



KICS Pre K

For as long as I have known people at KICS (Kigali International Community School), I have been aware that the Pre K was always struggling to fill positions and they would have maybe 9 children on a good year. 18 Months ago, at the beginning of a Pandemic, I was asked to take on the Pre K leadership and transform it from a 'traditional' Pre K to a 'Play based learning program'. While this excited me, to be honest there were and still are days when I think - if you can't beat them - join them. In so many ways it is so difficult to transform a generation or a culture from traditional rote learning, even with all the theories and evidence on how better off our children are through play. I am humbled to announce, however, that we currently have 26 children enrolled and as of tomorrow open our second

ESTHER 4:14 - FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS....

Pre K class room. None of this has much to do with what I have been able to do for KICS, but it certainly has everything to do with God's perfect timing and placing me in a position for 'such a time as this'. If I had not moved over to KICS when I did, during this Pandemic I'm honestly not sure what I would have been doing as the previous school I was working with closed for a whole year and trainings are still only at a minimum.

When I think about our denied Visitors Visa, I can only think that I was supposed to be here to help and see the opening of the two classrooms, when I say classrooms, it's really a whole house and a full playground! I was needed to be at KICS for 'such a time as this', as I continue to lead and grow a very young team of Early Childhood Educators in their first and third years of teaching - I've been doing it for 32 years - I know how can I even be that old - but here we are! I have thoroughly enjoyed mentoring these phenomenal educators, I even asked one of them recently - where were you twenty years ago - they are both wonderful and passionate educators. I feel very happy that Pre K is in very capable hands as well as being in such a good position at the moment.

Our 102 Adoption Visa into Australia

Seems the world has their eyes on Australian immigration at the moment, we've waited for 18 months for their borders to open up and now they have, presumably it's only natural that they will be pretty strict with allowing people in and out.

For 6 years there has been one person advocating for one child to have the same rights as any birth child. One person walked into the morgue to prove her mothers death records, one person completing copious amounts of paper work time and time and time again, one person reapplying and reapplying for documents that have expired since last time, one person sitting outside the court room for adoption hearings, one person pleading with Rwandan ministers for this little ones rights, one person getting up at 4am for trainings and zoom calls to be approved for an inter country adoption, one person writing to the Australian politicians and heck even the Australian Prime Minister in April 2019 - my list could go on and on and on and one day you'll read all about it in my book. There was one person who advocated for this girl to be the first Rwandan child adopted through inter country adoption in NSW.

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And today, after 6 long years our application for an Australian adoption Visa was lodged! Don't get too excited just yet - there is still one document we need the Rwandans to change - the compliance certificate, if / when they do it will be much more plain sailing. If they don't, we can still get to Australia, I will just have to go to court in Australia to gain full custody of Flora.

My Australia lawyer tells me that the Visa process used to take 3months, now with COVID they can take up to two years (which is why we applied for a visitors visa). My Case worker from DCJ NSW says that adoption visas take priority and it should still only be about 3 months - so we will wait and see. Apart from the paper trail in Australia, Flora will also need to have a full medical, which she will not like as she is literally terrified of needles and blood tests.

Prayer Points

- Pre K will continue to grow in numbers.
 - Pre K will continue to thrive under the phenomenal educators they currently have.
 - That the old lady at Pre K - will not grow weary, but can continue to serve the young teachers with enthusiasm and experience.
 - Our 102 Adoption Visa will arrive in Perth WA - God Speed (Currently being DHL'd from Sydney to Perth)
 - That it will fall into the right hands and all our t's have been crossed and i's dotted and it will be a clear approval.
 - The final document from Rwanda will eventually come through and we can avoid going to court in Australia.
 - When it is the right time, Flora's medical will go well without a hitch and her fear of needles will subside for the joy of entering Australia.
 - For Flora's little heart to process that 'one day' we will go to Australia and won't come back for a long time, she is currently watching some close friends leave and has questions nearly every day, especially about leaving our beloved guard Theogene - well Mum after two weeks in Australia I will come back and visit Theogene because he will be missing me.
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- That her Mumma can be the best Mumma she can be living in this state of are we going, are we staying, are we selling, are we moving nonsense.

Praise Points

- Phenomenal Pre K staff to mentor and guide.
 - Increased enrolment of Pre K kiddo's. (Today we had a little girl start and her Mum is from Sydney, Australia - so good to hear an Australian accent at the school gate!)
 - Against all odds we have come so much further than we ever thought we could come.
 - Flora is the first Intercountry adoption for NSW from Rwanda - Rwanda is NOT on the 'usual' list you are allowed to adopt from - we were approved - praise Jesus!
 - For some funky reason our plan A had to change and our plan B to get documents to Sydney worked - Omicron tried to get us down, but God has His finger on our documents and they are now well traveled papers.
 - Our lawyers are confident in all our documents and are saying we should be approved, they are just not sure of the timeline.
 - So far we have managed to pay all the extra costs of lawyers and Visa fees.
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Thank you...

Thank you as always for partnering with us, especially through prayer. We have a magnet on our fridge that says 'Prayer will get you there' - we believe it will and we thank you for joining us in praying specifically for these prayer points.

We've had different people on this journey at different times and we are thankful for each one of them.

Tonight Flora said to me, Mummy do you love Jesus in your heart - Yes I do sweet girl - yeah so do I Mum - I asked Jesus to be in my heart too like you!

For such a time as this we are living our best Pandemic waiting on Visa's life - some days we do it well and other day's we're thankful for face masks right!

Many blessings and when we hear any news we will be sure to let you know - after we've had a heart attack that it actually worked and we can visit our beloved Nanna and Pa in Sydney!

Michele and Flora xo
