



# Look to the Hills

PETER & CATHERINE GITAU

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Camp Edition No 7  
KICS Camps

**Greeting from unusually wet Kigali! We've enjoyed** the unexpected rain, though not so much the inevitable mud that comes with it, nor the mosquitoes. It has been nice that it's not as hot, dry and dusty as it usually is this time of year though. January seems to have become KICS camp month – as it was last year (though this time last year we were back home in Australia – can you believe it?). Pete jumped straight back into gear after our Christmas break, organising and running 8 days of a 12 day 'Outdoor Adventure' program for KICS middle school students. He worked with some other KICS staff to facilitate an unprecedented experience for 35 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders which included hiking, canoeing, low ropes and other survival and team building skills.



*A pre-hike meeting – KICS Outdoor Adventure*

2 days after he finished with the Outdoor Adventure program, Pete began prepping for and then ran a 3 night camp program for KICS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, at the 3DCC campsite. The camp was the culminating activity for a 2 week program focussing on leadership skills. By all accounts it was a fantastic experience, and with Makena going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade next school year, plans are already underway for next year!

**Fun fact:** Most of the kids involved in the Outdoor Adventure program had never slept a tent before.

### 1 Corinthians 2:9

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."

#### Praise God:

- For three very different, but equally exciting camps
- For sustained energy and enthusiasm for Pete these last 2 months
- For the excellent team of people from the 3DCC Committee who were willing to help Pete with the KICS camps
- For a fantastic Christmas break for us as a family
- That we made it through 2017 with full financial support

#### Please pray:

- For wisdom to know the best way to follow-up with Teens Campers, and that those who gave their lives to Christ would grow in faith
- For Pete as he travels to Kenya for the next couple of weeks for AIM leadership meetings
- For the kids as they navigate the sometimes stormy waters of friendships and peer dynamics
- For wisdom for Catherine as she puts together a therapeutic program for some vulnerable women and their kids
- For a new house that would meet our needs and fit our budget

## RWANDA RWANDERINGS...

Having a visitor is always a good excuse to explore. We had a great time exploring Nyungwe Rainforest with a very good friend who visited in January. We experienced the 'Canopy Walk' (scary/awesome/excellent – depending on who you ask!), and enjoyed seeing some more of this beautiful country.



### Teens Camp

Teens camp seems like so long ago, but we do need to thank you for all of your prayers. We were definitely carried during this camp. Health was a big issue, with a couple of campers arriving already sick (with malaria) and a couple of others who had stomach upsets. Tummy issues are pretty run-of-the-mill at camp, with campers eating foods they may not be used to, and some eating more than they should, but for a couple of campers it was a bit more than that and a couple of clinic runs ensued. Even Pete was not immune and had to come back into Kigali to seek treatment for severe muscle spasms which left him unable to lie down, turn his head or move his arm. Thankfully nothing was too serious, and though 1 camper had to be sent home, the rest of the camp went without a hitch and 22 campers made the decision to give their lives to Christ. Please keep those campers in your prayers. Many of them go to boarding schools spread throughout the country which makes follow-up and discipling them incredibly tricky.

### Play Therapy

I am getting quite busy in my 'part time' play therapy work. I am continuing this semester at KICS with 10 kids. I've also been asked to run a program for a local organisation that works with vulnerable women, to help them form positive emotional relationships with their children. In addition they have asked me to assist them in providing a more therapeutically focussed child care program for some of those children. It's a rather daunting undertaking which I'm feeling a little nervous about. I have all of February to prepare and the hope is to start in March. In addition I have offered to help the children's pastor and Sunday School team at Gospel Community Church with some training in working with the traumatised kids who come to Sunday School from a nearby slum.

### Family

Things are going well at home. However we have decided that it would be best for us as a family to move house, so we are currently traveling the not so clear waters of house hunting, new contracts and (hopefully soon) actually moving. The kids are getting back into the swing of things after the Christmas break, but there have been some tricky friendship/peer experiences for Makena recently which have been tough for her. Please pray for wisdom and courage for her as she makes decisions and stands up for what is right and true. Pete and I have also decided to go back to school! Pete will start a Masters of Ministry through Melbourne School of Theology, and I am hoping to get a School Counsellors qualification and will do a couple of prerequisite Psychology subjects this semester. Needless to say, it's the beginning of a very busy season. We appreciate your prayers, support and encouragement and wish you a year full of His richest blessings.



Pete & Catherine

Photos L - R:  
Teens Camp activity,  
KICS Middle School  
canoeing,  
KICS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade 'Fun  
Night' game