

# Recife NewsBeat

Feb 2014

Well hello again!

Seems like such a very long time since I wrote to you all!

I think it was actually about 10 months in all!

This was due to my laptop dying and then the "resuscitation" which simply didn't!

I now however have a new laptop, which is great, but as a technophobe is causing some minor anxieties! Things that were simple on my old laptop, have now been updated and now quite frankly are all singing, all dancing and I can't keep up or work out how to use them properly and it's taking 3 times as long to do anything! Hopefully it will improve! Although I am having some fun trying out new things in this newsletter!

I did send out a couple of emails during this period, just to let you know that I was still alive! Wordy emails without pictures really isn't my style, but I do apologize if it left you feeling like you didn't know what was going on! Hopefully now that's all sorted and won't happen again!



Well am here back in Recife after spending Christmas and New Year in the UK. This was a good time but not very relaxing, as I took along my friend Nane (who ran Vineyard em Açãõ with me) and her two girls, to experience a different type of Christmas, so was principle translator, as they don't speak English! They got to experience every type of English weather, apart from snow and we certainly made good use of the time in that we went everywhere, up to Manchester, across to Wales, Bristol, Stratford and lots of places down south. All thanks to our own tour guide (my Mum!) I recommend her! They all feel in love with London, the underground, Big Ben and St James Park (to name a few!) I'm sorry that I didn't get to see everyone, it really just wasn't possible!

Landed in Brasil on the evening of the 4th February and was back at Vale early the next day and haven't stopped since!

As I mentioned in an email, the last quarter of the year was rather intense and very different in that I had an infected leg, which still 5 months later hasn't quite healed up (I'm back at the specialist this week) and was "Mum" to a 13 year old from Vale for 3 months. She is not with me anymore, she has gone to her aunties.

I finished the year with lots of the kids at Vale having learnt to swim or in the process of learning which was great. I also helped a friend "do" a pirate party for the son's of a friend of hers, which involved me making a large MDF pirate ship to go in the entrance, and other piratey type things!



Having not been able to get in the pool because of my leg has been frustrating for everyone! The kids ask me every time if it's better, so I can get back in the pool! Haven't been in the pool since the 6th September! It's getting there, all be it incredibly slowly! Talk of frustrating!



The new year has seen some changes at Vale, mainly due to the continuing difficult financial situation there. The age limit has dropped to 11, so we had to say goodbye to a lot of the kids who had hit 12 and that I've known since I started at Vale, which was really sad!

I am now teaching swimming Monday, Wednesday and Friday, as the classes are now quite large and its easier to teach in smaller groups. There are a lot of new kids, many who have never entered in a swimming pool before and are petrified! Although one 8 year old last week shook off her fear and by the end of the lesson

pool, trying to swim and laughing all the time! It was so sweet to see! It really does make it all worth while! I think I must sound like a broken record as I always say something like this!

Church continues, with new challenges, new folks (which is great) and a new venue! Well not really, we've actually returned to our building at the Roda for the time being! Which is great! It's had a graffiti job done on the outside wall which looks amazing! I'll take a photo to include in the next installment! It seems like we're home!

My small group for the teenagers continues to go well! The first thing that they all said to me when they saw me for the first time this year was ..."when we got group?" We've already had some new visitors and some old faces have returned too!

Hope this arrives without any problems and that the technology isn't too swish!

Love  
ali



#### Prayer points:

#### Thanks:

- For a great time in the UK
- For safe travels

#### Requests:

- For guidance regarding my future and Visa
- For renewed finances, as the cost of living here has increased near enough 100%

Rua Clarice Lispector 15C  
Torrões  
Recife  
50.660-250  
PE  
Brasil