



The Roberts'



Brazil Update

October 2009

Dear Friends,

A happy bonfire night to you all! Unfortunately that's not celebrated here in Brazil although we're still hoping to have a bonfire with the boys anyway, even if we don't have the sparklers to go with it!

A warm welcome to this month's update, put your feet up and I hope that you enjoy catching up with what's happening with us here.



In the project for Emerson's birthday with his Mum, Rose and Val.

Oh, and for you temperature checker fans; a cloudy 9C in York compared to a skin frying 36C in Olinda!

Brazil Life

Rose and I are doing well, fully recovered from our illnesses and are well back into our work. We've had positive responses from the businesses that I visited, a local bakery has accepted our proposal to provide free 'daily bread' to the project - this will ease a little of our monthly food cost. There's just a few things to work out and we're waiting for a final meeting with them. Do pray that more local businesses, companies etc... will get behind the project and begin to build up

the Brazilian side of support. While I was waiting for my car to be washed the other week I got chatting with the owner who was very interested in the project and has promised to bring food donations each month. Pray that they might materialize!

We've also been involved in helping a couple from the favela who have had to leave the area due to the guy's involvement with the drug gangs - he has accumulated a debt which is equal to a death sentence with the gangs on the favela. They are a very young couple (17 and 18 years old, the girl has already had her first baby) and have become the project's first 'apprentices', we have rented a very small house for them in another favela and are teaching them to make a living by selling drinks and snacks at traffic lights and the beaches etc... Some of the money they make is going to their families so they can pay back the debt to the gangs. This has to be very 'hush hush', no one from the church can know where they are or even that we know where they are in case it somehow gets back to the gangs.



The My Father's House Band playing at Church

You might remember that Rose and I are going to have to leave our apartment in a few months - the

owner wants it back and so we'll have to leave when our contract runs out. It seems that there is another apartment in the same building which is for rent so that could be a good short term possibility.



Making the most of days off...

Youth 18+

Things are going well with the youth group. We've had some good meetings and our numbers are increasing as more people are bringing their friends along. Some past regulars haven't been coming along for various reasons so do pray that they might return and that more and more will come along.

We had a great night on Saturday as we had a 'Light Party' to counter act Halloween. Halloween is just beginning to arrive here in Brazil and due to the high number of Spiritualists etc it can be very dark indeed. So we put on a games night in Church and learnt a bit about the origins of Halloween etc and why we don't celebrate it. It was a lot of fun.

The Project

Things in the project are as hectic as ever. The boys are doing well, apart from the daily fight and fall outs! We've been encouraged by the progress made with all of the boys especially some like Renato. He came to the project about a year and a half ago and used to cause a lot of problems fighting with the boys and

with the workers! There can still be times when he loses his temper but in comparison there has been a great change in Renato. He's become quite a respectful, polite, affectionate young man. Pray that he may continue like this as he might be able to return to his family at the end of the year. We also need to find a Doctor who might be able to see the boys free of charge just like our Dentist - do pray for that as well.



Some of the games at the 'Light Party'

The executive committee is continuing to meet to try and support, coordinate and organize the running of the project more effectively. We're looking forward to two great opportunities this month for more leadership training; the first being the 'Global Leadership Conference' which is from Willowcreek in the US and the second being a visit from a high ranking Brazilian expert in leadership and project organization. Do keep praying for us, and the whole team within the project as we try to coordinate and organize the project so that we may more effectively help these boys and their families. I've been busy planning the devotionals for the boys in the project... it's quite a task to think of and write about 25 devotionals a month!



Preaching at Living Waters Church

This month also saw the visit of my SAMSboss Bishop Henry Scriven who came with Paul Thaxter from CMS to get to know more about us and see our work first hand. It was a great few days, encouraging to hear their comments and suggestions and challenging for them as they saw the work that we're involved with first hand.



Helping out one of our youth at her School Fair - all about England!

We've very grateful for a donation from New Wine of £4500 which will help the finances of the project. But once again we're reminded of the need to encourage an increase in regular financial giving as some of this donation will have to go towards covering the monthly shortfall. If we could reach our target of receiving £3500 per month from regular monthly giving then when we receive generous donations like the New Wine one we can use the entire donation to go towards new ventures such as the purchase of My Father's House or the employment of new staff etc...

If you, your church, your home group, school etc would be interested in supporting our project with regular monthly giving then do please get in touch with me we would be very grateful indeed. The current exchange rate is not helping either as it's plummeted to 2.8 reais to the pound (it used to be 5.8 a few years ago).



SAMS Lunch with Mission Partners, Latin Partners and Bishop Henry and Paul from SAMS/CMS

We are also thinking about Christmas, if someone would like to donate something towards the boy's Christmas present kitty then please do get in touch! We were able to buy all the boys some presents including stockings with a £100 donation last year - so it doesn't have to be much!

Things I miss about England

#203 - **The autumnal nip** - The leaves are falling off the trees, bonfire night is here, there's that nip in the air... you just know winter is around the corner.

Things I love about Brazil

#54 - **Rice and Beans** - It's not Lunch if you haven't got your rice and beans.

October Comings and Goings

Our new English volunteers have arrived - Michael and Francesca Boden from Birmingham, a young, recently married couple who will spend a few months with us in the project. A great couple who I'm sure will have a great time here. Rose and I will be responsible for them. Pray as they settle in, find their feet and learn a bit of Portuguese!



Looking out towards the Rubbish dump from Church

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 that we'll be able to find another apartment to live in when our contract runs out next year.
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. 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 ☺

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