



The Roberts'



Brazil Update

September 2009

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the September update! I hear England is settling into autumn whereas Brazil is spinning into spring - which just means it hasn't rained for a few weeks and the temperature is in the thirties. Sorry for the delay in sending this update - I came down with tonsillitis last week and, after an injection of anti bios in the bum, am only just beginning to recover!



Doing it all again for the Brazilians...

Oh, and for you temperature checker fans; a cloudy 13C in York compared to a scorching 31C in Olinda!

Only in Brazil – 'ThisCountry'

Well, now we're back in Brazil, I can take over from Rose and get back to telling you all about some of the wonderful cultural differences between Brazil and England. Some of them are so wacky that you just have to whisper to yourself... 'This country'.

This month it's **Wedding Etiquette**. Many an hour was spent in England debating who was allowed to take photos during the service and where from. We would in England, of course, frown severely on people who leave their seat to take a photo during the service and

would most likely gasp in horror if someone encroached upon the altar to get a better shot of the bride and groom. Not so in Brazil - it's a free for all - people taking pictures from the front, people standing next to you during the vows to have a photo etc... This Country... (although I have to say I might actually prefer it in this more informal way!).



With the boys at the wedding. They all blew bubbles as we walked down the aisle = mayhem.

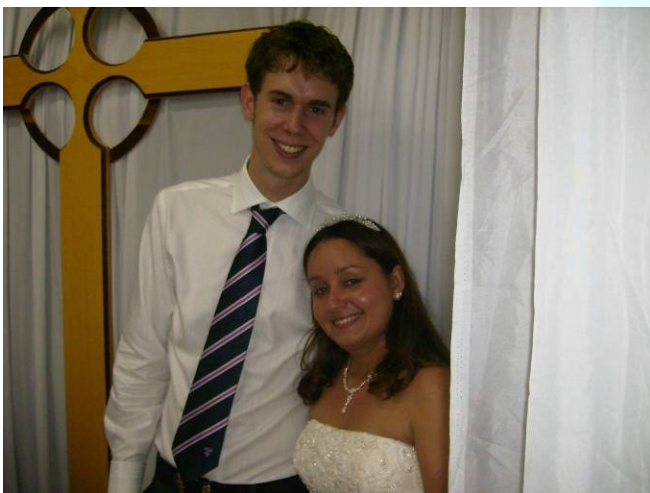
New Newsletter

This past week some of you might have received the new official newsletter of My Father's House project. This is a new newsletter that the My Father's House Executive Committee, of which I'm apart, will write and send out every two months. It's supposed to be a bit more formal and will tell you about the other areas where My Father's House is working. Feedback is very much appreciated.

Brazil Life

Rose and I have been pretty busy this past month. I've been busy with various different meetings and project things and Rose's been busy organizing our Brazilian

Wedding Celebration which happened on Saturday 3rd October. It was a great day, especially for Rose's family and our Brazilian friends who weren't around for our English wedding. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology my family were also able to watch the service through Skype! Unfortunately I was pretty sick that day with a sky high temperature and tonsillitis but despite that we still had a great time celebrating with a party after the service. I actually ended up in hospital on a drip that night - thankfully we'd already had our honeymoon!



Youth 18+

The youth group has returned this month and it's been great to get the group back together. We've worked out a good programme with a good balance of study, evangelism and relaxation! We're pleased that one of our members, Claudimir (Gordo, which means 'fatty' in English!) has been accepted to go to Argentina in the new year on a mission trip. He's currently studying at the seminary and it's a fantastic opportunity for Gordo, who was brought up on the shanty town and converted and disciplined within the



church. We're proud of him, praying for him and helping him to raise the cash he needs to go.

New Phone

Rose and I now have a landline in our apartment, which means you can now get in touch with us easily and cheaply! You can call us for 2p/min from an English landline using this 'telediscount' number. Dial 08444621621 and then 00558134322814.

The Project

The new Executive Committee has been meeting weekly to help organize and coordinate the project better. I've been encouraged from the meetings that things seem to be going in the right direction. There are still plenty of issues and problems to be addressed and resolved but I feel that this has been a good start.



Jonata's Birthday

Rose and I met up with our dentist friend who has agreed to keep on giving free dental care to the boys - Gabriel was the first back in last week. This is a great help for the project since all of the boys never went to a dentist whilst living with their families and have some serious dental issues... Dental treatment is extremely expensive in Brazil so it's great that we have a dentist for the project.

In my executive role I've been visiting a few local companies and businesses to see if they would like to help the project in some way. Hopefully the local bread shop will begin to provide the project with daily free bread which will be a great help to reduce the monthly food bill! Plus a restaurant chain is interested in helping us with food donations. It's been very

encouraging but let's keep praying that the help may materialise! The boys are doing well. The daily devotionals have returned and the boys are enjoying them. One of the boy's Uncle was shot and killed last week which was a little upsetting for him. At the end of the month and English couple, Michal and Francesca Boden are arriving to spend around a month helping out in the project.



Devotionals at the project

We've also been having a number of meetings to start up a program specifically aimed at gang members who are keen to leave the lifestyle behind. We've had a number of get togethers with a group of around 5 boys (ages 15 - 21) and hope to start a mentoring system. We took them to spend a day at the farm and hope to start a football group with the help of an ex professional who used to be addicted to crack during his playing days. Working with these kind of kids is hard, sometimes they don't show up due to the drugs etc and their lives are in danger daily from other gangs.



Ian with some of these boys at the farm

Things I miss about England

#98 - Friend's Weddings - The downside to living on the other side of the world is that you miss out on seeing old friends getting married! Just have to rely on facebook pictures ☹

Things I love about Brazil

#75 - Weddings - Weddings in the Brazilian style... 'nuf said.

September Comings and Goings

This month saw the arrival once again of Carol Coney on perhaps her 4th or 5th time here in Brazil. She's spending around a month with us and giving some support to long term volunteer Val.

A new boy arrived this month, Emerson 10. His Mum is in some trouble and has been living on the streets which has put Emerson at risk. Hopefully he'll just be with us for the short term until we can help his Mum get back on her feet.

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that the Lord is doing here in Brazil for the project and the Church.
2. Pray for Rose and I as we both recover from illness - my tonsillitis and Rose's stomach bug.
3. Pray that Rose and I will be able to find another apartment to live in when our contract runs out next year.
4. Please pray for the financial situation of the project. That more regular monthly income will be committed to the project so that we can cover our running costs and look to expand out work.
5. Pray for more staff for the project to give some much needed support and rest to other workers.

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

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

Prayers.

Andy and Rose ☺

Contact Details and Useful Info

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

Project Address –

Casa de Meu Pai
Av. Ministro Marcus Freire 5615
Rio Doce
Olinda – PE
53130540
Brazil

Our 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
Our apartment - 00558134322814
My Cell – 00558191962959
Rose's Cell - 00558191596058

Bank Details

Project's Charity Account –
Service of Hope Charity
For info please contact Roger Atkinson on
koinonia115@ntlworld.com

My Bank Account Details

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

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