

Recife NewsBeat

FEBRUARY 2025

Greetings one and all!

I know it's already February, but I will still wish you all a very Happy New Year and pray it is a good one for you all!

At the end of my last newsletter I said that the run into Christmas was gonna be crazy ...well it didn't disappoint!

We started with the day of the child in October, which actually evolves into a week of different, fun activities! This year we did loads of different team games (including obstacle races, sack races, games with water etc) We saw a new dynamic this year too which was great, as usually not all the kids want to be involved in the activities, this year everyone wanted to be included in everything!!



During this week we also received visits from the Registry office who support Vale and always come around this time and give each kid a new toy! We also had a visit from a private school, who decided to sponsor each kid with a toy, so asked the kids to list or draw 3 toy options! We told the kids that they were options and not definite, BUT all the kids got at least one thing on their list, which ranged from Skateboards, to remote control cars to an expensive type of doll! The kids faces were a picture when they opened them and realized what they had got! Was great to see!



One girl asked for a Jesus doll! No-one had ever seen this anywhere, but that was exactly what she got! Her response was "I've now got Jesus with me all the time!" ...n look at her smile! This school also organized an afternoon of fun with inflatable slides, soap football, clowns etc. I got roped into help with some of the fun with the clowns. I was part of the human pyramid various kids climbed up!

After the excitement of this week, normality returned and the new focus was on preparations for the EXPO (exhibition/presentation) event that each class was gonna present to their Mum's in November. The theme was "The parables of Jesus" (stories told by Jesus) so each class presented either a drama, a mime to a song or sung a song all related to their particular parable. My involvement was to make masks!!



I made 3 birds, a sun, a tree, thistles and 3 pigs! Oh and a cardboard house!! They all did really well, as it was the first time most had been involved in something like this! There was also quite a lot of laughter, due to particularly the younger classes dramas and interpretation on the good Samaritan!

After this event each family received a Bible kit (donated by a local church) and we gave them a small food parcel too.

This year, once a month or so we have done fruit and vegetable parcels for each family (whenever we receive a lot of donations from a central fruit n veg market) Sometimes unfortunately it is quantity over quality, so most goes to the horses out on the roads, but Márcia (our cook) does a great job to save as much as possible. Sometimes we get other things like biscuits, yogurts and

cracker biscuits, all with a very short expiry date. This is divided between all the families, as well as using them for pudding at lunchtime and afternoon snacks during the week. It is a scheme for local community projects and we are very grateful for it, even if sometimes all we receive is a few bouquets of fresh coriander! We never know what will arrive!

Our term ended at Vale with our yearly Christmas show. This year again all the kids were involved (130) as they wanted to be! ...last year we only had 60 who wanted to be involved! They all sung well, for many it was their first time, so there were some very excited kids to control before it all started. This year we didn't have the means to do the food parcels, but we got a donation of Panettones for each family. The kids were very excited

to get a Panettone, as they are quite expensive and not really a priority food wise for the families. I heard one saying they were "posh" cos they had got a Panettone! All the kids also received a new outfit again (money given by a local sponsor) to which I and a couple of other staff members had fun choosing earlier in the month. We the staff returned the next day

to tidy up and put away all the Christmas decorations.

Church celebrated 20 years of existence at the end of November, so there was a special celebration service.

I had planned to spend Christmas in Recife and the New year planning for our teenage event that we always have at the end of January, but I had to make an emergency trip back to the UK, cz at the end of November my Dad suffered a couple of strokes. He came home (thank God) but as he was my Mum's carer, she had had to take on this role and it was being rather difficult and exhausting for her. I had tried to resolve some things via the internet, but it really wasn't possible. So I made the decision to go back to help out and try and get some things put in place, to make living at home abit easier. They had no idea I was going back, so it was a surprise for them when I walked in! My brother had come and picked me up from the airport. It has been challenging and very frustrating, as

Adultsocial services, the NHS and other services haven't been very helpful or waiting times are very long (up to a year) for services needed now! However, I have managed to get a few things in place and am waiting for other replies! My parents are doing as well as they possibly can, under the circumstances, tho there is still a very long way to go with Dad's recovery! They celebrated 55 years of marriage in January! I will have spent 2 months here, when I go back at the end of Feb, so prayers for them would be appreciated!

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



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