

BLACKIEONAMISSION

NEW SEASONS : NEW FREEDOMS : NEW LIFE

October 2019

The Kings College
Gisozi Rwanda

Blackieonamission

BLACKIEONAMISSION@GMAIL.COM

+250 784 444 7482

PO BOX 1288 KIGALI RWANDA

NEW SEASONS

BECAUSE OF THE LORDS GREAT LOVE WE ARE NOT
CONSUMED, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL
LAMENTATIONS 3:22

The photo of The King's College on the first page was taken back in July and I am certain without a doubt it has changed yet again. I remember standing on the empty block of land and now it is a useful building that has been used for many Vocational trainings.

I continue to meet with Fred once a month and last time we met he was excitedly telling me that he now has another two staff to work at the College as Trainers, alongside Teacher Odette who I had trained in 2007.

He mentioned that they are hoping to open the College as a Teacher Training facility in December 2019. This brings joy to my heart to hear and to know how instrumental (we) - and I say we as you my supporters and my physically being able to live in Rwanda to Pioneer the way forward for Fred's vision of The King's College to come to fruition.

I look forward to being able to send photos of the opening of the College.

BLACKIEONAMMISSION@KICS

This morning as I sent prayer requests to one of my Churches, I was reminded that in my little class of 14 grade 2 treasures, we have 10 Nationalities represented. Isn't that wonderful that these little people can not only live but grow and develop amongst the idea of a global village. We love talking about our similarities and differences on a daily basis.

Here's a few of my faux pair's - before school started I typed up the birthday calendar and went into town and paid to have it printed so my room looked a little appealing to the kids and any visitors who came in. I was quietly proud of our nice workspace. Until day .1. - when I said to one of the girls that her birthday was the first birthday in our class on the 4th of September. You see KICS (Kigali International Community School) is based around an American system so they write the date differently to us Aussies and this sweet little girl states - My birthday is not the 4th of September - its the 9th of April!!! First cross cultural faux pair!!

While giving a spelling test one of the words were 'tune' - which I said with my Australian accent and no surprise at all the kids wrote 'chewn' - when I spelt the word out loud - they said ooooh 'Toon' - but you said 'Chewn'!!!!

Day 1. Miss 7 went home and told her parents by the end of year 2 she will be speaking with an Australian accent and she is so excited and asks me nearly every week for a new 'Australian word!'

My transition to working full time in a classroom again - has been a smooth one and one which has made me realise how much I really did miss the kids - they are in my DNA and I am absolutely loving being back on the front line!

One of the biggest challenges is the ten different cultures in our classroom and therefore ten different styles of parenting and their expectations academics v's my personal worldview on where 2 Graders should be. Quarter 1. is finished, reports have been written and sent home - with no questions and this week I spent Monday / Tuesday in Student lead Parent Conferences. A bunch of white roses and some home made banana and chocolate chip muffins never go astray - needless to say we had 14 sets of happy parents and one teacher who can breath a sigh of relief - one day - how many to go!

BLACKIEONAMMISSION@HOME

The transition to our new lifestyle has been a little more difficult on the home front for my little 'Big' girl - she is bigger than most kids her own age and, me included - people have a greater expectation of her than her years permit.

In five weeks she has had three different Nanny's and while she has an effervescent and extroverted personality she loves deeply and loses deeply and she has found this time without her Mumma around a great challenge.

Why don't I put her into a preschool? Because I fear that if it is not a good experience in her fragile state that the damage will be harder to reverse than just waiting it out until her start time at KICS in August 2020.

NANNA

SHE'S PRETTY STOIC OUR NANNA - AFTER A SLIP AND A BROKEN HIP ON OUR TILED FLOOR SHE CAME BACK - ACCIDENT FREE THIS YEAR - YAY!

They share a namesake, and are born a day (and a few years) apart and they share a bond that is immeasurable - it's fair to say that Flora adores her Nanna (and Pa) and still cries at night because 'I've lost my Nanna and Pa Mum' and asks nearly every day when they are coming back.

