



The Roberts'



Brazil Update

November 2009

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this month's update! This month has flown by and there is plenty to update you all on. We hope that everything is well with you all, do let us know your news!

So pour yourself a glass of mulled wine, put your feet up and I hope that you enjoy catching up with what's happening with us here.



2 Countries, 2 football teams... 1 World Cup

Oh, and for you temperature checker fans; a freezing 0C in York compared to a summery 31C in Olinda (wind chill accounted for)!

Brazil Life

Rose and I are doing well, Rose came down with a bit of the flu this month but is now back up and running. There is plenty to do and lots of problems and issues to sort out in the project. We've had a great response from some of the local businesses we've visited this month. The local bakery has begun giving us free 'daily bread'. So each morning we receive something between 15-30 bread rolls, sweet bread and even cakes - all for free! It's only a small offering but it does

cover the boys for one of their meals and it is reducing our bread bill for the project - every little helps! Rose, Jefferson and I went to visit one of the main shopping centres in the city for a meeting which I'd set up with their Marketing and Social Action department. The meeting went very well and our project should be accepted within the next week or so. If it is accepted it means that we will have access to a number of professional courses that they run. For example, when we visited, a waiter course was taking place, teaching teenagers and young adults how to be a waiter and then, on completion of the course, a few of the restaurants in the shopping centre take a few on as a job. This would be of great benefit to the project as one of the things that we need, especially our older boys, are professional courses.



Boat making competition with the boys

We would also get free days to the cinema every few months where we'd be able to take all the boys to see a film and eat popcorn for free! These little trips are very important to the boys as some of them haven't even been to a shopping centre in their lives let alone a cinema. So please be praying that they might accept our project and that we'd be able to make the most of

the services they have to offer. We also received those food donations from the business man I told you about in the last update, let's hope that we might get them again this month!

It's Rose's birthday this Saturday (5th) and so we're managing to escape for two days this week to Joao Pessoa - the next town up the coast - to have a few days rest and celebrate.



Rose enjoying a coconut at sunset on the beach...

The lowlight of this month was the embarrassing defeat to Brazil a few weeks ago. I've tried to tell the Brazilians that their first team just managed to beat an English 3rd team but they won't listen. I'm just hoping that the world cup in a few months will be a different story!



Games at the project

Youth 18+

Our weekly meetings are continuing to go well and it's great to see our group being challenged and growing

in their faith. Please be praying for more people to come along (a lot can't make it due to work etc...) and for some evangelistic events being planned for the new year.



New Phone

Rose and I now have a landline in our apartment, which means you can now get in touch with us easily and cheaply! You can call us for 2p/min from an English landline using this 'telediscount' number. Dial 08444621621 and then 00558134322814.

The Project

It's been a challenging month in the project. Two boys were called to see the judge to discuss their futures. The first was Renato and it was decided that he would stay in the project for the meantime and would begin to visit his family fortnightly and for the holidays. This is a good decision as Renato is just about ready to return home but it's now turn for the family to make the effort and do their bit.

The next boy in front of the judge was Gabriel. His situation is a little bit more serious as it is time for Gabriel to be put up for adoption or go to a substitute family. His Mum, who has psychological problems and used to beat Gabriel, is still in no fit condition to have Gabriel full time. But, a few weeks ago, a 'mysterious' aunt appeared wanting custody of Gabriel. I say mysterious as we didn't know she existed, Gabriel had never heard of her and she had never come forward before with her desire to look after Gabriel. Obviously, we had our reservations about letting Gabriel go to someone he didn't know and we didn't know even if she is family. At the first hearing the

judge didn't even show up but finally did a week later at the second hearing. No one from Gabriel's family turned up at either, not even the mystery aunt. Jefferson, the 'Father' of the project, has also expressed a desire to have temporary custody of Gabriel. This case has now being passed onto the next court, Gabriel will remain in the project until a decision has been made re Jefferson etc... Everyone follow that?



Football training

We had two great opportunities for leadership training this month. The first was Willowcreek's Global Leadership Conference which had the likes of Bill Hybels, Bono and Tony Blair (!?) speaking. It was a fantastic conference and I learnt a lot. The second opportunity was a leadership workshop run by someone from World Vision, another great day and a fantastic opportunity to look at the project, analyze and discuss issues. Unfortunately not one of the project directors went to the first conference and just three went to the second (with two leaving early). It saddened me that the project's leaders didn't make the most of these two opportunities. Please pray for the directors and leaders of the project - we need a strong leadership so that we can organize, strengthen and grow the project now and in the future. Something needs to be done soon.

Christmas, is of course, only a few weeks away! We need to think and plan of what's going to happen in the project over the Christmas period. It looks like some of the boys won't be able to go home for Christmas, and if substitute families can't be found, the staff of the project are going to have to work

through Christmas and New Year once again. Jefferson and I are also trying to develop the Child Protection Policy that the project so desperately needs. Many thanks for those who have contributed towards the boy's 'Christmas Kitty' - we've passed last year's amount! If anyone else would still like to donate a little something towards making this Christmas extra special then please do get in touch.

Rose and I also managed to take the current English volunteers away to the beach for a few, well earned, days rest. Something which they will need before the busy Christmas period.



With the English volunteers...

Financial Update

We're very grateful for two generous donations that we received this month. One from St Peters Church in Shipley and the other from the 'Brazilian Party' held in York. These donations will be vital to keep the project up and running. I would also like to pass on my thanks to all those individuals and groups who have stepped forward to support the project regularly (£25 per month, some even more!). These regular donations have increased our monthly income by around £1000, which means we only need to find another £2000 more per month to cover our monthly running costs. If we manage to find that extra £2000 per month that would mean that generous one off donations (such as St Peters and the Brazil Party) would be able to be used on other things, such as buying a new mini bus (the current one has broken down 3 times this month) etc... instead of covering our monthly short fall. If you or anyone you know would be interested in regular

giving to the project then please let me know - it can be done tax efficiently via our charity.



Breaking quite a lot of chairs playing musical chairs!

Things I miss about England

#122 - Christmas - Ah, the run up to Christmas, the decorations, wintery weather, mulled wine and mice pies... The Brazilian Christmas is very different - Father Christmas in board shorts.

Things I love about Brazil

#33 - It's Potential - Brazil has massive potential to be a fantastic country and place to live. It's scenery, weather, landscape, people, vast oil/petrol resources... If only the corruption in the government, poverty and violence could be dealt with.

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 in all that we're doing and for our marriage. That God may show us his will in what he has for us to do.
3. Pray for the boys and the staff at the project, for strength and all that we need to work and run things here.
4. 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 out work.
5. Please pray for the leadership of the project especially for the directors. Pray that we

might have wisdom about how to tackle the leadership problems and issues.

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 😊

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