



LOOK TO THE HILLS

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Where does time go?

It seems like we were just getting ready for Christmas and now January is gone and we're almost half way through February – it's gone in the blink of an eye!

We had an awesome time with our very good friends who came to stay at the end of November – it was great to be able to show them around the city and a little bit of the country, we even got to take them to camp for a night as the leadership team were setting things up and getting the campsite ready for the arrival of more than 70 teens (more about camp over the page). Pete spent the first week and a half of December at camp while the kids and I moved house. Our lease was up on 'the big house' and we moved into a smaller place that we have been able to personalise, and so it feels much more like home.

Christmas was quiet. We made some of our traditional, family preparations – baking biscuits, decorating a tree, we even made our own Christmas Beetles! Christmas day we went to church and then enjoyed lunch and a lazy afternoon with a friend.

We only had a couple of weeks off from school, which was a little strange, then got straight back into it. I can count on one hand the number of times I've had to teach on my birthday – this year it was the first day back at school but Pete and the kids treated me to lunch at a local Japanese/Korean restaurant.

We enjoyed extended Australia Day celebrations – spending the Saturday before with our team on an island eating lamingtons and fairy bread. Australia Day was a normal work day but the kids and I wore our Aussie clothes and I did some Australian activities with my class. The Saturday after we had around 40 people over at our place and we made our own burgers with 'the lot' and ate more lamingtons and pavlova!

Fun fact: We found out the hard way that banks here won't accept any US notes less than \$100!

Luke 15: 10

Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Praise God:

- For an AMAZING teens camp
- For continued safety on the roads as we travelled with our friends, but also as we travel around on a day-to-day basis
- For the encouragement of friends who come to visit

Please continue to pray:

- For opportunities to build friendships with local people
- For our language learning

Please pray:

- For wisdom as Pete seeks to grow the ministry and do some training in outdoor education
- That Pete would have wisdom and build strong connections with the young people he disciples
- For stamina and energy to get through the next few months of school – it's been a long first semester and both the kids and I are exhausted at the end of each day



RWANDA RWANDERINGS ...

Sometimes we see people carrying some cool stuff on their heads:

A fully decorated Christmas tree, a water tank, an impressive stack of mattresses!



All in all it's been a busy couple of months as we've settled into the new house and adjusted our routines to match the new location. We hope you had a joyful and relaxing Christmas season and wish you many blessings in this New Year.

Peter &
Catherine

AN UPDATE FROM THE KIDS...

MAKENA

What has been the best thing about living in Rwanda for the past year?

Ummmmm...learning to play soccer and the lollies – the caramel ones. And the frozen yoghurt place.

What have you found the hardest living here?

Missing my Australian friends, and all the hills. Walking up the hill from the shop.

What would you like to happen in the next year we are here?

To find maths and spelling easier and be better at them.



Why did you choose this picture?

This is Sebastian. He was my pet chameleon! He is cute and I like him.

KEAMA

What is the best thing about living in Rwanda?

Wednesday doughnuts! Yep. Doughnuts.

What don't you like about Rwanda.

Traffic. And school. And traffic going to school.

[Ed – he actually enjoys being at school and often doesn't want to come home, so not sure what that's about!]



Why did you choose this picture?

It's Lake Kivu. There are good rocks to stand on when you swim.

TEENS CAMP 2015 UPDATE from Peter

Teens Camp 2015 was a blessing as we've not seen before.

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?" ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[s]?"

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?" ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Months before each camp, we spend time seeking God – to provide for our camp needs; money, campers, leaders, safety, camp parents etc. We worry more about the money and leaders. Money mostly. Because what we charge the campers is only about a fifth of what we need to run camp. Most of them struggle finding that one fifth. So we worry. Only for Teens Camp 2015 we did not have to worry much. We listed down what we needed and asked God to provide. And (no surprise), He came through. The money came through (donations), we had more kids than we could find beds for (75 kids), we were two leaders short but the ones we had were awesome and everything – teachings, devotions, activities, catering, transport and relationships – everything went so smoothly, we can only attribute it to God.

We had a great mix of campers, from city kids who 'have seen it all' to village kids who've never been to the city. Public school and private school. Rich and poor. Committed Christians and those who are not sure of their salvation. And everything in between.

One blessing that really stood out was that we had a young man who was deaf and we took him even though we had no one to do sign language. We were told he could read and write English so we figured one of our leaders could communicate with him through writing, as painfully slow as that was going to be. But God provided. One of the teenage girls who came to camp could communicate with sign language! She'd learned it because she had a deaf neighbour. We did not know that but yet here was someone God provided to take care of our worry that the young man would miss out on a lot.



And of course we were, and still are, grateful for the 35 young people who committed or recommitted their lives to Jesus during those nine days of camp. The angels were surely rejoicing in heaven (Luke 15: 10).

What a lesson we have learnt and what joy in seeing God faithful when He says *'but seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'*