

30 November 2012

RECIFE



Hello!

Welcome to the October/November issue of my news!
I can't believe that 2012 is nearly over and that 2013 is peeping round the corner! This year has seriously flown by!

Anyway, moving on!

Well it's the run up to Christmas as I'm sure you're aware! I know that in the UK commercialism soars to a whole new level during this time, it does here too, but not to such an extreme! There however is a new shopping centre in Recife that opened at the end of October, which is enormous and this extends to the size of the Christmas tree, which reaches up above the third floor! It's very impressive!

November/ December always is a very busy time of the year for everyone I know and here, this always involves preparing for the Christmas Cantata at Vale!

This year I haven't been involved with the music side of things, just the craft side!



Prayer Points:

Thanks:

- That Aurinha and my voices held out for when we led worship.
- That my visa came through after 9 months of waiting.
- That the younger kids are really starting to learn how to swim.
- That the Voz na Rua camp went well.

Requests:

- For good health (as I keep getting injured or have strange things happening to my body!)
- For wisdom and guidance for Nane and I regarding where to lead Vineyard em Açã

I've been charged with making angel puppets, angel wings, flags, an enormous star on a wooden pole, a manger, sheep, a stable, a christmas tree and the best, three large camels with shoulder straps for the "wise men" to carry! I thought I had loads of time to do it all, but the time literally has flown by and I now only have two weeks! Hence I am spending near enough all my spare time "creating"! It is challenging, as I am trying to find the best way to do all of the above, using the available material, which is sometimes limiting as I can't find here what I would use in the UK, so am having to improvise alot! It's fun though!

Continuing with Vale, There have been some different things happening over the past two months! Starting off with a trip out with 90 of the kids to watch a mini musical about the story of Noah, at Pastor Armindo and Elienai's church! Each of the teachers were responsible for between 6-8 kids. After the "show" which only lasted about 20mins, there were loads of games and fun things to do for the kids ranging from spray painting their hair, to inflatable gladiator type events. Keeping tabs on my crew was a wee bit stressful, as Elienai had wanted each group to stay together all the time, but with a mix of boys and girls of different ages, it was impossible! So in the end, I just let them go to play, explaining where I was if they needed anything. The venue was closed, so they couldn't escape anyway! At the end, I discovered other teacher's had done the same thing! We returned to Vale with the same amount of kids that we took, so all was well and no harm was done!

There was "week" of the child too! Its actually "day of the child", but we did a week of fun activities for the kids. Someone donated some money for this day, so we did something different for them. We hired a big trampoline, a ball pool and an inflatable mini football pitch for them to play football, but we threw loads of soap and water over the surface to make it harder to play! It was near enough impossible to stay on your feet! We (the adults!) played during our lunch hour and all ended up injuring ourselves in some shape or form! Was great fun tho!



Leo&João Pedro

Swimming continues and I'm so excited by the progress of younger kids! It appears that within the past month and a half several have suddenly clicked how to swim without floats! It all started with Leo (8) and João Pedro (7) They now swim the width of the pool without any problem and are diving too! This week they tried to swim the length of the pool (10m) and nearly succeeded. We just need to work on their breathing techniques, as they both ran out of puff! The next lesson Andre (6) Dudu (6) and Genialisson (6) also tried to swim the length of the pool. I stayed in the pool to encourage and then "save" them when they ran out of steam! This was the first time that Andre had swum by himself! The look of amazement on his face when he realised he'd nearly swum the length of the pool was just fab! Only 5 months ago he was refusing to get in the big pool, cos he was too scared!

There are so many other stories of achievements, ranging from some of the 4 year olds who are now entering the big pool with floats, who before were too scared, to other's who never entered the baby pool cos of fear, now are splashing about saying they are "swimming"! I did a time trial of treading

water too with some of the older kids. The winner was Roberto (9) who managed for 5mins! He could've continued for longer had his brother not tried to drown him! Hence a fight broke out! I think it's so important for them to learn to swim, as drowning is the 2nd highest cause of death in kids in Brasil! There are many adults who don't know how to swim. I love swimming days! It's such a privilege and I don't know who gets more excited or has the biggest smile?!

Anyway, moving on!

The first weekend in November linked both parts of my life together. Voz Na Rua (Voice in the Street, an evangelistic group that we at the Roda are involved in) held a camp for 120 teenagers. 34 teenagers from Vale went, as did folk from the Roda (participants and helpers) I was on washing up and was the life guard at the pool! I can't tell you how much crockery and cutlery I washed that weekend, but it was 3 times a day for 3 days, for over 200 people! The pool was the favourite free-time spot and there was alot of free-time, so trying to police and monitor over 60-70 teenagers at once was tiring! Though I succeeded, as no-one drowned! Thankyou God!

On the Friday night there was a mini army course set out in the woods and MUD! All happened after 22:30 at night, so it was pitch black! We went in the very last group and some of our older youth were helping run it, so we got well and truely attacked with mud and dragged thro the mud! This mud was like black paint and a nightmare to get off! Was a good weekend with many teenagers hearing about how God much loves them, for the first time!



ice cream, we all ...

At the Roda if you remember, we moved our church services to a school in Appipucos, we are still meeting there and it's going well. There's been a few folk who have become Christians since we moved there, which is great.

I am for some reason still having serious problems with my voice, which is leaving me with a very weak voice to sing! Am not able to reach the note that I once was able and my voice isn't as strong, but is still singable!

We as a worship band were invited to lead a worship set, as part of a big worship event at a church of a friend of ours. So for the week leading up to it Aurinha and I used everything to help our voices hold out! This and lots of prayer helped, as we succeeded. She and I sung half the set and Nane and Nadir sung the other half. Interestingly, apparently now when I sing in Portugues, I sing without an accent!

My small group for the pre- adolescents is still going strong. Tho they are all hitting 13-14 now! Have a core group of up to 8 of them.

I gave up my house for a week, when we had the leader of Vineyard North of Brasil and her family here visiting our church. I prayed that my house wouldn't be without water during this time! It wasn't and since have had water everyday! What a luxury!



Nane,Jana& I after the mud attack!



My visa situation has for now been resolved! Having waited 9 months for a reply, I have been granted an extension until July 2014, which I am very grateful for! So thankyou for all your prayers! God is faithful!

A happy and peaceful Christmas to one and all! God bless!
lossa love Ali x

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