

The Gee's Newsletter

April 2007



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A Story of Hope

Since our last news letter many of you have heard us speak about a young man by the name of Marcos Antonio. For those who don't know, he is about 19 years old and back in February 2006 fell off the back of the bus he was hanging onto. He was then hit by the car that was traveling behind the bus and sustained serious injuries.

One morning at the end of the drop-in centre some of the boys who had already left returned to say that Marcos was at the petrol station. Indeed he was, lying on his back on the pavement, moaning with pain, emaciated and with an open wound on his hip. It was a very sad site, we didn't think he would live for many

days, Marcos himself just kept crying for people to leave him alone so he could die.

Since then he has received regular baths and meals from the team who have also worked hard to keep his injuries dressed and now he is almost all healed up. It was good to see him at the Christmas party we had at the drop-in centre, in just a few weeks he had gained weight and was smiling again.

Although to date he is unable to walk he does have a wheelchair now so it's easier for him to get around. He still prefers to sleep on the street with his friends but there may be an opportunity for him to get some form of physiotherapy soon.

He hears the Gospel message each time he comes into the drop-in centre and knows a great deal about the Bible already so we hope and pray not just for his physical healing but for a spiritual one as well.

Picture: Marcos Antonio & friends.



Hot Frog! (Well, almost)

Lots of you keep asking about our resident frogs. Recently we had a determined effort to evict them all and put them back in the garden where they should be. The last straw was one night finding one on the kitchen wall who then to avoid capture leapt with

acrobatic precision straight into the toaster. The children were interested to know how Daddy was going to get the frog out of the toaster, Daddy had a few ideas but opted for the animal friendly approach and released it outside, lightly crumbed

but not fried!! Daddy does have to admit to not being so kind to the Tarantula who invited himself in the front door one night, it's amazing what you can do with a flip-flop.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”
(Matthew 5:7)

Points for prayer

- *Pray for the salvation of the boys on the street. That they would have a real desire to turn from their ways*
- *Pray for the work of the Saturday morning evangelistic club. That the children would have a real hunger for the word of God.*
- *Give thanks for the workers who continue to be examples to those who are around them*
- *Pray for our health*

Memory Verses and a lizard!



The Saturday morning club continues to run well. Each Saturday we have around 50 children. Our theme this term is "The Bible—What a special book!". We have given each child a little book of their own in which they have the 10 commandments, 13 memory verses and the names of all the books of the Bible along with some fun

activity to complete. Each week we ask them to memorise something within the book. After table games, prayer and choruses we have a bible story and then break into small groups to listen to anything they have memorized and we often have some small activity for them to do. Michael looks after the 11's and up, a calm and non-threatening group whilst I (Janice) look after the 9-10's who are anything but calm. Each week has its highlights but the one in which one of the boys put a dead lizard down the back of a girl's t-shirt sticks in my mind more than most. It would be easy to think that nothing goes in to the minds or hearts of such children but then the next week there he is,



this same boy, standing at the front with only 2 others in front of all his friends confessing Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

Planned visit to the UK

The last year and a half has gone so fast it doesn't seem that long ago that we were getting on a plane to come to Brazil. At that time our mid-term break was far from our minds as we had lots of language to learn and after that find a place where we could work.

Well, the time has now come for us to think about a short break, we had planned to go back to the UK at Christmas 2007 but Michael's brother is getting married at the beginning of August so we will now be there for the whole of July and the first week or so of August. This fits in well with our children's schooling as well not being as cold (hopefully!) as December. We then plan to return to Brazil for at least a further 2 years which will not be long if time continues to go as quickly as it has done already.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
(Proverbs 22:6)

Times of Encouragement

One of the very important things about life here is the need for encouragement from others who are in a similar position to yourselves, without it we would go mad!

Thankfully we meet monthly with all the other São Luis missionaries connected with the umbrella organisation here in Brazil. We take it in turns to host it in our homes, having a short time of reflection on some passage from the Bible followed by a time of sharing our joys and problems and then a time of prayer. Then we have something to eat together and general talking together. This has become a very precious time for us with anything from 8 to 12 of us as well as children.

The other great encouragement is the church we attend on a Sunday night. It only has about 50 people as it is quite new but we have good fellowship together.

We continue to be very grateful for all your support in so many ways, love from us all,

Michael, Janice, Daniel & Miriam

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