

## Greetings from Brazil

Well, it only seems like five minutes since we left the UK, but by the time you read this it will be almost three months. Realizing this, we thought that it was long overdue for us to put pen to paper, or as it is nowadays, fingers to keyboard. So here we go!

We arrived back in central Brazil in the hottest and driest part of the year and since then it has just got hotter and hotter, and dryer and dryer. It seems that we are having a heat wave, which is pleasant if you live in a cold country, but not so good if you live in one that is generally too hot. Needless to say that we, and just about everyone else here, are not enjoying the weather much at the moment. There are limits as to just how much clothing you can take off when you live in a Christian college and we have reached that limit – how we envy Adam and Eve in the early days!

Thankfully, by the time you read this we should have traveled, or will be traveling, to our annual mission conference, which is being held in São Paulo this year. This is about 14hrs south of where we live and hopefully a good few degrees cooler (we can't wait to get there). This year we are going by car to keep costs down and to allow us to visit two ex-students on the way and some social projects on the way back. It will be Sarah's first long trip by car, so we will let you know how we get on. If all goes well we are hoping to drive to Simone's mother's at Christmas (24hrs drive from here). However, we may abandon this idea if things don't go well on our trial run to São Paulo – A 48hr round trip with a screaming child in the car to visit your mother-in-law somehow just wouldn't seem worth it!

On the family front, not surprisingly, Sarah continues to grow and has now reached half of Simone's height (no great surprise there then). Despite our concerns, Sarah is doing really well with her English, and ironically is getting on much slower with Portuguese. We thought she would pick this up quickly, such is life. We assume that when she gets fed up with not being able to communicate with people outside the front door she will learn more Portuguese. It has also become very apparent over the last month that we no longer have a baby in the house but now have a little girl. A little girl who wants to be a grown up. She is into everything and, since discovering the new heights she can reach with the use of a small stool, is now also onto everything. We are also experiencing all the joys of the 'terrible two's' as Sarah develops new levels of skills in the art of saying "no" and self-determination. (If you don't know what the 'terrible two's' are consider yourself blessed). Oh, why don't children come with a manual or at least volume controls? Sarah's current interests are buttons (especially if they do something when you press them), water, cooking, aeroplanes and watching Ice Age for the thousandth time.

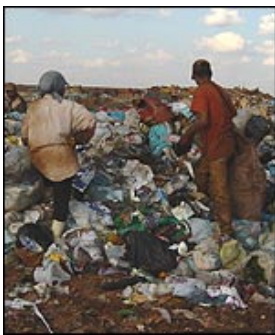
Today (23<sup>rd</sup> Sept), Terry had the joy of killing his first snake, which decided to take up residence under an old plastic water tank that we were just about to turn into a sand pit for Sarah! Despite the fact that we are not sure whether it was a false coral snake or a real coral snake we have now abandoned the idea of a sand pit for the moment. (Identification of snake type becomes more



difficult when someone goes over the top on making sure it was dead by repeatedly hitting it with a spade) Anyway, we are now thinking of creating a small concrete area for Sarah to play on, instead of a sand pit, where we can see exactly what else comes to play with her! Seriously, with Sarah being small and still unaware of what snakes, spiders and scorpions are we would value your prayer for her safety. We feel that God was very gracious in inspiring Terry to move the tank before we put sand in it.

Apart from that, we are all doing fine except that Terry's blood pressure is slightly higher than it should be (it was before he met the snake so that's not the reason). As such, he is now going swimming and to the gym three times a week. This may, or may not help, but at least if he does have to go to the doctor and take his clothes off to be examined he will look a little more in shape! Again, we would value your prayer for this (the blood pressure that is – not that Terry will look in better shape if he has to go to the doctor for tests).

Work wise things continue to go well. Terry preached for the first time in ages in Portuguese recently and teaching continues as normal. Recently Terry spent a day in a district called *Estructural*. Less than 12 miles from Brazil's parliament building and presidential palace the community of over 20,000 inhabitants' life revolves around the capital city's rubbish dump where many of its members make their living by scavenging what they can from the city's waste.



Working in the sun and continual dust created by the endless stream of lorries, the scavengers rush, almost in a fight, to collect what they can out of the waste before the tractors push it into the landfill. Plastic, paper, metal, clothes, everything is collected by someone and then carried the three kilometres out of the site to be sold. The smell is beyond words.

Among the team that Terry went with were doctors, nurses, dentists, hairdressers, children's workers and more. All of whom offered their services for free. Much of the time was spent going from door to door in the slum informing those that live there of what was on offer and encouraging them to make use of the free services. It is a moving experience being invited into shack after shack, the vast majority of which had virtually nothing inside, to pray with those that live there. At the same time, it also creates a sense of anger that people are forced to live in such appalling conditions whilst others, like us, have so much. Needless to say it has also fuelled our desire to work with the poor more than ever.



*Dentists at work*



*Above*, Some of the children who's parents work on the rubbish tip.  
*Left*, like many poor district *Estructural* is plagued by violence. Because of this customers are not allowed to enter the shops and instead are served through the bars.

*If you have a moment, we would value your prayers.*

Please pray for the situation of the poor in Brazil. For many of them, like those that Terry visited on the rubbish dump, life is desperate. Please also pray that God will show how best we can help them and inspire others to do likewise.

We would also really value your prayers for Sarah, that she might pick up Portuguese as well as she has managed to pick up English, and also for her safety as she learns to grow up in the tropics.

*Thanks for reading and also for your prayers and support,*

*Terry, Simone and Sarah.*