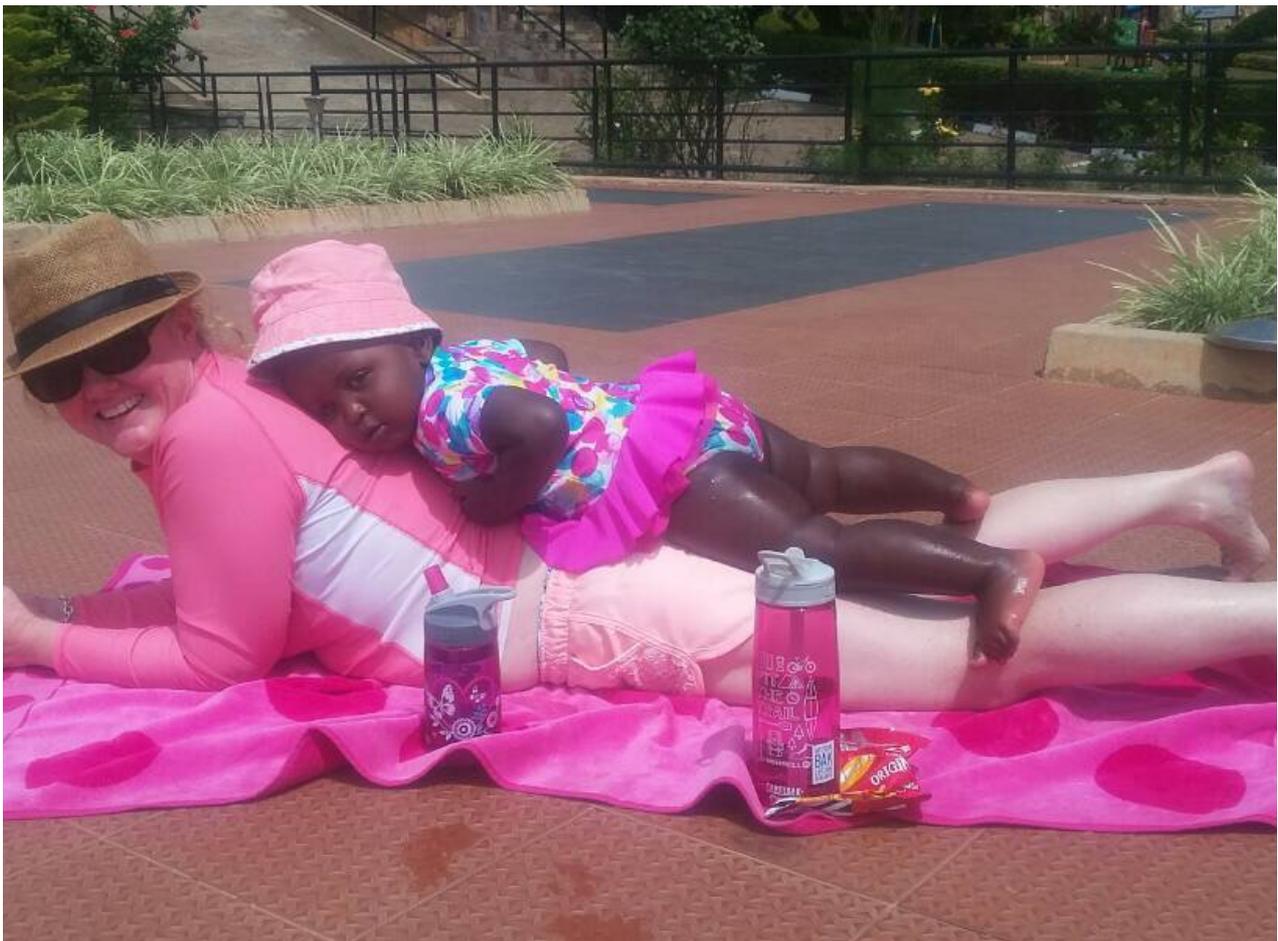

PRAYER / PRAISE POINTS

1 Peter 1:6

This brings you great joy, although you may have to suffer for a short time in various trials. Such trials show the proven character of your faith, which is much more valuable than gold - gold that is tested by fire, even though it is passing away - and will bring praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. You have not seen him, but you love him. You do not see him now but you believe in him, and so you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, because you are attaining the goal of your faith - the salvation of your souls.



She's my little 'lover' - she is not yet aware of spacial awareness or other people's personal space - she's a hugger and a lover and she is very tactile. I have been reading books about adoption and how children can feel a sense of abandonment and lack attachment - so far I think we have passed the attachment test! I do look at this photo though, and wonder how leaving her for a few weeks will affect her and our strong bond we have. I am already praying that she will not be traumatised by me leaving her in Rwanda while I travel to Australia.

