



The Roberts'



## Brazil Update

**February 2010**

Dear Friends,

A very tropical welcome to this month's update. Now that the holidays are over (just for the boys, the rest of us have been hard at work - never stopped!) and the madness of Carnival has passed by, it's back into 'normal' routine here in Brazil. Hope that you're all well and that you enjoy the update.



*'Monster Party' at the farm during camp*

Temperature Checker: 27C in Olinda and a spring-like (??) 7C in York.

### **Brazil Life**

This month started off with a bang as Carnival got under a way here in Brazil. Roads were closed as millions (no exaggeration) of people descended onto the streets of Recife and Olinda for a 4 day long party. It sounds good but read our last update for the real effects of Carnival.

We escaped for a few days with some of the church members and the boys from MFH out at the farm. It was a great few days of teaching and relaxation. The theme of the camp was 'Back to Communion' and was focussed on strengthening

our relationship with God and with each other. I led one of the sessions on Jonah and Rose led a dance workshop and was one of the 'stars' in a new promotional film for the farm! It was great to build relationships with the youth in the church, play some football, kill 3 scorpions and run unshamefully away from a spider the size of the span of my hand. On the downside we managed to lose a number plate on the way back from the farm (those of you who know about the state of the roads here will understand) which resulted in been stopped by the police, a fine and a day spent in the transport office fighting Brazilian Bureaucracy to get the car's confiscated documents back!



*With the boys during 'Hawaiian Night' at the farm*

It was straight back into things on our return from the farm. We managed to agree a deal on a new apartment and over a two week span managed to move over all our stuff. It's a real blessing as the apartment is everything we were looking/hoping for with more space and a good location. It's only 5 mins away from the project and, after signing a 2 and a half year deal, I'm sure we'll be very happy here. Our new and improved guest room is

up and running... any takers?? Oh, do note our **change of address** at the end of the newsletter.



*The view's not too bad either...*

In the middle of our move, Rose began University. She now studies each morning (including Saturdays!) from 7.30am until midday which means a 5.30am start! Obviously her loving husband also gets up at that time to make the coffee and to begin his day!

The Faith2Share Network, of which CMS is a part of, is holding its International Conference Consultation in Recife during April. I've been roped in to help do a bit of the organization and so have been coordinating with the conference centre to make sure that Faith2Share have all the necessary documentation for visa applications etc for their international participants. The top directors of many of the main international mission agencies shall be attending the conference; it should be a great conference and a good opportunity for some networking. They should be visiting the project which shall be good for us.

We have also launched a **new website** which explains a bit about us, our work, the project etc... Do check it out and pass it on to others who are interested in our work - [www.andyandrose.yolasite.com](http://www.andyandrose.yolasite.com)

### **The Project**

Things have returned to 'normal' in the project as the boys have returned to school. It's been a long break so it's a bit of a shock to the system for some of them.

Brazilian law has changed with respect to project's such as ours basically meaning a lot more paperwork on our behalf to show the local Judge. Each boy will need an 'Individual Work Plan' which is quite a complicated document including school and psychological reports, family situation reports plus a weekly program to show the Judge exactly what the boy is doing/or should be doing every hour of each day. Ian has passed this responsibility onto Jefferson and me and so we have been busy writing reports and individual programs for each of the boys.



*Rose and some of the girl's from church*

The project needs to be doing more in terms of organized activities with the boys and especially in terms of family assistance. In order for this to happen the project needs at least another full time worker and extra trained volunteers who would be able to put on useful activities for the boys.

In view of this I've decided to find time to run a weekly 'Healthcare Workshop' drawing upon some of my Pharmacology degree. We'll be 'studying' (in the most loosest of terms) the effects of certain types of drugs (nicotine was today) such as; glue, cannabis, crack cocaine etc... More specifically the health effects and why our boys should try to stay well clear of them from now on. I'll also be able to rope Rose in to draw on her nursing background to do some simple healthcare/hygiene work (some of our boys have never seen a toothbrush before in their lives). It should also give me the opportunity to talk to the older ones about those interesting topics such as girls and sex etc...

