

NEW DESTINY NEWS

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Inviting kids to camp

2006 was our first year of running camps. Nearly all the groups were brought by people we already knew who work with under-privileged young people in the city.

In 2007, we continued to receive these groups but also began to look for new contacts as our nearby city of Belo Horizonte has thousands of childrens homes, shelters for children at risk and community centres in the slums. The last six months in particular we have begun to seek out and visit these projects.

Usually on a visit the coordinator of the project tells us about their work and just when they get to the part about rarely or never being able to take the children out overnight because “there is no money for that”, we tell them “we have come here today to invite you to bring your children to a beautiful adventure camp in the country and it’s free”. It is a bit like meeting a very thirsty man in the middle of the desert and offering him a glass of water – you can imagine the facial expression!

We are beginning to see the fruit now, having received several groups as a direct result of

these visits, and with a couple more booked in for 2008. We understand it to be an invaluable part of our work at this stage and will continue the visits next year.

Training the troops!

On 2nd January *Jefferson* goes off to do a three week training course at a camp near São Paulo. It is being organised by ‘Child Evangelism Fellowship’ who are a well known organisation internationally. We are excited about what he is going to learn and the benefits that will bring to ND.

It is really important to invest in training for the team, because the better equipped we are, the more we can offer the children.

Abernethy support

We are so grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the **Abernethy Trust** in Scotland. **Lorimer Gray** (executive director of AT) set up the UK New Destiny Trust, enabling ND to receive donations with 28% tax back on each gift. He and the other members of the board, **Ed Metcalfe and Andrew Marrian**, continue to give us invaluable support, advice and encouragement on a regular basis.

We also want to thank **Moir Gray**, our UK Rep, for all her hard work in communicating with UK contacts and volunteers, fund-raising and publicity.

Interestingly enough, the Abernethy Outdoor

Centre currently have several Brazilians on their staff team! We were very excited when *Waldir* phoned us last week from Scotland and are looking forward to receiving a visit from him here at the Centre in January!

Our vision for the future

It is easy to become discouraged when we look around the farm and see so much needing developed. We desperately need more staff houses and more accommodation for the campers. Apart from that we want to have some more radical adventure activities.

Probably our biggest challenge will be to convert the barn into a refectory and meetings hall and renovate the main house which is our present accommodation for groups.

We will need to find a lot of money in order to move into the next phase of the work, but we are encouraged by the story of how we got New Destiny in the first place. We didn't have the money to buy it, all we had was a gut feeling that it was the right thing. It seemed impossible, but God reminded us one more time that with Him all things are possible! Within three days all the money we needed came in and we were able to buy the farm.

Our vision is that New Destiny Adventure Centre continues to grow and develop, and that through the camps on our beautiful farm, thousands of children and teenagers will have an encounter with the living God, and that kids who have given up on their dreams and lost direction, will find hope for their lives and the



courage to make right choices that will effect their future and the future of their children.

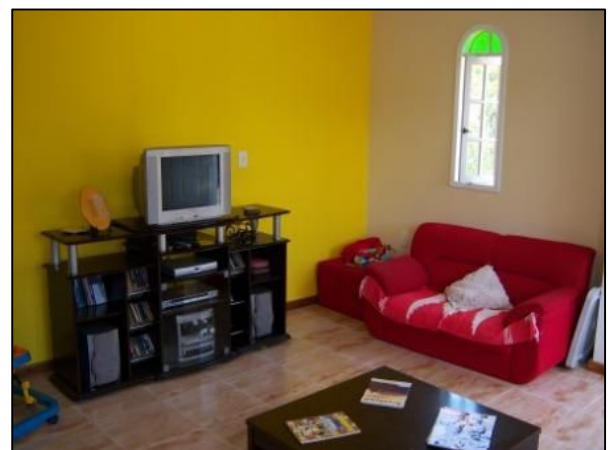
God knows who and what we need to fulfil the vision. It is such a privilege to be a part of it. We hope you feel that way too!

Team news

Romeu and Michele are in Belo for the next couple of weeks as Michele is due to give birth to baby *Igor* any day now.

Having moved into Ted and Deirdire's house on the farm temporarily in September, from rented accommodation nearby, they were finally able to move into their own house on the farm in October, 'Casa do Bem-te-vi' (Nice to see you house!) We are naming all the houses after birds as there are so many varieties on the farm, with incredible colours and every one singing a different tune.

Morven & the boys are now settled in to their new house too. It is beside Romeu and Michele's and is called 'Casa do Tucano' (Toucan House), because the peach tree out the back is frequently visited by toucans. The house is lovely.



To be honest we often say that it doesn't feel like we have staff workers, it feels like a family. We all meet every morning before starting work, to study God's Word and pray, and we always eat lunch as a community. Apart from that, we love to get together, with our kids too, to celebrate birthdays and festivals. On 30th November we even ate stovies and trifle (thanks Ted!) and had a ceilidh in the barn for St. Andrews day! Apart from just being great fun, these occasions really bring us closer as a team and help us to work better together.



We are all on holiday the last week of December and the first week of January.

Fabio & Morven

On a more personal note, I Morven would like to thank all of you who have continued to pray for my husband Fabio, and for our family. I have felt the most amazing sense of God's presence throughout this whole time. Sometimes we pray for a miracle and then when it happens we have difficulty in believing it is real! I believe that God has answered the prayers of many many people here in Brazil, the UK and in other countries too. Either prayer is effective and our God is all powerful or there is no point in getting on our knees!

