



January & February 2006

Dear friends,

Logo and Website

After much deliberating, doodling and debating, we have decided that the above logo is just right for New Destiny. Hope you like it too!

We are also pleased to be able to announce that we now have a website: www.ndaventura.org thanks to Ramin and Luke getting it set up for us.

UK REP

Moira Gray accepted our invitation to become the New Destiny UK Rep. She has a lot of experience as one of the Abernethy Outdoor Centre founders and directors for 30 years. We are really honoured that she is so committed to New Destiny and has taken on this important role so enthusiastically. We hope it is okay that we have passed on your addresses to her as she will be helping us to raise the profile of ND in the UK. You can contact her on loriandmo.gray@virgin.net or 01479 821110.

Charity status approved in Brazil!

After about ten months of bureaucracy, meetings, drawing up papers etc we are now an official charity (NGO) in Brazil. This gives us much more credibility here and the possibility of financial help from companies, local council etc. We have received an offering towards accountants fees but are still about £60 a month short. Accountability is vital and a requirement by law.

Recent Aquisitions

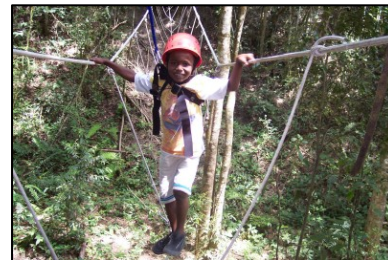
Thank you so much to those of you who have given donations in the past couple of months enabling us to buy a second hand pool table, one more much needed mobile phone and a big trailer which will have been desperately needing

for some time, to be able to take rubbish down to the main road, and transport anything between Belo, Itabirito and the Centre.

You may remember that we bought a second hand truck in the middle of last year, but it gave us so many problems and we had to spend so much money on it from the start, that we gave it back to the owner. Fortunately, we had not yet handed the money over!

We are looking out for another one as it will be an extra staff vehicle as well as great for a variety of things on the farm.

We also received a couple of other donations in January and February helping us with the general maintenance of the Centre and its land.



Childrens' Home, Itabirito

This is a home for orphans and children at risk in the Centre of Itabirito. They spent a day at ND in January. There was a little boy of seven years old in the group, the youngest we have received to date. We were wondering how he would cope with the challenges in the forest, especially the rope bridge over the valley which is scary even for some adults! Fábio put the safety harness on him but he was pretty terrified and just couldn't bring himself to take the first step onto the rope. He waited until everyone else had crossed. Everyone was shouting, "You can do it Bruno! Don't worry, you are safe – the equipment won't let you fall " etc and finally he stepped off the platform and all the children clapped and cheered. It was a great moment and he was so pleased with himself!

Bruno's brother Daniel (10), who has behavioural difficulties and mood swings, refused to take part in the spider's web activity, where the whole group have to pass through the spaces between the rope, without touching it.



Noone can pass through the same space twice, so for the first few it is no problem, they simply choose the biggest and easiest holes. But for the last few children, it is a real challenge! Hmm.....the children soon discover that they have to pull together and work as a team, not just thinking of themselves. All of them must get to the other side of the web or the team fails to complete the challenge. Daniel walked away from the web and the other children got more and more angry with him. So Fábio took him aside and they had a little chat man to man. A couple of minutes later, Daniel was standing in front of the web and Fábio called the whole team to help him through. Suddenly everyone was involved, passing him through the centre of the web, catching him at the other end, making sure he made it for the sake of the team. A big cheer went up as he touched down safely on the other side and Daniel was showered with praise from the other children. His self-esteem seemed to grow visibly, and he went on to take part in the rest of the activities with much more self-confidence and interest. Bruno, Daniel and their older brother Luciano (11) had arrived in the childrens home a week previously. They had been locked in one room for several months, and left to eat scraps and to excrement on the floor, while their mother was out at work. They were returned to their family a couple of days after their visit to ND. We are so glad they were able to have a positive experience with us here, and we are going to follow it up with a visit to their home.

When they were leaving Daniel said that if he didn't have a family he would want to live at ND for ever.

We are going to receive the childrens home on a regular basis. We feel that it is important that needy children on our own doorstep benefit from ND.



70 people – you must be joking!

We were asked to receive a group of about 60 children plus adult helpers, and at first we thought "no way!" but after talking it over and praying about it we realised that it would be a big blessing to Itabirito and an experience for us at ND. So Kings Kids Brazil, from YWAM – an international organisation that have groups of Kings Kids in countries all over the world, came and filled our farm with singing and dancing and also took their presentation to the main square in Itabirito and the childrens home.

The kids were from different states across Brazil, and had joined up to train for a few weeks, then give presentations in all the main squares and in the centre of Belo Horizonte. It was fantastic to have them in Itabirito too, and many people stopped in the street to watch and listen to the message. The childrens home had never seen anything like it – they were totally captivated!

