

July 2009

Reflecting...



a mission report from
Auren in Recife, Brazil

EXTREME MAKEOVER

I guess some might have wondered why you haven't heard from me in a while. I wanted so badly to tell you about the work that a good friend of mine, and I did recently but was unable to do it.

The reason I didn't was because I was doing a lot of thinking, and a lot of forced rest with some crying and complaining in between. I have to confess I felt very frustrated. I spent April, May and part of June being acquainted with a condition called a herniated disc!

Some of you I imagine, know exactly what I am talking about. The rest of you who don't, please, stay that way.

It felt like a very painful toothache in my whole left leg. It started in my lower back and run down to my ankle.

I had to take lots of medication to alleviate the pain and slept on ice bags, and sometimes even frozen foods!

But pain has a good side as well. I had a lot of time to reflect on my life, I prayed for women with similar conditions that didn't have the support I did, etc. Pain purifies the soul! Our body talks to us, we need

to listen to what it is saying. Mine was telling me I need to learn to submit, to respect my limits. I am not sure I've learned the lesson fully but I think I got a few pointers.

Well let us rewind this story to March, before my back problem began. During that whole month, my good friend (he considered himself my adopted son) John Wallace and I renovated four classrooms at the church building. The classrooms were in great need of renovation. So, we scraped old paint, sanded, painted walls, floors, redid the ceilings, and painted five big murals. Forgive my lack of modesty but they turned out beautifully. We worked on it for 10 to 12 hours every day of the week except Sunday. It was hard work. We started the day standing in our two feet and got home on four! Yes, John and back problems are old friends. We had fun times too. John got to spend time with Brazilian brothers and sisters who helped and experience our culture once again.

The Bible school teachers and the kids loved their new classrooms. Despite getting sick afterwards everything was worth it. ♦



John Wallace (back-center) and the kids.



This mural was painted in the nursery.

TRAVEL PLANS

As I write this we are packing our bags to go on furlough. It will be the first time in over five years for me. I wanted to come sooner but had trouble renewing my visa.

One of the things we will do this trip is drop our baby Jonathan off at college. I ask your prayers for him and for me.

Hope to see you soon. Love, Auren ♦