Yes she is as dark as I am white and yes she is my little cuddler!

Praise Points

- My home church team came to visit in May and when you offer to take the 'obligatory' team photo - you may as well 'photo bomb it' and get yourself in there where you can - right! They were able to achieve some wonderful things while they were here, leading a Pastors Conference, installing LED lighting in the school and church, furthering skills in the sewing room and giving children medical check ups. We thank God for you CBC team!
- I did receive a reply from the Minister of Families and it was a resounding 'NO' according to the law of Rwanda. So why is that a praise point - just because it was an answer and that is what I needed - an answer. I haven't given up hope though with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- For various contacts made these past few months - meeting the Australian High Commissioner and his favourable response to all my needs for Flora. Also meeting another lady from the Australian Alumni who gave us some positive feedback re our curriculum and how to have it accredited.
- My home Church CBC, graciously, after a few months of prayer and consideration, accepted my proposal of sending me to Rwanda as a 'sent missionary'. This will be a new transition for me after August 31st and I thank God for CBC's willingness to trial this with me for the next two years, and I praise Him for my time with International Teams.



Prayer Points

- We are still waiting for a reply from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation. Mr John Feakes, The Australian High Commissioner, wrote to him a few weeks back now and asked for Flora to be granted the required letter so she could apply for an Australian Visa and hence travel to Australia. I am clinging onto this hope, although it completely breaks my heart to think she may not be allowed to travel until she is 18years old.
- For wisdom for me in decision making re when and for how long do I travel to Australia, and should Flora have to stay here what is the best option for her own (and mine) mental health during this time.
- My driver Charles has a wife who has been struggling with some mental health issues. Months back we tried to help her with a Canadian counsellor, last week she went missing for five days and Charles found her down south on Saturday. She is now admitted into a hospital - please pray that she gets the help that she needs - Charles tears up every day when he talks about her.
- My Nanny Lea is also in hospital - she has malaria - I only had a conversation last week as to why the locals get malaria when they sleep under a mosquito net. Yes they sleep under a net as we do, BUT.....we also have fly screens on our windows, we kill mosquitos with electric tennis racquets, we burn citronella and lemongrass and come 5:30pm we close the doors. Most locals live in mud houses (as Lea does), often with no windows and definitely no fly screens, there is a gap under the door, no electricity = no electric tennis racquet to kill those little mosquitos!

Flora and I pray at every meal time and every night as I put her into bed that the Foreign Affairs Minister will see favour in our story and she can one day have the freedom to travel - anywhere!

Hebrews 10:36

For you need endurance in order to do God's will and so receive what is promised.

- Rwanda has finished it's 100 days of mourning with the celebration of July 4th as Liberation Day. I have started to think there is a little girl in my life whose birth mother would have been 5 years old during the genocide and I often wonder what traumas she may have seen - horrific things that we certainly protect our most vulnerable - our children - from.
- One of my supporting churches Tuggeranong Baptist Church had their church building burn down a few Saturday's ago - pray for their congregation and all that this time of transition means for them as they 'rebuild'.
- Well it's actually July already and I need to start the onerous task of re-applying for the a two year Visa - I'm a little hesitant as my name, along with Flora's has gone to the minister for Immigration and migration - so I can only trust that it will be a smooth renewal.
- Flora and I are attending a one week missionary retreat at the end of July. Most people are camping - but we are taking the 'soft' route and staying in a house - love the idea that 'I have a baby' therefore need the house - next year I'm not so sure it will hold up! I am actually really looking forward to the time away from the every day here in Gisozi - although I am not looking forward to the 4 hour car trip with a toddler! A lot of friends from our bible study are going and I think it will be a great week for Flora to socialise with other kids. There will be a kids club running and she is used to attending Sunday school, and there will be speakers and workshops for the adults.

This is the Teacher training college - I did laugh as all the men were leaning on their shovels and the women were carrying bucket loads of cement up the wooden ladder to the second story of the college.



I am reminded of Philippians 1:3 - I thank my God every time I remember you - thank you for joining us in prayer, we truly feel blessed by knowing that we have people like you in our 'boat'. We are reassured that when we send out prayer letters we know that prayers are prayed by our family and friends right across the world. So thank you - and be assured, as soon as I hear from the Minister for Foreign affairs you will also hear what his response is - maybe after I compose myself a little!

Many blessings Michele and Flora xo