



# LOOK TO THE HILLS

PETER & CATHERINE GITAU

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We had grand plans of sending out a post-Forma'Camp newsletter, but life hit us in a big way & time has flown so fast it's now 2 weeks since camp finished. We came back to Kigali on the 30<sup>th</sup> July and Catherine began work at KICS on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, cleaning & organising the classroom & completing some orientation & professional development. We all headed out of town (again!) for the KICS staff retreat for a few days from the 6<sup>th</sup> & on the 13<sup>th</sup> had a "Meet & Greet" – a chance for all students, & their families, to meet their teachers for this year. School will start for all students on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

Pete has spent the last 2 weeks hanging out with the kids & preparing for the African Christian Camping (ACC) conference which is coming up in September, where he will be one of the speakers/facilitators.

The kids have greatly appreciated being back at home, having their own space & being in their own beds. They were also glad to be reunited with Harriet (the feeling seemed mutual)! They have especially enjoyed attending a 4-day 'Kids Extravaganza' at a near-by church.

Life has suddenly become very full & busy – it's been a shock to the system for all of us to go from a fairly easy schedule with usually quiet days, to jam-packed days. The biggest adjustment is the early mornings – we will have to leave for school by about 7am to start at 8!

### Philippians 4:8

"Finally brothers & sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things."

Fun fact: For those who are wondering - 'Forma' is short for 'formation', the French word for training.

### Praise God:

- For a fantastic experience at Forma'Camp, for safety, challenged hearts & impacted lives
- For those who committed to praying for Camp – your prayers were answered & appreciated
- For the continued generosity of so many people in contributing to our car fund & our general support

### Please continue to pray:

- For our language learning

### Please pray:

- That Catherine, Makena & Keama would settle into school routine quickly, for good time-management for Catherine & that Makena would enjoy school
- For Pete as he navigates his now official position & figures out exactly what it entails!
- That Pete would have wisdom to know what to share at the ACC Conference & that it would be an opportunity to network & build relationships
- For safety & patience as we rely on public transport to get around for the next couple of months



## RWANDA RWANDERINGS ...

The KICS staff retreat was held in Kibuye, on the shores of Lake Kivu (the same lake we visited in June, the biggest in Rwanda), about a 3-hour drive from Kigali (on great roads!). There really are no words to describe the beauty of that part of the lake. We enjoyed swimming & taking a boat ride to one of the islands; it was an incredible place which we are keen to visit again.



An evening boat ride on Lake Kivu.

The last 6 months have been a challenge – having the kids at home for the majority of that time, struggling through the process of language learning (& the realisation that it is just the beginning of a very long road), the challenges of constantly stretching the budget thanks to the fluctuating Aussie dollar, the frustrations of shopping – not being able to find what you need, or paying way more than is reasonable, or having to visit 7 shops just to get the basics. It would be so easy to complain & grumble about it all (& really, we probably do grumble & complain far too much), but we have been challenged by the verses in Philippians to dwell on the positives – to look for what is pure & lovely & praiseworthy. And really, there is so much of that to dwell on once we make the choice; having 6 months to bond as a family is not an opportunity that everyone gets, visiting 7 shops means being known by 7 sets of locals, 7 opportunities to practice language. Creative budgeting reminds us to praise God for His provision on a daily basis. So as we head into these next few months of adjustment & change, we will choose to dwell on the positives. Will you join us in thinking about such things?

Peter & Catharine



Pete with his group of campers.

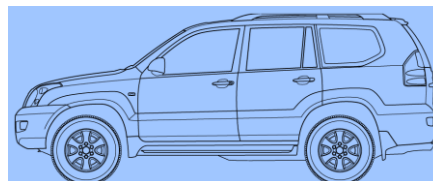
Campfire night, & a camp first – cooking damper on a stick!



## FAQ...

### ~ What's happening with the car?

It's SUPER exciting (& positive!) to be able to say that we have officially informed our teammates that we will be buying the car off them. We made the decision when we knew we had about 73% of what we needed. Just in the last 2 weeks, through the hard work of our amazingly supportive Bible Study group from Nowra Baptist Church (who dreamed-up a *Meals for Wheels* fundraiser – thanks guys), & the generosity of some amazing friends who covered the shortfall, we have the \$30 000 we need. Unfortunately the drop in the Aussie dollar has meant that amount converted to US dollars is less than we needed to give our teammates, but their generosity has meant that they will accept what we have raised. If you would like to continue to contribute toward the car, it's not too late. We can use your donation to cover some of that conversion loss - we'd love to be able to do that for our teammates.



**100%**  
**MURAKOZE**  
**CANYE!**  
(‘Thank you very much’  
in Kinyarwanda)