

SEPTEMBER 2024

How on earth is it September already?! ...actually, it's nearly October, but let's focus on the fact it's still September for now! I won't say how many days til Christmas, coz that really is a little startling!

The kids had their annual São João party (it's a NorthEastern cultural type country fair) where the boys all dress up in a particular style and the girls too! Lots of traditional foods were eaten and country fair games were played! This usually is their last event of the term, but this year due to the school calendar there were more days going into July, so to close their term we did a crazy hair day! We have never done this before, so had no idea how it would go, but we were surprised at their creativity! There were 2 litre Coke bottles hidden in the hair (how?)

Just cos the kids weren't at Vale didn't mean we slacked off or were on holiday either! We had the final preparations for our annual Bible club (EBF) for 155 5-10 year olds to get ready!! Which was the following week! This year the theme was Samson. I only had to make props for the drama that was being performed each day (telling the story of Samson) ...such as his





chains, the pillars of the temple for Samson to knock down at the end etc. Was fun doing! I also had to think of and prepare the games! I thought of ideas that had a link (sometimes all be it a little tenuous) to the story ...such as strength, Samson's hair, bees and honey etc! Tho the weather didn't help and it rained a lot! ...so much that the final day we had to cut the games (as outside) and finished earlier than planned! Tho typically the rain stopped, so we could've done the

games, but as it had been decided to finish earlier, wasn't possible!

Apart from this small detail the event went really well and the kids seemed to enjoy it and learnt some more about characters from the Bible.

We (the team) then had 10 days off, which was nice! Tho I spent it doing the 101 jobs I had on my "to do" list!

The kids returned in August and as always some didn't return, so some newbies started in their places! The kids also had all received new uniforms which was great, cos the newbies don't feel left out and now really feel they are a part of Vale! Since back the kids have learnt about emotions, using the film "Inside Out 2" and are currently learning about the parables of Jesus. At the end of term aswell as our musical spectacular, we will have one day where each class will present about one of the parables of Jesus to their Mum's.

Talking of their Mum's, we are doing a new initiative once a week with a different class (so once a month



per class!) and their Mum's. It's usually about whatever is the theme of the week, which could be a parable, or about creation or characteristics of God! It's to include the Mum's in their child's day. They usually hear the story n then do an activity together. It's going really well. It's only for about 45mins, at the start of either the morning or the afternoon, but they all seem to be enjoying it!

This second term back in the pool it seems that particularly with the 5-7 year olds they are "getting" the idea of swimming! Since we started back in August I already have 6 new swimmers and several others who are nearly there! Others are really facing fears and overcoming them, re getting in the big pool! It's sooo awesome to see and it's a real privilege to be a part of something like this!



Now til the end of term is just crazy, we got loads going on! Starting with the day of the child in October, which turns into a week of different activities! ..and lots of other events and of course finishing with Christmas!

Church is currently in the middle of a three night conference about Jesus being the only way! I am leading worship all three nights, it's going well. My voice is just holding out (as before I had been suffering with colds, sore throats n allergies n it was dreadful) Grateful!

Thank you for your continued support!
Ali (and Robério)

Prayer points:

Thanks:

- God's provision
- God's protection
- For all the kids at Vale!

Requests:

- For renewed finances.
- For finances for Vale.
- For wisdom as we contemplate the future.

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