



We'd Value Your Prayers

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.

Ephesians 3:20

While we have been holding onto this verse for four years, and I would have to say it has been the verse that has been shared with us the most. Just yesterday as I read my daily devotion, there it was again - popped up for me as a reminder and I was able to share it with my class parents and one wrote back and said, Miss Black you made me cry!

A quick update...

Since I last wrote to you in a newsletter, we have had more stringent lockdowns in place. For the last two weeks I have not been able to have my Nanny come to work for me, even though I still pay her her full wage. The Government stopped moto's and buses and asked everyone to work from home. So I have been teaching full time, online, with incredibly frustrating wifi and internet connections, while also single parenting a precious 4 year old girl. I have used the word 'hectic' a lot to describe my days. I'm cooking, cleaning, ironing, teaching, entertaining, communicating with parents, participating in zoom calls, staying up late and getting (woken) up early - I'm exhausted!



We have had so much fun 'playing' and 'learning' at home, just Mummy and Flora. We have done sooooo many things and one of our favourite things is dramatic play, sometimes initiated by Mummy and sometimes initiated by Flora. These photos above were a game Flora was playing while I was making dinner. She was playing 'Airports' - "Mum I'm at Kigali airport with my bags and I am going to 'Straylia' to visit my Nanna and Pa because I just love them." These little suitcases are some dramatic play kits and today she used them as her luggage to 'Straylia'. Her stance is because she knows too well what it is like to be screened by security. After security she went on the plane and had a sleep and watched a movie. She gave Nanna and Pa a big air hug when she saw them in Straylia and then she handed Pa her bags and said to Nanna, "can you show me my bedroom?" It was so cute to watch and I've been praying ever since that her fantasy will one day become her reality - will you pray that for us too?

All flights in or out have ceased and the week before the last flight to Australia was announced, I wrote to the Australian High Commissioner in Nairobi, because I had breakfast with her exactly a year ago and had her business card. I was bold and asked if there was any chance of expediting Flora's paperwork - and the answer was a resounding no - so here we are in Rwanda, we have not left our gate in 21 days so far.

Praise Points...

- ✦ Spending precious amounts of time with my delightful four year old - we are secretly loving our lockdown and I can honestly say every moment spent with her nourishes my soul.
- ✦ Praise God for Theogene our guard, he plays with Flora every afternoon while I prepare dinner - so grateful for him - he wears her out on the trampoline!
- ✦ We are both in good health and Flora prays every day for the Coronavirus and we don't get sick like the other people. She also talks about when all the sick people are better Mum can we sleep at the Marriott again!
- ✦ Last Sunday we logged in and watched a live stream church service - also good for our soul.
- ✦ We have had to dig deeper into His word and we have time to do it - this also nourishes our soul.
- ✦ I have not opened any Easter eggs yet - although the lindt chocolate will be finished tomorrow.
- ✦ We have an incredible community around us with people messaging, calling in on our driveway to say hello but not entering.
- ✦ I absolutely admire the leadership of KICS school, I have never worked under such godly people who listen, discern, obey and act.
- ✦ The hectic yet slower pace of life.
- ✦ The never ending support from the parents of the children in my class - they have been incredible and stepped up like no other. I told them there was no way I could learn their roles so quickly, and teach my child and continue working full time.

- ✦ We are heading into memorial week and have a week off from school.

Prayer Points...

- ✦ We have watched three close families leave last week, three of Flora's little friends - that was hard to say goodbye to them online and not know really when they will be back. She of course doesn't fully understand all this change but my heart hurt for her.
- ✦ That our mental health will stay strong as we don't see anyone because we can't leave our gate.
- ✦ Patience and grace at home and for teaching on line.
- ✦ Working from home / life balance to be done well.
- ✦ As this continues we are looking into other options for school and what else we can offer the student - pray for understanding new forums of technology.
- ✦ With the dropping Aussie dollar that our finances will stand the test of time.
- ✦ Last Sunday the 29th March, we received news that Flora's half brother, who was 16 years old, had drowned. We are not sure if he was fishing for food, as he may have been because they live off the land and if his grandma couldn't go to work in the field because of Coronavirus he may have been looking for some food. Or the other theory was maybe he fell into some flood waters. Anyway he died last Sunday and because of lockdown, we weren't even sure if the family were able to have the burial or not. Please pray for my girl to one day understand her family history;

December 2015 - Mum deceased

April 2016 - Half sister aged 2 deceased

April 2019 - Father deported feared deceased

March 2020 - Half brother aged 16 deceased

- ✦ I have absolutely no idea how to word this one, both Australia and Rwanda have agreed that we should be eligible to apply for an inter country adoption. I have a meeting 9am Sydney time on Tuesday 7th April (1am my time, as I figured

the internet should be working well and my four year old should be sleeping), with an immigration lawyer, hoping to move forward with this whole process. I feel like this is the end of the line and should it be a 'NO' - I just don't know how I will respond to that - so I am staying positive and seeing the silver lining that while there is still some hope I will continue to advocate for my girl who deserves the same rights as any birth child.

- ♦ There are a lot of balls up in the air at the moment in a time of great uncertainty across the globe - please pray for us to stay physically healthy and mentally strong.

Thankyou...

Whether you have been in our boat from the very beginning or you have just jumped in - we thank you for your invaluable support. Like I say, life is uncertain at the moment, what I can be certain of is our faith in the One who is all knowing and all powerful.

2 Corinthians 4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Please let us know how we can pray for you and your family. Flora is a great little prayer and we have more time these days as we are home all day every day.