

# NEW DESTINY NEWS

New Destiny Adventure Centre, Caixa Postal 49 – Centro, Itabirito – MG, 35450 000, Brazil  
 Web [www.ndaventura.org](http://www.ndaventura.org) E-mail [newdestinycentrebr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newdestinycentrebr@yahoo.co.uk)

## When the kids can't come, we go to them!

A couple of weeks ago we had a call from Maria Lúcia to say that her group from a Community Project in one of the city slums, would have to cancel, as the aunty of one of the boys, Alan, had been murdered in broad daylight. Her name was Ju and she was only 28 years old. She was killed because her husband owed money for drugs and she refused to say where he was hiding. She was holding Ezequiel's hand (see picture below) when she died, a little boy of eight years old, who was also due to come to camp with the group.

So that Sunday instead of the children being at the farm, our team went to see them in the slum where they live in Belo Horizonte.



Alan is 16 years old and he witnessed his aunty being murdered. The gang told him they would be back to get the rest of his family. He was very scared. I read him the verse "Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will not be afraid for You are with me, Your rod and staff protect me" (Psalm 23:4). Alan

became a Christian about three years ago, and since then he has stopped using drugs and he wants God to use him to help his family. It is not easy for him to follow Christ in the middle of so much violence and hatred. It was a privilege to sit with such a special young lad and



just be able to offer him a shoulder to lean on and a listening ear.

As Romeu always says "It's not just about receiving kids at ND, we have to go beyond that."

## Staff News

*Ted and Deirdre* are in the UK visiting family and friends and promoting the work. We look forward to having them back with us again on 26th September.

*Romeu and Michele* were renting a house a few miles away from the Centre but have now moved onto the farm where they are presently staying in Ted & Deirdre's house until the yellow house (where I live just now) is freed up for them. It is great to see the Centre community growing and we look forward to baby Igor's arrival in December!

Louise is a German volunteer who is with us until the end of September. She studies Photography in Edinburgh. It has been great to have her help with Angus and Arran during the time that Deirdre is in the UK and she has also



been snapping away for us, hence some of the great photos in this newsletter! Thanks for coming Louise and thanks especially to those who contributed towards her plane ticket to get here!

Jefferson and Claudio have now joined the team full time. Claudio works with Ailton, developing



*Ailton, Angus and Claudio*



*Jefferson (on the left) and two boys from Pedreira Prado Lopez*

and maintaining the grounds, and Jefferson helps us with all kinds of things – booking project visits, paying bills, representing ND in the local council, doing shopping, leading adventure activities etc etc. We are immensely grateful to God for the staff team, who are so committed and passionate about the work.

The house we have been renovating is big enough for me and my four boys. We have discovered that building and renovating is a real test of patience! Some of you reading this may have contributed to the building work. If we didn't have the houses to live in we obviously couldn't do the work, so thank you.

## Gangs, guns and God...

On Tuesday some of us went to visit a new Project run by a young couple called Tinka and Eduardo. We went to see some of the children whom they brought to ND a few weeks ago, and other children and teenagers who will come in the future.

It has to be said that as we drove to favela 'Pedreira Prado Lopes' in Belo Horizonte, we were all feeling quite apprehensive. For the past couple of weeks this very dangerous slum has been a regular feature on the national news due to increased violence and multiple murders because of gang warfare. Like many slums, it is divided into several sections and each section is controlled by a different gang.

As we walked around the little lanes and higgledy piggledy streets, you could feel the fear and tension all around. It was tangible. A couple of times armed federal police seemed to appear suddenly from nowhere, and surrounded houses right in front of us. They were armed with automatic rifles which at moments were



even pointed directly at us. We passed a newspaper kiosk which had 'paz' (peace) written in graffiti, ironically covered in bullet holes (see above).

Drug traffickers were discretely pointed out to us, the place was crawling with them. One of the most popular and lethal drugs they sell is



called 'Crack', an impure form of Cocaine. Like Heroin it kills but just takes longer to do so. It is so bad that even some of the drug traffickers in Rio de Janeiro banned it from their slums as it was killing off their 'clients'. Crack is rife on the streets and in the favelas and its victims are getting younger and younger.

As we entered 'the boca', literally translated as 'the mouth' which is the centre of drug dealing in the favela, a shout was given "they're clean, they're from the church". At that moment we were very relieved to be walking with the pastor, a huge gentle giant of a man who was born and brought up there. When he came to know Jesus, he decided to start a church in the 'boca' and tell the people of his own community about God's love and transforming power. The day before we were there he held a funeral in his church for four gang members who were shot just around the corner the previous day. We sat in that same church, a haven from the storm, and I asked the pastor "Do you ever think about giving up and moving away?" He started to laugh and said "I have tried many times but God always brings me back." Two minutes later as we left the church, two police jeeps came screaming into the favela full of more armed officers and this time Tinka and Eduardo told us

it was time to get out quickly.

The horrors of the favelas are sadly everyday reality for most of the children and teenagers who come to ND. The others come to us from childrens homes. They too have experienced the effects of violence and substance abuse in the slums and the streets and have either been abandoned completely or taken away from their



families to prevent them from suffering more abuse.

We want to show them an alternative way that will lead them to life instead of an early grave. Please keep helping us to help them.

## How can you help?

If you would like to give a donation or become a monthly sponsor please let our UK Rep know (see below) as this helps us with our accounting. Thanks.

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

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

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.

God bless you.

Love from Morven & the ND team.x.

**New Destiny Adventure Centre**

Caixa Postal 49 — Centro  
Itabirito — MG  
35450 000, Brazil

**E-Mail:**

[newdestinycentrebr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newdestinycentrebr@yahoo.co.uk)

**Telephone:**

00XX 31 3561 3170 (office)  
00XX 31 9684 7279 (mobile)

**UK Rep:**

Moira Gray

E-mail: [loriandmo.gray@virgin.net](mailto:loriandmo.gray@virgin.net)

Phone: 01479 821 110

**Web:**

[www.ndaventura.org](http://www.ndaventura.org)