

30 April 2012

RECIFE



Hello again!

Time really is flying by don't you think? It feels like I literally finished and sent the previous newsletter yesterday, but from today's date it assures me this is not so!

So let's crack on with what's been going on over here this last month.

Life at Vale continues to be busy, with new kids still arriving every week, even though we were sure that all the spaces had been filled! We have now been assured that Vale is now shut to new kids as of last week, so there's now a waiting list to enter.

Well we successfully used the swimming pool for two weeks and then the pump broke yet again! During these two weeks several of the girls were now learning to swim without the floats which has been rather exciting! As is the want of 8 year old Brazilian girls, they like to show their joy and excitement by squealing ...alot! Other kids are just progressing with confidence in the water, take Richalyson (here in the photo) for example. When he arrived at Vale last year, he refused to enter the little pool 'cos



Prayer Points:

Thanks:

- That the Easter presentation at Vale went well.
- That my Mum arrived safely and we're having a good time
- That we still have between 12-15 people doing the Alpha course

Requests:

- For finances for Vale to arrive in general and so we can use the swimming pool reguarly
- For wisdom and guidance for Nane and I regarding where to lead Vineyard em Ação, as we enter this new phase

he was so scared of the water. Now when he's got a float or two wrapped around his little body, he launches himself into the big pool and tries to swim! I love watching him! Or if I'm in the pool he'll throw himself without floats towards me, laughing!

I was given a donation to buy more of the spaghetti floats, as the ones' we had were very much worse for wear as we had used them continually since new in 2010! So armed with 10 new 6 foot long floats, I negotiated my bus route to Vale! The kids were so excited when they saw them and they have already been well used!

Unfortunately yet again this last week, we had no money to buy the chemicals to clean the water in the pool, so the pool remained Shrek/toxic green and the older kids were very very unhappy and voiced their frustrations loudly, as once again it was them that missed "swimming day"!

In the run up to Easter we had a busy week, culminating in the Easter celebration where all the kids come, from the morning, afternoon and the pre-adolescents (who now come on a Monday) too! All in all there were over 200 very excitable kids crammed into Vale for our celebration. It went really well.

I had been informed the afternoon before, that I was to create a banner for the event. Elienai had a design she wanted to use, I just had to reproduce and paint it! The finished result is below! Fortunately it worked out well, despite a slight blip in that one type of paint wouldn't stick to the fabric and as it was drying started to peel off, so I had to repaint 3 of the big letters with another type. Fortunately this happened at the beginning, so I was able to rectify it and use a different paint for the majority of the words.

The TV network that didn't come in March, turned up the Thursday before we finished for the Easter weekend and filmed for the grand total of 15 mins and after we'd waited all morning with over 80 very excitable kids! Then they didn't even show it on the News as promised, which was a shame as we were hoping that the story may interest some folk and consequently bring in some finances

for us, as Vale literally at the moment has nothing, as previously mentioned our main sponsor has withdrawn their support! But God is still in control!

Talking of Easter, we had a great communion service at church on Easter day and no-one was ill after when we all ate together! ...but then Ricardo hadn't cooked!

In the evening I along with some friends went into Old Recife and the historic venue of Marco Zero and watched the last evening of the "Passion of the Christ". Was very good even though we were stood up the whole time and then we went to get the bus home! Usually the last bus on a Sunday night is just after 11pm. However it didn't come! Infact no bus that passed anywhere near the Roda came for over an hour! Midnight came and went and eventually a bus came that took us part of the way home. We then walked the rest of the way. Another 25-30 minutes on foot! Was worth it though and it didn't rain!

The week running up to Easter I also was ill and consequently lost my voice yet again! So being unable to sing at church I played my sax, only to find that due to the changable climate most of my reeds had suddenly gone mouldy!

It's been very hot and humid with lots of heavy rain, which hasn't diminished the humidity at all! Fortunately I had two reeds that were usable! Thought I actually shouldn't have played it, 'cos it put extra strain on my vocal cords and consequently my voice worsened a little again, but I enjoyed playing!

The Alpha course continues to go well, with regulars of 12-15 participants. We have started a kids club for the children of the participants of Alpha, during the Saturday evening while their parents are undertaking the Alpha course, so they can concentrate without having to worry about the whereabouts of their children. The kids are a very lively bunch! The times that I've run it I know I was more tired than they were at the end! We are arranging a weekend away as part of the course towards the end of May which could happen at Vale but its not been confirmed yet!

The first Monday of the month for Vineyard em Ação saw us return to the Roda with a little soup left in one of the four boxes, which has never happened before! We are sure it was all to do with the police doing their "clearing up" job of moving on the folks that live on the streets and this square in particular. There had been a couple of news reports the week before about this square and the problems of the street folk there, as its a historical place and the council didn't like the street folk showering or doing their washing in the fountain in the middle of the square, so the police were brought in to remove them. Many went into temporary shelters, the majority just moved away from the square, as the police are there all the time monitoring events. It's all part of the clean the streets campaign for the 2014 World Cup!

Yes I know it's only 2012, so it will get much worse and then there's the Olympics in 2016 to follow!

The next Monday night there were more folks and we spoke to them about these changes in the square and asked what they thought. The majority were very frank in their opinions which was great and then we prayed about it together.

There is also a new Christian centre opened up just up the road from the square called Cristolândia where the folks from the square can go to eat breakfast and or lunch, take a shower, change clothes, pray with someone and receive help, if they want it. We visited this place one morning as we wanted to network and see what they do! We were impressed at what they are doing there.

Partly as a result of this and also because we felt that God was saying to move on, the third Monday of the month became our last Monday in the square. Nane was unable to go this evening, so it was left to me to explain that this was our last night there in the square and to explain why we wouldn't be going anymore. It went smoothly and they understood, but made it clear that they didn't like it! Hence on Monday 23rd April we started in a new location further into the centre of Recife, but still are testing the water to see if this area really is where God wants us to work. We also have another project in the pipeline with Vineyard em Ação within our community at the Roda, but I will expand on this next time, as I'm out of space here.

I currently have my Mum out visiting which is great!
God bless you all and thankyou for your continued support!

lossa love Ali x



The banner!



Easter celebration at Vale

www.cms-uk.org



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