

# Mission Update

31 January 10

## BGBC

### Good news at Betel to start 2010

Very rarely has the Betel Children's Home in Brazil ever received any practical help from the local authorities – but this year has got off to an unusually good start. The local judge's office phoned Betel to say that reps from a construction company would be visiting to inspect the school with a view to carrying out renovation work. Within an hour of the phone call engineers arrived and made their assessment of all that needed either renewing or adding: roof tiles, windows, wiring & lighting, even installation of air conditioning, a new toilet block, redecoration throughout and a paved pathway around the outside.

As January is holiday month the work was able to start immediately and 16 men have been in residence (for which they've paid) getting on with the job. The materials they're using are top quality; no expense seems to have been spared. They expect to have everything completed early in February for the start of the school year. In addition a college in Brasilia has donated 200 desks and chairs. Let's pray that this transformation of their workplace will be a real incentive for both teachers and students. Andrea, the principal, often finds it a struggle to keep her five teachers, with their limited training, motivated. The early experiences of their 110+ students mean that many of them do not find learning easy or attractive.

The construction company from Sao Paulo had been building a hydro-electric station in Goias. It would appear that for some reason the firm fell foul of the authorities and, in order to put matters right, it was obliged to do what the judge demanded. Betel has been the delighted beneficiary.

Thank you, Lord!

[www.betelchildrenshome.org.uk](http://www.betelchildrenshome.org.uk)

### Rosie Scott in Lebanon

Praise God for a very enjoyable and restful time over the Christmas period, which included many opportunities to spend quality time with the teachers.

Due to the good rest over Christmas, I began the new term feeling very refreshed and excited about what God has in store for me during the last part of my time in Lebanon.

When I leave in 5 months, I would like to feel that I have tried to do all God has brought me here for. I am in the process of deciding on the best person to continue my work when I leave. Please pray for wisdom in choosing the right Lebanese teacher to take over the 'English coordinator' job, and pray that I will be able to train them well enough, so they feel comfortable continuing on their own next academic year.

The secondary students are in the process of rehearsing for 'Annie' the musical, which will be performed at the beginning of March. I am the choreographer, so have been enjoying being involved in this, and spending time with the older students in the school. Please pray that this will go well, and that enjoyment is had by all.

The youth group I help to lead on Friday nights is still going well, and we have a good number come each week. Please pray that the leadership team will have great wisdom on what to study with these students, especially as this is the only bible teaching they receive.

Thank you all for your prayers, it is a real encouragement to know that I have so many people back in England supporting me.

Love

Rosie Scott

## The Featherstones

We tend to associate Powerline with a Christian music ministry to France. However it is increasingly reaching further afield. The completion of the new CD "Passage" has provided new openings in Switzerland and Canada and a possible tour of the latter is planned.

John is continuing to work on "Degrés" which are new songs and settings for church use. We are so fortunate in the UK to have worship songs written in our own language that it is difficult for us to appreciate how difficult it is to worship using a translation.

The international organisation of Christian classical musicians "Crescendo" started a branch in France; last year meeting in John and Mary's home. Following the successful creative church service incorporating classical music, visual arts, worship and communion, the core group have plans to do at least one concert a term. There is also a jazz project in the offing.

With a continuing heavy concert schedule involving lots of organisation and travelling, an increasing involvement in "Crescendo" and "La Fonderie, working on new material and promoting existing music, John and Mary are very busy. Please continue to pray for them, especially for

- New opportunities to bring the message of Jesus.
- Promoting "Passage" - a musical dialogue between faith and scepticism
- The work of "Crescendo" and "La Fonderie"
- Major opening for the "OZone", the Ecology musical
- Matthew's wedding

Alison Riches

## Back to Sri Lanka

I shall be returning to Smile International's project in Hambantota, Sri Lanka for two weeks in June of this year as part of the leadership of a team of volunteers, all of whom are employees of a leading UK company.

Ten people are being sponsored by the company to travel out to the area heavily affected by the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004 where they will help to feed and educate the children who attend the Smile Lanka Centre.

The programme is still being put together but we are hoping that the team's tasks will include the refurbishment and fitting out of a redundant building for use as an IT centre. This will benefit the children at the Centre and the local community.

