

May / June

WELL IT CERTAINLY FEELS LIKE IT HAS GONE VERY FAST AND HAS BEEN VERY BUSY!



GORILLA TREKKING
IN EARLY MAY I HAD A VISIT FROM A SPECIAL FRIEND AND WE DID THE GORILLAS TOGETHER.



PLAY DATES
FLORA HAS TWO LITTLE FRIENDS ELIAS AND RAYNA.



SUNDAY PICNICS
ALWAYS LOVE WELCOMING VISITORS AND A TEAM FROM MY HOME CHURCH WAS CERTAINLY A WELCOME TREAT.

MAY / JUNE



Flora news...

She doesn't leave the house without her lipstick on, she loves a good handbag and necklace, she wears my shoes and puts clothes on from the laundry basket - mimics everything I do and says not a word! I am secretly enjoying the silence as I know once those words come - I have no doubt she will be telling me exactly what she thinks!

I still have no good news re the possibility of her being able to travel to Australia. At the moment the Australian High Commissioner from Nairobi has written to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Rwanda to plead our case and we simply have to wait and pray for a miracle that she will in deed be able to travel one day. I plan to visit Australia at the end of August and may be travelling on my own.

This photo of Flora and I was taken on Mothers day - not sure what happened to my baby, I am loving every moment of the 'toddler' stage.

International Teams...

As many of you know I have been in Rwanda for two years and have been here with an organisation called International Teams. After ten years of travelling to Rwanda for short two week visits, International Teams has been a springboard for me to live in Rwanda long term. I will always be grateful for the training that International Teams provided before I came to Rwanda.

I have however, decided that I will not be renewing my contract with International Teams when it finishes at the end of August 2017. I will be returning to Rwanda after a short visit to Australia (not sure how long depending on Flora's situation), and I will be returning as being 'sent' from my home Church Caringbah Baptist Church.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank International Teams and my time I have spent with them.

What can you do in two weeks?

We often hear the question asked as to why we do mission trips - how can you make a difference or change a life in two short weeks? Well let me tell you about a little seven year old boy who on the outset appears to be a healthy, normal, seven year old boy. So much so, his teacher did not include him on the list of children who should go and see the Dr, when our CBC team was here in Rwanda recently. The only reason this lad went to see the Dr was because his mother was helping Dr Gary with the youngest children, the three and four year olds as an interpreter, and we wanted to bless her time in helping, so we gave all three of her children a health assessment.

Now, not being a mother of boys I had no idea that there was such a problem as 'undescended testes', neither did I know that if it was not addressed by the age of 8 that the child may be infertile. In an African culture, like Rwanda, where being able to 'produce' is of utmost importance, the thought of that not being possible brought this mother to tears standing on my driveway. She was re-telling me the story that it was only in God's plan that her boy got to see the Dr because he was healthy and he was not on the list, so she thanks God for Dr Gary for finding such a problem in her son. This was while we were waiting for the taxi to take her to the Paediatrician, who then phoned the surgeon and her son was due to have surgery Tuesday 27th June. His mother took him last night and as they say - only in Africa could this happen, they told her that she should have called the surgeon to let him know she was

Fred Graduates with a Post graduate Master's Certificate for Education Leadership.



Teacher's are moving outside of the classroom and teaching lessons where they can - this is Teacher Theogene giving a maths lesson.

The Teacher Training College is developing and yesterday they poured the slab for the second storey. You can see the school in the background.

coming, hence he wasn't there. So she has to take him back next week, call the surgeon first and then hope that he is there.

Workforce Development Authority...

Two weeks ago Fred and I met with a lady who studied in Sydney and is part of the Australian / Rwandan Alumni, she also works for the Workforce Development Authority. Fred and I presented our National Early Childhood Training Curriculum to her and she renewed our enthusiasm as she encouraged us as to how we could have it accredited and hence get the Training College up and running. She inspired me personally as she said many times, *"This is so good, Rwanda doesn't have anything like this - this will be the first teacher training course for nursery teachers in Rwanda!"* The enormity of that is only just sinking in and will become a reality when we have the accreditation papers in our hands.

Sunday School...

So I have been teaching Sunday School because Flora benefits from the class, so I need to give back - and I am actually loving teaching these little people - they are only 2 and 3 year olds but so lovely. It's the old story though, isn't it, when you suggest something - you get the job!

So, I suggested name tags so we could call the children by name, it is difficult because some are Rwandese and others are all sorts of nationalities. The other problem was we needed a laminator - well - apparently not - resourceful Keli googled how to laminate without a laminator and she learnt that you could use an iron! So that's what we did - last Thursday we spent the day 'laminating' with an iron and now our Sunday School kids have great little name tags!



Things you may not know...

Here's a few day to day things that can frustrate me no end but alas you move through it...

- My kitchen sink - the plug doesn't quite fit so you have to wash up as fast as you can before the water disappears - sounds funny but one day last week I had to fill the sink up four times and each time you have to boil the jug because there actually is no hot water in the kitchen!
- There is saw dust accumulating under my bed - I fear my bed may collapse due to white ants!
- The water saga - we only have water at night like between 11pm - 6am - when does a girl wash her hair - it will be a real treat to stand under a shower once again!
- Flora will no doubt be an electrician - I have replaced the cord to my modem four times - not sure if its her or just 'made in China' rubbish!
- When the tank water is on it's only for cold water not hot - and when you are cleaning your teeth you can't use the sink in the bathroom only the sink in the dining room - why is there a sink in the dining room I hear you ask?
- The geckos are like our family pets these days - cockroaches - not so much!
- The lounge room lights - sometimes they turn on with the right hand switch and sometimes its the left hand switch - not so sure about those electricals at all!