

Look to the hills



The view of the hills across the valley from our house, in Kibagabaga, Kigali. The only view we are going to see for a while!

Some highlights:

- Quarantine
- KICS Learning Continues
- Government notices
- Budget hits

***“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity and fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
~ 2 Timothy 1:7***

The COVID19 edition...

It turns out that even Rwanda isn't immune from the COVID19 pandemic. The first case in-country was confirmed Saturday a week ago (14th). The general feeling in the community was that the government would take some fairly swift measures to contain the spread of the virus, and sure enough, within hours, churches,

schools, conferences, sporting events and large meetings were cancelled and people were being encouraged to practice social distancing. On March 20th all flights in and out of Rwanda were suspended for 30 days, and last night we were informed that we are now under full quarantine.

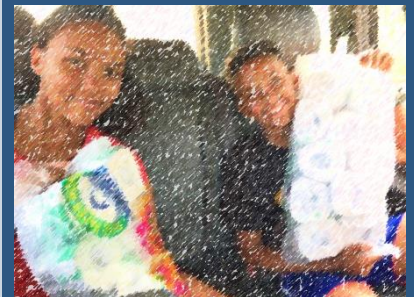
What does that mean for us?

For at least the next 2 weeks all non-essential movement outside of our home is not permitted. In practical terms, that means we can go for food supplies or medical treatment if needed, but that's it.

On Saturday (21st) we had 17 confirmed cases of COVID19 in-country, all but one are people who have travelled into Rwanda from elsewhere. If we respect the quarantine, the chances of us contracting the virus are minimal. Given the high numbers of people in Rwanda who are considered at risk due to HIV infection, diabetes, and lowered immune systems that are a result of poor nutrition and

limited access to clean water, we are so glad the government has taken such a hard stance in order to keep the people of Rwanda safe. We pray for the protection of Rwanda.

While it's hard not to worry at least a little, we trust God in this, we will follow the direction to stay at home and we are confident we will be ok. We have about 3 weeks to a month's supply of food; we can renew internet, electricity and pay for water with mobile money from home. We'll continue to juggle the kids' school from home, as well as our own study, and so life will go on as normally as possible.



Even we were not immune from the toilet paper purchasing that has taken the world by storm!

Frequently asked questions

What will happen with camp?

At this stage we are planning to run Forma' Camp in July as usual; however it will completely depend on the situation with COVID19 and whether government restrictions have been lifted.

Unfortunately the hoped-for Easter Camp has been cancelled and another group that was hiring the campsite has also cancelled (meaning we lose valuable income for future camps).

Are you guys safe?

Yes, completely!

What is the biggest concern?

Right now it's finances. The economic impact of COVID19 is really messing around with the exchange rate which makes meeting our monthly budget difficult. The AIM Australia office are looking for solutions, but really there's not a lot they can do. We trust that God will remain faithful, and thank you for your partnership in ministry with us at this time.

Thank you for your prayers and your encouragement,

Catherine, Peter
Makena & Keama

Praise God:

~ for a proactive government that is doing its best to care for the people of Rwanda

~ for His sovereignty in this situation

~ that we have the means to be able to stay home during this quarantine

~ we have a team for the kids program at Kumbya.....let's hope Kumbya can go ahead as planned!

Please continue to pray:

~ for Pacifique and Assumpta and the registration of Tubasange. Pete is able to spend a bit of time working with them on their registration and strategic plan while camp ministry is on hold

Please pray:

~ for wisdom and patience as we ride out this quarantine period, but also for a positive and special time of connection as a family

~ for Pete as he works on admin tasks and tries to continue meeting with people remotely

~ for those in Rwanda and around the world, who are most at risk from COVID19; that people would be drawn to Jesus at this time

~If you would like to pray specifically to end COVID19 you can follow [this](#) prayer guide produced by the mission organisation SIM (it will automatically download)



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We are so appreciative of KICS at the moment. All of the teachers have worked so hard to keep the kids engaged through the KICS Learning Continues program. I am maintaining contact with the kids I work with and trying to remotely support families as best I can.

Keama's self-portrait for his Art class.



Fun fact:

“It is not permitted to have worship or prayer activities in unauthorised places of any kind, such as....homes, or caves.”

(An official notice, received yesterday)