

Recife NewsBeat

May 2022

Greetings one and all!

First off I will start by apologizing yet again! I'm so sorry it's becoming like a broken record! I started a newsletter towards the end of last year and honestly thought I had sent it out! However, was recently informed that I hadn't! This year is flying by even faster than last year, can't believe it's May!

Will very briefly do a flying report of the end of last year. The girl's 15th party went very well with the theme being "Beauty and the Beast", so all blue, gold and white! We all dressed up for the event, as you can see from the photo on the right! We were very grateful for all the donations of cakes, dinner and help with the decorations. The girls and their families were bowled over by it all!



We scrub up ok!

The rest of the term at Vale flew by, the day of the child in October was well celebrated as always, with a week of different, fun activities. At the end of October the team from Vale went away for a weekend. It was a kinda farewell to one of our English volunteers, who

was returning to the UK after 2 years at Vale. We went to a place called Valley of the Catimbau, it's loads of Valleys and mountains (a super mini Grand Canyon type place) It was spectacular. We did 3 day trails! The views were incredible. The only thing we missed were the waterfalls, but that was cz there

had been no rain, so they were dry! It was a great team building moment. We've never done this before, so was an adventure!

Vale ended the year with the term ending with our sort of musical/drama about looking for the real meaning of Christmas. I know some of you managed to watch it live on Facebook, tho the end was missed as our connection failed! :(

I was one of the 2 main characters in the drama! I had the most lines to learn and was a little concerned that I'd forget them, knowing how bad my memory is, but I didn't! It went really well, the kids sung their hearts out, they all received a Christmas present of clothes and each family received a food parcel and a turkey that were very kindly donated!



Christmas drama!

Well after Vale finished for the year I continued to prepare for my big surprise of the year! Until the quarantine restrictions had been lifted for entry into the UK, I had not planned on going back to the UK anytime soon. But after these 2 years where I really couldn't travel even if I had wanted to, Robério said I needed to go. So, at the last minute I decided to go. Robério stayed at home cz it was too expensive. The only person who knew was my Dad! The run up to going was rather stressful cz they kept changing the timings of when you needed to take your PCR test before travelling, so much so, that I didn't know IF I actually would be able to travel, until I received the all clear on the morning that I was planning flying out!!



I hadn't even started to pack my suitcase incase I couldn't go! Once I got the all clear, my bags were quickly packed and all the documents required were checked, saved on my phone and photocopied! Then rechecked and rechecked again!

The journey back to the UK was very interesting, due to all the restrictions in the different countries!

If you haven't seen the video of my Mum's reaction when she opened the front door to find me there, have a look on my Facebook page!! It made all the scheming and stress totally worthwhile!

Apologies to both my Mum and my brother for rendering them both speechless! N thanks to my Dad for lying so convincingly to his wife about where he was going, when he went to collect me from the airport!

I was back in the UK for just 5 weeks and I apologize to many who I didn't get to see. It really wasn't possible and what with some of the COVID restrictions still in place, it just wasn't practical! Hopefully next time will be possible! Was lovely to see those I did get to see!



Once back in Recife the new term started and we had loads of new kids start. This was due to a large group who left at the end of last year, due to age limit or moving house! This year for the first time we have not accepted siblings of kids already at the project. This was decided so that we could help more families, as the demand for places has been extremely high this year! The pool has been out of order and was meant to be getting fixed during Carnaval in February ...it was finished last week! This was only cz the director of Vale threatened not to pay the guy if he didn't finish last week! I have instead been doing admin, photos, making educational aids, and helping with lessons.

As you may have seen on the news Pernambuco (our state) especially Recife has been hit badly by torrential rain in the last week, which resulted in 128 people losing their lives due to landslides and flooding! This is the worst disaster that has happened for over 50 years here! It was not helped by high sea tides! Many of our families have lost everything and we have been helping them and many in the community get back on their feet again!



However, we have another threat of flooding this coming weekend and torrential rain!! The rivers and canals are already nearly overflowing, with bridges destroyed and craters appearing all over the roads! The kids had a unpromptue week off from Vale cz it was impossible to get there and Vale was very soggy!!

During this time we have seen God's protection and provision in really amazing ways! The families have been blessed and seen how much God loves them!



Prayer points:

Thanks:

- God's provision
- God's protection

Requests:

- For renewed finances.
- For employment for Robério
- For wisdom as we contemplate the future.
- Protection during the rainy season for our families

Praying you all are well and safe!
Love and prayers!
Ali (and Robério)

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