

Andy's England Update



January 2009

Dear Friends,

Hello from England!! Rose and I arrived back in this fair land on January 26th after an 11 hr flight from Rio de Janeiro. It's great to be back even despite the freezing weather! Rose is enjoying getting to know snow for the first time in her life, I'm sure the excitement will die down the moment it turns to slush.



There's still plenty to update you all on from Brazil and we'll begin to see a few changes to these newsletters over the next month or so. Anyway, I hope that you all enjoy this month's update and that we'll get to see many of you as soon as possible.

Oh, and for you temperature checker fans; 1C in York compared to 29C in Olinda. How depressing.

Engagement!

The first thing that needs to be said this month is that after 4 years and a few months 'dating' Rose and I finally became engaged on January 17th 2009 outside one of the oldest churches up on top of the hill in Olinda looking out towards Recife. We're getting things together to marry on Friday July 17th at St Michael le Belfrey Church in York which you're all invited to attend.



Cutting the cake at our engagement party.

Dates for the Diary

In case you're interested in where Rose and I are going to be over the next month then here is a list of our engagements. If we're ever near you then do get in touch or just drop in to see us!

Of course these dates are subject to change so if you'd like an up to date list then just email me. Please be praying for us as we travel to these various different events talking about Brazil and the work that we're involved with.

Feb 1st – The Great Escape (JPC)

Feb 7th – SAMS Interviews and Selection

Feb 11th – Shipley

Feb 14th – 20th – Wales

Feb 19th – Stockport

Feb 21st – Lincoln

Feb 23rd – Pocklington 6th Form Assembly

Feb 28th – Cheadle, SAMS Roadshow



Rose, Andy and my godson Nelson in Natal

Only in England – ‘This Country’

Hello, Rose here! After many months of Andy mocking some of the cultural differences between Brazil and England, I now have the opportunity to get my own back and let you in on a few strange things that you English do as well!

This month it's **differences in talking to people!** Last week, we went to London and I noticed that no one talks to anyone, sat on the train or waiting in line or just passing in the street, no one talks or says hello to anyone. But yesterday, when we went into the countryside to see the snow, Andy talked with everyone! Including a strange man in a flat cap with a lot of dogs and even waved to people in the cars as we passed by! And, the strangest thing was people waved and talked back! Andy tried to explain something about the

difference between the city and the country where one should greet ones fellow day trippers in the countryside but I think that's rubbish. Just choose will you, either be nice and friendly to all or not at all! ☺ This country!



Saying goodbye at Recife airport

Project Life

The month of January is holiday month in Brazil which meant that all the boys were in the house 24/7 and so we had to think of some good day trips and activities to keep the boys occupied. They went down really well including trips to the cinema, parks and the city keeping the boys in a little bit of trouble... yes, I wrote 'in'!



Rose and I outside quite an impressive building somewhere in England

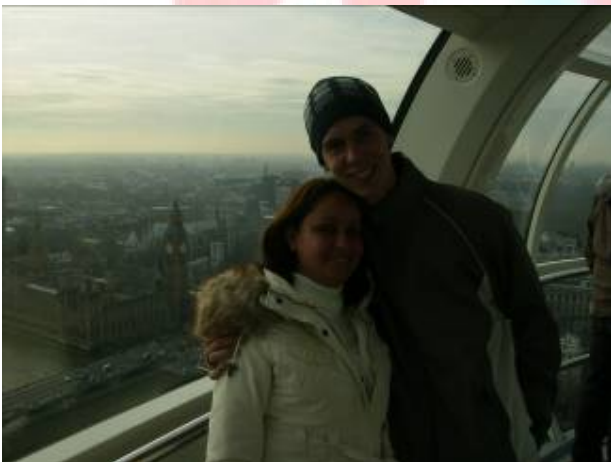
Plus, there were two camps out at the farm this month that the boys were a part of. The farm's a

great place and the boys enjoy going out there. It's a nice wide open space with a river, coconut trees and various wild animals to keep the boys interested.



What happens when there's no bridge available in Brazil

We also had to deal with a 'rebellion' in the project. Joao, one of the boys, managed to take advantage of some situations and led a walk out from the project for a few hours with most of the boys going along as well. They came back after a while but it was a sad blow and a little discouraging for the workers. Joao continued to be extremely difficult to work with, disobeying and disrespecting the workers – sad to see after he was making such good progress.



Up on a big ferris wheel in the middle of some city

For most of the month Rose and I were busy preparing to hand things over to Jefferson for when we left the project. Jefferson is a great guy, he's worked for us before and is ex-Brazilian army and so he can control the boys well! Pray for him and the team as he settles in.



A snowy welcome in York

Things I miss about Brazil

#1 – The sun – Easy one to begin with and pretty obvious after a 32C temperature drop.

