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Testing times

The last three months it has felt like we have passed through a raging storm. In December Morven, Angus then Romeu all went down with a bad flu/virus. Then Ted and Deirdre had to make an unexpected trip back to the UK as Ted's mum died suddenly. For nearly three months ND had to rely completely on Romeu and Michele's car for transport and as they don't live on the farm, this meant Morven, the boys and Ted and Deirdre were very cut off much of the time. There is only one regular bus service a day to Itabirito, our nearest town. You can imagine the excitement when we received an offering specifically to buy a car. We found a great semi-new Fiat Palio in the city but then we had to face a mountain of bureaucracy in transferring the money to the Fiat account in Brazil from our UK Trust – typical Brazilian bureaucracy. Instead of taking a couple of weeks it ended up taking a couple of months! It was a great relief when we were finally able to collect the car two weeks ago.

Our team is still very small and with Fábio being less involved in the Project for the time being and Morven due to have a baby any day now, we have found it frustrating not to be able to do more visits to Projects, more advertising for the work and more planning for building and development on the farm. But there is a time for everything and we persevere through this difficult season, knowing that ND is in God's hands because the work is His and He called us here.

Philippians 3:13 &14 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on toward the goal ...'

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Project Reconstruction

In November we received two weekend groups from a community work in Favela Vila Leonina in Belo called 'Project Reconstruction.' The first group were boys and the second group girls.



The Project is just beginning to take off in the favela and we hope to have many more visits from them in the future.

What´s a bit of rain!

A group of around forty children came for a day from ´Project Grow´ based in a favela on the far side of Belo Horizonte. It was their first visit and our staff was disappointed that it rained heavily the whole day. But the children seemed completely unperturbed. Coming from a crowded city slum, they were just over the moon to be on a beautiful farm with so much space and a big forest to be explored! We were so grateful for the rainmacs that had been donated by several individuals and in particular Barbara Polley and other members of her church in Northern Ireland. It was a real adventure in the ´jungle´ and the children, despite slipping and sliding on the forest trails, completed all the team challenges with great enthusiasm.



We had thought that swimming would be out of the question but the youngsters were so disappointed that we gave in and they all (including some of their workers) dived into the pool in the middle of a true Brazilian downpour! Just before they left, Ted told them a story and we had a time of worship, offering them the opportunity to ask Jesus to walk through the rest of their lives with them. It is the most amazing present they could ever receive, to know that they don´t have to face the dangers and hardships of life in the favela alone. We always love to tell them about how God´s angels walk with those who belong to Him and

there is no place too dark or too scary for them to protect us.

Psalm 34:7 ´The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and rescues them´

Restoration House

A YWAM childrens home rescuing boys who are living on the streets, brought two groups in January for four day stays. At their request the programme was a bit more relaxed than the timetable of activities that we usually follow with our groups. They were keen to have more free time to ride bikes, swim and play football. We did however schedule in one day of adventure activities and a barbeque as well as the Christian programme each evening. Angus (Fábio and Morven´s 1 year old son) helped them to forget their shyness by leading them in the song actions, clapping and dancing during our worship times!

Daniel´s 12th birthday

Daniel came with the second group from the YWAM restoration house. He has only been in the house for three months and before that was living on the streets for some time. In fact it was on the streets that he spent his last birthday. This year however, we were really pleased that his birthday coincided with his stay at ND. When he came down from doing the forest challenges we gave him a surprise party with balloons, a big chocolate cake with his name on it, and lots of coca-cola! We all sang happy birthday and Morven gave a little speech on behalf of ND, to tell him how precious his life is and how pleased we were to have him with us on such a special day. He is a boy that has a lot of behavioural problems and wets the bed every night. His story is tragic. One day his mum dropped him off at crèche and never returned for him. He waited and waited but she never came.

We were very moved when on the last day, just before the group left, when we gathered the

children together to give them feedback on how well they had managed to work as a team etc, Daniel asked if he could say something. He thanked us for all that he had learned and the great time he had had at ND.

Please pray that the right family comes forward to adopt him. Two couples have showed an interest but he rebelled so much and kept running away until they had no option but to give up.

The ND Staff

Our permanent staff team at the moment consists of Morven, Romeu, Ted, Deirdire, Luisa and Ailton. Fabio is back at the farm but is having some time out from his responsibilities. For the time being he is more involved with practical things needing done around the site and continues to develop more downhill bike trails in the forest.

Romeu's wife Michele helped out during her university holidays.



Romeu and Michele at the Centre

Andrei who was here as a volunteer for about six months, left us recently to go back to college as he had been hoping to do for some time.

We really need more permanent members of staff, in particular someone to be a site manager of all building, development and maintenance and someone to help us with accounts. Our team may be small but we are so grateful for who God has sent us, all people with a heart for the vision and a passion to serve. We are

praying that God will build up the team with more people who are really called to be here.

Recent encouragements

We are so grateful that in the last few months some more people have come forward to sponsor the work monthly. We have also received a couple of offerings from individuals and groups enabling us to continue receiving groups and to develop the work. We have recently been able to buy some board games, a basketball net and some games equipment (balls, bats etc). One of the offerings was given specifically for construction and so now we can finish work on the staff house we have been renovating, which turned out to be more expensive than we had hoped and the workmen made several costly errors. So the work was on hold for a while. But we are now in the process of having some more quotes done for the completion of the house and a fellow missionary friend from Belo, Edilson, who has a lot of contacts in the building trade, is helping us to find workmen and low cost quality materials. We were beginning to despair with workmen from the local town and so are very grateful for Edilson's willingness to help and his contacts in the city.

A special thanks to Nethy Bridge parish church for continuing to support us financially.

The teenaged boys continue to come each Saturday for the downhill bike club and word is really spreading in Itabirito and helping with the Centre's reputation.

How can you help?

Sorry for the mistake in the bank details that appeared in the last newsletter. Here is the correct bank account info, if you would like to support ND monthly, give an offering or organize a fund-raising event. 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.

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

Contact Moira Gray for forms– details at end of page

Plans to develop

For those of you who don't know, our accommodation on the farm now consists of the following: Two staff houses (occupied by Ted & Deirdre Collington, and the Santos family), one staff house in renovation and the main house on the farm where the groups of children come to stay.

The main house can accommodate eighteen people comfortably and at a push, a further six mattresses on the floor. We would like to be



able to do some renovation work on this house so that it will be able to sleep bigger groups. Another possibility is to erect permanent wooden platform tents to further increase our accommodation for groups. In the future we would like to be able to receive school groups during the week and more groups that pay, to help towards running and development of our main vision, the work with the children from the slums and childrens homes, but in order to do this, we would need to be able to offer more beds and facilities!

We have a *big barn* and a *small cow shed* which both have great potential to be renovated into

more Centre accommodation – refectory, a bigger kitchen, a meetings hall etc.

We will also need to build *more living quarters for staff* and we are discussing what would be the best kind of accommodation to build, which would be economical, durable and would fit in aesthetically here on the farm. While desperate for more permanent staff, in a way it is just as well that for now our team is small, as we are limited in the accommodation we have to offer and more than half of our present staff live off site. We are greatly encouraged by the verses from *Ecclesiastes 3*:

‘There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven ... a time to tear down and a time to build’

Morven and Fábio would like to thank everyone for all the personal emails of support that they and the boys have received over the past few months. The new Santos baby is due to arrive any day now and they would appreciate your prayers.

God bless you.

Love from all the team here at New Destiny .x.

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