



Full Custody

Hello Friends,

Thanks for always being in our boat especially with your fervent prayers. I want to share with you a quick and amazing blessing to us and then ask you to pray specifically for tomorrow afternoon.

As you know I have been teaching the three year olds and I have one little fella who warms my heart and in so many ways reminds me of my sweet Flora. As I have encouraged his Mum over the school year, who is also single parenting her little charge. I have got to know her more personally as happens as a Pre K teacher.

In January I found out that my Rwandan lawyer had gone AWOL and was currently overseas with no plan to return to Rwanda that he was willing to share. Knowing that 'Molly' the parent in my class was also a lawyer I asked her one day if she knew of any other good family lawyers. I met with her one afternoon and told her as briefly as I could my six year old story with all it's ups and downs and twists and turns. She asked someone more familiar with family law and together they looked up the Article 295: Grounds for full adoption Act.

As for God, His way is perfect; the way of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him.

Psalm 18:30

Why did she look this up, because if Rwanda will tick the box that allows me to have full custody, Flora will automatically receive Australian Citizenship and an Australian Passport and to date Rwanda are refusing to give full custody to me as Flora still has a living Grandmother and some aunties / uncles whom she has never met.

What Molly has discovered is that the Act actually states;

- The child's parents are unknown or have abandoned her as declared by the court.

Molly is suggesting that the law states 'Parent's' not the extended family. So tomorrow at 3:30pm Rwanda time, Molly has a face to face meeting with Nadine at the NCDA (National Child Development Authority) and says she feels strongly that we should be able to go to court and receive a declaration and then have the NCDA approve full custody of Flora.

I know with all that is going on in the world at the moment our needs are teeny, but we would love to ask you to pray especially for Molly as she meets with Nadine that her words and thoughts and her patience all come across clearly and she can articulate our needs well. Also pray for Nadine that her heart will be softened to see the needs for Flora and her attachment to her (white) Mumma and how important this document will be for the future for Flora. My understanding is to gain clarity from NCDA if they would approve the full custody should we receive a court order, and then we apply for a court order. Which is what my Australian lawyer asked for, but it did not develop any further on the Rwandan side.

Time zones; Rwanda 3:30pm = Sydney 12:30am = Perth 21:30pm =
Pennsylvania 8:30am = Vancouver 5:30am I think that covers most of where
y'all are from!

I feel very blessed to have Molly on our side, she has taken the bull by the horns
so to speak and I am eternally grateful for her role in our story - in one of my
most recent newsletters I mentioned 'for such a time as this', and God continues
to demonstrate His faithfulness to me by sending Molly through her pint size
three year old in my class.

One day we will have an amazing testimony to tell and it will all be thanks to
people like you who have always been alongside us and prayed for us.

Many blessings Michele and Flora.

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