

July 2021

BLACKIEONAMISSION@KICS

MAY HE GRANT YOUR HEARTS DESIRES AND
MAKE ALL YOUR PLANS SUCCEED. PSALMS 20:4

FRUITS OF HOPE ACADEMY

Training Teachers / New Kitchen

IZABAYO FLORA

Best friends, Soccer star and Flower girl

Michele and Flora

SERVING IN KIGALI RWANDA AS AN EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR

WELL DONE RWANDA



AS THE WORLD HAS CHANGED AROUND US AND ALMOST ALL WE HEAR ARE VACCINE NUMBERS AND NEW CASES AND VARIANTS OF STRAINS OF COVID 19.

Being an educator and classed as a frontline worker we were very fortunate to have our first dose of Astra Zeneca well before everyone else was posting their photos on social media. In March many of Rwanda's teachers were called up and went to the stadium to have their first dose. We didn't know which vaccine we were receiving until after the shot - I was just grateful to receive something.

The stadium was a well oiled machine, so efficient and so easy to register, get jabbed, wait 20 minutes for any side effects, and then you can leave.

I was also reminded of God's goodness in how He worked before I even knew about Covid and He saw me moving from a local school to an international school. We were deemed a higher risk as more of our parents were travelling. Even when I spoke with friends in local schools they told me only the head teachers were receiving the vaccine, leaving the Principals and frontline teachers out. To be honest I am not even sure if that has changed.

12 weeks later we received the second dose and well, just let me say - the machine was not quite as well oiled!

While we are currently on school holidays, we certainly did maintain covid precautions throughout the school year. All children had to be kept 1 metre apart, wear a mask and wash their hands at various intervals throughout the day. Being in Pre K the upside of all that was that they actually didn't know any different as this was their first exposure to formal education.



Teacher Training...

Well, we had to wait for more than a year for covid restrictions to ease up a little. With many of the staff from Fruits of Hope Academy choosing to return back to their homeland or find work other than Teaching, Fred had to recruit new staff when it was time to finally open schools again. After a few weeks of work, it soon became apparent that his new staff had not been fortunate enough to have the background knowledge that his previous staff had through training sessions and visiting teams to Fruits of Hope Academy.

KICS is a partner school with FOHA and we didn't have students on a Friday so I was able to visit Fruits of Hope and train their new Nursery Teachers some child development knowledge as well as start a discussion as to what is best practise according to the knowledge they had just learnt.

It was great too because I was able to bring the other teacher I taught with at KICS who is also East African, and could explain what she had seen 'work' in how I was teaching and how it was different to how she has seen others teach.



Nursery Teacher training, small group work together. They really enjoy the day, especially hearing from my colleague and I was so happy that I was able to pass the baton onto her so to speak. This has been my desire for many years to train an East African to do the training. Someone who can relate to the culture but understand the philosophies of early childhood education.

The Kitchen...

For a long time Fred had envisaged a feeding program for the students at his school. When I was there in April it excited me to see Vena standing behind the counter and organising her staff getting ready to serve the students their lunch.

Many students go home for lunch, as Fruits of Hope has gained credibility within the community children are now coming from further away and this allows them to also have a nutritious lunch during their school days.

The staff seem to be benefiting from this also!

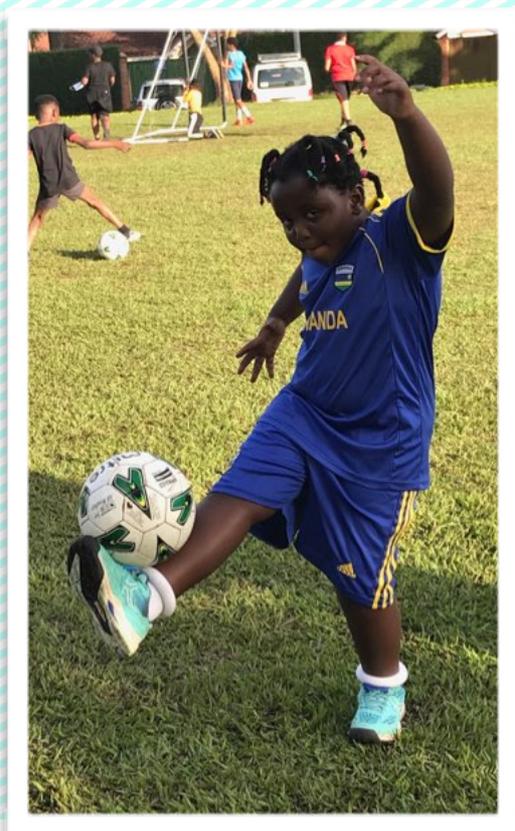
So happy for Fred to be seeing a lot of his visions come to fruition even during such an unpredictable covid season.



FLORA

I was pretty sure I didn't want to teach this girl this year when I was asked to teach Pre K - wow - how wrong I was! It was an absolute joy and blessing to watch her grow and develop and expand her little mind. It was a privilege as her Mum to stand back quietly and watch those social interactions unfold as she built volcanoes in the sandpit and looked for caterpillar eggs behind the back of the leaves. It was an honour to be there to comfort her when she was sad, or hurt or just needed a squidgy hug. So many days I just soaked it all in and each morning and afternoon as we walked down the road towards Pre K and back again I thought this will all be gone in the blink of an eye - and here we are our Pre K year together is over - and I think we still like each other!!

Flora saw this photo with her best friend Elias and said Mum, I'm supposed to be wearing a mask - certainly she was but it was the end of the school day and Elias was the last one to leave and this is just how they say goodbye every day. They have been friends their whole lives and it brought so much joy to my heart to watch them grow and learn together this past year.



BEST OF FRIENDS

Soccer...

AND... SHE LOVES TO PLAY SOCCER - SHE WALKED STRAIGHT UP TO THE COACH AND ASKED HIM WHAT HER MUM NEEDED TO KNOW FOR HER TO PLAY - I COULDN'T SAY NO TO THAT - SO SIGNED HER UP! AND SHE LOVES IT - HERE I WAS THINKING I'D BE A BALLET MUM - BUT NO - SHE PLAYS TWICE A WEEK AND SHE LOVES HER SOCCER.



FLORA THE FLOWER GIRL...

When her favourite Nanny from Canada, Naomi was getting married and asked her to be a flower girl the excitement was almost too much. Flora took her role very seriously and was a mere angel on the day, I could not have been prouder of her - she was perfect. We all stayed at the Marriott the night of the wedding and enjoyed a lot of fun in the pool together the following day. When you hear Flora's Canadian accent - this is who she gets it from - her favourite - Naomi.

TUESDAY 6TH JULY 2021

We picked up our Rwanda Passport....

After too many years of too much blood sweat and tears, today we picked up her Rwandan passport. We can't thank those of you who have prayed earnestly for us for this document - many said it wouldn't come but we never gave up hope and we just kept asking 'what next' - and here we are we have the testimony to tell and a book waiting to be written. So thank you friends - now we need borders to open up so we can fly home with this fresh new passport!

