brigade Company!

Happy New Year!

Wow - what a crazy whirlwind kind of couple of months I have had - if you could just see a fraction of what has been going on in my little head you would get dizzy!



Praise Points...

Early in December Fred and I had the opportunity to help facilitate some Teacher Training with a visiting trainer from the UK Mr David Freeman who happens to be Fred's mentor. The Teachers on the first day and the Head Teachers on the second day, over 150 teachers all up were blessed by his teachings. David is not passionate about teaching, he is however passionate about bringing Christ back into the classroom and the Rwandan Teachers soaked up every word he said - it was wonderful!

I also give thanks for Davids years of experience and after reading my nursery curriculum cover to cover he said, 'you sound like you know what your talking about girl!' Why thank you - yes I do!

In December Michele shared a little about The Girls' Brigade with some young ladies from Revival Palace Church who wanted to start a girls group. The Government has a law which says you can only teach about Jesus in such a group if they are also learning a life skill at the same time - so Girls' Brigade is the perfect model. Six of the eight who listened about The Girls' Brigade came back enthusiastically in January and we walked through Girls' Brigade leader training with them - so now I wait for them to hand in their assignments and we can start Rwanda's first company!

On December 20th after a long complicated saga I finally received the copy of my adoption papers and the verdict handed down from the court - praise God - only two months after our day in court. So on the 21st December I started the passport process and that has been one long story after another, I am thankful that school has not been on and that Rwanda does not seem to ever close even over the Christmas, new year break. One of the requirements for Flora to obtain a Rwandan passport was to have a Rwandan relative's documents sighted, so I give thanks to God that we were able to find her

Mothers Mother - there was a day or two when we thought this may be impossible. She was so delighted to meet Flora for the first time and she gave me the biggest compliment you can receive in this country - 'If I had a cow I would give you a cow!'

Christmas day was a full and busy day and my prayers of networking and finding some friends outside of the community where I live were answered. We were invited to lunch with an Aussie friend and so after face timing home and having my family watch Flora open her presents, going to church we then shared in a very Australian Christmas lunch complete with pavlova! New years eve we were also blessed to be gathered around with a new group of friends, although we all had children so we called it a year at 9pm! Flora and I did live stream the Sydney fireworks though!

The school has been a construction site during the holidays and has now had a second story built onto the existing classrooms. We interviewed teachers in December and have employed four new ones.

I have had the privilege of hosting a team throughout January and it is always a joy for me to hear the Australian accent and I am thankful we have a small house that we can serve and host from.

Prayer Points...

Our Curriculum is written and has been printed once - it will hopefully be bound next week after I tweak it again, and I have nailed Fred down for the 30th January for us to present it to the Rwandan Education Board - so I would value your prayers for wisdom and discernment as Fred and I work together to present this document. Its been 18months in the making and we feel like it is what we want it to be so we trust it is what the Rwandan Education Board will accept and promote.

To continue the process of obtaining a passport for Flora I needed to apply to the National Commission for Children's rights, I had to obtain a whole lot of documents that they required and on Monday this week they accepted my application and now I wait to hear from them if they will give me the required document I need to present to immigration to complete the passport process. This has all been somewhat stressful - I opened the tim tams and the caramello koalas, I feel like I have done all that I can do and now I sit and wait and trust. Should we obtain a passport we then need to go through the Visa application into Australia - so it's not a done deal by any means but we believe and we trust it will happen.

School returns on Monday for everyone, Teachers and students alike, including myself - although I have been working from home and cafes to change the scenery a little. Please pray that our new students and new teachers will settle in and feel a part of Fruits of Hope quickly.

The girls starting Girls' Brigade - I have said from our first meeting that they need to own it - this is not something I can attend each week and not something that I will run. So I pray for their continued enthusiasm, that the 700 girls they have in their school lunch time group will be encouraged and challenged to come to Brigade and that it will in fact be a long lasting ministry of their church.

For me that I can keep juggling all these balls I feel I have at the moment, school, Floras legalities, Girls' Brigade, J.Lynnes, Bible Study, Church. Life is no where near as hectic as home but it could easily become if you allow it. Flora and I love to swim and we have been doing the rounds of different pools - this is our little oasis on a Saturday and it is definitely good for the soul!

We are always thankful to anyone who stops to read our newsletters, who stops to pray for us, who stops to think about our friends in the community in which we live - please know you are loved, prayed for and we can barely wait to jump on that long haul plane back to Sydney for a little catch up! Bless you and thanks for journeying with us.

Michele and Flora x