Please pray for wisdom as we seek the Lord's guidance in these preparations and for the team members, some of whom are not yet Christians  
Graham Garner

## News from Thailand

After spending 1 week in Bangkok, we set off to Manorrom which is in central Thailand. We spent a few days there as we helped out at the local school with a holiday camp. We did this through Jon and Anne MacLean who are part of OMF in Thailand. It was awesome working with the kids in the school, they are so happy to see us; some of them had never seen a westerner or farang 'foreigner' as they called us.

Jon and Anne organised us to go further north to Lupburi where we are staying at the youth house. We have spent the past 6 days here, the group was split and half taught in the local college and the other half taught in the university. After the few days teaching at the college, we helped out at a sports day organised by Jon and Anne. We played the sack race, tag cloth and also some awesome eating competitions which we'll have to do in the UK.

That's all for now, we are going to start planning for a kids programme we are running up in Chang Mai which we are leaving for soon.

Stefan Darque

## L.A - Amy

We had record rainfall last week which threatened to cause mudslides but they held off, praise God. The days are very full, with hour and a half quiet times most mornings, 4-5 hours of lectures and then work duties every day. The talks have been fascinating - the first week was on relationships, my favourite quote from which was "In any acrimony in any relationship, be it between parent and child, boss and worker or warring states, at least one of the two are acting without their proper level of humility" (Dean Sherman).

Last week was on what is a Biblical identity, and two things that struck me were that the nature of God is constant - He has always and will always be true, perfect Love, and so His more wrathful character in the Old Testament does not show Him to have a split personality but to be in despair at His children's disobedience. The speaker (Chris Loutsbaugh) also argued that the extensive Old Testament laws and rules on sacrifices, for instance, do not show God to be aloof but prompting His people to admit defeat in their own strength and rely on Him for a more personal relationship. The other point I really enjoyed was "To call yourself righteous, blameless and pure is not an arrogance but a form of worship and acknowledgement of what Jesus did on the Cross."

I would really appreciate prayer for group dynamics - cliques are already starting and the American group system is even more political than English! - energy levels, as the days are so full I feel I'm constantly in a state of exhaustion, and a feeling of love and genuine warmth for the others, even the 'freakos'...

We had an incredible account of healing from one of the staff, Cerise, who's had I think three different types of cancer in as many years. She went north to Redding, California, where a church called Bethel is renowned for supernatural healing. Some cancerous lumps on Cerise's lymph glands disappeared the day before surgery that was due last Monday (18th Jan) accompanied by sensations around her throat of throttling hands which were ripped away. No one was any where near her neck at the time. She is a self-proclaimed sceptic about the stuff like this so hearing her story is so moving and beautiful.

On Fridays we have Focus tracks where we do local outreach. God put me down for Create, which ministers to the fashion, acting and art industries in LA. We haven't started work on that yet but I'll let you know how it goes in a couple of weeks!

Amy Plender

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## Tear Fund in Burma

From 24 January - 11 February 2010 I will be making one final visit to the communities hit by Cyclone Nargis in Burma. As we have seen just recently in Haiti, there are acute needs following a disaster of this scale, and it has been really encouraging to have the privilege to visit the work done by Tearfund's partner organisations over the past 20 months and see tremendous progress in the communities devastated by Cyclone Nargis in May 2008.

This will be my last visit to Burma in my current role at Tearfund as, in mid-February, I start a new job at Tearfund supporting our operational programme in Democratic Republic of Congo and a new programme starting in Zimbabwe. It is therefore with mixed feelings that I travel to Burma; having to say goodbye to some great colleagues and partners who have done amazing work in difficult circumstances will be hard, but as we have an opportunity to look back over what has been achieved there is much to be thankful for.

From 26 Jan - 30 Jan I am due to be visiting the communities in the Delta; it's always a challenge to travel to this remote location and I'd value your prayers for safety on the roads and water. The rest of my time will be spent in Yangon (Rangoon), meeting with local partners and facilitating a workshop for Church leaders.

As the country of Burma faces elections at some point during 2010, please also pray that the process will pass peacefully and that a just and fair government is elected.

Rachel Stevens