



Dear Friends,

How fast does 2016 seem to be going for you? To me it seems like just yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and now this last weekend was Easter. However, despite the time seeming to fly by at light speed, as I sit here and think back over the last few months, I am encouraged by all that has happened. It is often in the busyness of life that we do not really appreciate all we have achieved and it is only when we get the chance to stop, that we realise the impact we have had. A common complaint from foreign volunteers working overseas is that they feel that they did not really achieve anything during their time, however, when you point out the difference they made on people's lives around them and, the things they have put in motion that will continue for years to come, then they begin to appreciate all they have done. I believe this is the same for all people, no matter where you are, so I would encourage you to stop and think back over all that has happened in the last few months and feel encouraged - you are a "World Changer."



My year started mostly thinking about African Bees, Honey and Wax, as I worked alongside a team from a US University on creating a business plan for selling Honey and, Candles and brainstormed with Sean (the newest member of the Azizi Life team) about what the new Bee Keeping program will look like. The ideas are still formulating but the work has already started, as we sold our first jars of honey and candles in the Azizi Life shop just the other week. The plan is to support existing bee keepers in the area around Muhanga and, then later this year set up a Bee Keeping Farm where we will teach best practice and it will also be a place where we can train up new bee keepers. We have already raised some funds

towards the Bee Keeping farm/training area and are working on a grant proposal that will hopefully get us the rest of the money we need. In the long run the hope is that the sale of the Honey and Candles will cover the costs of running our training facility for many years to come.



Sadly we have hit a little bit of a bureaucratic road block as we look to start our Adult Literacy program, but we are slowly and patiently working our way through the various government departments and I believe that we can see the glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. Until we have got through to the other side the Adult Literacy program is on hold. My hope is that we will be in a position to start that in the summer or autumn at the latest.



One of the things that really touched my heart at work recently was arriving at the office and discovering a kids club being held in our Garden. The idea to start this came from one of the guards, J Nepo. He wanted to start a Christian club for the neighbourhood kids. We of course, thought this was a wonderful idea and so it started. It has been going for a little while, but this was the first time my visit to the office coincided with their club and so I got to see them in action for the first time. Personally I think every office should have a kids club on its grounds at least once a week, it breathes new life into the very stones of the building. Sadly I did not get a photo of the kids club but

this is the garden in our office where they were.

Life with Keza (my daughter) is always an adventure. Most days once I have finished work I get to walk around our neighbourhood hunting for puddles (despite there rarely being any) to drop stones in. We also look out for birds and the neighbour's cat and dogs. Everything is new and amazing in her eyes, which is wonderfully refreshing. The other weekend there was a free event happening in a local park and as it was such a gorgeous day, we all went along. There was music and loads of other kids around. Keza was in her element exploring the park and meeting new people. Each day her character grows and develops. She is just one and a half years old and, as I guess all parents do, I find myself wondering what life has in store for her. I am so saddened by sheer number of tragic news stories of terrible things happening all around the world, but then there is my daughter hiding behind the curtains so she can pop out and laugh hysterically at me, and then to me the World seems a little bit brighter.



The business Ritah started (Toddle Care) continues to grow with great new products every week. Ritah is working with a mixture of local artisans and then also doing some of the production herself. For the last few months she has been on the lookout for the perfect location to sell her products. So far we have not found anything perfect but the hunt will continue and in the meantime, word is spreading and sales are growing slowly via facebook and her website. We regularly have people pop into our home to go through the latest Toddle Care offerings. Ritah has also supplied a nursery school and has had meetings and provided some toys to the person in charge of early learning development at UNICEF. Keza is the Toddle Care's top model but, does get to play with all the prototypes and so this seems like a fair exchange.

Next month (just a few days from now) we will be heading back to the UK for 6 weeks to catch up with friends and family and, to also talk about our work in Rwanda. During my time in the UK it would be good to catch up with as many of you as possible and so please do let me know if you have some free time in April. Also if you are a member of any clubs or groups who you think might like to know a little bit more about Rwanda and what we are doing there, then I would be happy to come along and do a presentation. I promise to not talk for too long.

### Prayer Requests

1. Since moving to Kigali and the change in employment for Ritah, we have found that our income is currently not matching what we are spending. Whilst in the UK we will be taking a long hard look at our finances and trying to work out what we need to do. Please pray for wisdom as we do this and also for God's continued provision.
2. Sadly it looks extremely likely the house that we are currently renting will be sold. The landlord assures us we can stay until the end of our current lease agreement (Dec 2016) but, then will need to find a new place to live. Please pray we can find another lovely home.
3. Please pray for Azizi Life work with the craft artisans. There is an opportunity coming up later in this year that has the potential to almost double the amount of crafts that we are able to buy from the rural communities. This will have a massive impact on many families who are currently struggling. However, with all business opportunity there is also a risk. Please pray God will continue to guide and bless our work with success.
4. Please pray specifically for the adult literacy program and that we are able to get through all the necessary processes and raise the funds needed to launch later this year.

If you do want any more specific information, please do not hesitate to contact me via my email, which is [tom@azizilife.com](mailto:tom@azizilife.com), or by regular mail to my postal address **PO Box 146, Gitarama, Muhanga, Rwanda**. Also remember to visit mine or Azizi Life's or Toddle Cares page on Facebook or our websites ([www.azizilife.com](http://www.azizilife.com) or [www.toddlecare.com](http://www.toddlecare.com)) if you would like to see more photographs and details about the work we are doing.

Many thanks,  
Tom, Ritah & Keza