

Stewarts Update January 2007



What a great year 2006 was!

We hope that you can join us in saying that 2006 was a great year, full of challenges and rewards!

Here's a list of some of the things we got up to:



Finally finished the first set of classrooms at the church!

(And they are wonderful! And being used lots for all sorts of good activities)

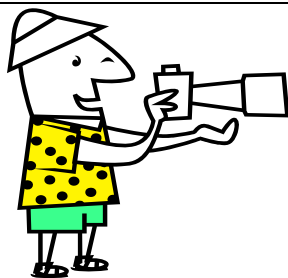
Judith trained as an English language teacher and now voluntarily teaches the teens at church – which everyone, including Judith) really enjoys.

How do you say that in English?



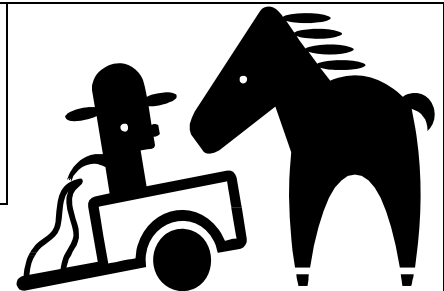
Adrian was a translator for a team of Americans doing prison visiting.

Taught a whole range of subjects at the seminaries, and some very valuable classes on marriage and relationships.



One of our favourite bits was having the pleasure of receiving various supporters to stay with us and see our work here in Recife.

Adrian visited a small undeveloped town in the interior of the state where horse (or bull) and cart are still the main mode of transport





BUT WITHOUT A DOUBT, ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PARTS OF THE YEAR WAS THE LAUNCHING OF THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.

Your response to our Book Appeal has been phenomenal! We have raised 635 pounds for books, of which I decided to splash out about one third now on awarding all our regular members with a book of their very own, and the rest will be kept and used for any 'special' book buys and the regular monthly prize draw, when the winning child will get a trip to the bookshop to choose a new book for the library. The appeal has really boosted the popularity of the library and awarding books has definitely developed a real sense of ownership (and at times possessiveness!!) over the books. We are seeing good results within children's attitude to reading and hope to develop more and more library ideas this year.

A huge thanks to all of you who sent money – although you can't see the rewards personally, I can assure you that your donations have made a real impact.



Our aims and Aspirations for 2007

Believe it or not, we aim to slow down a little bit (shock, horror!).

Whilst we loved all the things that happened last year, we recognise that we were a bit too busy and lacked time for reflection on our work – something we want to correct this year. We've also taken on new roles within the Latin Link Brazil team (Adrian on the executive, Judith as Team Treasurer) which has required some reorganization of our work schedules).

Whilst a lot of our teaching in 2006 was very rewarding (and we'll continue teaching this year, but less hours per week), we see that we have perhaps neglected our role in leadership training in our church. So, one of our first priorities for 2007 is to train two lovely couples in our adult Sunday School class in how to teach adults, so that we can then confidently split our class in two, making for a more manageable class size and better quality relationships within the class. We also continue to help the reshaping of the church's organizational structure.

After three years in Brazil we realize that our Portuguese, whilst being good enough to teach competently is no longer improving. So we'd like to invest more personal study time in taking it to a more proficient level.

Finally, Judith would like to do more work with the ladies in our church, using an exercise and diet class as a starter to get alongside ladies and helping them with their underlying, more disabling spiritual problems.

So here's a summary of our thanks and requests

- Thanks for the great results of 2006, especially adult Sunday School, the Children's Library and English class.
- Thanks again for the wonderful supporters that God has given, and how they pray for us, and respond to the needs of our various ministries here.
- Pray for Adrian and Judith as they decide which responsibilities and projects to take on this term.
- Pray for Judith's new role as Brazil Team Treasurer (It's a lot to learn!)
- Pray that the church will not only embrace the organizational change, but also grow through it.

Contact details: e-mail adznejgs@yahoo.com; website www.latinamericamissions.org.uk Keep in touch!