

Recife NewsBeat

May 2020

Greetings one and all!

Yet again sincere apologies! This year is a very strange one and is flying by at an alarming rate! I can't believe it is May already and I haven't sent out an update this year! So with no further delay, let's crack on!

Well, the first few weeks of the year were spent preparing and leaving things ready, for the youth Bible camp that happens every January and for the first two weeks of the new term at Vale with the newbies, as I would not be present!

From the 13th of January I spent 6 weeks in the UK. The main reason for going, was to be a part of the 50th wedding anniversary celebrations of my parents. We went away as a family for the actual weekend and then on the 1st Feb they had an official celebration with friends! Thank you to these who came, they really appreciated it!

I managed to catch up with a good few folks, even managing to get out to Estonia to see a friend I haven't seen for 12 years! Sorry that I didn't get to catch up with everyone, there is never enough time!



I also got to catch up with an ex patient of mine (this made me feel old!) who now has a successful forestry business! Was fantastic to see her after all this time! We didn't stop chatting! I also got to meet her daughter.

Was awesome to spend time with old friends and make some new ones too! It was good to be able to speak at my old church as well, tho' I did go over time! Oops, sorry!

The time flew by and suddenly it was the 28th February and I was heading back to Brasil! As during my time in the UK I had lost my tan, we spent time on the beach at the weekend. Despite repeatedly applying sunscreen, I returned to Vale on the Monday as a tomato!

I returned to Vale on the same day that all the OLD crew returned! The newbies had spent two weeks alone at Vale, getting used to everything. I got introduced as the "swimming pool auntie", as apparently many had been asking who was the swimming auntie for the two weeks! I got a very loud cheer! It was nice to be appreciated! Tho' I actually think it was coz they were starting to doubt that I existed, so was more in relief! The first week back at Vale was just everyone getting used to everyone and Vale in general!



The second week we started lessons, including swimming! This was actually quite a challenge, coz there are over 50 new kids. The majority being between 4-7 years old, none having ever been in a swimming pool before! So swimming lesson times kinda went out the window when it was newbie lessons, coz they didn't know how to get undressed by themselves, behave in the pool or get redressed by themselves afterwards! It was the start of a very steep learning curve for some of them! I had decided (before this break) that I wouldn't take the new littlies back in the pool, until they really understood the dangers and importance of the rules!

Also learn how to behave in the environment! For the first time in 10 years, someone had a poo in the pool!! It was all just too much excitement for words!

The old crew just got on with where they left off and took great delight in explaining the rules to the few older newbies.

On the 15th March, we received a decree from the government saying we had to shut Vale, coz of the looming pandemic of Covid-19. If we didn't, we would have received daily fines of thousands of reais! (which would have shut Vale for good) It was with heavy hearts that we shut, knowing the struggle many would have to make ends meet and how some of the children would be treated during this time!

However, we have during this time been able to give out two food parcels for each family. This was due to the generous nature of friends of Vale from the States and the UK. So thank you! For many, it really was a life saver! One grandma said she had cried out to God asking for help, as she had nothing to feed her grandchildren and the same day she received a message from Vale, saying there was a food parcel to collect! She was amazed! Their smiles of gratitude say it all! Tomorrow for the third time in as many months, we will be able to give each family another food parcel! There are 150 families.

Talking of quarantine, here it just isn't working! The governors of each state (county) are implementing restrictions of various levels, as deemed necessary! Here in Pernambuco, everything has been shut including the beaches, since the end of March! Supermarkets, pharmacies and other places deemed necessary (mineral water and gas bottle sellers) are open, but shops are still opening on the sly! They tried for 2 weeks to implement total lockdown which included strict restrictions on use of motor vehicles, but from tomorrow they are probably lifting them, as the population just are not obeying! Virus? what virus! ...even though the confirmed rates are still increasing daily! Tho' the one rule being obeyed by the majority, is the use of masks whenever you go out!

For us as for everyone here it's hard, with everything shut and people fearful. Robério has no work, so no money coming in, but God is faithful and we have enough food! Have been without water in the taps a couple of times for about 6 days or so, but God has sent heavy rain frequently, so containers are regularly filled! We also have Robério's 15 year old niece staying with us, since the 16th March, coz it's safer for her to be with us than where she lives! As long as she has the internet, she's fine! Tho' last night we had a power cut, so light was candles and we had to make our own entertainment, which blew her mind! hehe!

Praying you all are well and safe!
Love and prayers
Ali (and Robério)

Prayer points:

Thanks:

- For a great time in the UK
- God's provision
- God's protection

Requests:

- For renewed finances.
- For employment for Robério
- For wisdom as we contemplate the future with the virus, especially at Vale

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