



Blackieonamission@KICS

May the God of Hope fill you with all the Joy and Peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

What a Week

I know it's been a long time between chats, I have had a few people even write and say - hey what's up! I started writing this newsletter three weeks ago, and have since deleted what I last wrote. My computer was also down for two weeks not receiving or sending any emails. On Saturday evening I put Flora to bed and came out to find four people had sent the same message from the Ministry of Health stating that Rwanda had their first case of COVID-19. By Sunday morning there was to be no places of Worship to meet and by Sunday evening there was no public places to be open - so we have been self quarantined since Sunday.

On Monday I went to school and packed up the kids desks and sent resources home with them, the school provided a drive through pick up and we have been doing e learning ever since. This started as a two week quarantined situation, but now with 11 cases across Rwanda who knows how long it will last.

Late last night we received news that Rwanda was going to stop any flights in or out of Rwanda as of midnight on 20th March.

It's been a long crazy day today chatting to fellow Aussies as to do we stay or do we go. Flights have increased to \$6,000 per



PS No need to tell me this photo is on it's side - it's taken me way to long to not figure out how to change it - the photo I used was not this way - it was exactly the way it should be!



person and it just seems so unachievable for the average person.

Needless to say we are living in uncertain times, for the most part, I feel confident that we are safe, lucky that we have what we have (for now - without flights coming in we may run out of supplies fairly quickly), thankful we have friends around us and we are part of a community, sad that there seems to be so much irrational thinking amongst people in all areas of the world, calm that this too will end one day - we just have to ride the waves before we get there.

Last Tuesday we heard that flights were increasing in price, so I booked and paid for one return flight home for June / July, now we just wait and see what happens. I know I will have the opportunity at another time to use that ticket, with prices reaching \$6,000 today I may have done myself a favour to have bought it when I did.

Flora and I have had some very nice days inside, we've have picnic lunches, played hairdressers, cut up veggies, used the tool kit to 'repair' her bike, danced to music, played instruments - all while I've been teaching on line!

Head Teachers Information Night...

Last Friday night, when life felt a little 'normal', I had the privilege of returning to the Teacher Training College in Gisozi to share Fred's vision of what the training would look like.

We had 11 Head teachers come to be inspired and to learn and between them, we had 28 Teachers signed up to be in our first round of Teachers for the College. The hope was to start classes the week after memorial week in April, but under the current climate we are in, it may not be possible and the start date may be delayed for now.

It was certainly encouraging to see the banners standing up in the college that was completely finished, and to see the work I had written up as our curriculum up on the screen and discussed with eager to learn Head Teachers. And of course it's always wonderful to be under the same roof as Fred!



Flora update...

Well to be honest, I'm sad to say there really is not anything to update. It was her birthday week in November when we heard that both Australia and Rwanda have agreed that we should move forward with an International adoption which would allow her to travel with her Mum.

Unfortunately with Christmas closures and people being away sick from the office, we seem to still be at the same point. Except, now, we have COVID-19 and everything is at a standstill again, and in just a few weeks Rwanda will slow down again for their memorial week in April.

So, we continue to be patient, to trust that we can eventually both travel together and we can have options as to where we should be and when we can travel.

I've been directed today from the Australian High Commission in Nairobi to write to DFAT in Canberra to make plans, should there be an Australian evacuation from Rwanda, that she can be included in that.

We would both value your continue support and prayers re our very unique situation and circumstances, especially at this uncertain time in our world history.

Overall, she is a happy and healthy little 4 year old girl, she goes to swimming lessons and library and can't quiet work out this week why she cant attend either of those activities. Last week at swimming she swam 75metres on her own, which was three laps of the pool, she's always been my little fish.

Thank you for your support...

Thank you to those of you who have messaged us and reassured us that you continue to pray for us - your support is invaluable. We so believe in prayer and we take our peace and comfort from those prayers.

Thank you as always for your support, for those who email us and tell us their own news. We love to hear from you personally, not just read on Facebook how frustrated you are that there is no toilet paper!

For those of you who support us through your giving, we always thank you, with the dropping Aussie Dollar, we appreciate you even more and make things stretch out that little bit further.

