

Brazil São Paulo 1 Action Team

BMS Volunteer Centre, Rua André Saraiva, 783,
Vila Sonia, São Paulo, SP 05626-001, Brazil
E-mail: brazil1actionteam@bmsworldmission.org
www.bmsworldmission.org/actionteams

Prayer Letter March 2009

With only four weeks to go our time here in Brazil is drawing to a close. As a team we approach the prospect of going back to England with a mixture of anticipation and apprehension, we're all afraid we're going to miss this place. After some of the difficulties we have faced during our time here, we are excited to be able to tell you we have experienced a real turn-around. You may remember that in previous prayer letters we were desirous to do more in our projects, and now we are!

Last year we associated Cecon (the disabled centre) with boredom, we were bored, they were bored, and it was dull. Two things have taken place to really change



Suzanna making her second mask at Cecon

this for us. Firstly, the director of Cecon (the pastor's wife) asked us to begin to take a group out to the sports hall to play football and other games. Whilst these times are generally pretty hectic, and involve at least one of us running around trying to prevent calamities, they are also really fun for us and for those we are working with. On person whom we have been encouraged by is Belinda. She is 45 and hardly able to say a word. As with everyone at Cecon it is hard to define what her problems actually are. Most of last year we perceived her as very sad and shy. However she began coming to the sports hall and joining in with simple games such as throwing and catching. She clearly enjoyed this and revealed in the change of activity and since then has progressed so far as to attempt to get everyone else to join in too.

The other change at Cecon has been our own realisation that we can use our initiative. The



consequence of this is that we have begun to orchestrate crafts for them to do. Thus far, they have made masks, shakers, lanterns, hats and puppets and soon to be finger painting. In fact we are beginning to run out of ideas so please pray for inspiration and feel free to send us any of your own. All of these crafts seem to have gone down successfully and whilst insuring our days are a lot more interesting we like to think it detracts from the monotony of colouring in.

Our role at the Vila Any PEPE has also changed dramatically. This is due to the original teachers, Jardi and Gilmar, having moved to become missionaries within a gypsy community and them being replaced by only one woman, Nelia. Only a super woman could control these (particularly lively) 25 children on her own; we struggle when there is her and two of us. Though this situation is less than ideal, and we cannot help but be concerned as to who will take over when we leave, it has heightened our sense of purpose.

We now take part in teaching the kids songs, stories, numbers, colours and writing, which we absolutely love. The PEPE itself needs prayer as presently all of the children are in one classroom together, despite them all being at very different levels. For example, half can



Renan from Vila Any

write their own name whilst others can't even hold a pencil. We attempt to give each child individual attention, but this always proves difficult. Though, all in all this is a really rewarding experience.

Our English lessons have led to setting up an English Bible study group every Saturday evening, which is attended by two brothers who both taught themselves English through films and television shows. Whilst this has been an opportunity for them to improve their English, it has also been interesting for us to discuss the Bible with Brazilians and see their points of view.

We would especially like prayer for our friend Vicente and his mother, Rita. Ever since we arrived in Itaim she has been battling against cancer. A few weeks ago we went to his house to visit and pray with her. Would you please pray firstly for her health and secondly for Vicente, who works very hard during the day and takes care of his mother throughout the night – consequently he is in real need of rest.

Prayer points

- Vicente and his mother.
- English Bible study – continues to be constructive and spiritually relevant.
- Vila Any – helpers to replace us when we leave.
- Cecon – also in need of more volunteers.
- Team – that we make the most of our last few weeks here.

Laura, John, Emma and Abi

Brazil São Paulo 1 Action Team

BMS World Mission supports 350 personnel working in more than 34 countries of the world. Together they are involved mainly in church planting, development, disaster relief, education, health and media and advocacy. BMS Action Teams are working with local churches and social action projects. If you would like to know more about BMS and its work, please visit our website, or write, phone or e-mail us. Details are at bottom right-hand corner of this page.