

The Gee's Newsletter

Spring 2008

Building on The Rock

I'm sure many of you will be familiar with the story of the wise and foolish builders (Mt7:24-27). The foolish man built his house on the sand and it fell down when the storm came. The wise man however built on the rock and was safe and secure when the storm came. It's easy to say that your faith is built on the rock of Christ but when the storms come our faith is often tested, we may wobble a little but with our feet planted on THE ROCK we will not fall. That's exactly how we are feeling at the moment. The last few months have been very testing for us all. Michael underwent tests for the chest pains he was suffering and now has medication for stress, although he is a lot better, prevention is still better than the cure!!

Then just 2 days before Christmas someone broke into the Boas Novas site and stole the water pump from the well house meaning that we had no water for several days until we were able to buy a new one. A week later the wife of one of the team members lost her unborn child, then

Off the Streets

One of the main aims of the project is to get young people off the streets and help them start again. The great news is that over the past couple of months this has become the reality for 5 youngsters from the streets. Three girls have all received help to return to their own families including the girl who lost her toes who we mentioned last time. The two young men who left the streets are now living on and looking after the

shortly after another team member contracted chicken pox followed by yet another breaking his arm. So as you can see we have been going through one of those "testing times", the sort of thing that pops up from time to time to test your faith.

However, on a more positive note, we have for some time been aware of the necessity to increase the height of the wall around the site in Jota Lima, to prevent people from helping themselves to the project's property. So in a step of faith (remembering that our faith at times feels as wobbly as the wall itself!) we began to first strengthen the wall by casting concrete pillars and then to increase its height by about another meter. The first section needed rebuilding from scratch as it was leaning considerably but the rest will just need raising in height and so this will be a bit easier, and already the finished sections are a great improvement. When completed we hope it will offer more security for those living on the site at night as well as being less likely to fall on someone.

site of a church and have been given a plot of land to grow things on for food and also to raise income. Both have taken up their secondary school level studies once again. We hope you will be as encouraged by this news as we are.

This letter is sent out with the kind help of Mrs Elaine Riley, c/o Pound Lane Free Church, 28 & 30 Pound Lane, Isleham, Ely, Cambs.

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Points for prayer and praise.

- We give thanks for the good number of young people who have recently left the streets, please pray for their daily adjustment and for strength to not be tempted back.
- We give thanks for the many people who have come to the monthly Saturday night evangelistic meetings at the Boas Novas church. Please pray they would be encouraged to come along on a Sunday to have fellowship with us.
- Please pray for Cosme and Patricia as they continue to come to terms with the death of their unborn son.
- Please pray for all the legal paperwork for the project to be sorted out so we can get on with the real work of reaching out to people with the good news of the gospel.

**“If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come.”
(2 Cor 5:17)**

Future hopes.

As we continue to fly through the first part of this new year there are a number of things we hope to achieve in the coming months. One of the main things is to really try to encourage Brazilians themselves to support the work. We are forever looking for new opportunities to spread the news about the work here. Recently the project has been given air time on both the radio here and on TV. The project has also secured a stand at a number of trade exhibitions as well as a Christian music concert.

God's Armour and a health plan

Although we still haven't yet managed to get the dentist office up and running due to a lack of "official" paper work (as you can't let just anybody pull teeth), we have managed to begin a health team to help us with the Saturday morning evangelistic club (affectionately known as the "clubinho"). This small team of people have already given health advice to our regular children and administered fluoride to help protect their teeth. Recently they ran a simple eye test to examine some of the children who otherwise would go unnoticed. With simple basic health care we are hoping to prevent some of the problems which often happen in such a

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Pre-school

The pre-school has started once again at the Boas Novas site in Jota Lima. There are 25 children between the ages of 3 and 6 years old registered for this year. Many of the parents of these children cannot even afford to buy their own snack so lunch is provided for the children. Although at present we have limited facilities we have a vision to provide some form of outdoor play equipment to give them the best possible start that we can in a safe environment.

We now have a long list of companies, some Christian and some secular, who are open to hearing about the project. Our hope is not only that they will be moved to help in a practical way but that as the reason why we do what we do is shared with them they too may be touched by the message of the Gospel.

It is an uphill task but we're getting used to it and as we both have hill walking experience, we know that the harder the climb is, the better the view from the top of the mountain!!

Volleyball

For some time now we have been desperate to offer something for the teenage girls in the area. Cristiane, one of our team members, at last rose to the challenge of offering these girls the opportunity to play volleyball. They begin each session with a 20 minute Bible study to build them up spiritually before they build themselves up physically with a game of volleyball. Many of these young people come from homes in which there is poverty, abuse of drugs and alcohol and the violence that is connected with such a lifestyle. Our hope is that the girls will begin to see something of Christ in all that we do, and give them an opportunity to know more about a life with Him.

We continue to be so thankful for each one of you who are supporting both us and the project here in São Luis, we couldn't do it without you. Many thanks from us all,

Michael, Janice, Daniel & Miriam.

For more up to date news visit our NEW blog spot at michaelandjanice.blogspot.com