For me, trusting Fabio again will be something that develops over time but the love is still there (on both sides) and forgiveness is something

you choose to give. It is a free gift. In the same way that I experienced the peace of Christ when the storm was at its worst, I have peace in my heart now that it is the right time for Fabio to come home.

He leaves the Rehab Centre on Sunday, 23rd December, having been there for just over three months. The leaders of the house believe he is ready to leave and that what he needs now is to be with his family and for us to have a good support system around us. He has turned back to God and has asked for forgiveness from me and our sons, and some other people that he hurt. His eyes have lost that hardness and his attitude towards me and everything else is totally different.

As Luisa said the other morning "What can take a year for man, can take a day for God". My heart rejoices in the changes and answered prayer that I have witnessed in such a short time. Although there is a long way to go, I am grateful to God for answering prayer thus far. Life is a journey!

Fabio and I are now knocking on some doors about possible training courses that he might do next and our family is looking forward to being reunited for Christmas.

Please keep praying.

Let the tree planting begin!

A few weeks ago we kicked off our environmental programme with a group of deaf teenagers from a YWAM project called Casa Semear. They have stayed at ND on several occasions so we were pleased that this group was with us for our first ever ecologically friendly activity, planting native trees in our forest. It was a great afternoon and even little Angus Joe (2), Morven and Fábio's son, planted a tree.

Please pray for the kids

As you know the young people who come to

camps at New Destiny have very sad stories and need a real injection of hope and encouragement. That is what we are here for! Milton (not his real name) is only one but remember that he represents thousands. Please don't forget to pray for all the young people who come here, that they really will see that God has a new destiny for their lives and that they will be transformed through the power of God's love.

Milton

The leaders of Casa Semear (see above group) told us that one of the lads Milton, who was born deaf, suffers from depression and rarely leaves his house. They were actually really surprised that he came to camp. Life has been more like a nightmare for Milton. His parents were very poor and lived in the country, and like most of the favela dwellers, moved to the city seeking a better life. He has seven brothers and sisters. One of his sisters is mentally handicapped. Shortly after the move, his father suffered a terrible accident at work and died of serious burns. A few months ago Milton walked in to his uncles house to find him dead in his chair having been murdered by drug traffickers. Is it any wonder that Milton suffers from depression and severe mood swings?

The leaders of the project, Davidson and Luciana (who brought him to ND), took him to see a doctor who diagnosed him as having clinical depression but Milton refuses to take the prescribed tablets because he says only crazy people take pills. I spoke to him (with Davidson translating in signs) and I showed him my pills for epilepsy and explained that clinical depression like epilepsy is a chemical imbalance in the brain and that the pills could really help him. He made a deal with me that he would go



back to the doctor and give the pills a try. I made a deal with him that we will commit to praying for him regularly. Please pray too.

Some amigos and growing local interest

We now have several volunteers who come to help regularly at the Centre.

Edilson, Angela, Nyara and Jonathan

This family are praying about moving from Belo to join our team. He would be such an asset. Edilson has the potential to be in charge of site planning and development, in order to take New Destiny on to the next stage. He would find architects, engineers, labourers, gather quotes for materials and labour costs, and supervise construction and activity development. He has a huge passion for the vision and loves working with young people. He helped us with the renovation of Toucan House. Edilson and his wife Angela have been leaders of a childrens home in Belo Horizonte for seven years but feel that God might be moving them on. Please pray for God to open the doors if it is right for them to come!

Rafael

He is a local lad (19) who helps regularly at the ND camps. His parents *Jo and Toninho* are from our local church and are great friends of ND. Toninho installed the electricity for Toucan House and regularly helps us out when we have plumbing problems. Jo is a great encourager and always helps to organise and cook for any staff get togethers – birthday parties etc.

Isabel

A great lady from our Itabirito church who has really caught the ND vision. She comes out to the Centre regularly just 'to help in any way' and has started cleaning our town office voluntarily twice a month.

Marcelle

She is an Australian who teaches English in a

school in Itabirito. She heard about us and turned up in the office one day. She volunteered her services and now looks after baby Arran one afternoon a week while I am working. Apart from that she brings a huge fresh watermelon to every camp, which literally goes down very well! She is happy to be our 'Australian Rep' whenever she goes back home which we hope and pray will open up new doors for ND in another continent.

Dimas

A local man with a passion for saving the environment and he has a lot of experience in working with under-privileged youngsters. He suggested and organised the tree planting activity and we hope to make it a regular feature on our camp programme.

We have had several other offers of help recently mainly from local people who have heard about our work, and have got in touch wanting to know if they can do anything. A guy called Jesus even turned up in the office this week - Morven thought it was some kind of sick joke at first! He had got talking to Ted in the town square and had come to offer his practical skills if we should need him, so the word is spreading.

How can you help?

If you would like to give a donation or become a monthly sponsor please email or call our UK REP before or after as this helps us with our accounting:

Moira Gray,
loriandmo.gray@virgin.net
Phone: 01479 821 110

The ND bank details are the following:

Royal Bank of Scotland,
Grantown-on Spey,
Morayshire,
PH26 3EG
Sort Code 83:22:19
Account Number 00167388

Remember that because this is our New Destiny Trust charity account, we get 28% tax back on every gift - a huge help to the work.

Thanks so much for all your support and encouragement during 2007. May you have a wonderful Christmas with people you love, and a blessed 2008.



Love from Morven & the ND team.x.

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