

August 2008

Dear Friend,

“...Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground. Then God said, I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.” Genesis 1:28-29.

It is easy to absorb these incredible words of life when we are surrounded by the beauty of creation and the power to believe that life can be a wonderful thing. However, in the middle of the slums there is not much to enjoy and life is often a desperate and miserable existence.

At CBC University of Life we believe that these words are just as much for our children as they are for us in the western world. The opportunities that God wants to give us to drink in his marvelous creation and enjoy its fruits are for everyone, rich or poor.

As I see the children learning and presenting to each other it makes me smile with delight. I can see the direct application of their new found skills and knowledge in their homes, with their parents and as they aspire to their future dreams.

As you read this month's special report, remember the context from which the children and their parents live. They have no running water, no land of their own, regular sickness and a constant shortage of food. Knowledge like this can literally save their lives as well as equipping them to be future leaders and examples.

Thank you for offering the power to believe and the education to break through for hundreds of children at CBC.

On behalf to the children

Marcondes Marques

Environment Special

This year CBC staff have undertaken the ambitious goal of extending the amount of education provided to the children. The reason for this is because we have realized that in order to get ahead and compete with privately educated students, our children need more than the limited amount taught in public schools.

Science and the environment is one of the new themes which we chose to include for all grades. The curriculum was especially designed for each grade level and at the end of a two month project, students celebrated and presented what they had learnt to each other and to their parents.

It is our prayer that these new projects will motivate our students and help them develop vocational and life skills. As the children grow up they can apply their knowledge to improve their quality of life and community. Here is a summary of what each grade level studied and achieved during the project.

The CBC theater group opened the event with a skit about the environment, emphasizing the importance of conservation. Two students, Najla and Aline wrote a speech about human action on the environment and what the Bible says about animals and plants.

7 year olds

AIR - Invisible and Indispensable

- What is the purpose of air?
- The importance of air
- The existence of air pollution

Students memorized and presented information about air. At the end of the presentation, the class recited the principle theme in unison, "the air is indispensable for our lives." The children practiced very hard, but were still quite nervous. On the big day, they put everything they learned into practice and the presentation was a huge success!

8-9 year olds

WATER –The Fountain of Life

The children learned about the importance of water through books, experiments and research. The topics explored included:

- The importance of water
- How water is cleaned and brought into our houses
- How to avoid wasting water

For the final presentation, the children shared all they learned about water. This included the idea that everyone needs to cultivate a mindset of water conservation. They also gave a presentation on the different stages of water treatment.

10 year olds

ANIMALS - The Value of Animals

The class went on a safari deep into the study of the animal kingdom. The class took a trip to the Fortaleza public zoo and found more than 30 animal species, some in danger of extinction. The children learned about the value of animals and how to protect them and later presented photos they had taken from the zoo. They also came up with many other creative ways to present the information they learned. All the parents and friends who came to the presentation were pleased with the results and proud of what their children learned.

11 year olds

PLANTS AND SOIL - Where we live and get our food

The class studied two themes, soil and its importance and medicinal plants and their uses. The children learned how to make information posters and how to present them in front of others. The children brought in small seedlings from their home or neighborhood to show.

The class explored different types of soil and grew some plants in a small space inside CBC University of Life. Every day, the students watered the plants, tilled the soil, observed and recorded the growth of each plant. They also studied the importance of fertilization and having the appro-

priate type of soil for plant development.

During their presentations the class showed five types of soil and 5 different types of medicinal plants (boldo, chamomile, mint, fennel and lemon verbena). The students spoke about the importance of using each one of these plants. They did an outstanding job of presenting the information they learned.

12 year olds

THE OZONE LAYER

This class participated in a project to answer the principle question, "Our planet is warming up. Do you know why and what can you do to help?" They made posters alerting the public to the dangers of air pollution and the ever-growing holes in the ozone layer. They spoke seriously about the impact that the community has on pollution and on the environment, including exhaust from cars and fumes and chemicals from industries. These also cause respiratory diseases, which have been increasing. They also presented two models representing the impact of humans on our planet. Parents and other visitors were greatly impressed with the children's presentation and how well they had assimilated all the information.

13 year olds

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - Economic viability, social justice and political integrity

This class tackled some challenging questions debating issues about the environment including organic cattle-raising, pesticides, and the greenhouse effect. This group also visited a nearby mangrove swamp, beach and ecological park where they were able to see and discuss what they had learned in the classroom.

For their final presentation, the students presented some videos and photos from their trips and explained the triangle of sustainability, which is the current paradigm of those working with environmental issues and is defined as "Political integrity, economic viability and social justice."

14 year olds

CULTIVATION

The students studied horticulture, a branch of agriculture that deals with garden cultivation and management. Students spent time researching the diverse types and importance of vegetables using books and the internet. There was also an "applied classroom" component where the students excitedly learned how to cultivate vegetables in a garden close to CBC. The owner of the garden was very kind and explained, step-by-step, how he grows vegetables. He spoke about the soil and described how to prepare it. He also showed the students the diverse types of vegetables and their acceptability in the market. Students took plenty of photos using the CBC camera and asked many questions, all of which were answered very clearly.

For the final presentation, the students created a mini garden and explained the process to everyone who attended the presentation.

15-18 year olds

TRASH - A Luxury

During the development of the project, students discussed what is and how you classify a "luxury." They also discussed the importance of recycling. For the final presentation, the students organized a bottle-recycling workshop and showed a broom they had made of recycled materials. This aroused the curiosity of the parents who, after the presentation, came up to ask how they had made it. They also discussed the various topics they had studied during the project (luxury, recycling, etc.) and presented a list of materials that are typically thrown away with the amount of time it takes for them to breakdown.

YOUR MONTHLY DONATION IS MAKING A GREAT DIFFERENCE

Praise God for CBC staff who are creative, they know how to improvise and problem solve.

When taking on the challenges of preparing these projects they do so with enthusiasm despite having minimal resources and many other responsibilities.

Thank you for your donation