So, this new healthcare workshop now fits alongside the English teaching that I'm doing with the older ones; sports activities; weekly dentist visits with the boys; networking and resourcing; daily Bible devotionals that I write for the younger ones and weekly Bible studies with the older ones. Plus my other project executive duties, CMS study, church work (more about that soon!) and all those other little things that have to get done ... Oh, and the odd foreign volunteer or mission team to plan, prepare, organize, orientate and look after! Fair to say I'm kept pretty busy 😊



*Rose with one of our boys, Wemerson, who won the best 'monster'*

The project has just received our 11<sup>th</sup> boy, Rafael who is 11 (I think). He only arrived yesterday and I just met him today... still need to find out his back story etc... Pray for him as he settles in.

To sign off on a sad note, our loyal and scary guard dog 'Negra' has died. She was getting on a bit and got a foot infection which finished her off. Two years ago I saved her life when she got a bad infection, stopped eating and was about to die; I stuffed crushed up over-the-counter antibiotics into her mouth through a syringe. Unfortunately I couldn't do the same this time. Over the past two and half years she developed the habit of needlessly killing some poor things. Her record stands at: 8 chickens, 2 cockerels, 5 kittens, 3 cats, 1 snake, numerous rats and some close shaves with the odd boy who got too close. She was buried near the beach and Diogo, one of our youngest boys, has been taking a flower to her grave each day ever since. Her death coincided with our electric fence being fixed so

the security of the project won't be compromised too much!



*Very old pic with Negra... We'll miss you old girl*

### **SAMS and CMS Merger**

Some of you may be aware that SAMS and CMS merged from Feb 1<sup>st</sup> and are formally a new joint entity under the name of CMS. I haven't quite got my head around everything but I presume that now makes Rose and I CMS Mission Partners from now on. We look forward to an exciting 'global' mission society.

### **'Plan B'**

Along with Ian and Simea, we have been thinking of a new initiative that we can start with the youth of the church to reach the youth of the community. We came across a program called 'Plan B' in another church which is basically like a youth centre with games etc to attract the youth followed by a high energy youth service using lots of multimedia etc... We're thinking and praying into starting our own 'Plan B' at Living Waters Church. It's an exciting idea and we are holding various meetings looking into the possibility. Our 'pilot Plan B' is planned for March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the boys in the project as they return to school especially the new boy Rafael.
2. Give thanks for the new apartment and that we might be able to bless others through it.

3. Pray for the project, as we look to improve our work and look for more volunteers and financial help to enable this.
4. Pray for Rose as she begins her uni course. Give her the strength for the mornings and for the studying.
5. Pray for our 'Plan B' idea that the Lord may guide us and give us wisdom.
6. Pray for SAMS and CMS as they formally merge. Pray that the process runs smoothly and that the Lord may bless this new mission entity.

Rose's Cell - 00558191596058

**Bank Details**

Project's Charity Account –

Service of Hope Charity

For info please contact Roger Atkinson on [koinonia115@ntlworld.com](mailto:koinonia115@ntlworld.com)

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 ☺

**Contact Details and Useful Info**

I thought it might be worth adding these details on the end... they might come in useful!

*Project Address –*

Casa de Meu Pai  
Av. Ministro Marcos Freire 5615  
Rio Doce  
Olinda – PE 53130540  
Brazil

*Our **new** apartment's address –*

Edf. Marinas Apt 901  
Av. Ministro Marcos Freire 4287  
Casa Caiada  
Olinda - PE 53040 - 010  
Brazil

**Phone Numbers –**

You can call me for 2p/min from an English landline using the following number 08444621621 then just dial one of the following numbers.

*Project – 00558134928883*

*Our apartment - 00558134322814*

*My Cell – 00558191962959*

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