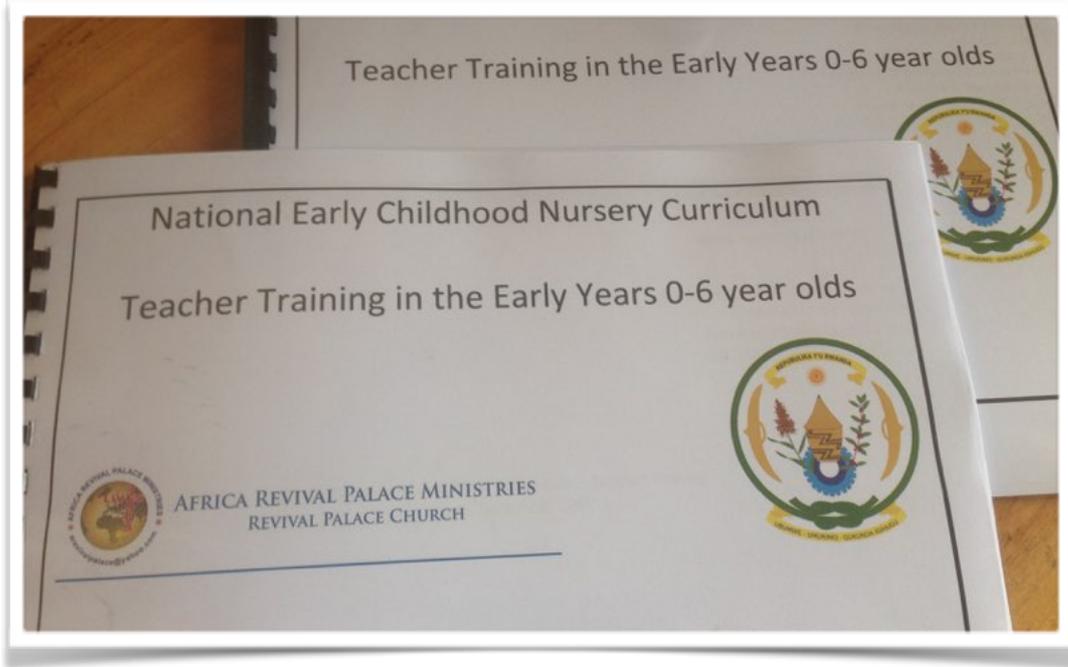


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Printed and Bound...

The whole purpose as to why I am living in Rwanda was to write a Curriculum to train Early Years Teachers - our Curriculum was printed and bound in January.

After sending an email to make an appointment with the Rwandan Education Board, they called us and wanted an appointment that same day, Fred was however, in the Eastern Province and I was hosting a team - so we met with them the next day. While our meeting was very positive and Rwanda is excited about what such a Curriculum can offer, we do now have some more requirements to meet before they will make any final decisions.

Some highlights that come to mind!

1

JANUARY

The month where the water started to disappear - we had to laugh or we'd cry!

2

VISITORS

It feels like we have had a revolving door of visitors - such a blessing!

3

TEACHING

I have been invited to train teachers at other schools which has also been a great experience.



Happy Australia Day Everyone!

We celebrated Australia Day with my first ever attempt at a home made Pavlova and went out for meat Pies and Pav!



Hope Global Interns...

We had some visitors from Hope Global who lead a kids club during January.



A Minute to Win It Activities...

How else do you teach 'courageous' at Teacher Development - ask for volunteers and give them a minute to win it!

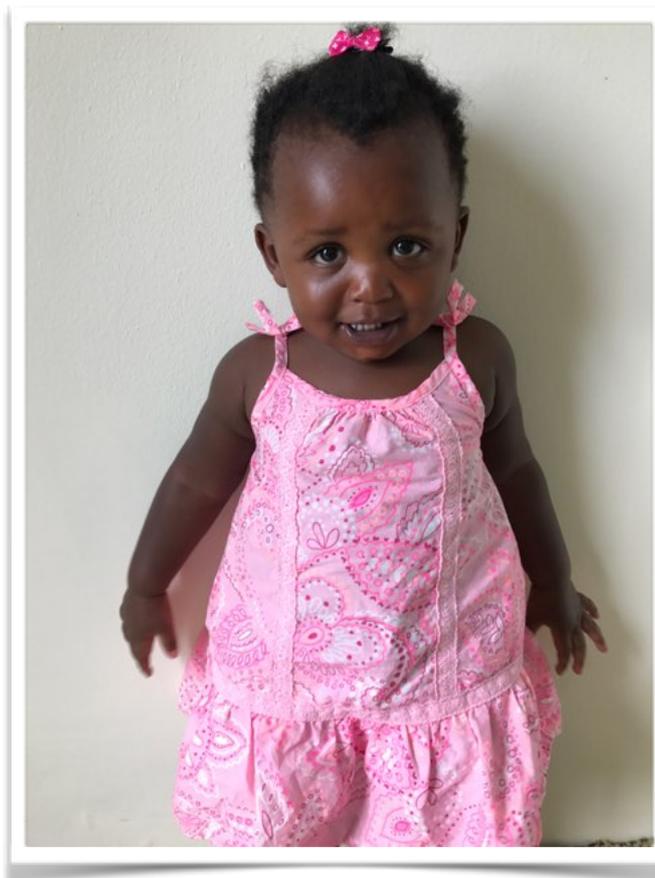
Blessing others as others have blessed us....

The beginning of the school year is a burden to any family world wide, with the thought of paying school fees, buying a new uniform, and the endless list of school supplies required more and more from the school.

My taxi driver and I communicate extremely well with my limited Kinyarwanda and his limited English. One day we were driving and I was asking if his children were going back to school this year and how much his school fees were going to be. He showed me on the calculator of his phone how much for one and I know he has two boys in school.

The next day as I paid my fare, I handed him the amount for one years school fees for one of his boys, well his hands started shaking, he turned his head and looked out the other window, his chin did the 'waffle chin' and for what felt like an incredibly long time there was silence as a grown man sniffed up his snot and displayed the most amazing amount of gratitude without uttering a word. It was probably to date (apart from Flora) one of the highlights for me living and sharing life with people who have so very little. I live in probably the smallest house of all my expat friends and I really don't have 'much' but this day what I had I gave away to a friend who didn't ask for it and certainly didn't expect it.

I may be here to write a curriculum - but doing life with locals who become your friends far out ways any curriculum and the impact such a small amount can have on their family situation is mind blowing. And to anyone of you reading this who has given even \$1 to help keep me here then know you too, are instrumental in educating



Charles boys - because I am just being a servant of your finances.

“My baby has grown into a little girl!”

A very quick update on Flora's situation is that while I have all adoption papers, it is proving difficult to obtain a passport for her. We ask that you respect our privacy and accept that information for now - as we know more, we will inform you as needed.

BLACKIEONAMISSION...

I had a memory come up on my Facebook this week that said it had been two years since our '\$1 a day to get Blackie on her way!' - dare I say it's that time again! If you quite fancy the idea of keeping me away or you just like the idea of changing lives in Rwanda you might like to consider a one off donation to blackieonamission.com or a more regular giving pattern.

As I think about coming home later in the year, with or without Flora depending on her passport and visa, I will need to consider my finances for returning to Rwanda and implementing the curriculum which I have written. My day to day budget will have changed though, as I continue to support Flora and pay for a full time Nanny, and eventually a day or two in day care.

