



UNiViDA

Bringing life, hope & opportunity
to children in Brazil

UNiViDA is a Registered Charity No. 1136743
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 **December 2023** Newsletter Issue 87

Christmas Greetings from hot and sunny Fortaleza. It has been a tremendous year of celebration, looking back on a personal milestone of 40 years of leading children and young people out of poverty.

We are ending the year with 260 students and their parents, celebrating the Christmas story with music and storytelling. Thank you for your faithful support which allows us to create uplifting moments like this.

What stood out to me as I looked back at my 40-year journey, were the clear seasons of growth that took place as I grew in faith, wisdom, and experience helping the poor.

As we look forward to 2024, the need for innovation in communicating the Gospel and providing opportunity for the suffering, is as clear as ever.

The gift of love. The gift of joy. The gift of peace.

*May all these be with you and
your family this Christmas.*

Marc Marques



Results & Relationship



Thiago is a marvellous, mini miracle. Abandoned by his parents and adopted by his neighbours, his life is a testimony to the strong sense of community between people just trying to survive in the favela. He's been a student with us for two years. Thiago is kind, thankful and just gets on with life as he knows it. Recently Thiago accidentally broke his flip flop at playtime. Upon telling his elderly adopted mother, she told him there was no money to buy replacement flip flops immediately.

Not wanting to miss class, Thiago arrived at the project for the next two days bare-foot. He had walked through mud, raw sewage and along dirt roads to get to us. When his teacher saw him bare foot, two days in a row, she asked what had happened and then went out at lunchtime to buy him new flip flops.

But God hadn't finished showing his love for Thiago. At our big family lunch, Thiago won a bicycle in our raffle. No one will forget the pure joy on this child's face as he ran forward to claim his prize. There is nothing more rewarding than being able to help children like him.

This year The University of Life's Christmas concert will present the Christmas story using an adapted version of The Pilgrim's Progress. It has been expertly written by our drama teacher Herbert.

Are You Coming To Visit in 2024?

After many long pandemic affected years, we are delighted that we have several volunteer teams planning to visit us in Brazil in 2024. Many of our students have never met anyone from another country and trust us, they have many questions!

We still have room if you are interested in coming. We have so much to share with you and your church about what it looks like today to help children growing up in poverty. If you are interested in bringing a team, please contact Ruth. ruth.marques@univida.org

Upcoming Events

January 6th - 14th February 2024 - Marc and Ruth Marques will be visiting churches and groups in the UK. Please contact ruth.marques@univida.org if you would like to arrange to meet them.

"Teacher, the Dog Ate My Textbook."

This time the excuse was valid! One of our night time guard dogs has managed to figure out a way to climb up a side wall and into the corner of our year 7 classroom.

Another text book to replace and another problem to resolve. There are always challenges like this and maintenance issues to address at The University of Life.

Family Lunch

Here are some photos from our BIG family Lunch. Check out our video summary on our You Tube Channel.

www.youtube.com/unividacharity



Family Photos

(many of our students are being raised by grandparents).



Ruth with one of our very excited student volunteers.



Each family sat together and the children presented songs, hip hop and drama.





UNiViDA

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