Things I love about England

#87 – Winter – It's great to be back to England in the winter especially for Rose to experience the 'cold snap' with frost and snow. Although the novelty kind of wears off after a few days of not being able to feel your hands and toes.



Up in the snow covered Yorkshire wolds

Farewell Tour

Rose and I officially left the project on January 15th and so we had 10 days 'holiday' before we left Brazil for England. We made the most of the time and took the three English volunteers away on a tour of North East Brazil for a week's holiday. It was a great break for them and great for Rose and I to see some old friends in Natal and Joao Pessoa. We had a wonderful time dune bugging, body boarding, chilling out on beaches and eating some good Brazilian food. What a way to say good-bye to Brazil for 6 months!



Playing with Godson Nelson on a beach in Natal

Menino do Mês

Well, sorry to all you menino do mes fans but we're taking a break this month – partly due to the fact that we've gone through each boy in the project! But, as new boys arrive in the project then we'll roll back Menino do Mes.



January Leavers and Returners

News fresh from Brazil tells me that Joao has unfortunately left the project. After another night of fighting between him and another boy the directors of the project have taken him back to the judge to recommend placing him in a different project. It's sad news as Joao seemed to be making good progress but in recent weeks has become unbearable, unworkable and a threat to the other boys and staff and so had to go.

There are a few potential new boys in the pipeline who should be soon arriving in MFH, so expect a long list of new boys next month!



Rose being welcomed to England by being wrapped in toilet paper at JPC church's student weekend away

England

Well, we've been in England for just over a week now and it's great to be back. Rose has already been introduced to snow (and a lot of it!) for the first time in her life and so she has been in an excited state for the past week! She's also been

busy increasing her winter wardrobe making the most of the sales!

I had to fulfil a few SAMS commitments within the first week including a full medical and a psychological test (!?) both of which I passed fine!



Watching the sun set listening to a guy playing saxophone from a boat in Joao Pessoa

Straight from London we travelled all the way up to Scotland to attend a bit of 'The Great Escape' a student weekend away from Jesmond Parish Church in Newcastle. It was great to be back there, see some old friends and have the opportunity to talk about the project and Brazil in the main meeting. We invited all interested folk to a private meeting later that night and we were amazed to see around 50 eager people trying to squeeze into a small cabin to see and hear more about the project.

I'm now preparing for the main SAMS interviews on Saturday 7th. It's down in London and there are a few interviews on different aspects of life and work and so please do be praying.

We've also been very busy trying to prepare for a July wedding! The date is booked – Friday July

17th and everyone is invited to join us on the day. With a relative short time to get organized and being busy travelling around the country with SAMS it's going to be a busy 6 months! But, I'm sure everything will be fine in the end.

'Brazil Partners' Conference at Bawtry Hall

One of the highlights of 2009 will be our second Olinda reunion – 'Brazil Partners Conference' which is taking place from July 3rd – 5th 2009 at Bawtry Hall just outside of Doncaster. This weekend is open to absolutely anyone who is interested in the work that we do in Brazil or who has been or is thinking about going. Ian and Simea Meldrum, plus myself, Rose and a few other Brazilians will all be present as we meet together with supporters and friends old and new. I would encourage you all to go – Newcastle team be warned – we're going to ask you all to speak and run a session! It will be a great time to hear up-to-date information about the project, pray for the future, worship Brazilian style and spend some time together. If you're interested in going then please do get in touch with me andyroberts48@hotmail.com



The last reunion in 2007

Thanks to you all for reading this month's update. I realise that it's not so 'exciting' now that I'm back in England! ☺

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the next few months!

Prayer Points

1. Please pray for Jefferson and the team in the project as they continue the work with the boys. Also pray for the boys that they may continue to grow in faith and knowledge of the Lord.
2. Give thanks for a safe journey from Brazil. Pray for mine and Rose's stay here in England, for my family and safe travel as we tour around the country.
3. Please pray for my selection with SAMS, that the Lord's will be done and that the interviews will go well.
4. Pray for me and Rose as we prepare for marriage and a July wedding.
5. Thanks that my visa situation seems to be sorted.

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

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

Prayers.

Andy ☺

Contact Details and Useful Info

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

Project Address –

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Rio Doce
Olinda – PE
53130540
Brazil

My apartment's address –

Apt. 303
Edf. Brinco de Princesa
Rua Jose Cipriano Silva 1084
Rio Doce
Olinda PE
53040 - 140
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
My Cell – 00558187706216

Bank Details

Project's Charity Account –

Service of Hope Charity
Sort code - 30-95-05
Acc Num - 01619012

My Bank Account Details

Nationwide
Sort Code – 07-01-16
Acc Num - 09924296

Photos

You can keep up to date with the most recent pics from Brazil by going to this address...

<http://www.new.facebook.com/album.php?aid=167033&l=3b6ee&id=223703888>