

BLACKIEONAMMISSION@KICS

Adoption | School | Fruits of Hope Academy - Kings College

I'm tired....

I am a single Mum to a precious 5 year old, living in my non passport country, working full-time - heading up a new era of Early Childhood in Rwanda, through a global pandemic - and I'm exhausted!

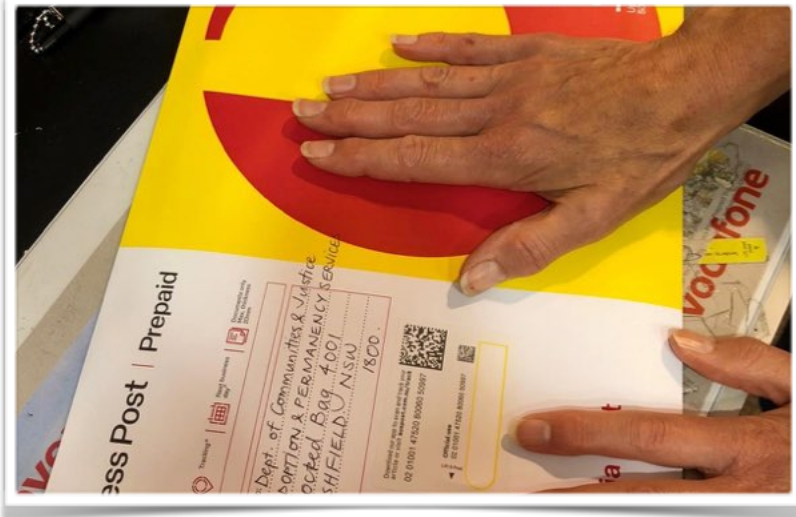
I trust that might explain a little as to the delay of this newsletter - advocating for an Intercountry adoption when Rwanda is NOT on the list for Australians to adopt from, has taken some blood sweat and tears - to say the least, but we are getting there and finally moving forward.

Covid-19

As we all know 2020 has definitely been a different year to say the least. I have to admit we thoroughly enjoyed our 13 weeks of lockdown at home together - just the two of us.

As restrictions lifted we continued to teach online and only went back in person five weeks ago. You may remember I changed positions this year and I am leading the Early Childhood Centre, at the same school, into a play based learning program. Sounds easy - nope - it's challenging, especially when cross culture comes into play on every level. I am however, enjoying being back in the saddle so to speak and watching these little ones thrive in an environment foreign to many of their parents.

Also I am teaching Flora, which I did not want to do, but now I can value how truly special it is to see her behind the scenes and watch her interact with her peers. She has been so much better at school than I ever anticipated. Poor kid - I should give her more credit!



All things adoption...

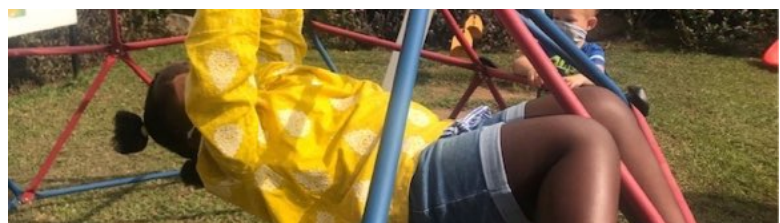
This is our sweet friends hand who graciously printed off 27 documents - some just a page or two and some many pages. She printed them, collated them, bundled them up and then prayed over them while standing in the Australia Post Office at Southgate - many of you know it well!

So now what?

It is such a long, complicated and expensive process, but I will not give up on this sweet little 5 year old girl who has already lost so many family members. She deserves to have the right to know an adoptive family and feel absolutely loved and adored.

I have been meeting with the Department of Communities and Justice at 4am to complete some required training sessions for Intercountry Adoption. We need to have another house inspection here in Rwanda as well as in Australia and we still have a few more hoops to jump through.

While my hope has been completely renewed, but, until I have documents in my hand and two plane tickets to Sydney I have to remain level headed and calm.





This was her first day of school and she was so excited...

She won't know school life without a mask for a while yet I don't think! She loves it and it's so good for her to have the first opportunity to be with peers her own age.

What has she learnt so far?

Three memory verses and how to speak with an African accent!!!

For us, Covid did not really make that much of an impact on our day to day lives. For many around us, it certainly has and we have an increasing number of people at our gate asking for food or money, almost daily.

For our dear friends Fred and Venna, it has impacted them significantly, their school was closed by the government on March 17th and was not allowed to re open until November 5th, with many modifications. You can see here that the children need to stand 1metre apart and it is compulsory to wear a face mask. They also had to install permanent hand washing stations.

During lock down the teachers were all stood down as the school did not have the funds to pay them. It brings everyone great joy to see the school reopened and we pray that this will last for a long time. The school year has changed and children were to finish their school year in November are now having to wait until July next year, so they can catch up on the work they missed out on during 8months of no face to face school.

Teacher Training College...

The night we launched the Teacher Training College was the night before lock down back in March, and with school starting up just now has been put to the side for a little while.



To the right is Mrs Mugabi who I work with at KICS and we have had some fruitful conversations about her passion of training EC Teachers. She is from Uganda and working with me this year will give her the foundations of the curriculum I have written for The Kings College and we pray that one day we will be able to do some training of Teachers together at the College. I look forward to mentoring Mrs Mugabi into this role.



God knew, long before I did that 2020 I would need to be in a different environment to continue to do His work.

It's not the same...

- ✦ Teaching through a face mask.
- ✦ Hugging your Mum virtually for her special birthday.
- ✦ Having a swim in a bucket because the pools are closed.
- ✦ Washing our hands incessantly.

✦ ***We give thanks for...***

Let me take this opportunity to combine a newsletter with a prayer letter. We had today off school to celebrate Thanksgiving - so here's what we are thankful for...

- ✦ We are thankful that we both have continued good physical and mental health.
- ✦ We are thankful that we were able to continue with online learning during the peak of COVID.
- ✦ We are thankful for the support of KICS and the whole school community.
- ✦ We are thankful for close friends in our circle in Kigali - when so many have left.
- ✦ We are thankful that our documents and paperwork are making progress so quickly.
- ✦ We are thankful that even though we cant travel, we can keep in touch virtually with so many family and friends.
- ✦ We are thankful for five wonderful years of life for this precious girl who could well have lived a very different life.

✦ ***We'd love you to pray for...***

- ✦ Wisdom to know how to support people in our community who have struggled with Covid 19.
- ✦ Energy to stay engaged in pioneering a play based preschool and mentoring others into the methodologies.
- ✦ Continued progression with Inter-country adoption paperwork.
- ✦ Enough funds to complete it, and then buy airfares to Sydney in this current season of extreme prices.



You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.
Psalm 118:28

A drop in the bucket...

If you feel you can support us financially, not to live here, but additionally to raise some of the \$30,000AUD needed to pay for an inter country adoption. Please know how much we would appreciate any contributions - as one friend said - every drop counts.

We totally understand and know first hand how Covid has affected many of us, so know, we ask with humble hearts and appreciate that your circumstances may have changed and you are not in a position to give right now. If you are, however, could you please write your name and 'Adoption' so we can first thank you as well as keep it in the correct account.

Name: Michele L Black

BSB: 062458

ACC: 10073047

God Bless - Michele and Flora xo

