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## Divine Protection

Fabio and I arrived back at the farm late last Wednesday night, after taking a friend to catch a bus in Belo. The last stretch of road to ND is about 1km of rough track and we had to brake suddenly as there was an emergency triangle in the middle of the road. It was only as we were passing it that we realized it was **one of our two Centre cars, the Fiat Pálio**, which was strangely positioned in the middle of the road, and in a very bad state. Romeu and our English volunteer Nick were standing beside it waiting for us to arrive.

Nick had picked up Gabriel (our son) from the bus stop at the end of the rough track and on the way back he skidded and the car went out of control doing a 180° spin, battering into the banking and then doing another 180° spin in the other direction. The left side of the car took the worst impact but there was substantial damage to the car in general and **to fix it will cost around R\$5000 (which is the equivalent of around £1,600)** so we will have to leave it in our garage for now as we can't afford to get it fixed. We are just so grateful to have the jeep.

When you look at the terrible state of the car, it really is a huge mystery how the boys managed to walk away from the accident without even a scratch or whiplash. We prefer to believe it was a miracle and that the angels were at work that night! So instead of being depressed about the car, **we are very grateful to God for keeping Nick and Gabriel safe.**

## Camp Bookings

We are full up every weekend in July and then alternate weekends until the end of October. We also have a couple of isolated bookings after

that. We have been running camps at least every alternate weekend since the beginning of February. **So the work continues to grow!**

On an average weekend we receive 15 children and 3 adults although when we run daycamps the groups are much bigger.



The main house cannot accommodate more than twenty which is why it is one of our main renovation projects for the future.

## Raising money in Brazil

Although we depend on money from outside Brazil to sustain the work and develop it, we are



also doing what we can here to bring in more cash. So alternate weekends when we have no

adventure camps, **the farm is available for rent** and we have also started to offer **Christian teaching weekends**. For example at the end of May we ran one for the leadership team from a church in Belo, with Ted giving teaching on Biblical principles of leadership.

Last weekend we received a group of leaders from YWAM Belo Horizonte, who organised their own programme but for whom we did the catering.

**Each paying group covers the expenditure as well as a reasonable profit for the Centre.** (We charge less for missionaries but still make a profit).

## Playground in the orchard

Nick Robbins arrived from Oxford, England in mid-May, bright eyed and raring to go. Shortly after, he and Fábio began designing and building the playground. They are still hard at it only Nick is now a bit more red-cheeked, tanned and definitely a couple of kilos lighter!



It is such a great place for a play area, especially for children who live in such run down, squalid conditions, without a safe place to run around, or fresh air to breathe in. Can you imagine how great it will be for them to play freely in the orchard surrounded by oranges, lemons, jaboticabas and mangos, and with beautiful birds and butterflies flying all around. I can almost hear the screams of delight already!

## From gang warfare to raft-building?



A couple of weeks ago we ran a camp for about fourteen teenagers from a childrens home in Belo for ex-street girls. When the kids are on the streets, in order to survive they are forced to become members of a gang. These gangs are very dangerous, and rape and violent rituals are commonplace. Many children die and are injured as a result of street gang warfare. At the gang leader's command, kids set other kids alight by throwing petrol over them and lighting a match while they are sleeping, and many are left with horrific scars for life if they are lucky enough to survive.

Two of the girls from the childrens home were enemies and **members of rival gangs** on the street. Vanessa had been in the home for longer but Gis arrived only two weeks ago, and since then the atmosphere was very tense to say the least. The leaders of the house tried everything but just couldn't get the girls to come together – it was getting close to all out war!

None of us on the team knew anything about all this, and so when Fábio ran the rafting activity he thought nothing of putting the two girls in the same team. There were four in the team, and they worked away together to build a raft with bamboo and rope. After that they got on board and managed to steer the raft to each station on the lake and then back to base at the

end. Vanessa and Gis, wanting to beat the other team, talked together, communicated their ideas each one listening to the other, laughed, shouted directions to each other and their team mates ..... and then at the end during the feedback session, they both talked excitedly about how much fun they had had and how they felt they had success because of the good communication between them all.

