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## Quality education and training for children living in poverty in the slums of Brazil.



### Happy New Year

February 2018



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

First things first, we are so grateful to everyone who made 2017 such a success, whether you gave, prayed or jumped on a plane and came to Brazil, your support means the world to us and we couldn't do this at all without you.

After a wildly successful end of year, Christmas and the New Year have been a time of rest and relaxation. The month of January here in Brazil provides us with a time of retreat from the everyday rush of school life and an opportunity to plan ahead for 2018.

Marc and Ruth have been delivering staff training and making revisions to rules and procedures at the project to better serve the ever changing needs of the children. In this newsletter you'll find the reflections of one of our guests in 2017, we know you will enjoy reading his story.

#### Catch Up

Look at our **Facebook Page @channeltobrazil**, for video and photos from our Christmas Cantata, end of year awards and much more!

#### Upcoming Events

Virginia Fundraising Banquet: **Friday , April 6th 2018**

## Reflections and Projections From A Visiting Friend

In December, I travelled to the CBC in Forteleza with my friend Jon. Our mission had three aims: firstly, to reconnect with Marcondes and Ruth, and with the new staff and teachers. I had not visited Brazil since 2007, and Jon had not visited since 2009. We found a city that was very much larger, and more crowded than before.



The favela, which we were able to walk through to visit



people in 2007, is now much more dangerous (now being controlled by the gangs) than it used to be, and is effectively out of bounds to us.

Many of the teachers, and of course all of the children, have moved on since 2007, but it was a pleasure to meet the new teachers who are doing a fantastic job. As someone who works in IT, I was really impressed with the computer room, with its 31 PCs, air conditioning, great educational software, and a fantastic teacher in Emiliano. Gone are the days of four children to a PC!! The IT programme is designed to link in with and support the children's reading, maths and logic curriculum.



As I watched the teachers interact with the children, I saw them putting into practice some of the specialist teaching methods that have been introduced. I also saw the care and love that teachers

have for the kids; watching children arriving sulky and downcast on a Monday morning after a bad weekend at home and seeing the teachers talking with them, praying with them, and bringing them to a better place.

The second aim was to explore how we can make CBC, more effective. I think the watchword of the visit was

“Legacy” – how do we ensure that we have people and finances in place to ensure the continuation of the project in the long term? One aspect of this, is to develop businesses within Brazil which will support it, provide employment and training, and provide a stable income regardless of changes in exchange rates between the Dollar and the Brazilian Real. We're also looking at how we can bring on some of the leaders who have graduated from CBC, to use their skills and experience to support the project. Finally, we are looking at ways to increase the support and donations that CBC raises. This means speaking at more churches, being more visible on social media and in person, and bringing donors together. Later in the year, we will be asking you if you can help us to achieve these aims – more information will follow, but please be praying and asking God how you can help.

I left Brazil feeling that in many ways the country has become worse, with the poverty, the corruption, the gangs, and the violence. But, as in 2007, I was blown away by the attitude of the staff and children; their faith, their strength, their love of God, and their willingness to put Jesus' teachings into action in their everyday lives.

Once again, I felt that CBC is an oasis of calm and peace in a dangerous and lost city, an oasis of hope amid situations that just make you want to give up! This time though, I felt a sense of expectancy. It will be awesome to be able to bring hope to more areas and to more children, we will be able to establish a legacy for the future, while continuing to change lives right now , and God will be with us in this and make it possible.



**As we enter this new year, I am excited about what we have seen over the years, and what we are expecting to see.**

**Thank you for your support, and please continue to support Marc and Ruth, the Directors, staff and children – in praying, in giving, and in spreading the word about the project, so others can support this work.**

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