

## NEWS FROM CHAIN OF LOVE HOMES, BRAZIL

March/April 2009

Dear praying partners of Chain of Love:

**Camp really changes lives**—Suitcase please! This request was made often in the last month, as over 40 of our teens headed to a Christian summer camp. This year's theme was "Without Jesus It Is Game Over." The experience touched many teens' hearts and since they've returned, many differences have been noted. Housemothers Loreni (House 5) and Jackie (House 4), describe the positive changes in their children; Jackie specifically noticing her children reading their Bibles more regularly and singing more often. At church, the teens take the front rows, listening intently and showing lots of enthusiasm. The Sunday after their return, most children wore their camp shirts and joined Taiara on stage when she spoke about what they learned. The main message: they have recommitted their lives to Christ and instead of causing trouble at the camp like some did last year, they chose to follow what the speaker taught, and gave Jesus control of their lives.



Sara, Bruna, Luciano showing off their camp shirts

Many teens said the speaker's talks were their favourite part. Vanessa learned that she needed a heart solely focused on Jesus, not divided by the cares of the world. Leonardo and Sidinei remembered the warning that you need to be wary and not let bad influences wreck your life. Luciano best summarized the message: without God's help in life's game, we can't do or be anything worthwhile, that we need to pass our game console to Jesus. Coupled with the dynamic speaker was lots of great food and exciting activities perfect for teens. Amanda, Andressa, and Bruna loved trying the zipline and trampolines . . . Leonardo and Adriano enjoyed the obstacle course and hiking through the woods. All had something positive to say about the food.

Three weeks after returning from camp, a camp reunion was held at the COL center. Six camp counselors came from Porto Alegre to hang out with the teens—singing, talking, and just having fun reliving memories and lessons learned. It was an encouraging time for all; they are talking about doing it again.

**COL students get an education break**—After camp, it was back to school. Many COL children returned to the schools they attended previously, but not all of them. Want to hear something exciting? In January, the director of a private Lutheran school in Campo Bom offered COL students full scholarships for certain grades. Wow! We were quick to say yes; now we have 16 children enrolled in the school, with a promise of more spaces in the future. This is "Wow" stuff because private school students receive a far better education—smaller class sizes, better resources, more student support and exciting extracurricular activities like sports, dance, or learning English or German. Their peers are from the middle and upper classes which will help them see that the possibilities are great for their future. Along with the Wow! factor comes a reality check: this new investment in the lives of our children has a cost. We provide transportation, books, school supplies, and uniforms. That comes to about \$200 a year for each child. Not much in Canada or in the States, but it is a lot down here. Would you consider making a gift to our education fund? Maybe you could cover the cost for one or two children.

Because we need to transport about 25 children to this and other schools in the area, we upgraded the COL bus and proved to the city that our bus was up to their standards, they said, "OK, you can use your bus to take students to and from school. Before this our students used public transportation. Wow, is THAT expensive! Our not having to use public transportation saves us thousands of dollars a year and offers added convenience and security to the children.

**Who swiped the old bus speedo?**— In the process of upgrading the bus, we needed a new speedometer/Black Box module. Why? Because there wasn't one. We were just about to purchase this expensive necessity when we received word that Jose, housefather of House 3, had one. These units are targets of thieves because they are easy to remove and worth a lot. Knowing this, Jose, who drives the bus occasionally, had removed it and stored it in his shed for safekeeping. Praise God we found out in time.

Rev. Christopher and Ingrid Kidd



Julio drops off Vanessa J. and Cristian after school