



“So Many Good Memories”

Bringing two former students from the project to the UK was a huge privilege and a great responsibility, we asked Ruth Marques to reflect on the experience, it's results and what's next now that Adalberto and Luzilene have returned to Brazil.

It was around last August, that I walked into the kitchen at The University of Life, to see an unusually stationary Adalberto staring out at the children playing. "I'm just remembering my time here," he said as I enquired into his thoughts. "So many good memories."

I was intrigued by his reply, usually he is concerned with repairing something, or relating the health concerns of his friend and family, or the horrors of a gang attacks in his neighbourhood. A month before he unknowingly drove into an unmarked and unattended 3 meter deep road works hole. Thankfully (unlike his car), he had emerged from the crater unharmed. (Another of the many mind-boggling incidents that life affords in the developing world.)

It was as I watched him breathing in the care-free atmosphere of the playground that the idea of bringing him and his wife Luzilene to the UK was born. It was as if, in that moment, I saw the full circle that they had completed, beginning as young children at the project, and culminating in their roles today as young adults dedicated to passing on their skills to the next generation, regardless of the cost.

I never had any doubt in their ability to share their personal testimonies and experiences, and as I launched my idea of expanding their horizons on a trip of a lifetime to the UK, it quickly became a reality.

In addition to the investment in their personal lives, Adalberto and Luzilene spoke passionately on behalf of UNiViDA, encouraging individuals and churches in the UK to continue their support for the charity.

As the trip progressed I was personally impacted by the privilege of bringing these two amazing people to my own coun-



Adalberto being interviewed with Ruth translating.

try and being able to share my own story of faith with them. As I stood in church with them one morning, I

thanked God that 13 years after leaving the UK, here I was back again with two wonderful examples of the cause that I have dedicated my life to.

Perhaps most challenging was the incredible strength of character and faith that was evident as they spoke about their lives. At times we were moved to tears and it quickly became clear to me that many people were being challenged in their faith as a result of Adalberto and Luzilene's visit.



Church Visit

If you heard them speaking, you'll know that Adalberto and Luzilene have made a series of good decisions despite every reason and temptation to have done otherwise. Today, as business owners, they could quite understandably chose to move out of the slums to enjoy a safer and easier lifestyle. Instead, they have un-assumedly become role models, dedicated to the care and progress of those around them, including today's students at the University of Life.

My hope as they return to Brazil is that they will be able to process and use their UK experience to inspire further success as they live out God's plan for their lives. Please pray for them,



London Day Out

their community and for Univida to flourish as a result of this venture "So many good memories." Thank you for helping us make them!



The Only Opportunity To Make Something Of My Life

For the last couple of years, the end of the school year has triggered a series of difficult decisions for The University of Life. As students succeed and progress through their classes, we have had to say a difficult goodbye to several young teenagers as they reached the end of our programme.

Back in the early 2000's (when Adalberto and Luzilene were students), the project worked with teenagers all the way to the end of secondary school, but since 2008, our resources have only allowed us to teach up to the age of 13.

In the local community teenagers are especially vulnerable to the activities of drug dealers and gangs. They are often targeted to deliver drugs because they are under the age of criminal responsibility. The temptation to get involved can be very high because of the opportunity to make money, but the consequences can be tragic.

In early December, University of Life students once again begged us to add a new year group so that they could continue studying at the project. **Desperately wanting to help, we have decided to try and extend our programme to these young people.** We feel that they have proven their commitment to their studies and we don't want to lose them at this critical stage when they are full of ambition and potential.

In addition to curriculum support, our priority is to teach business studies, discipleship and IT. We long to be able to support them everyday to help them through these difficult years, stay strong in their faith and make the right decisions.

Gideon Is Back

A few weeks ago Gideon knocked on the door at The University of Life. He had been a student at the project for 3 years, but due to very difficult conditions at home and school, he fell behind in his studies and lost interest in education. Gideon,

now 15, has struggled through his compulsory state schooling but now realises that he made a mistake leaving the project.

Having heard rumours about a new classroom for year 8 and 9, Gideon has asked to return to the project.

"The University of Life is my only opportunity to make something of life. I realise that if I am here, I am safe and occupied with good things."



Gideon, now 15.

Staff at the University of Life remembered Gideon's interest and talent in playing the drums. We have encouraged him to stay in touch and re-commit to his education.

As we continue to raise funds for a year 8 & 9 teacher, we have invited Gideon to participate in our Friday Assemblies, playing the drums in our student band. We hope to be able to welcome him back soon as a full time student.

Your support can make such a difference at this time. With the support of just 25 new people giving £30 per month, we can afford to take on our year 8 & 9 teacher.

If you haven't yet signed up to become a Dreambuilder, please complete a [Giving Form](#) as soon as possible, so that we can help young people like Gideon, stay off the streets and in education. **Thank you**

New Equipment



New sports material and school supplies. Thanks for your kindness!