The leaders of the Project told us later that it was an historic moment in those girls lives – **the first step in the breaking down of huge barriers, that had previously been thought to be insurmountable.** We hope and pray that their friendship will continue to grow and that one day their life stories will be a testimony to other young people.

It is so exciting to see New Destiny playing a part in the transformation of young lives – that is why we believe in this vision and why we do what we do!

(For the sake of confidentiality we didn't use the real names of the girls.)

## Volunteers & Visitors

**Waldir** spent a couple of months with us in April and May and has now gone to fulfill various commitments that he had taken on prior to coming to ND. He will be back with us again at the end of August for a couple of months.

**Jonathan** (Michele's brother in law) was doing a YWAM training course in Belo and completed two weeks of his practical placement at ND. He put together a book of team games and the resources for each one.

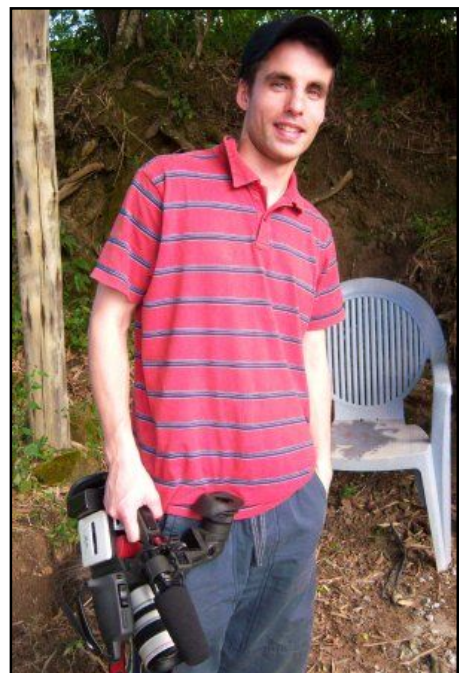
He and his wife **Johanneke** have now returned to Holland.

Jonathan also came up with a very cool design for future **t-shirts**. The idea is that the team would wear them at the camps and we would also sell them to wonderful people like yourselves to help with funds! **Anyone like to sponsor the first batch at £500???** We promise that the first ever ND t-shirt will be yours and

we are sure that one day it will be a collectors item!

**Lauren Smith & Helen Johnston** (friends from the UK) did the YWAM course with Jonathan and then came to visit us for a couple of weeks.

**Luke Moodley** came in April and made a **promotional DVD** about the work. You can watch it if you log onto [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and look up the ND group. If you would like someone to come and **give a presentation about New Destiny** in your church or school for example, please get in touch with Moira Gray, UK Rep (see below for email and phone number). In fact we would be willing to speak about the work anywhere in the world if airfares come with the invitation!



**Sian Heppleston** (friend from UK) visited for a week in April on her way back from Bolivia.

**Tom and Joanna Gillum & family** from London, are stopping by next weekend as they are travelling in Brazil. They are going to paint the entrance fence which will make it so much more attractive! A big thank you to all of you from ND.

**Douglas & Sonia Baillie** (friends from UK) are arriving next week and will be staying for just

over a month. Douglas (Spruce!) will be helping out with some building jobs and Sonia is going to assist Doraci in the big house, with cooking and cleaning, as July is going to be a very busy month!

## Facebook and Blog

If you are a member of **facebook**, or thinking about it, please join our **ND group**. It is another way of us keeping in touch with you and keeping you updated with news from Brazil.

Another way of keeping up with recent news in between the newsletters (which come out every 2 or 3 months) is by regularly checking out the ND Blog which you will find very easily on the ND website – see link <http://www.ndaventura.org/>

## Reaching out to the local children

This is another story that you will find on the ND Blog on the website (hope it whets your appetite to keep checking out our news there!)

