

BLACKIE ON
A MISSION



JANUARY / FEBRUARY

== A NEW SEASON FOR SO MANY REASONS ==

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It was just a quick trip to Sydney

When you live overseas and far away from family and friends, it is always the phone call you dread. And it was that phone call I received on Thursday December 6th, to say my eldest nephew Glenn had died suddenly in his sleep from his type .1. Diabetes. It certainly hasn't been an easy time for anyone, especially my sister - his Mum. The last thing anyone wanted on the day of Glenn's funeral was to have a family photo taken, and this wasn't all of us, but a good amount with my Mum and Dad, Siblings, Nieces and Nephews and some 'Black' Cousins, and we are now all thankful we have the photos, if not under the circumstances.

Glenn died on the 6th December and I flew to Sydney on the 17th December, with his funeral on the 20th. It was certainly a bitter sweet time, for the first time in 8 years we were all together as a family, and especially for my Mum who lost her own Mother on Christmas Day back in 1974, it was a bitter sweet blessing for her to have so many of us around during the 'festive' season.

There are always people you don't get to see or catch up with when you visit home, so I apologise if I didn't get to see you this time. It truly was an unexpected family visit this time, spending as much time as possible with my family from interstate while they were in Sydney and then catching up with a few close friends over new years before flying 'home' again on January 9th.

And to be honest....

It's been a tough slog being back in Rwanda. Flora was waiting for me at the airport and gave me the biggest, longest, tightest bear hug I think I have ever had - that made me cry for three hours at the thought that she may never be allowed to travel if I can't get her documents. And then I was only 'home' for six days before I landed myself up in hospital with a bacterial infection - where did I get it from - no one knows - it could have come from the plane - or the shopping trolley I touched the day before I got sick - who knows! I thought for sure I had malaria - with every sign and symptom, went to the Dr's with a Rwandan friend who, using his Kinyarwanda asked the entire waiting room if I could skip the queue and go in first - and there I stayed for four long days!





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The King's College:-

Here are two recent photos of The King's College. As you can see in the photo below, you enter up the front steps and turn left there is a door there - just this morning I heard that is going to be my new office! The photo to my right is the inside of the College - the Teacher Training facility - complete with lighting and a projector, but alas we can't start training as yet until we have tables and chairs available for the students to use.



The King's College:-

We have been waiting to have a meeting with the Head of the Sector Office to share our vision of the College. Like everyone he seems to be a very busy man, last week he sent us the list of schools for us to approach. So our next step is to call the schools and share our vision and mission and invite them to an open day to hear more about the College and what we have to offer. When all this will happen I am not exactly sure, but we are certainly working towards it happening sooner rather than later.

We'd value your prayers:-

For the College...

- For continued progression of the College.
- For open hearts as we phone and visit preschools, inviting them to our College.
- For provision of finances so we can start.

For Flora and I...

- To stay healthy - no more hospital visits.
- For a miracle with Flora's last document from the Australian Government so she can obtain a Rwandan passport.

For our staff...

- Our guard Theogene is away for two weeks getting married in the Eastern Province.
- We have our third Nanny since October - it's been a trying time - I'm prayerful this one will work out!

Flora...

Flora is a healthy and happy little girl who has certainly found her voice - she may still be switching between two languages, english and Kinyarwanda, but she certainly has a lot to say! She turned three in November and it feels like there isn't much she doesn't know about - or miss for that matter! She will walk past people who are not smiling and say, "Mum, why are they grumpy?" When I was sick she said, "Mum we have to call Jen, and, Serg will take you to the hospital!" I dialled the number and she said, "Jen, my Mummy is sick - you take her to the hospital!" She prayed that Jesus would fix me. She has an imaginary chameleon than comes everywhere with us - but be careful not to tread on him because that can end in tears! She goes to playgroup and music each week and has recently started swimming lessons - she loves life! Her favourite book to read is her bible - the Jesus stories Mum - and we walk up the hill to go to Sunday school each Sunday. She re tells the stories like a pro - Nanna they built a tower but they loved the tower more than they loved God, so God made them not talk to each other - no they couldn't talk! She never leaves the house without her handbag, lip stick and sun glasses - no idea where she gets that from - just saying! It certainly is by no accident that she should be in my life, and as I reflect back on the early days when her sister up from her died because her Grandmother couldn't provide for her, and I was only worried about this babies brain development, I know with every thing in me, it was God ordained that she should become my daughter and me her Mother. We have an intelligent little girl with us who is full of sass and larger than life itself - God bless her!

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And the story goes...

In November, Rwanda agreed to grant a passport for Flora, as long as I could provide 17 documents all signed by a JP. While I was in Australia I was able to obtain 16 of those documents, and am now just waiting on one document from the Australian Government - I'm believing in a miracle!

Psalm 55:22

Throw your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you. He will never allow the godly to be upended.

.....but as for me, I trust in you!

I have this verse sitting on my desk as a reminder that when I start to worry about things outside of my control, I remember who IS in control and who makes ALL things happen. I know when I am weary and sick of being sick and run down, He will sustain me and together we can walk this journey together, for the glory of Him!

Thank you as always for your continued support in so many ways, we truly do value our friends and family who are there for us on the 'other end', in the good times and the trying times. Please send us some of your news and tell us how 2019 has started for you - let us know too how we can pray for you and support you from afar.

Many blessings as always,
Michele and Flora xo

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