



# LOOK TO THE HILLS

PETER & CATHERINE GITAU

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## ***Sending Christmas Greetings from***

*the other side of the world! The last few weeks have been a whirlwind as we have pushed to finish Bible College subjects, visit the last few churches & Bible study groups & pack up the house. Our belongings for the next few years are packed into 4 bags and 4 boxes - that's a difficult process, deciding what comes with us, what stays and what goes. Not an experience we would gladly participate in again any time soon. Packing up the house was far more time consuming and difficult than we thought it would be. We were so appreciative of, & blessed by, family & friends who came to help pack-up, cull & move & clean the house for us. We had a tearful goodbye with family at the airport on Dec 11 & have been enjoying the sights and sounds of the USA since. We are enjoying time with Pete's family in Texas at the moment, & will travel on to see some friends & supporters in Florida, Germany & Switzerland over the next few weeks before arriving in Kenya for Africa Based Orientation in January.*

*Fun Fact: Plastic bags are illegal in Rwanda, if you bring them in they will be confiscated by customs!*

### **Luke 2:10b-11**

*I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. " Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

## **Praise God:**

- *Our support is at 100% - thank you to all who have committed to supporting us long term, as well as those who have made one-off donations.*
- *For His care and concern for all things great & small, including lost passports, & for finding said passports!*
- *For the opportunity to catch up with friends & family as we make our way to Rwanda - the long way!*
- *For incredible friends & family who offered so much support in the weeks before we left Australia.*

## **Please pray:**

- *For safety, energy & smooth transitions as we navigate airports, train stations, accommodation & countries over the next few weeks.*
- *That the kids would cope with the upheaval of travel.*



Settle in our own place in Kigali, language learning, Pete starts work

Inbound Orientation: living with a Rwandan family

3 weeks Africa Based Orientation (in Kenya)

Home Based Orientation

Building support team, working on theological requirements

Official Interviews, medicals etc

Initial application

## RWANDA RWONDERINGS ...

*Makena - Will we get a pet?*

*Keama - When will we get there?*

*Catherine - What will Christmas be like in Rwanda?*

*Peter - How are we going to go with driving on the other side of the road?*



*A family photo on Huntington Beach Pier, California. It was a bit of a grey day.*

*As we celebrate Christmas we thank you for your support & generosity that has enabled us to proceed with plans. We pray that your Christmas is a time of love & laughter as you remember the birth of our Saviour & we pray you are greatly blessed in the New Year.*

*Peter & Catherine*



## FAQ...

*~ Now you're at 100% what happens?*

*Having 100% support means that we are able to travel with the peace of mind of knowing that we have the full budget needed to set-up a home & cover the day-to-day costs of living in Rwanda. Our support won't start being paid until we arrive in Kenya for orientation. Even though our support is at 100%, we can continue to accept contributions, which will accrue in our AIM account. This will help if people need to stop supporting us due to changed circumstances & will also give us an additional buffer for currency fluctuations. People may also prefer to redirect new giving to our vehicle fund (see below). Being made redundant is not something that I (Catherine) would have thought I could say I'm grateful for, but that is what has paid for this trip to visit family, supporters & friends in the US & Germany. The trip to Switzerland is to meet & talk with the couple who started the camp in Rwanda, it is such an exciting & valuable opportunity.*

*~ Do you have a place to live in Rwanda yet?*

*Not yet, but our team in Rwanda are looking for a place for us. We've decided to try & house-sit for the first few months while we complete Inbound Orientation, so that we can work out which part of town will suit us best & exactly what we need in a house.*

*~ What's happening about a vehicle?*

*Getting a vehicle is important, & after consulting with the team, not something that we can put off for long after our arrival. We've heard about a vehicle that is available & seems suitable, but we are waiting to get more details & may even wait until we get to Rwanda to see it before we make a final decision. It will cost US\$20 000, plus anything needed for servicing/replacement parts. Financial contributions can be made toward a vehicle fund for us, & will be gratefully received - they can be sent through AIM but need to be designated as "Gitau vehicle fund".*

*Please pray for wisdom for us as we make these big decisions about a new home and a vehicle.*

The Timeline...