



An insight into the work of UNiViDA  
Issue 15: March / April 2013 (print friendly version 1/2)

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### Computer Classroom Campaign

*The IT classroom is an essential component of the services provided at The University of Life.*



Cooling things down!

Brazil has Latin America’s largest IT market. However, access to both computers and the internet remain inadequate, particularly among favela (Brazilian slum) residents. Consequently, the poor have limited computer skills, a situation which must be reversed for them to be able to compete in today's job market. In Fortaleza, the state school system is ill-equipped to provide the skills necessary to teach a child even basic computer literacy.

The University of Life has always placed a priority on IT training as an integral part of it’s services to 250 children from the slums who attend each day of the week for classes. The IT classroom has recently been enlarged but conditions are often unbearable because of the unfinished nature of the building. Daytime temperatures exceed 35°C inside the classroom and computers have a short lifespan. Teaching and learning is often interrupted by failures and maintenance requests.

That is why UNiViDA is launching a new campaign this year, to raise funds for a complete refurbishment of the current IT classroom at The University of Life. We believe that the room is an essential component of the services provided to the children. The refurbishment will allow us to expand the current number of working computers from 8 to 30 and allow students to work individually. Closing the open vents in the walls will prevent dust, dirt (and animals!) entering the lab which further deteriorates the computers.



Existing Roof No Ceiling

In the last year we have succeeded together, in raising funds for specific projects including the new Kombi Van and the Bridge. We thank you for making a difference and encourage you to participate again through whatever means you can so that we can see this room refurbished soon as possible.

Many thanks for all you do.

UNiViDA Team - [Marc, Ruth, Martin and Jon](#)  
[Send Us An Email](#)



New computers will replace these old machines that often overheat.

### What Needs Doing?

In 2009 the first phase of this project was completed, expanding the classroom, putting on a new roof and re-painting. This next phase requires the following work to be completed.

Open brick vents need to be closed up, air conditioning put in place and a proper door made in addition to the security gate that you see in the picture above. New benches will be fitted with additional electrical sockets so that children can work independently.

Finally, we will put in place new computers which we believe will last significantly longer because of the environmental improvements and drastically reduce the current high maintenance and repair bills.

Further details are available here in our Classroom Refurbishment [FACTSHEET](#) (pdf document).



A door will be added in addition to the security gate.



# UNiViDA

Results and Relationship  
Newsletter

Bringing life, hope and opportunity to children

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## Other News

Brazil has been in the news quite a bit recently. There was the tragic nightclub fire in January that killed 240 people and there has been further attempts to pacify slums in Rio de Janeiro.

Recent figures revealing economic growth in 2012 have revealed a much slower than expected level of growth and speculation as to whether Brazil is really experiencing the economic boom we have heard about. The UK has temporarily overtaken Brazil again in economic size.

## At The University of Life

Registration is now underway for the new academic year and we are making plans for our events and projects for the rest of the year.

In Brazil, Mothers Day is celebrated in May and we are planning on another big event similar to last year, providing families with the opportunity to spend time together at a special evening dinner theatre.



## Eduardo's Story

Eduardo is 11 and in year 6 at The University of Life. He's been a student for four years during which time we have seen an amazing transformation in his behaviour and character. Four years ago Eduardo was a rebellious boy and very challenging to work with. He was disobedient and unwilling to engage in the various activities on offer to him at the project. However, with persistence and patience we have steadily seen his behaviour change and today we see a completely different boy who is a pleasure to be with.

Eduardo lives with his mother who is a domestic maid and his step-father. He has 3 brothers. If he can help it, Eduardo never misses a day at The University of Life and says that it is a place where He can talk to God and learn more about Him. Eduardo loves theatre classes and has taken part in many of our productions. Today he participates well in the classroom and really enjoys chapel and our monthly bible quiz. Eduardo's dream is to be a soccer player.

Please pray for Eduardo to continue to grow in his faith in God and to pursue his studies. We are so thankful that we are able to help him.

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