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Quality education and training for children living in poverty in the slums of Brazil.

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The words of a CBC Teacher

This is a photo of our twice weekly, staff Bible studies. These moments together are refreshing and inspiring, building us together as a team. This month we asked one of our teachers to share about what it's like to work at CBC.

“It's a big challenge to work with children from the favela. They bring habits and problems that they experience at home, into the classroom. This includes the relationship problems of their parents, poverty, hunger, threats and the fear and trauma of gang violence. All these things impact their communication and behavior. I look for ways to be heard by my students. Some of my techniques work and some don't. I've learnt with them to be more resistant and see things from their perspective.

When we have new students, they bring their behaviour to the project environment because they don't know any better. They are loud, they use swear words and they can be aggressive towards their colleagues. This reflects the environment they

live in. They don't understand what authority is and constantly want attention and immediate answers to their homework.



study techniques to manage my classroom and the behaviour of these children and learn from the experience of other teachers.

I confess that I think about giving up on a regular basis. However, I have accepted this challenge and go in search of solutions, most of all to God in prayer. I also ask for advice and talk to the other teachers.

Our classrooms here at CBC need more ventilation. The average temperature is 35C and at this time of year there is very little wind. The dust is also a problem.



I prepare my lessons in advance and try to find new material that will inspire the children to read. Reading is not pleasurable for many of them and so they become lazy when we challenge them to read and then think, for example with a math problem. They would rather I just told them what sum to do. I try to give the students responsibility in the classroom, this helps them to feel valued and concentrate.

I begin each class with a Bible teaching and a prayer. When I have students who are badly behaved, I bring them close to me to talk about the source of that behavior. I listen to their problems and challenge them to react differently next time. If they continue to behave badly I take away their playtime, because their behavior impacts the rest of the class and is contrary to the beliefs and values of CBC.

I need to learn more about teaching. It's a challenge to balance my heart and love for these children with the need to discipline and train them (especially when I am tired). Having more resources like a computer in the classroom to plan and research would be helpful. I need to

Despite all the challenges, CBC is an amazing place to work. It's hard to explain to someone who doesn't know Brazil and the nature of this community, but the children here really need our help. Just coming in through the gates into the project each day is literally keeping them alive and off the dangerous streets. The Holy Spirit is here, and we are fighting the battles of a spiritual war that the Lord has already won with His victory on the cross.

Our thanks to Marcia for sharing her reflections as our year 5 teacher.

This month

- 15th. Thanksgiving Family Lunch for 500.
- 25th. CBC musical *God, where are you?*



Thanksgiving

Sponsor a CBC family this thanksgiving. We are hoping to provide a meal for 500 people, all our students and their immediate family. Please make a donation.

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