

Look to the Hills

PETER & CATHERINE GITAU

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The last month has absolutely flown by. We had plans to have a post-camp update out a couple of weeks ago but to say life took off after camp is a bit of an understatement. The kids and I returned to Kigali before camp finished because school was due to start. About a week into school a small, but very cute distraction arrived at our place in the form of Flora, the almost 2 year old adopted daughter of our friend Michele.



Michele had to go on home assignment back to Australia but unfortunately wasn't able to secure travel documents for Flora. We have enjoyed having Flora as part of our family while her mum is away. Amidst all of that Pete went to Kenya for the annual Africa Christian Camping Conference, where once again he was one of the facilitators. We are settling into something of a routine now that school has been back a month and the kids are back to swimming squad, football training/games (Keama), and Bollywood dance classes (Makena)!

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Forma'Camp 2017 - so many answered prayers, so many ways that God healed, challenged and grew the hearts of both our campers and our staff. We ended up with a total of 36 campers and around 24 staff. Peter and I were a bit more involved in the teaching this year, and because camp felt a bit less frantic and busy, we had time to sit and get to know people a little more over the 10 days of camp. Our campers seemed to be a slightly older group, some with more mature faith, so there was a very different

Fun fact: From Keama – When we want to swim we go to a hotel and pay to use the pool!

Psalm 103:6

The Lord works righteousness and justice
for all the oppressed.

Zaburi 103:6

Uhoraho akora ibitunganye, arenganura
abakandamizwa bose.

Praise God:

- For answered prayer at Forma'Camp
- That language learning is going well so far.
- That we all seem to have settled back into life here smoothly and well.

Please pray:

- For our friend Michele and little Flora; that the recent changes in adoption laws here would be favourable for them in securing travel documents and visas for Flora.
- For wisdom for Pete as he decides which campers to mentor and disciple this year, and the best way to go about this.
- For Kelsey, one of the Kinder teachers at KICS who was involved in a serious car accident – pray that she would heal quickly and completely – both physically and emotionally.
- For continued enthusiasm and commitment to language learning.
- For safety on the roads.
- For opportunity and wisdom in building relationships at church.

RWANDA RWANDERINGS...

The extent of our travel the last couple of months, aside from a team trip to Musanze for a weekend, has been out to camp. We got to explore a bit more of the camp community during Forma'Camp when we made mud bricks for a lady living out there.



'vibe' around the place. It has been really encouraging to see the way some of our leaders (counsellors) have a desire to continue nurturing relationships with their small group of campers and are staying in touch, meeting with them and encouraging them. One of the most encouraging stories from camp was that of a young man called Christian who has what can only be described as a 'troubled past'. He was invited to camp by this year's camp director. Christian was unemployed, living in quite a dodgy part of town and, in talking to him, you got the overwhelming feeling he had little hope and just wanted to escape. As a result of coming to camp and the nurturing new relationships, Christian has now moved into a much nicer part of town and is living with 2 strong Christian men (the children's pastor, who was also a camper at Forma'Camp, and the senior pastor of the church we have begun attending, in fact!). His camp leader is continuing to meet with him every week to read the Bible and pray together and he is actively looking for work. A group of 17 leaders and campers also went to visit him and follow up with him recently. It is so exciting to see the way God uses camp to impact lives – sometimes in ways we never imagined.

Family

The kids have settled really well back into school and life here. They are both glad to be back at school, enjoying their new classes, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. As mentioned earlier, both of the kids have jumped straight back into after-school activities with much enthusiasm, which makes the homework routine a challenge some days. But it's great to see them getting involved in different activities, building skills and doing what they enjoy.

We shared with many of you while on home assignment our struggle in finding a church community to call home. Since we've been back we've been attending a new church - somewhat sporadically, and while we love the welcoming and friendly congregation, and appreciate the teaching and simplicity of the worship, it's been a hard transition on the kids and not what we'd hoped it would be for them. Please pray with us as we make decisions about how best to do church as a family.

I (Catherine) jumped straight back into Kinyarwanda lessons when we got back – meeting with Juliette (my language helper) 3 days a week, I also enrolled in an 8 week beginners' Kinyarwanda course and was pleasantly surprised to discover I remembered and know a lot more than I was giving myself credit for. I plan on continuing with Juliette but I'm also looking for new ways to practise and use Kinyarwanda. One of those ways is helping the Kinyarwanda teacher at KICS to write a curriculum for the primary classes. So far it's going well, I can honestly say it's even fun!

I've also enjoyed setting up 2 play therapy spaces – one at KICS and the other at Live Again Rwanda, where I do 14 hours of voluntary sessions a week. I'm loving the opportunity to use what I'm passionate about and I am praying it will be a valuable and healing experience for all of the children I'm working with. Last week I also offered to cover as much as I can in the Kinder Class at KICS while their teacher is away (see prayer box). Please pray for this as it's quite a juggle for me. But more than that please pray for Kelsey, the Kinder class and the school community as her accident has hit everyone quite hard.

In times like this we are so grateful for your prayers and know that they carry us far more than we realise.

*Peter &
Catherine*

We thought we'd add a new feature to future newsletters, and share some of the joy that is learning Kinyarwanda.

Welcome to **The Language Box!** Today's lesson – Pronunciation 101!

To speak/read/write Kinya there are some basic sounds you need to know. Unlike in English, the vowels always stay the same: **a** as in arm **e** as in elephant **i** is more like the 'ee' in teeth **o** as in pot **u** as in chute

Then there are some sounds that are completely unique:

'**ry**' says something similar to 'dj' (j as in jar), but 'j' is like the French 'j', more of a 'zh' sound '**nt**' is more like 'nh' but use your nose to say it! '**mw**' is 'mng' (ng like in sing) but with other consonants followed by a 'w', like '**rw**', '**bw**', '**zw**', you have to put a 'g' (as in girl) in the middle so '**rw**' becomes '**rgw**' etc.

'**ki**' is pronounced with something like a 'ch' and 'i', as in chin, without the n, and '**cu**' is like chew!

Have a go at pronouncing these words: Kicukiro (where we live) mwaramutse (good morning)

ntakibazo (no problem) ijoro ryiza (good night) Imana ishimwe (Praise God)