

## **Júnior's Farewell Speech - December 2008**

I can vividly remember the very first things I had heard about Ivybridge, Devon and YFC before I got here. While I was still in Goiania, when we were trying to recruit people to join the scheme between Britain and Brazil YFC, Derrick came and asked me whether I would like to live in the country side. He was trying to sell me Devon saying that it is a very beautiful part of England, there was a national park called Dartmoor and of course he mentioned the traditional cream tea. He didn't mention the weather, I wonder why.

About YFC he said, it is a new growing centre and its got such potential. I got very excited about all these things.

The first time I had a cream tea was in a traditional shop on the Barbican, I wasn't really keen on it, but throughout the year I got the way or technique to have it. It doesn't work with coffee or anything else. A cream tea is meant to be by itself and with tea.

I must confess it was hard to adapt to life in this small town, quite often I was like “citysick” or sometimes homesick and just feeling like “Oh my goodness I’m in the middle of nowhere.

But living in this part of the world was and is a privilege. Ivybridge is a garden. This part of England is really beautiful. However, there is so much to be done here, particularly for us, as Christians. South Hams is a missionary field and we need more workers. The youth need faith, hope and love. That is why YFC has got such a hugely important and relevant role to play, there is an urgent need we have to meet. I think it is time for the Christians to work together; the UK is a great challenge.

I have realized the most precious thing about this town is not its great beauty, but the people. I’m very thankful to God for this experience with the people here, both youngsters and adults, which I will never forget. I’ll miss the people of Ivybridge. I have to say a BIG THANKS for your friendship and the way you made me feel welcome. I think sharing is the word to describe my experience in Ivybridge. Sharing faith, meals, savory and puddings, good times,

questions, prayers, kindness, learning English, a long list of things.

There is so much to be said.

Thanks Derrick, Karla and Debbie for coming and your help, You were very important in making the bridge between British YFC and Brazilian YFC.

Thanks, Mike for giving up so much of your time to teach me English for free.

Thanks to YFC for choosing me and inviting me to come along. Thanks ever so much to the lovely trustees, my supporters and friends.

Thanks very much, John and Pat, for the car. Thanks, Ash for teasing me most of the time.

Thanks Helen and Elis for sharing your time, meals, for your care towards me and most of all, thanks for sharing your faith with me.

Thanks ever so much to Bruce, Maureen and Luke. The Bible takes hospitality very seriously, and You did it very well. Thanks for opening your home and giving me my own space in it, living with you has been just fabulous. I'll miss our conversations at the table, thanks for feeding me very well this year. As you all can see I have acquired some more weight, just blame the Scobles, they gave me plenty food, barbecues, puddings, pasties, porridge...

On a more serious note, we've been sharing our lives, dreams and burdens... This, I will always treasure.

I'm very sure that, during this year, I have really gained more than that which I HAVE given to YFC. I'll never forget you. And, of course, you are very welcome to come and visit me in Brazil. I would love to have you there.

I also want to give praise to God, to Him be the glory. He sent me here. He meant it to be good. And it was.

Finally, I just want to say a BIG THANK YOU, to everyone who has been a part of my life this year in Ivybridge. I'd love to mention all of you by name but if I haven't due to lack of time, please know that, you are very special to me.

Thank you very very much.

Júnior