Every day was a highlight when Nanna was here but even yesterday Flora was once again talking about the time we went to Akagera and looked at the Hippos on the boat and found the Giraffe and the Zebras and watched the crocodile slide in the water. We truly did have a great experience and I will talk about it every day if it helps her remember.

She particularly loved looking for hippo's through the guides binoculars and then when we went looking for elephants she used her own hand binoculars and neither Mum nor I had the heart to tell her otherwise!

NCC

As I mentioned in my most recent update we had a miraculous breakthrough with the National Commission for Children's Rights a few weeks back now. It truly was against all odds, because in May 2018, the NCC recommended that Flora go and live with her Grandmother in the village - which we all knew would have been suicide to this little girl. With new people in positions my Lawyer pounced and we got the result we needed. There were a lot of questions asked of us and her family, we had a home visit and so did her Grandmother.

What it all means for us now is Rwanda has officially approved and 'handed her over' into my care. Why can't we get a passport? Because we are now waiting on an International adoption, so the NCC has recommended that Flora stays with me and that FACSNSW (Family and Community Services New South Wales) will now move forward with the process for an International adoption.

As yet - we have not heard a response from FACSNSW and I am not supposed to communicate with them I have to leave it to the Governing Authorities of NCC. NCC have assured me they have emailed and DHL'ed the ten page report to FACSNSW - I'm just praying that coming from Rwanda it hasn't gone into their spam folder.

So now we sit and wait - wait for FACSNSW to receive, respond and act, and then when we know what FACSNSW response is, then we will know what are options are for Flora to travel.

It's been a long process and one that has needed exceptional patience, and perseverance, but one which I will never give up for the sake of this precious three year old girl, who by no fault of her own, lost all her rights that we take for granted.



Moto with an Umbrella

Last newsletter I mentioned that a few things about us living in Rwanda were changing and one of those things is that we (I) am now doing all my own administration - so if you are needing a receipt and I haven't sent you one - please don't hesitate to ask. I am in a new routine and I think I have receipted and emailed everyone. If on the other hand - they are just something else to fill up your inbox - please let me know and I will know you are not in need of me sending another one.

If you would like to contribute to Flora and I living in Rwanda for a little longer, please send me an email and I will let you know how you can do that.

We'd love to hear from you - please let us know how life is for you too - even the mundane is exciting for us to read about - emails seem to be a dying art - as are postage. With Christmas on its way if you'd like to send a card - our PO box is on the first page and I remember Flora's joy last year when she opened up a few Christmas cards - albeit in January!

Remember we love visitors - and have a spare room for anyone heading this way - we have a set itinerary to help enhance your visit here with us now - so do make plans - and we will help you have a special trip to remember!

Thanks again for your support of Flora and I as we continue to live with mixed feelings and blended cultures - we couldn't do it without YOU!



It's not every day you drive past a Moto with an Umbrella, it was not just any umbrella - rather it was a regular umbrella with an extension on the back for the passenger to also stay dry. But - it IS every day that you see something new and you think - wow - I will always be amazed at these peoples resilience and ingenuity!

We are blessed...

We feel incredibly blessed to have been able to buy our first car here in Rwanda - a little 20 year old RAV 4 - yes the steering wheel is on the wrong side - and yes I've often put the wipers on instead of the indicator - and maybe just once I was driving along and thought - oops I'm on the wrong side of the road!! And no Flora wont let me changed the CD - nor will she let me sing - 'Mummy can you please be quiet so I can hear the 'nice' music!!'

With increased taxi rates and one month off four years of using taxis and planning and paying for silly little trips that cost way more than what you went out for - this new found freedom has been life giving to us! Yes our little car that has no name - has been sucking some cash from me - but it's 20 years old and its been on African roads for way too long and I have replaced a whole lot of things more to keep Flora and I safe than the absolute necessary of replacements.

So to those of you who contributed to our car need - know that we love you and we couldn't be happier with our little silver bullet!