YWAM childrens 'home from Belo Horizonte

One of the girls in the Kings Kids group lives in a girls home run by YWAM in Belo Horizonte. She asked if all the girls from her home could come to ND for five days over Carnaval. It was the first girls group we have had. As it turned out, a camp was going in the farm across the road, a group from the Philadelphia church in Itabirito. They invited us to take the girls to their services and 'cheesy party' and so we did. We went over each evening and the folk from the church were very friendly and the singing very lively. The girls loved it! Apart from that, they

did all the activities on the farm, played cards on the hammocks, painted each others nails on the veranda, played a lot of snooker and had late night swims, thanks to our beautiful swimming pool with inside reflectors and round the pool lighting. It was very encouraging on the last days when a couple of the leaders came to us and said that they personally had got so much out of the forest challenges and the life application that Fábio and Fred gave afterwards back at the big house.



One said that she finds it hard to work on a team with others because she finds it hard to trust people, and that she felt personally challenged to let go back to the home and work at trusting her co-workers, and let go of her fear.

APAE

Speaking of children on our own doorstep, there is a school in Itabirito for children with disabilities. They have about 100 pupils attending in the morning and the same again in the afternoon. Most of the children are from the poorest areas of the town. They have a range of disabilities such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida and there is also a big group of deaf children. The director, Debora, showed us round, a really wonderful lady bursting with passion for the work and commitment to the children under her care. She was so excited when we told her about ND as for some time she has dreamed of being able to give the youngsters the opportunity to take part in some kind of adventure sports. They rarely get to go anywhere and they rarely receive opportunities to do anything outside of the curriculum. She is coming to visit us on Friday. We have asked her to give us advice about how we can adapt and develop the Centre in the future so that the activities and facilities are accessible and appropriate for disabled children. There are many disabled children in the favelas with little or no stimulation.

Making the contacts

So far all the groups we have received have approached us first, which has been fantastic. But there are so many hundreds of groups working with children and teenagers in the slums and city childrens homes, in difficult conditions and with little money, and these are the groups that we most want to be able to have for short stays at the Centre. We are at the beginning of the long process of finding and making contact with Projects in our nearest city, Belo Horizonte. This means a lot of emailing, phoning and visiting. Last year while preparing to receive the first ever groups, we were not in a good position to advertise ND and invite groups to come, as we had no photos to show and no stories to tell, of children having a valuable and worthwhile experience here. Now that we have actually had several groups to stay on the farm, it is the right time to be able to talk about the work here and invite groups officially. We are able to give testimony to Project leaders and social workers that we have already received children and that their time at ND was not only fun, but positive and challenging.

"Because I'm worth it! "

Remember the slogan from the Jennifer Anniston shampoo adverts? Yep, pretty cringy! And yet, it is actually one of the main principles we want to pass on to the children and teenagers who come to ND. We don't want them to keep believing the lie that because they were born in the slums or have lived rough on the city streets, that poverty and misery is their lot in life. Our desire is that as we expand and develop here, the young people will feel more valued and inspired not just by our love and care, but by comfortable accommodation, beautiful grounds and gardens, and well kept facilities. We want ND to reflect the New Destiny that God offers us. We want them to feel that they are 'worth it'!

Isaiah 61:10 I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom in his wedding suit or a bride with her jewels.'

It is so important to us that the farm is looking good when the children come, with the grass cut, the plants cared for and the house clean and comfortable. For this reason we desperately need to find the money to support a full-time gardener/maintenance person, and a housekeeper to keep the place tidy and beautiful. We are praying that it won't be long before we can have Ailton and Luisa with us full-time, taking care of these areas.

Recent visitors

Kirsten Burns (friend of Morven) spent a week with us recently on her way home from Argentina. We offered her time to relax (honest gov!) but she chose to help with Angus and slog it out in the flower beds instead. Thanks Kirsty. Come back soon!



Kevin & Kirsty Tattershall, old pals of Morven and Fábio's who we got to know in a Project nearby, have been regular visitors at ND over the past five months. They are an extremely talented and hard-working pair, who despite working very long hours, gave up their free time to help Fábio re-design the abseiling wall. Unfortunately they go back to England in a few weeks time. We really appreciate your help and friendship guys you will be missed!

The Itabirito Secretary of Sport, Paulo, has now been out to visit New Destiny (after Fábio turning up at his office about five times to keep inviting him!) He loved the Centre and walked around all the forest activities. We hope that in the future this relationship may lead to financial and material resources from the local council.

Watch this space

We have a couple more volunteers joining us very soon, and hopefully two more teams by the end of 2006. Right now, we really need builders

and carpenters for various projects that we really want to get finished on the farm. Anyone know someone who might be able to help us??? It could even be you!

Be in touch God bless you.

Lots of love,
Fábio, Morven & the ND Team.x.

Contact info

Email :: newdestinycentrebr@yahoo.co.uk

Website :: www.ndaventura.org