



LOOK TO THE HILLS

PETER & CATHERINE GITAU

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We've been in Kigali for a little over a month now. Time has flown by - we are living in a beautiful house, with incredible views over the city, & we have been made to feel so welcome by the whole AIM team in Rwanda. We started our time here, after the intensity of ABO, with a week to settle & find our feet. After 2½ months of living out of suitcases and mostly in the same room, it was lovely, though somewhat discombobulating (I've ALWAYS wanted to use that word!), to have so much space. On seeing his room the first day, Keama asked, "Do I have to sleep by myself?!" Our second week here we started language lessons, with 6 days of intensive language orientation & coaching. As there are no language schools in Rwanda, we are using the LAMP (Language Acquisition Made Practical) method - a self-directed method that encourages language learning through building relationships. We each have a language helper who comes 3 days a week for a couple of hours to help us learn useful phrases & ensure that our pronunciation is right, the rest

Language fun: There are some interesting sounds in Kinya, such as 'ryo' & 'mw', which sound nothing like they look!

Praise God:

- For continued answer to prayer - we have a lovely house to live in until December, ABO was fantastic, we have been safe in travel & our Rwandan visas were approved within a week!

Please pray:

- For our language learning - Kinyarwanda is proving to be as difficult as we'd been warned, it SEEMS like we are making very little progress. Please pray that we are patient with ourselves & disciplined in our practice.
- For wisdom to know how best to occupy/cater for the kids as we make decisions about schooling.
- That we would recognise & utilise opportunities to build relationships with locals & not fall into the ease of the 'ex-pat bubble'.
- For stability in the exchange rate & wise budgeting - our financial support is being impacted by the decline in the Aussie dollar.

Proverbs 2:6-8

For the Lord grants wisdom, from His mouth come knowledge & understanding. He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest, He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. He guards the paths of the just & protects those who are faithful to Him.



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

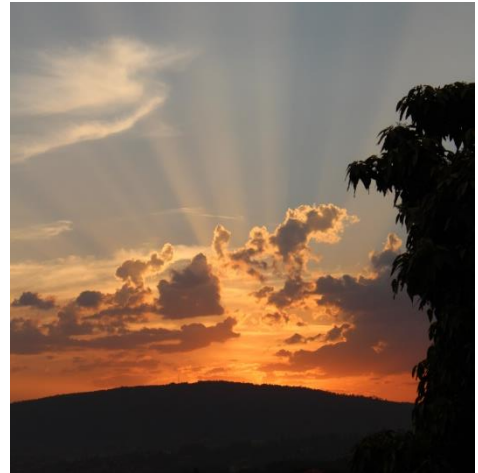
Initial application

The Timeline...

RWANDA RWANDERINGS ...

Now that we are here, & not wondering quite so much, we thought we'd share some of our wanderings with you!

To date we've stuck mainly to the city, & our community, but we did take the opportunity when we had been loaned a vehicle for a bit, to get out of town & we headed south to the town of Butare (or Huye).



The beauty of a sunset from our verandah.

of the time we are practicing & going out & about in the community using what we have learned. Already we have seen the positive impact that being able to greet people, or having a short (at this stage, VERY short!) conversation with them in their language has. Given that language learning is so important, our main 'job' for the next 6 months will be just that. We will be part of the camping ministry, but more in an observational/learning role. Pete won't begin in his position formally until around August.

As yet we haven't done our homestay, it is still being thought through & organised. Now that we have a little bit of language under our belts, we are looking forward to the opportunity, when it comes, to get to know a local family & be able to communicate, at least a little, with them.

Thank you for joining us in this journey - without you we wouldn't be here.

Peter & Catherine

FAQ...

~ What's it like living in Rwanda?

That's such a hard question to answer in a sentence or 2! It's different to both Australia & Kenya. At the moment the weather is hot & a bit humid, but we have rain or storms most afternoons which cools things down. It's very green & neat & tidy with well-maintained green spaces & roads throughout the city.

~ What's happening with the kids & school?

The process of getting the kids into school hasn't been as straight forward as we expected. Please pray with us as we decide what is best for the kids.



Language learning time - Peter with his helper David, the kids with Juliette, Catherine also with Juliette.