

28 March 2013

# RECIFE



Greetings!

...from an extremely hot and dry Recife!

We here in the NorthEast of Brasil are experiencing a drought, the worse seen for years! So much so that in the Sertão (deep countryside) nothing is growing and what is, isn't strong or sufficient and cows and horses are dying. As a consequence, food prices have gone through the roof and are increasing weekly, principally, fruit, meat and flour (so bread, which is a staple part of Brazilian diet, is much more expensive and becoming something that even the poorest of families are having to limit)

As you know, I frequently live without running water. Well this has now spread to the whole of Recife in general! The water company are limiting the amount of water we receive (as the dams are only 19-25% full) So we now in theory are with running water for 20 hours and without for 28 hours! In reality this isn't really happening!! I usually find that IF the water reaches my house, it's after midnight! So have spent several nights awake until 03:30, washing clothes, cleaning my house and filling up all the receptacles



that I have to store water! This water ban originally was for three months (starting from last month - February) now it's indefinite! It all adds variety to the adventure of life!!

## Prayer Points:

### Thanks:

- That the third EBA at Vale went really well and my crew enjoyed themselves too!
- That the injury to my finger wasn't too serious!
- For new friendships made at the church camp

### Requests:

- For finances for Vale to arrive
- For wisdom and guidance for Nane and I regarding where to lead Vineyard em Ação
- For our church at the Roda

Anyway, moving on!

The kids returned to Vale after carnaval and I am now giving up to 8 swimming lessons a day, due to the amount of kids that entered this year!

At the moment, it is still possible for us to use the swimming pool at Vale! Which is very good news for me and for the kids, 'cos it really is their favourite day and mine too!

I am so excited with the progress of the kids, particularly the littlies! I thought that maybe with the long break from using the pool, they would have forgotten what they learned last year or be fearful to enter the big pool again. How wrong was I! Nearly all of them are wanting to enter the big pool, with the spaghetti floats (which we now don't have enough!) and are really learning how to swim! As I wrote last year, there are still the odd few who have fear of entering the big pool, but even two of them (Michael and Elison) have overcome this fear and entered firstly with me and now on their own! Elison (see the foto below) in particular has suddenly become a water baby and is learning to swim better than one of his older sisters, much to her disgust!

The other teachers haven't had any interest in what goes on the pool in the past, but these days I'm so excited recounting what's been happening, one of them (Gabi, one of the teachers for the littlies) has started to take an interest in her class and their progress! She's also seeing first hand how they are developing and gaining confidence, which is extending to the classroom too! It's all good! Although for the past two weeks I haven't been able to enter the pool, firstly due to a chest infection and then due to injuring my finger and not being able to enter due to the stitches! Hopefully next week I will!

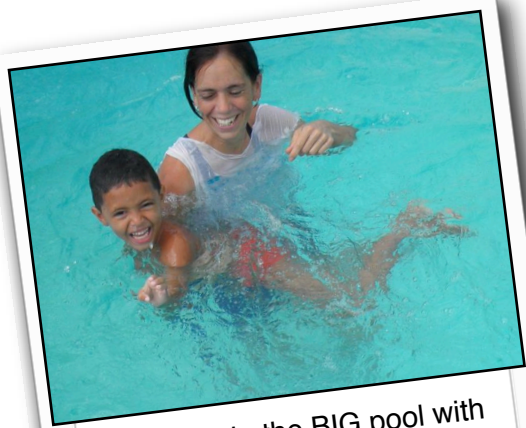
Talking of injuring myself, this happened when I was preparing an arts lesson. I now am working Wed - Fri at Vale. Wed's and Friday's are still swimming days,

• [Email: alidontcare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alidontcare@yahoo.co.uk)

• [FaceBook: Newsflash from Recife](#)

• [Skype: alison.young or ali.young05](#)

• [Twitter: ali\\_young05](#)



First time in the BIG pool with Tia Ali

Thursday is now arts and crafts day. I was making slits in wooden sticks, for the kids to make windmills and the penknife slipped!! I ended up at the local A&E/walk-in centre as I couldn't stop the bleeding and knew I needed stitches! 3 stitches later and an impressive dressing! I'm redressing it daily, so a simple dressing that doesn't make too much of an impression, is more my style! It's healing well. The stitches come out this week. The kids at Vale have either been shocked or very impressed, when I showed the foto of my cut and then the stitches!

Our Easter celebrations were limited to one afternoon, as we really do not have any funds, so just one afternoon was to reduce costs! The adolescents did 4 dramas about Easter, one in particular was amazingly powerful! The girls from the morning did a dance/mime and the girls from the afternoon did a dance too ...and then there was the littlies!! I really wish I could put the video I recorded on FB to show everyone, 'cos it was so cute and usual mayhem with 4-5 year olds!



Church camp in Paulo Afonso

The 3rd EBA at Vale to which I took my small group, went really well and all the teens heard about Gods love for them! There was real mix of learning and fun and games all relating to the theme of "Being different" and how you live your life differently in this day and age! This culminated in the last day's wide game. We had to better last year's and so this year we went all out for gross and fear!! There was a tunnel with chicken bits and live toads, to wading through the river and foot deep mud and then the house of terror! Was alot of fun, even wading through the mud when we were mapping it all out! In the actual game, I was the corpse in the dark, in the house of terror and was holding the last pass they needed to collect to finish the course! Some of them thought I was a doll, 'cos my face was painted white to disguise who it was and I didn't move until they tried to extract the pass from my hand! Was alot of fun! I knew I wouldn't get any sleep during this time and I was correct!!



swimming day ...the best day at Vale!

Talking of no sleep ... During carnival our church went on a road trip to Paulo Afonso, Bahia (another state, approx 6-7 hours away by car) as there is a small Vineyard group there who we as a church are helping, so we all went to meet them! We set off at 01:15 to avoid traffic and were scheduled to arrive at 07:30, however this was without any hiccups! At 04:30 the bus broke down, in the middle of no-where! OK, it was near a very small village that was dead! Here we waited 6 hours for another bus to take us the rest of the way! When it arrived we had to unload everything and reload the new bus! I didn't sleep the entire journey! For fotos, see my FB page!



Easter celebrations at Vale

It was a good few days. We stayed in a local school, where we slept, ate, had services etc. Was good to meet and encourage them. While there, one of them who is a sign language teacher gave a taster lesson. She said to me that if I learn this that I'll be tri-lingual! It's a challenge learning to do sign language in Portuguese, but challenges are healthy and stretch the brain. Was really good and all of us who did it were really enthused to do something in Recife. When we returned, we found out the there was a sign language course starting, but unfortunately only two folks from church managed to register for it, 'cos we only found out at the a last minute. I unfortunately wasn't successful in registering. Maybe next time?

Church continues to go well. My small group also continues to go well. We had stopped over Christmas and carnaval (much to their disgust!) But now we're back in the swing, doing things a little differently, but it's good and they still come every week!



Next week I have a visitor arriving. My Mum is coming out to spend another 2 weeks with me, which I'm looking forward to. Ok, just enough space for me to wish you all a Happy Easter! lossa love Ali x

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