‘In May we visited a community project run by the catholic church in Itabirito. A little 73 year old lady took us round the building and told us about how it is not ‘material things’ that transform a person, it is “showing them good role models, healthy habits and giving them a lot of love’. They work with children from the **10 poorest communities in our local town** of Itabirito. When we showed our promotional DVD, Dona Luiza was wiping the tears away from her eyes and saying “this completes our work, I have dreamed of this”. Man, what a fulfilling job I am in! She immediately booked two weekend camps. We are now booked up until the end of September, which means alternate weekends in May and June, every weekend in July and August and alternate weekends in September, plus daycamps on public holidays. The more we become known, the more choca-bloc it gets obviously, which is fantastic, but **all the more**

**need for more monthly supporters and more long-term staff!**’

We ran a daycamp in April for about 30 children from **a small slum on the outskirts of Itabirito**, on the way to the farm. We have longed to have these boys and girls at the Centre ever since we first got the farm at the end of 2004 and now we have a contact there so it is easier to get permission from their parents and organise for groups of them to come to camp. It was a very emotional day for many of us on the team. We hope it was the first visit of many!



‘A time to tear down and a time to build .....’

It seems like the time is right now! (The above quote is from the Bible – Ecclesiastes 3:3)

***What are our building and renovation priorities?***

**Two kit chalets**, one for single staff/volunteers and one for another staff family. However, two other HUGE priorities, which are becoming more urgent all the time, are the **renovation of the**



*The main house sitting room (similar damp in most rooms).*

**main house** (our only accommodation for the children at the moment) and the **renovation of the big empty barn**.



*Plumbing problems, the main house kitchen.*

***Why are these two renovations so important?***

Because the main house is in desperate need of a makeover – the electricity, plumbing and the septic tank systems, all need to be completely re-done. Apart from that there are problems with damp and a lot of re-plastering etc needing done.

***Why is it becoming increasingly more urgent?***

Here is an example: this week we can't even use the kitchen sink as the water is filtering through into the sitting room at a shockingly fast rate, and the wall is soaking. We are awaiting the arrival of our volunteer friend Toninho tomorrow, as he may be able to solve the problem temporarily, and we are praying that we will still be able to receive another group of children at the weekend.

We are just patching up a serious problem all the time and we are loathe to spend much more money doing that, when what the house really needs is a makeover.

***Why the urgent need for the renovation of the big barn?*** Because then we can move the kitchen and dining room over to the barn and

the main house can be used solely for accommodation.

So far we have been unable to find an **architect/engineer** who would be able to come out and help us draw up simple plans in order for us to go ahead with the costing of materials and labour. Even though we want to keep it simple, we really believe that we need some professional advice at this stage so that we don't waste money further down the line.

**Do any of you know anyone who might be able to help us with this? The sooner the better!**

## Spotlight on Jefferson

Jefferson has been a staff team member since July 2007 although prior to this he was a volunteer for one year. Jeff is 21 and lives in Itabirito with his mum and younger brother. He helps with administration and is also on the camp team which works directly with the children, helping lead activities and run the programmes.

Jeff is studying teacher training at night school and he is learning English unofficially – it is getting better all the time!



He loves going to Lagoinha Baptist church (the biggest church in Belo Horizonte), making yummy chocolate cakes and climbing with Fábio.

## Supporting ND

**Thank you** so much to all of you who support New Destiny (either financially, prayerfully or both) or have recently given a donation. You help to make all this happen!

If you would like to be a **monthly sponsor**, **do some fund-raising**, or **set up a prayer group**, you can be sure it will be a huge blessing to the work here. All you need to do is email our UK Rep Moira Gray, [loriandmo.gray@virgin.net](mailto:loriandmo.gray@virgin.net) or email me (Morven) at [ndaventura@gmail.com](mailto:ndaventura@gmail.com)

## If you pray.....

Please pray specifically for:

- **Ted and Deirdre** who went back to the UK to apply for another visa, only to be told that they need to wait one year there before they can come back to Brazil. We have asked the Brazilian Consulate to change their decision as it appears to be contrary to Brazilian law.
- **The main house repairs** we need to make this week – that we will still be able to receive the children this weekend.
- **An architect or engineer soon!**
- **Money for building and renovation**

Love from Morven & the New Destiny team .x.

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