

# ND

centro de aventura

June 2006



*Dear friends,*

It is now winter here on New Destiny Farm but we still have average temperatures of about 20 degrees with lovely warm days and cool nights. We are also in the middle of World Cup Fever in the country where everything stops for football – and we mean everything!

## Long-Term Staff

*Ailton* joined us full-time at the beginning of May. The day could not have come soon enough for us. It is great to see the farm being lovingly cared for. The grass is being cut regularly, the forest trails are being cut back after much growth during the rainy season, old fences are being pulled out, areas are being tidied out etc. *Ailton* has also brought lots of new ideas not just for how to make the farm look good but also for activities, as he has six years experience in the army as well as having won several trophies and medals for long-distance running. It is also great to have *Luisa* (*Ailton*'s wife) with us full-time now. It was amazing the way that they found a house to rent just minutes walk up the road from ND. It is very difficult to find properties to rent around here and it was exactly the size of house they need for their family of five. We believe God's hand was very much in it!



*Andrei Alvim* joined us full-time in April. We hope to find monthly support for him as he has experience in administration and is helping us particularly in the area of accounting and office organization.

*Ted and Deirdre Collington* have just returned to Brazil having spent seven weeks in the UK visiting family and friends and speaking about the Centre. We missed them very much and were very glad to welcome them back.

## Short – Term Staff



*Ruth and Joel Prescott* arrived just over a week ago from the Abernethy Outdoor Centre in the UK. We met them at the airport only to discover that their luggage had not arrived with them. It arrived a few days later, but unfortunately some things from Ruth's bag had been stolen. The next set-back for them was Joel suddenly had bad toothache and had to go to the dentist for emergency treatment. So their first week in Brazil has been challenging!

Ruth and Joel are staying for six weeks and are making new adventure challenges and setting up orienteering activities. It's such a blessing to have them on the team for a few weeks and they have already done so much. On their first working day at ND they tidied and scrubbed out the closed section of the old barn, that had previously used for rubbish (before we bought the trailer meaning we can take rubbish away regularly). We are going to use it in this phase as a games / meetings hall.



We are looking forward to *Ramin* arriving from the UK on 27<sup>th</sup> June, to volunteer with us until 7<sup>th</sup> August. Ramin set up and runs our website. He is coming to lend a hand with his computer skills and to help out generally with Centre groups and farm maintenance. We have more friends/volunteers coming to visit from the UK in August (see next newsletter).

## Site Development

### *Staff Accommodation*

We received a gift of money a few weeks ago enabling us to finish the renovation of the third staff house where short-term and long-term single workers will be able to stay. We have been very blessed in meeting a man called João, who is coordinating all the building work and making sure we get quality workmen and materials at a good price. João was a pastor for a long time and also has many years experience as head of building and construction projects in the Itabirito local council.

It is very exciting watching the house being transformed a little bit more each day. First some walls had to be knocked down and others built up. We put on an extension and made it into a kitchen/dining area and a big bedroom, which means the house has four bedrooms in total and so will be able to sleep a maximum of 14 people (great for receiving teams).

The building and plastering will be finished by the end of next week, and then it will be all hands on deck to get it painted. We have bought furniture but are still needing some more beds, bedding, basic kitchen equipment and a couple of sofas.

Look out for before and after photos in our next newsletter!

### *Maintenance Shed and Equipment Storerooms*

We have a smaller barn with adjoining sheds that was used for farming equipment and animals by the previous owner. We have now put in some more walls inside to divide the space for equipment stores (e.g. mountain bikes, climbing ropes etc) and a maintenance shed. This frees up the big barn now, so that when we have the money, we can renovate it (see later).

### *A Land flowing with fruit and veg!*

We have an orchard and scattered around the farm are a variety of fruit trees like mangos, oranges, tangerines, avocados, bananas, papayas to name but a few. Luisa and Ailton are building up a vegetable garden and so we are eating lots of greens and those beautiful fresh tomatoes free of artificial seasoning! Our plan is to continue developing the natural produce of the farm so that we can eat healthily, care for and develop what God has entrusted to us, and teach the children about a healthy lifestyle and looking after what they have. Ailton and Luisa have lots of ideas – oh for a bigger team to do it all....it is not easy to be patient!

