





# UNiViDA

Bringing life, hope & opportunity  
to children in Brazil

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## Results & Relationship

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## Remembering The Why - 2022

In the last two years our definition of normal life has changed drastically. But here in the slums or 'favelas' of Fortaleza, Brazil, normal life has not changed. On Christmas morning in December 2021 children you and I know and love, awoke to the delight of stockings in warm comfortable homes.

Meanwhile children known and loved by the staff of The University of Life, woke up to the terrifying sound of a mass shooting, yards from their homes. Since then, revenge shootings from rival gangs have continued, and the death toll increases. Drug trafficking has not been a victim of COVID-19 and neither has poverty.

In the same month, a photo of a boy scavenging on a rubbish dump went viral in Brazil, another reminder that the simple pleasures and comforts of life are still out of the reach of millions of children living in urban poverty.

See the picture and read the story online at <https://sydneynewstoday.com/christmas-tree-becomes-a-symbol-of-hope-in-a-brazilian-dump/460630/>

Children have not only been locked down during the pandemic but also besieged by fear and violence with no lifelines or Amazon deliveries to indulge their weakened spirits.

Improvised housing, overcrowding and poor sanitation are characteristic in the slums and COVID is another deadly disease to add to the list which includes dengue fever, chikungunya and zika virus.

## Making Our History

Marc Marques

When I started taking coffee and bread to street children in Fortaleza, Brazil in 1983, I never imagined that they would become the professionals I have the pleasure of working with today.

Despite the onslaught of bad news and never-ending need, we are determined to keep bringing hope into the darkness of the slums. It's moments like this at the graduation of our year 9 students last December, that keep us moving forward.

This is Bruno. Today he's a lawyer. I remember him as a timid but conscientious young boy, fighting to believe that life could hold something more than the violence and poverty he grew up with in the slums.



His success is UNiViDA's purpose: offering hope through Jesus Christ and providing the daily support that children living in the slums need to find their way out of poverty.

It's not easy, it takes dedication, patience, and sacrifice. On Christmas day we saw a devastating act of violence which took away 6 young lives in our community. But Bruno is one of our stories of transformation.

We have a model that works, a strong reputation, and the respect of our community. We are invested in being a light in a dark place. Please join us as we take UNiViDA into 2022.

## Kitchen Project

While we were enjoying a much needed break over Christmas and New Year, something big was happening at The University of Life. The longstanding, heart-warming, stomach filling epicenter of the project - the kitchen - finally came to the end of its life.

The tiles on the floor had literally worn out and the cupboards were disintegrating. Also, Ruth finally persuaded Marc of the need to install hot water (it only took 18 years)!

We took the opportunity of the Christmas break to take up the floor and upgrade electricals and plumbing. But now we need your help. The plan is to install new sinks, new cupboards, new flooring, and solar heated hot water. We also want to increase our storage capacity and add a laundry area.

This is a project that will sustain the heart of the project for the next 20 years.

Please take a moment to watch Marc's video on our Facebook Page, so that you can see for yourself what we hope to achieve.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyqrCDeRbds>

If you have been to visit us in Brazil you will know how precious this space is to us. It is where we prepare over 2,000 meals a month. It is where we relax at break time. It is also where we celebrate special occasions and where we rally as a team when we hear bad news.

If ever there was a kitchen that deserved a makeover, we believe it would be this one.

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### Our Appeal

Please consider how you can help with a financial gift toward this project (Giving details below). We will be sure to show you the spectacular results just as soon as the kitchen is completed. Thank you to those of you who have already made a donation.

### How Your Contribution Could Help


- £200 will help us cement some new tiles
- £500 will buy some new cupboards
- £1,000 will buy a new freezer
- £2,000 will buy a work surface with 3 custom made stainless steel sinks.
- £5,000 will buy the solar water heating system

We need to get as much as we can done before the children return to classes. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our plans, please get in touch. Email [office@univida.org](mailto:office@univida.org).

## Visit To The UK

Ruth and Marc, will be visiting the UK this May and June. Its been over 3 years since they were able to visit churches and update the UNiViDA network.


If you'd like to get in touch about hosting a speaking engagement for them, please email [ruth.marques@univida.org](mailto:ruth.marques@univida.org)



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**Thanks for your support**

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