



The Roberts'



## Brazil Update

### August 2009

Dear Friends,

Welcome to August's update! I hope that you've had enough time to finish reading last month's! We've got a few things to update you all on and a few prayer requests – we'll try and make it as short and snappy as possible!



*Rose and I in the spot where we became engaged*

Oh, and for you temperature checker fans; a dear 16C in York compared to a sunny 26C in Olinda (and it's only 7.30am)!

### Only in Brazil – 'This Country'

Well, now we're back in Brazil, I can take over from Rose and get back to telling you all about some of the wonderful cultural differences between Brazil and England. Some of them are so wacky that you just have to whisper to yourself... 'This country'.

This month its **Cyclists!** If dodging bad drivers is bad enough on Brazilian roads trying not to kill a few cyclists on the weekly shopping trip is a challenge in itself. Unlike England, cyclists in Brazil will cycle on either side of the road. So it's quite disconcerting when two cyclists, both travelling in opposite

directions on the same side of the road, meet and one suddenly swerves into the oncoming traffic to pass the other. At night it's even worse since the majority don't have lights. But the worst example of this different cycling culture I've ever seen was when a very old man was cycling very slowly and shakily down the centre of a motorway (i.e. between the 2 lanes of traffic) the wrong way into oncoming traffic. The worse thing was that he also had 3 gas cylinders on his bike which people use here for cooking. The traffic was doing it's best to avoid him but he seemed quite happy as the traffic swerved around him. This country.



*Back to church...*

### Brazil Life

Rose and I have had a good few weeks organizing the apartment and settling back into life here in Brazil. As of today, the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, I have officially returned to work. My role is a little different now as I am an executive of the project and so will be taking more of a leadership position within the project as well as being a support and help to the workers within the project. I'll be spending some of my time in the project with the boys as well as some time at home

doing some office work, translating documents, preparing studies for the week ahead and for our work with the youth of the church. I'll also be organizing and coordinating our foreign volunteers and teams. There is of course plenty of free time and things to do 'from home' so I can give my attention to Rose and our marriage which is so important during the first year of marriage. SAMS would also like me to continue to study, so I shall be doing plenty of reading and also a few long distance courses in the near future. If anyone has any good books or old commentaries that they no longer need and would like to pass them on then do get in touch!



*Back to the project...*

We've managed to do a lot to the apartment in the few weeks that we've been here... mainly thanks to having a painter/decorator in the family! Our guest room is now ready and is awaiting its first visitors...

Rose is doing well and is enjoying putting a 'woman's touch' on our apartment. She's currently preparing to return to the project in the near future to run some activities with the boys on health and hygiene – a lot of the younger boys don't even know how to brush their teeth or shower properly. She's also looking into a few uni courses which will give her a bit more training in regards to her nursing qualification.

### Youth 18+

Rose and I are returning to our positions as youth leaders within the church and are starting up the work with the young adults within the church once again. At church the other week four gang members became Christians and I prayed with them along with some

others. Their situation is pretty serious as they are wanted dead by the other gangs... it's funny how so many start coming to church when this happens! So, we prayed for them and are meeting up with them during the week. Please do pray for these guys as we're not too sure what their situation is – 3 young people have been killed just this week alone on the shanty town, we don't want them to become another.



*Mark and I after praying with the 4 gang members...*

### The Project

The project is going well but as usual there are a few financial problems... this mainly stems from the fact that we don't have much regular (i.e. monthly) financial giving and so therefore rely on generous one-off gifts from Churches or individuals. We know that the Lord will provide but I'm also aware that to run an effective and efficient project we need to cover our monthly expenses and be sure that we have finance coming in to cover our costs for the next month. If we're able to cover our basic monthly expenses (i.e. food, salaries, rent) then when a church or individual makes a generous one off donation we can use that gift for something special i.e. employ another much needed worker, fix the minibus etc...

It costs us £2500 a month to cover the basic costs of the project. After deducting the regular monthly support we receive that leaves us with around £1800 deficit each month. There are a number of different ways that you or your church, or small group can support the project financially such as 'sponsor a boy' or a regular standing order to the project. Every little helps!! If we could find 100 people who would commit to giving £25 per month to the project then

our monthly basic expenses would be covered! This would then free up more finance to invest and expand the project. I don't think this is too unrealistic ... could you, your small group, your church help out with a standing order to the project via our tax efficient charity?? Pass this info onto your friends and churches.



*Rose and Rentao*

Sorry for talking about money, I just want to be open and honest with you all about the needs for the project – we thank you all and are extremely grateful for the support that you already give – keep it going!

We had another visit from a government official this month. The government, for a long time, have been planning on building a coast road past the project. This would mean a compulsory sale of some of the project's land. This official came to measure the land that we would potentially lose, it turns out that we would lose our current football pitch. Since we're in Brazil it could be months or even years until this road goes ahead and we have to lose some of our land. But it's worth thinking about the impact that this could potentially have on the project...

1. We would lose most of our land at the back of the project (from the swimming pool onwards for those who know the project). This doesn't have to be much of a problem as we have lots of unused space at the front of the project to build another football pitch for the boys. The government official also told us that there are no other properties in Olinda with this amount of land, so it doesn't look like moving to another place will be appropriate.

2. The loss of the land could, in the first instance, bring the price of the house down. This might be of use to us if we decide to try and buy the house. It would be less than our £60 000 target.
3. Once the road has been built the value of the house would increase a lot. If we did buy it could be a good investment for the future.

Those are the 3 main impacts that this could have on the project. Please join us in praying about this, we're sure the Lord has a plan – your thoughts and opinions are, as always, much appreciated and valued.



The boys are doing well in the project. Ian and myself are currently developing some devotionals for the boys as this has seemed to have stopped since we've been in the UK.

#### Things I miss about England

**#79 – Breakfast** – I've yet to find a decent alternative to my bowl of frosties in the morning. Although fresh fruit and decent Brazilian coffee are doing the job.

#### Things I love about Brazil

**#4 – Football** – It's back again! I play football weekly with a bunch of guys from Olinda. Basically it's just a two hour argument about everything and anything. But, when do manage to play some football the quality and passion is brilliant. Also the fact that we play at midnight in a cage just adds to the atmosphere...



### **Menino do Mês**

'Boy of the month' for those of you whose Portuguese isn't up to scratch. A popular part of the newsletter is back... although we might have to change the way in which it's done due to some strict Child Protection rules. Since this newsletter now reaches more than 2000 people (!) we have to be a little bit more careful in what we say. But, hopefully, I'll still be able to introduce you to a new boy each month and try and tell you a little of his story, hopes and dreams. We'll return in full next month (once I've had time to actually find out the boy's stories!!).

### **August Comings and Goings**

This month saw the visit of ex-volunteer Jodie who came to visit with Mark, a friend from Church. Jodie was able to do some drama with the boys and kids from Church whilst Mark was able to teach the boys some kick boxing (!?). They're back in the UK after a 2 week stay.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks for all that the Lord is doing here in Brazil for the project and the Church.
2. Pray for Rose and I as we learn how to live together and as we return to work.
3. Please pray for the financial situation of the project. That more regular monthly income will be committed to the project so that we can cover our running costs and look to expand our work.
4. Pray for more staff for the project to give some much needed support and rest to other workers.

Thanks again guys for all the prayer and support that you are showing us and the project.

Please do keep in touch with how you're doing and what you're up to.

Prayers.

Andy and Rose ☺

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.