### The stories

Sometimes when we hear the stories of the children who come to the Centre, the daily reality of their lives and the tragic things that have happened to them, it is difficult for us to believe. We watch them screaming with joy as they jump in the pool, laughing and excited as they make their way through the forest adventure activities and biking around the farm with expressions of sheer freedom on their faces. Yet for nearly all of these children and teenagers, their innocence was unfairly taken from them a long time ago and they are very badly scarred and hurting young people.



Two weeks ago we had a group of children from one of the favelas in Belo Horizonte. They came with a couple of leaders from a YWAM community project (Casa Alegria) that offers them activities and help with home work, a couple of times a week where they live. One of the boys, 12 years old, who we immediately warmed to due to his cheeky big smile and good nature, was involved in the armed robbery of a pharmacy and now has to give behaviour reports to the judge on a weekly basis. Another one of the boys has a brother who can never return to the favela because he is owing money to a gang for drugs and would certainly be murdered. The cousin of another boy in the same group had been killed the week before, again drug related.



We also heard that one of the teenaged lads from the first group we ever received at ND, was shot but survived and has had to leave the favela too as his life is at risk.

These children and teenagers are not ‘poor little slum kids needing a day out.’ These are children who desperately need to know that there is hope. They need to hear that God loves them and that He gave up His own son willingly to suffer so that they might know hope and peace and His presence in the middle of their most difficult times.

Often they just need someone to believe in them and tell them how special they are and to encourage them to use the gifts and talents that each one of them has been given to make a change in their lives and in the lives of those around them.

This verse is one that we often tell the children and it reminds them that they don’t need to be afraid because God is with them where they are:

***Psalm 23:4 ‘Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me’***

## **Home for deaf teenagers**

A few weeks ago we received a group of deaf teenagers. They all go home to their families (mostly in the slums) at weekends and live in a residential project during the week. The team was a bit nervous as none of us know any sign language, but the leader of their house Davidson, was fantastic and translated between us all. (He must have gone home shattered!) The kids all gave us nicknames in signs which we can still remember. We did a lot of fun games and of course they hardly left the pool, but we were unable to take them into the forest for the adventure challenges as it was before Ailton joined us and the trails were all overgrown after the heavy rains. We are very pleased that they are coming back for a weekend of adventure at the end of June. The younger children from the house are also going to be coming for the first time in July.



## **Winter Camps**

In July we are going to have our first ever ND Winter Adventure Camps. The children all get two weeks holiday in July so we are going to receive two different groups, for five days each. Up until now we have organised weekend and day camps, so this will be quite a challenge for our small staff team. But it is an exciting step forward and we also hope to have our first Summer Adventure Camps in January of 2007.

## **Getting About**

In the last few months we have bought a motor bike and gained an old beetle car. Fábio has now passed his motorbike license so can get in and out of town on the bike when he needs to do business, saving on petrol and car maintenance. Andrei also has a motorbike license which is very useful. We came to the conclusion that now that we have the trailer, buying a motorbike was more sensible and much cheaper than buying a truck.

## **Volunteer Teams**

The UK team we had hoped to receive from Signposts International this year have had to cancel. They are hoping to bring a team out next year instead.

However we are really excited about the prospect of receiving an Australian Scripture Union Team who will probably be coming in December/January 2007 for three weeks, led by Matt Stevens a friend of ours who passed through New Destiny last year during his time as a volunteer with YWAM in Belo Horizonte.

## **A visit to SEDESE**

SEDESE is a state government institution that exists to promote social action and sport in society. Their headquarters are in Belo Horizonte and Morven and Andrei went to find out more about what they do and how they can help the Centre. It turned out to be a long but very profitable day. We were given a lot of useful information and also had the opportunity to present our work to several

different departments who run community programmes in the slums for under-privileged children and teenagers. We were able to invite them to bring groups of their young people to ND.

### **Thank you for supporting ND**

Thank you so much those of you who are regularly supporting the Centre and who support some of us individually so that we can be here doing this work. Thank you also to those of you who gave offerings over the last few months enabling us to continue developing the work here at ND.

If you pray, here are a few things to thank God for and pray about:

#### *Thanksgiving*

- \*Romeu's wife Michele had a successful operation and the nodule on her face was removed and found to be benign.
- \*New contacts made and more children coming to the farm
- \*Our growing team
- \*Gabriel and Rafael joining the Santos family officially

#### *Pray for*

- \*Ailton
- \*Wisdom and direction for the leadership team and board of trustees (in Brazil and UK)
- \*Our Winter Adventure Camps in July
- \*Ruth and Joel
- \*The right staff at the right time (short term and long term)

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

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