

# Terry, Simone & Sarah

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So what's been happening this year? Well, as many of you know we spent the first six months of this year in the UK on our official home leave. If we had to sum up our time there in one word it would be 'generosity.' We were completely overwhelmed by how generous people are in the UK. We are now trying to model this more in our own lives.

**Brazil.** Since we arrived back in Brazil life has continued much as ever in terms of teaching and ministry with the usual ups and downs. On the positive front we have seen another group of our students graduate, various individuals helped and finally (after five years) found someone who will provide us with house insurance! On the negative front we have seen the exchange rate drop by over 25% (making everything very expensive) and sadly, and also more seriously, had one student held up in the college. There was another attempted break in but thankfully the person was scared off. As such, the college staff are now trying to raise money to put a high fence and barbed wire at the front of the college to make life a little safer.

**Simone.** This year Simone has been learning a juggling act as she continues to adapt to both working and looking after a little girl (who is now two years old and clingy!). Having spent six months in the UK and six months in Brazil Simone has reached the conclusion that this act was easier to perform there than here. Firstly as she didn't have to work, secondly due to the wonderful mothers and toddlers groups that churches run and thirdly due to the vast variety of ready made meals available for Sarah. It's also fair to say that both of us have also come to realise the disadvantage of living a long way from our families - no grandmas and granddads to baby sit or pop round at regular intervals to spoil the children and give us a rest. Thankfully though God has blessed us with many impoverished students who are very negotiable! We have also been really grateful for the internet which has allowed us to show off Sarah to doting family members at regular intervals.

**Terry** has had an interesting year health wise. It started in the UK when he thought he had a kidney stone, only later to discover when he returned to Brazil that he actually had five. However, after copious quantities of water, one rushed to the hospital, several visits to doctors, ultrasounds and various types of painkillers he now seems to be on the mend. If the problem reappears it seems Terry has three options: an operation, a Brazilian herbal remedy called "stone breaker" or the local remedy of mixing pineapple juice with larger (yuck!). Alongside this Terry also discovered that he has slightly higher than average blood pressure. However, since trying that age-old remedy of doing some exercise (swimming three times a week) this problem seems to be resolving itself. The reduced blood pressure may also have resulted from the fact that Terry has actually finished

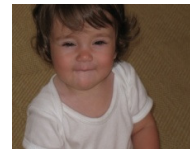


*Lord I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day and in our time make them known;*

*Hab 3:2*

his Masters in theology as well. Officially Terry now has an MTh which he has calculated took approximately 1.6 year per letter to get. Unfortunately Terry will not be able to go to the graduation service as it is in the UK. However, a very good friend of ours mounted Terry's head on his graduation photo so that we don't feel too left out. Shame he didn't edit the tie as well. Is this really fashionable in the UK at the moment? Since getting the masters Terry has also been asked to consider taking over responsibility for all the pos-graduate studies in the college. It would look good on a CV but probably wouldn't help the poor much which is where his heart really lies.

**Sarah.** Well, Sarah continues to grow up and despite only just been two years old is now very vocal and presuming that television is not on we can almost hold a little conversation. She has also followed in her mother footsteps of being extremely grumpy if you wake her up before she is ready. Actually she is very similar to her mother in many ways including looks. The two photos are of Simone and Sarah at the ripe old age of 1. You can guess which one is which. The photo of Sarah is not the most flattering! Both Simone and I are really enjoying watching Sarah's personality develop, well most of the time. She seems to be developing a real love for music and dance the latter of which she likes to practice in church during worship.



Unfortunately, since she has learnt to jump, this has gone from the gentle bouncing up and down many of you witnessed in the UK to something that bears more resemblance to heavy rock. She has also taken to shouting "more" at the top of her voice when the music stops which usually coincides nicely with the opening line of prayers.

Apart from this we don't have much news other that we are driving the 2500km's to Simone's mother for Christmas and New Year (which also coincides with the summer holidays here – hot Christmases are just not right somehow) and we still would like to live further south. As yet however, we don't feel that God has given us any direct indication as to where ... sometimes it feels like it will take longer than Terry's master to sort but in faith we pray on!

Have a great Christmas and New Year

*Terry, Simone and Sarah*

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